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FINAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EDICOM II PROGRAMME

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

- 1 With the creation of the Single Market on 1 January 1993 and the removal of customs formalities between the EU Member States, a new system for collecting statistics on the trade in physical goods was implemented, Intrastat. The recording of trade with EU countries, which was beforehand based on customs declarations, was converted into direct surveys in companies. The statistical system on the trade between Member States of the European Union and the rest of the world, Extrastat, continued to be based on the information collected by the customs authorities, via the Single Administrative Document (SAD).
- 2 The Edicom Decision No 507/2001/EC of 12 March 2001 adopted by the Council and the European Parliament¹ set the goal of encouraging a modern, rational and effective organisation of the transeuropean collection, treatment and distribution network for intra and extra-Community statistics, accompanied by the improvement and harmonisation of statistical methods. The aim was to produce information that is more reliable, less expensive for providers and administrations, and available more quickly as well as being able to satisfy user needs in a more relevant way.
- 3 Edicom II was planned to be developed over a period of five years, starting in 2001, and targeting six main operational objectives:
 - Objective 1: An information network of better quality, which is less costly and makes data available more quickly, in accordance with the requirements of Community policies;
 - Objective 2: A relevant information network adapted to the changing needs of users within the framework of Economic and Monetary Union and the international economic environment;
 - Objective 3: An information network which is better integrated into the general statistical environment and adapted to the development of the administrative environment;
 - Objective 4: A network improving the statistical services offered to administrations, users and providers of data;
 - Objective 5: A network based on tools for the collection of information in the light of the latest technological advances in order to improve the functions available to information providers;
 - Objective 6 (horizontal): An integrated and interoperable network.

¹ OJ n° L 76 of 16.3.2001, p.1

- 4 The six main operational objectives have been broken down into 13 actions, in accordance with the proposal included in the ex-ante evaluation of the programme. (Annex 8)
- 5 The management of the EDICOM II programme was assured by the European Commission, with the assistance of the Intrastat and Extrastat Committees. Each year, the Commission adopted a decision defining the annual work programme on which the Committees had to deliver their opinion. The approved annual work programmes were composed of centralised and decentralised projects, which have been carried out respectively by private companies on behalf of Eurostat and by Member States.

Objective and context of the evaluation

- 6 The main purpose of the evaluation presented in this report is to submit to the European Parliament and the Council a final report of activities financed under the EDICOM II programme, so as to enable an assessment of the achieved results. This report, which is an update of the mid-term report presented in January 2004, was drawn up by Eurostat Unit G2: International Trade Statistics – Methodology and Classifications.
- 7 This evaluation is focused on the EDICOM work programmes for the years 2001 to 2005. All the actions carried out within these work programmes were completed by the end of 2007.

Main findings

- 8 The EDICOM II programme might be retained as the programme that contributed most to the enhancement and development of the trans-European network for the collection, production and dissemination of statistics on the trading of goods.
- 9 The overall objectives of the programme were clearly defined and the design of the annual work programmes 2001-2005, which were strictly in line with them, made it possible to achieve concrete results in all the fields interested by the programme.
- 10 The implementation of the work programme has been particularly efficient, thanks to efforts of Member States and Eurostat and to the assistance of specific Working Groups. Progress has been achieved across a wide range of fields, from data collection to data validation and dissemination.
- 11 The majority of the projects managed to achieve significant results and many applications have been developed and implemented. In few cases specific pilot studies did not produce better solutions compared to those already in place; however this result should be considered in any case as positive because knowledge was enlarged and spread and inputs might be used for future developments.
- 12 Difficulties have been encountered in establishing a common harmonised EU platform for the production of external trade statistics due to important

differences in the technological and administrative environments in Member States. However Eurostat has developed, via the XT-NET project, an open and modular system, composed of an important set of interoperable tools that might be used as a common platform for the European network of external trade statistics.

13 More specifically, the main achievements in accordance with the general objectives of the EDICOM II Decision are the following:

A. *Objective 1: Measures relating to the implementation of a higher-quality information network, which is less costly and makes data available more quickly, in line with the requirements of Community policy*

14 The majority of Member States have developed, improved and implemented new methodologies for the calculation of advanced estimators in order to cope with the essential need to shorten the time required to supply aggregated data to Eurostat. After the Enlargement of the European Union in 2004, also the new Member States have been concerned with the development of advanced estimators and two of them have implemented studies in the framework of the work programmes 2004-2005.

15 The exigency of disposing of quicker macroeconomic information has been regulated at legislative level. The new Intrastat legislation and the amendment of the Extrastat legislation have fixed that the transmission of Member States' aggregated data to Eurostat should be realised within 40 days after the reference period. At the end of the EDICOM programme all Member States complied with these requirements.

16 Improvements have also been achieved in the field of data processing and analysis. The checking and correction of basic data are more automated and comparisons of Intrastat data with other sources are now more systematic. Moreover, many Member States have worked successfully for enhancing methods for the estimation of: the "non-response", the trade below thresholds and the statistical value. These countries took advantage of the EDICOM support and are now in the capacity to respect new Intrastat legislation requirements for the provision of total trade figures.

17 In parallel to the work of Member States, Eurostat focuses on the development of harmonised methods in various fields such as production of advanced estimators, updating methods, checking of basic and aggregated trade statistics and adjustment for trade below thresholds and late responses. Some research has been done in order to achieve reconciliation for extra and intra trade. Most of these activities led to the identification of new methodologies and enabled the development of software for their implementation.

18 A database dealing with quality indicators at Member State level has been set up at the beginning of the Edicom programme, containing both quantitative and qualitative information obtained via a questionnaire addressed to each Member State. From this information Eurostat started to publish an annual

“Quality Report on International Trade Statistics”, which is now updated yearly using information from the quality database and from Comext².

B. *Objective 2: Measures relating to the implementation of a network of information that is relevant and appropriate to users' changing needs, within the framework of Economic and Monetary Union and the international economic environment*

- 19 At centralised level, Eurostat has developed and implemented a new application “NICE” (Nouveaux Indices sur le Commerce Extérieur) for the calculation of indices of the unit value and volume of Member States’ external trade. Methodologies used by Member States, third countries and international organisations for the calculation of specific price indices (SPIs) and unit values indices (UVIs) have been analysed and a detailed report has been drafted.
- 20 Eight Member States have undertaken actions to develop or improve the production of external trade price indices at national level. Efforts have been focused especially on import price indices of non-Eurozone area, in order to satisfy the needs of the European Central Bank and the consequent new requirements of the Short Terms Statistics (STS) Regulation 1158/2005.
- 21 Centralised studies have been carried out for defining new methods for producing seasonally adjusted data. Eurostat is now able to calculate and publish, in the “Euro-Indicators News Release”, monthly seasonally adjusted Member States and aggregated data (EU27 and EA15) within 48 days after the end of the reference period.
- 22 Several Member States have carried out pilot studies on CIF/FOB adjustment methodology in order to establish a FOB/FOB trade balance more coherent with figures in the Balance of Payments and National Accounts.
- 23 Different studies have been carried out on methodologies for the treatment of confidentiality adopted by Member States and some of them have succeeded in reducing the level of confidentiality in their data. Similar results have been realised at central level by the introduction in Comext database of new statistics camouflage procedures.
- 24 In 2002 Eurostat launched a pilot study to present Intra and Extra-EU trade flows by enterprise characteristics and enrich, in that way, also business statistics with trade variables. Collected figures, as well as figures from the standardisation exercises carried out in the year 2005 and 2006, have been published showing external trade statistics broken down by six main indicators, respectively for 9, 17 and 18 Member States. The standardisation exercise has been launched also in 2007, giving it a sort of permanent character.
- 25 At the opposite, only few Member States carried out projects on CIGET (Contribution of International Groups to External Trade) and Intra-firm statistics. After having worked mainly on methodology and informatics development, they have produced data at commodity group level, obtaining

² COMEXT is Eurostat’s database containing all available information on trade statistics

encouraging results that should be taken as the basis for further developments of EU statistics.

C. *Objective 3: Measures relating to the implementation of an information network better integrated into the general statistical system and adapted to developments in the administrative environment*

- 26 The objective of implementing an information network better integrated into the general statistical system have been achieved from one side through the adaptation and revision of the legislative framework and from the other through projects aimed at improving the quality and interoperability of registers.
- 27 Studies on the simplification of the Intrastat system have been made by Eurostat and by some Member States particularly on the adoption of a Single Flow system, on simplification threshold and lower degree of product detail, without the conclusion that substantial modifications were needed.
- 28 A new Basic Intrastat legislation has been prepared and adopted by the European Parliament and Council (Regulation (EC) N° 638/2004), supplemented by a Commission Regulation (Regulation (EC) N° 1982/2004) with implementing provisions. In the new legislation quality requirements have been upgraded and the production of a yearly Quality Report has been included. The constitution and maintenance of an Intrastat register of operators has been made mandatory as well.
- 29 Within the current legislative framework, measures of simplification adopted by Member States continued to be mainly based on the application of different thresholds. The simplification on the recording of the quantity in Intrastat has been introduced by Commission Regulation (EC) N° 1915/2005.
- 30 Even if the reform of the Customs Code did not take place during the EDICOM II programme, the adaptation of the current statistical system to future changes has been taken into account in the Extrastat legislation under preparation, to enter into force in 2009. To achieve this result, Eurostat has launched projects analysing the needs for tariff statistics and the extent to which Customs declarations could be used for statistical purposes.
- 31 Regarding data collection, the legal deadline for the transmission of Member States' Intrastat aggregated data to Eurostat has been reduced significantly, passing from 56 to 40 days. This limit has also been fixed for the transmission of Extrastat aggregated data, which was not regulated before.
- 32 Concrete improvements have also been achieved in the transmission of detailed data to Eurostat. In 2005, the provision of detailed monthly data, compared to the legal deadline, has been realised by Member States, on average, 8 days in advance for Intrastat and 2,6 days for Extrastat.
- 33 Eurostat and Member States have developed projects aimed at improving the quality and interoperability of registers. Links between the Intrastat Register and the General Business Register have been implemented in Member States and the collection of the traders' identification number would be mandatory in the new Extrastat legislation.

- 34 A methodological framework for the collection and joint presentation of External Trade and Structural Business Statistics data has been created and results of a pilot study, coordinated by Eurostat, presenting external trade by enterprise characteristics, have been published in 2002, 2005 and 2007.
- 35 The collection of CIGET (Contribution of International Groups to External Trade) and Intra-Firm trade data has been the object of pilot studies carried out by some Member States, realised under the guidelines of the Task Force Trade Register and Globalisation. The role of foreign-controlled affiliates enterprises in delivering/buying goods and services to/from international markets and the share of trade between affiliates and their parent enterprises was an interesting sector to study for economic analysis and information was needed for the purpose of a new Regulation on activities of foreign affiliated enterprises.

D. *Objective 4: Measures relating to the implementation of a network improving the statistical service provided to administrations and users and providers of data*

- 36 The identification of user needs and satisfaction in terms of availability of statistics and functioning of the information network has been carried out via Internet surveys, providing information for the further development of the network.
- 37 Projects undertaken by Eurostat and by some Member States have permitted the development of more modern and flexible dissemination database systems. The Comext database system of Eurostat has been improved with advanced functionalities and a new web based versions (Comext Web) has been added to the original dial-up version. In addition a new free web dissemination system, Easy Comext, has been created in 2004 and made available to the public. At the end of the EDICOM programme the number of users of Comext and Easy Comext reached respectively 950 and 7000. Help-desks have been guaranteed all over the years and monthly training, in English and French languages, have been delivered to Comext users in Luxembourg, Brussels, Frankfurt and Dublin.
- 38 The Eurostat publication system has been improved for taking into account the impact of the EU Enlargement and the exigency to reduce the time to publish data. Automatic procedures have been set up for the production of the monthly bulletin and the statistical yearbook. Delays for disseminating macroeconomic and seasonally adjusted data in press releases have decreased from 53 days to 48 days, thus satisfying the expectations of the ECB and other users.
- 39 Specific tools to allow rapid and user-friendly access to classifications, information, metadata and related products have been developed and included in the classification web server Ramon of Eurostat. In addition a stand-alone classification tool has been developed by Eurostat and made available to Member States. An ambitious project, aiming at developing common software for automatic classification of goods according to all linguistic versions of the Combined Nomenclature, has been abandoned when a feasibility study highlighted technical difficulties and quite substantial maintenance costs.

E. *Objective 5: Measures relating to the implementation of a network based on tools for the collection of information in the light of the latest technological advances in order to improve functions available to information providers*

- 40 Concerning data collection tools, Eurostat has ensured the centralised maintenance and distribution of the updated version of IDEP/CN8 (Intrastat electronic form) up to the 2004 version. According to the strategy of decentralisation agreed by the Intrastat Committee, starting from 2004, Member States were responsible for the maintenance and upgrade of their collection tools.
- 41 Applications used by Member States for the transmission and data dissemination (CBS-IRIS, IDEP/CN8) were maintained and upgraded with new functionalities and different tools have been created to reduce the general administrative burden.
- 42 Eurostat and Member States launched new projects to develop and implement web-based data collection systems. Additional documentation was produced; helpdesk services and training have been provided to users, for a better use of IDEP/CN8, supported by updated and rewritten guides. Different linguistic versions from the original languages of the application have been developed.
- 43 Efforts have been made by Eurostat in maintaining and further developing the standardised messages (Edifact, XML); new message documentation guides have also been created while old ones have been updated.
- 44 The improvement, promotion, distribution, dissemination and support of all modern collection tools have been ensured during the Edicom programme.
- 45 As results, a reduction of charge and cost for companies and a reduction of the costs of maintenance for the statistical administrations have been noted, together with an improvement of data quality and timeliness. At the end of the programme 100 000 providers of statistical information were using Intrastat web forms and the use of paper decreased by about 30% over the period of the Edicom II programme.

F. *Objective 6 (horizontal): Measures relating to the implementation of an integrated and interoperable network*

- 46 Services to users were improved by the drafting of user guides, the improvement of the COMEXT system's functionalities, the development of a Web version of Comext, the organisation of courses and the development of a stand-alone version of COMEXT for browsing data in DVD or CD-ROM and other distribution media.
- 47 In addition, a new specific database system, named Easy XT/NET, has been developed and made accessible to external users allowing disseminating detailed Member States data to the general public free of charge..
- 48 A project was launched to improve the existing methodological reference material by developing an information system on methodology (METODOLOGICA) and other tools giving easy access to the information.

- 49 Measures have been launched to modernise the various elements of the trans-European network within the Commission and Member States (XT/NET project). Tools and methods have been developed in the following domains: data processing and validation; communication between national administrations and Eurostat; improvements in software for disseminating external trade statistics on the trading of goods; user access to statistical data and metadata.
- 50 The interoperability of the network was realised by the development of interconnected tool working in various areas of the statistical production: XT/NET validation, Data Loading Interface, NPS (Nomenclature Production System), XT/NET edit, XT/NET assist and XT/NET publish.

Identification and management of risks

- 51 The following main risks were identified and taken into account during the management of the programme:
- capacity to manage the programme;
 - risks of the means to be implemented for meeting the programme’s objectives;
 - sustainability of the programme with regard to the availability of budgetary resources;
 - maintenance and coherence of computer tools;
 - extension of the programme following the EU Enlargement.

General guidelines adopted for the management of the programme.

- 52 Action has continued to be taken to ensure that the new Financial Regulation was strictly applied. The Commission has provided appropriate recommendations to the Member States.
- 53 Methods and tools, which have been developed during the programme have been made available to all the Member States and valorised through seminars, workshops or guidelines in order to identify and promote best practices.
- 54 Eurostat has guaranteed the co-ordination and monitoring of the various actions. However, Member States have played an important role through their participation in specific “Working Groups”.
- 55 The consequences of the EU Enlargement have been taken into account in centralised actions. New Member States have benefited of the Edicom grants from the 2004 work programme onwards.
- 56 The decentralised actions carried out by Member States, have focused on:
- the implementation of the new Intrastat Quality requirements (coverage, timeliness, confidentiality, reporting);

- the introduction of the new common methods and tools, which have been developed as part of the programme.

57 Reflections have started at the end of the EDICOM programme on whether to continue actions for the enhancement of external trade statistics under a dedicated or a wider programme. The objective should be to ensure the stability of the system and the durability of the tools, which have been developed under EDICOM as well as their improvements. A Commission proposal has been already drafted for a programme targeting the Modernisation of European Enterprise and Trade Statistics (MEETS).

2. GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE EDICOM II PROGRAMME

58 With the creation of the Single Market on 1 January 1993 and the removal of customs formalities between the EU Member States, a new system for collecting statistics on the physical trade in goods was implemented, Intrastat. The recording of trade with EU countries was converted into direct surveys in companies. The statistical system on the trade between Member States of the European Union and the rest of the world, Extrastat, continues to be based on the information available in the SAD (Single Administrative Document), which is collected by the customs authorities. Following the implementation of Intrastat there was a decline in data quality. In order to restructure the new statistical system, a support programme, Edicom I (Electronic Data Interchange on Commerce) was implemented in the framework of Council Decision No 96/715/EC of 9 December 1996.

59 The Edicom I programme produced satisfactory results. The acceptance of the Intrastat system by data providers was increased, resulting in a fall in the non-response rate, and the time needed to supply the data was reduced. In addition, standardisation and development of tools facilitated the electronic information transmission.

60 At the same time, the external trade statistics system entered into a new phase of development characterised by increasing user needs at Community and national levels. Moreover, the action plan on EMU³ statistical requirements identified external trade statistics as one of the domains in which the needs of users were less satisfied. The action plan made clear that, in certain Member States, the time needed to supply these statistics was too long.

61 To cope with this challenge, Eurostat suggested several strategic orientations aiming at improving the accuracy and relevance of the results, speeding up data availability, redirecting statistical offer, and preparing deeper adaptations of the system for the medium and long term. Hence, with the adoption of Decision No 507/2001/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council a new programme (Edicom II) was approved for the period 2001 to 2005.

62 The general objectives of the new programme, were the following:

³ Action Plan on EMU Statistical requirements – European Commission (Eurostat in close collaboration with the European Central Bank – 25 September 2000)

- To encourage a modern, rational and effective organisation of the trans-European collection, treatment and distribution network for intra and extra-Community statistics, accompanied by the improvement and harmonisation of statistical methods, in order to produce information which is:
 - More reliable, less expensive for providers of statistical information and administrations and available more quickly;
 - Able to satisfy new users needs in a more relevant way.
- To develop and promote existing tools for collection, treatment, transmission and distribution of statistical data, taking into account the latest technological developments and seeking the best cost-effectiveness ratio. The explosion in the exchange of electronic data is indeed setting relations between those involved in the economic world, and national and Community statistical administrations, which will have to adapt to this new technological environment.

63 These two fundamental principles have been split in six operational objectives and 13 actions. Main findings and achieved results at action level are described in chapter 5 and summarized in Annex 1.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMMES

64 In line with the Edicom Decision, the Commission was in charge of the management of the programme.

65 In order to draft the annual work programmes, to be submitted to the Intrastat and Extrastat Committees for opinion, Eurostat collected from Member States proposals for decentralised projects while identifying at the same time the contents for the centralised projects. An Edicom monitoring committee within Eurostat involving different directorates approved the projects.

66 Where necessary, proposals for centralised and decentralised projects were discussed by thematic Working Groups (Quality, Methods, Trade Registers/Globalisation, IT and Information Communication Technology).

67 In the framework of the Edicom II programme, 393 projects were financed and finalised, representing an annual average of 78 contracts/grants per year (Annexes 6 to 10). Taking into consideration the overall number of projects, it might be stated that the Edicom II focused on two main objectives: the improvement of quality and the creation of a network based on tools for gathering information using latest technological development. An important number of projects have been also allocated to the development of statistical products, which respond better to user needs.

68 There was a substantial equilibrium between centralised and decentralised budget expenditure. Projects carried out by Member States accounted approximately for the 48,1% of the Edicom budget expenditure (excluding supporting measures), while the remaining 51.9% of the Edicom budget

expenditure was awarded to private firms in accordance with the call for tender procedure⁴ (Annexes 3 and 4).

69 Private firms and Member States have submitted final reports to Eurostat concerning the actions carried out under the Edicom programme on the basis of recommendations provided by Eurostat on how to present a complete final report in order to allow the work carried out to be properly evaluated.

70 The Working Groups on Quality, Methods, Trade Registers/Globalisation, and ICT have assisted Eurostat in monitoring and evaluating actions 1 to 8, 12 and 13 of the Edicom II programme. Eurostat has itself monitored actions 9, 10 and 11, since these were not coordinated by a working party.

In order to spread the knowledge among Commission and national administrations, the results of all actions were made available in the Eurostat documentary database CIRCA.

71 As regards monitoring, some indicators have been defined to assess the implementation of the programme. These indicators include the time needed to supply advanced estimators; the bias of initial estimates with respect to final results; number of Member States that have developed, implemented and promoted Intrastat web forms, etc.

4. IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT OF RISKS

72 The following main risks were identified.

Capacity of managing the programme

73 In order to guarantee the smooth running of the programme, the necessary financial and human resources had to be available, each year, to finance and monitor its implementation. The rules of the new Financial Regulation were applied since 2003 to both centralised and decentralised actions. It can be stated that, the new budgetary rules were stricter than before, especially in case of sub-contracting of grants, for which there was already a tight framework.

74 Eurostat faced difficulties in finding on the market a wide offer of technical expertise required to carry out some centralised actions, due to the specificity of the work. The limited number of enterprises replying to public tenders bears witness to this.

75 In some cases Member States faced also difficulties in implementing/managing actions they have launched due to the lack of competent internal resources, as staff usually worked on Edicom projects in addition to their normal activities. As a consequence twenty proposed projects were cancelled or abandoned.

⁴ The share of budget expenditure has been calculated on the basis of the information provided by Eurostat without taking into account 474 500 Euro and 367 581 Euro of provisionally unpaid invoices in 2004 and 2005 which have been suspended after Eurostat's ex post controls (situation on 15th March 2008).

Risks of the means to be implemented for meeting the programme's objectives

- 76 The Edicom programme was launched on the basis of an ex-ante evaluation identifying the actions to be taken and assessing the necessary means for implementing them.
- 77 The management of the programme was strictly in line with the ex-ante evaluation. However, in some cases the means and procedures needed for achieving the programme's objectives have been re-examined in view of the preliminary results of some projects and on the basis of the changing of conditions incurred between the drafting of the programme and its realisation. This occurred for example when studies carried out centrally and in the Member States did not demonstrate the need for a drastic simplification of the Intrastat collection system. Thus, the simplification objective, which had been included by the Commission in the ex-ante evaluation, was therefore tempered in practice.
- 78 In other cases, the cost/benefit analysis of certain actions and surveys carried out on Providers of Statistical Information and on user needs provided inputs for better targeting the programme by partially re-evaluating the content of some operational objectives.
- 79 The need of consistency between the timing of realisation of various actions has been also taken into consideration. For example, a number of tools were developed during the first years of the programme and were then applied either centrally or in the Member States consequently.

Sustainability of the programme with regard to the availability of budgetary resources

- 80 The financial envelope of the Edicom programme was correctly dimensioned for covering all the activities forecasted during the Edicom decision.
- 81 The main objectives of the ex-ante evaluation have been achieved due to the regular availability of budgetary resources. There has been one exception linked to the late adoption of the Commission financing decision in 2003 and the postponement of certain actions of the 2003 Edicom programme in order to comply with the instructions of the Commission to reduce the office's work programme. These have shown how dependent the programme was on external events or decisions.

Maintenance and coherence of computer tools

- 82 The Edicom programme had a strong IT profile. Several tools have been developed and updated. Some tools have a generic utility (they can for example be used in other areas of statistics or other environments) while others were specific to statistics relating to the trading of goods.
- 83 Since the Edicom programme had a limited duration, it was important to assess the necessary evolutionary maintenance costs of these tools and ensure that the necessary resources could be available at the end of the programme –

at Community level for centralised tools and in the Member States for tools developed for national purposes.

5. *Extension of the programme following Enlargement*

84 The Edicom II programme initially was limited to EU-15 Member States, which were the only ones who could benefit from grants. Following the Enlargement of the European Union, from work programme 2004 onward, new Member States were also beneficiaries of the EDICOM II grants.

5. MAIN FINDINGS AND ACHIEVED RESULTS AT ACTION LEVEL

85 The measures or activities undertaken in the 2001-2005 programmes have been classified according to the six main objectives.

Objective 1: An information network of better quality, less costly and making data available more quickly, in accordance with the requirements of the Community policies.

Action 1: Development of advanced estimators

86 Fourteen Member States (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom) carried out studies in the field of advanced estimators, in order to set up methodologies, find and test alternative methods, implement or enhance the production of advanced estimators. Eight Member States (Austria, Belgium, Greece, Hungary, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Slovakia, United Kingdom) concentrated their effort in the framework of a single work programme, while six Member States (Denmark, Finland, Germany, Portugal, Spain and Sweden) carried out multi-annual activities. Results are varying from methodological reports, positive assessment of current methods, development and implementation of new systems. In few cases, however, expected results were not completely achieved due to inconsistency of the findings or missing complementary information for the study.

87 Concerning Eurostat centralised actions, a comparison between several now-casting methods has been successfully made. An application, named EMDSAS, incorporating the various methods has been developed, tested and implemented. It enables the production of short-term statistics for Member States who are late in transmitting their results. The development is also useful for the new Member States in order to comply with Intrastat deadlines for the transmission of results.

88 On the other hand, Eurostat has compared the methodologies used by Member States for advanced estimation and a harmonised methodology has been proposed combining an ARIMA model and a growth rate factor model. Based on these results, an application has been developed.

89 Finally, Eurostat has carried out an analysis of the updating processes used by Member States. The time series have been analysed and models for the update patterns have been proposed and tested. An IT application has been

developed enabling the automatic creation of forecasting models and the consequent correction for the biases of the updates.

Action 2: Quality

- 90 Fourteen Member States (Czech republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom) managed to improve their quality controls and correction systems by developing and implementing more automated processes for checking basic data and output statistics. The comparison of Intrastat data with other sources has been also used by Member States to enhance data quality.
- 91 Eight Member States (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and United Kingdom) undertook mirror statistics analysis in order to find reasons and highlight the impact of discrepancies at bilateral or at EU total trade level.
- 92 Furthermore, twelve Member States (Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom) have carried out studies and in most of the cases improved their current system of imputation for non-declared trade (trade below thresholds or non-response) and/or for the estimation of the statistical value.
- 93 Four Member States (Denmark, Italy, Luxembourg, Finland) have worked on outlier detection, using software developed by Eurostat with some modifications to take into account their national systems specificities and different levels of aggregation.
- 94 Other different projects have been carried out by Member States. Luxembourg focused on minimizing the potential loss of data following the EU Enlargement, Finland studied the structure of its trade with Russia, Denmark put in place a Quality Surveillance System to monitor and publish information regarding the development of quality indicators of national figures.
- 95 Eurostat improved its outlier detection system and undertook projects to collect and analyse the methods used by Member States to check the individual data/records provided by companies and methods check data at a more aggregated level of product and geographical classifications. The aims were to have a thorough evaluation of the current methods in use in view of the feasibility of a common EU platform. These projects led to a global proposition for quality controls of input and output trade statistics, which have been included into the XTNET validation system developed under Edicom action 12.
- 96 In the field of quality reporting, various activities have been undertaken aimed at enhancing quality measurement, control and assurance. Proposals made on data quality have finally been integrated into the new Intrastat Regulations; mirror leaflets have been released and a database has been created to collect Member States' quantitative and qualitative information on quality indicators. This database, named Quality Information for External Trade (QUIET), was updated annually via a questionnaire sent to Member

States and become, together with information extracted directly from Comext, one of the main sources of information for the Eurostat Quality Report on External Trade Statistics.

- 97 Regarding the treatment of asymmetries, the aim was to compare and implement specific models to reconcile the divergent data on the basis of several methods. Eurostat succeeded in identifying models of reconciliation for Intra and Extra EU trade and MIRSTAT and RECONSAS software have been developed. Eurostat has carried out a feasibility study for developing a world trade matrix in order to satisfy existing and future data needs and studies on the stability of data series and on CIF/FOB methodologies.
- 98 Finally, Eurostat has completed a project aimed at investigating the adjustment methods used by Member States in the field of non-declared trade (trade below thresholds and non-responses). For this purpose, a questionnaire was sent to the Member States. The responses made it possible to describe and compare methods used by the Member States. Simulations have been carried out and finally the different methods for adjustment have been implemented in an application (ADJSAS), which can be used to estimate non-declared trade at individual or global level. New Member States and Acceding countries could use results of this analysis to select their methods among those already implemented with success in other MS.

Objective 2: A relevant information network adapted to the changing needs of the users within the framework of Economic and Monetary Union and the international economic environment

Action 3: New short term indicators

- 99 In order to supply decision-makers at Community level with a set of indicators for interpreting the development of external trade and its interaction with the EU internal activities, the efforts undertaken in the framework of the EDICOM II programme have focused on the measurement of export and import prices, on seasonal adjustments, on calculation of historical time series and CIF/FOB adjustments.
- 100 The application NICE for the calculation of indices of the unit value and volume of Member States' external trade has been developed and implemented into Eurostat's production environment enabling unit value indices for all combination of variables "reporter/partner/flow/product" to be calculated every month. The maintenance of the system and the improvement of the procedures have been guaranteed for the duration of the EDICOM II project.
- 101 Eurostat has also analysed import and export price indices methodologies adopted by different Member States, third countries and international organisations and prepared a reference methodology for countries, which were not calculating them yet.
- 102 A comparative analysis of import Specific Price Indices (SPIs) and corresponding Unit Value Indices (UVIs) has been made by Eurostat for four Member States (DE, FI, NL and SE) on the basis of the Intra and Extra-EU imports, with reference period 1995, disaggregated according to CPA 1996

up to 4 digit numerical codes when available. If from one side UVIs are relatively simple and inexpensive to calculate, from the other they are based on average prices, which do not take into account the changes in the composition of flows. SPIs may provide much better indicators of price change for heterogeneous commodities; however some Member States consider that cost and complexity for their calculation outweigh the usefulness of the quality improvement.

- 103 Eight Member States (Austria, Germany, Finland, France, Italy, Netherlands, Poland and Slovakia) have undertaken works to improve their national measure of external trade price indices (development of new methodology, pilot surveys, calculation/comparison of unit price and unit value indices). Results of some studies on price indices and unit value indices in foreign trade highlights that differences are due to mode of calculation, time of price registration and basket of goods. However both indices do not vary fundamentally.
- 104 In order to comply with the amended Short Term Statistics Regulation, which added variable 340 “Import prices” to the list of variable included in Council Regulation 1165/98, Italy carried out a pilot study, while Austria, Belgium, Finland and France drafted a methodology for the collection of import prices for CPA classes of Eurozone and/or non-Eurozone and transmitted gathered data to Eurostat.
- 105 Centralised studies have been carried out by Eurostat for defining new methodologies and assess quality indicators concerning seasonally adjusted data. In the field of adjustments of short time series, X-12 ARIMA and TRAMO-SEATS methods have been tested. Studies on seasonal variations’ corrections have been carried out and quality indicators for the corrected series have been evaluated.
- 106 Denmark and Finland have completed the restoration of their external trade historical time series, respectively for the period 1966-1979 and 1984-1994.
- 107 Nine Member States (Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Slovakia and Sweden) have undertaken projects in the fields of CIF/FOB adjustments. These projects were mainly targeted to the improvement of the methodology and the development of new software. Internationally used methods and data sources have been analysed and surveys have been carried out for the better calculation of transport and insurance costs.
- 108 Latvia has created, after analysis and definition of a new methodology, a computer programme for transforming invoice values into statistical values for each combination of CN2/partner country.

Action 4: Confidentiality

- 109 The diagnostic study undertaken by Eurostat has increased the understanding of the processes used by Member States in dealing with confidentiality. Member States apply the principle of passive confidentiality, under which declarants may request that their data remain confidential if private information can be disclosed from their publication. There are great

disparities in the share of confidential data between Member States and a lack of coherence at EU level.

- 110 Six Member States (Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, Portugal and United Kingdom) have conducted studies in the framework of the treatment of the confidential information in order to improve the management of confidentiality and maximize the publishable information. From the examination of the practical process of confidentialisation at national level appears that periodic reminders sent to enterprises allow suppressions to be reviewed and in some cases removed, so that data previously confidential can be released into the public domain. The development of automatic procedures for the treatment of confidentiality has been also studied by Denmark and Portugal.
- 111 A set of recommendations on the management of confidentiality has been drafted after a study on practices of confidentiality used by Member States. Eurostat has drafted guidelines on confidential data to Member States. If applied, these measures would improve the quality of data at national level and the coherence of statistics at EU level.

Action 5: New statistical products

- 112 Germany, Greece, Finland and Italy carried out studies related to the Contribution of International Groups to External Trade (CIGET statistics) or/and Intra-Firm trade (in most of cases at aggregated level of the NACE classification). Concrete results have been obtained by merging information of three registers: the Business Register, the Register of Foreign Trade operators and the Foreign Affiliate Trade Statistics (FATS) register. In this manner, some steps towards a full collection system of intra-firm statistics in EU have been made; however more work should be dedicated to this subject in order to obtain harmonised and exhaustive EU figures.
- 113 Ten Member States (Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Germany, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal and Sweden) have focused their efforts in preparing or adapting their systems for publishing external trade data broken down by enterprise characteristics. This has been achieved by linking different sources of available information at national level (General Business Register, Intrastat Register, VAT register, Trader's Register, etc.). These preparatory works have allowed publishing, in 2007, the results of a pilot study presenting "External Trade by Enterprise Characteristics" in 18 Member States and in two EFTA Countries (Norway and Island) on the basis of six indicators (concentration of trade, trade by activity sector, by size-class, by partner countries, by number of partner countries, by products). Similar pilot studies have been launched in the year 2002 and 2005 with a lesser degree of detail.
- 114 Belgium made a publication presenting an analysis of national exports for the period 1995-2000, broken down by region, size class and activity sector of exporting enterprises.
- 115 Austria and Netherlands carried out studies for comparing/combining transport data captured in foreign trade statistics with transport statistics data,

in order to improve the overall data quality in external trade or in both statistics. The result of the Austrian study showed that there were very close correlations between transport and trade statistics data. The Netherlands succeeded to produce a transport-trade integrated database showing trade flows to/from the country, broken-down by continent of origin/destination, loading/unloading and mode of transport.

Objective 3: A network of information which is better integrated into the general statistical system and adapted to the developments of the administrative environment

Action 6: Registers

- 116 Eurostat realised studies for creating two different methodological frameworks: one for the collection of CIGET and Intra-firm data; the other for the collection and joint presentation of external trade and business statistics.
- 117 Twelve Member States (Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Sweden and United Kingdom) have carried out analyses of the current registers and some undertook work to create/improve the quality of Intrastat and Extrastat registers. The inter-operability of trade registers with other national registers (for instance the VAT register and the General Business Register) was also a main subject of study. In some countries the work carried out allowed to improve the completeness of the available information, the creation of stable links between registers and the basis for the production of external trade statistics by activity sector planned under Edicom action 5.

Action 7: Adapting and modernising Extrastat

- 118 At centralised level, an inventory has been made on unused but statistically relevant Customs data available at national level. The report showed that only few interesting variables were available in enough Member States so as to be considered relevant. Nevertheless, it was considered that their statistical use could significantly enhance both tariff and mirror statistics.
- 119 Another study highlighted the need to improve and complete the quality of existing tariff statistics and tariff measures information. Additional sources of information of potential use for negotiations have been analysed and assessed.
- 120 The first steps of the modular Taristat project aiming to combine trade and tariff data proved to be extremely complex due to the fact that the EU's customs tariff database (Taric) provides tariff measures on a daily basis while the Comext database contains monthly trade data. The achieved results consisted in an application that primarily crosses basic monthly tariff information with monthly external trade data. The results were made available in two new Comext datasets.
- 121 In the framework of statistics on the trading of goods with non-Member States, a study investigating the needs and the quality of transport data provided by Member States has been launched under Work Programme 2003.

- 122 A number of preliminary studies were launched for the revision of the Extrastat legislation that have resulted in the elaboration of a draft new European Parliament and Council Regulation and a new Commission Regulation that are due to being implemented in 2009.
- 123 At *decentralised level*, seven Member States (Germany, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Netherlands, Greece and France) launched actions aimed at strengthening the collaboration between authorities in charge of data collection and publication for improving the quality of basic information and/or speed up the availability of Extrastat statistics. Results have been reached by extending data entry controls for electronic declarations; by updating Extrastat registers, by developing programs for the electronic transfer of statistical error enquiries and for the interactive correction of invalid/incomplete data; by updating the transmission system used for the exchange of data between national administrations.
- 124 Denmark, Greece and Italy carried out studies on potential use of variables of the Single Administrative Document, which are not yet collected or fully exploited for statistical purposes. Some variables if collected at statistical level might be used for enhancing the methodology in relation to UN recommendations, for improving data adjustments and the economic analysis of trade flows. Netherlands carried out a study on invoicing currency used in Extrastat in order to provide information to the European Central Bank, while Slovenia adapted and modernised the programs for data processing following the full adoption of the *Acquis Communautaire*.

Action 8: *Preparing the adaptation of Intrastat in the long term*

- 125 At *centralised level* an opinion poll was launched in six Member States (Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Sweden, United Kingdom) to reassess the burden on providers of statistical information. The survey results did not indicate any serious need for substantial changes on the Intrastat system as its burden was judged by operators to be reasonable and acceptable. Over 70% of the traders needed in fact less than 4 hours a month to complete the Intrastat declaration. The commodity code was considered as the information most difficult to determine. In order to simplify and reduce the administrative burden on enterprises, tools allowing filling in declarations automatically have been developed in the framework of the Edicom action 12.
- 126 Also the assessment of user needs confirmed that no substantial change in the existing system was expected. In particular, the need for detailed information on commodities was highlighted (from the survey, nine out of ten respondents used the Combined Nomenclature (CN), 71% use CN codes usually or systematically and one respondent in three uses all chapters of the CN). Other interesting findings were identified and taken into account, in particular the progress to be made on timeliness and reliability of data.
- 127 Summary studies have been carried out on methodological aspects linked to alternative data collection systems, coverage and statistical evaluation of trade, new statistical products, links between registers and other statistics (balance of payments, national accounts etc.).

- 128 On the basis of the studies mentioned above, Eurostat, with the assistance of the Working Group Methods, has drafted a new Basic Intrastat legislative act having in mind that the legislation had to be more understandable and transparent; while taking at the same time fully into account the requirements of users and the reinforcement of quality aspects.
- 129 The new Intrastat Basic Regulation has been adopted by the European Parliament and Council in 2004, and was supplemented by a Commission Regulation with the implementing provisions and recommendations for the application at national level. (Regulation (EC) No 638/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1982/2004).
- 130 *At decentralised level*, Sweden, in the context of the 2002 Work Programme, analysed the possible impact of the adoption of the Harmonised System nomenclature. Providers on statistical information were in favour of a simplification of the product nomenclature, which would also cause an important reduction of the workload in Statistics Sweden, while users' opinion was different.
- 131 Germany, France, Sweden and United Kingdom, due to confidentiality reasons, had to participate more actively in the Eurostat survey on the Burden of Intrastat launched in 2001, as written inquiries had to be sent and collected by the national competent administration. Results have been then transmitted to Eurostat for processing. Surveys with similar purpose have been conducted, under the Work Programme 2005 by Latvia, in parallel to a user satisfaction survey, and by Italy.
- 132 Also at decentralised level, in the context of the 2004 Work Programme, Italy has launched a study in order to analyse the impact of the EU Enlargement on the national Intrastat figures.
- 133 An international seminar on "Intrastat simplification" has been organised and held in the United Kingdom: the raising of thresholds and the Single Flow System were retained as the most promising options. Still in the framework of simplification measures, sampling methods to reduce the number of Intrastat PSIs have been explored by UK: the stratification by trade value method was the most accurate.
- 134 Germany and Sweden carried out studies on the effects of the possible introduction of the simplification threshold foreseen in article 10 (4)(c) of the Regulation (EC) No 638/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council.
- 135 Germany, Italy and Sweden carried out studies on the possible adoption of the Single Flow System, which might have some negative effects on data availability (due to non-homogeneous collection of "non mandatory" data in MS and missing information for other statistics).
- 136 In order to improve the quality of data provided by PSIs, Intrastat seminars have been organised in Slovakia and an e-learning application on Intrastat content was developed in Denmark and made available on the web.

Objective 4: A network improving the statistical service offered to administrations, users and data providers

Action 9: Coordination of dissemination

- 137 The identification of user needs and satisfaction in terms of statistics and system has been monitored via Internet surveys, with the purpose to provide orientations for the further development of the Comext system. Users had a very positive perception of the quality of Comext data. A large number of respondents have expressed a very positive opinion on the evolution of Comext interface and content.
- 138 The projects undertaken by Eurostat have permitted the development of more modern and flexible dissemination systems, based on the use on new technologies and on-line dissemination. The Czech Republic, Denmark and France have operated changes in their national dissemination systems in order to better adapt to new technologies and users demand, while Belgium realised a feasibility study.
- 139 Spain carried out an information campaign in order to provide notice to PSIs about the elimination of IDEP/CN8 and the availability of a new tool for submitting Intrastat declarations. The transition has been made successfully, without registering any increase in the “non-response” rate.
- 140 Due to technical improvements and to the application of new statistical methods (i.e. advanced estimators), delays for dissemination of macroeconomic data in press releases have decreased from 53 days in 2002 to 48 days in 2006. Eurostat thus met the expectations of users, such as the ECB, by making available raw data and seasonally adjusted data rapidly. This improvement has been achieved also thanks to new regulations fixing the legal transmission deadline for Intrastat and Extrastat aggregated data to 40 days and thanks to the reduction of the time necessary for the compilation of the press release, which passed from 3.5 days to 1.5 days.
- 141 Dissemination of detailed monthly data has also been improved thanks to the reduction in delays of data transmission.
- 142 In parallel, actions have been launched to adapt Eurostat databases and publications to integrate the effects of the EU Enlargement. For this purpose the reconstitution of historical series since 1989 has been obtained by retropolation and the software for the production of regular publications, such as the “Monthly Bulletin” and the “Trade Statistical Yearbook”, have been modified.
- 143 The analysis of the external trade of the EU and Euro-zone carried out by Eurostat has led to the production of several short publications (Statistics in Focus); and longer annual publications (i.e. Panorama) on the evolution of trade.
- 144 Similarly, the dissemination of detailed data has also been sped up thanks to the reduction of delays in data transmission to Eurostat, to the improvement of the Comext On-line and to the creation of Easy-Comext interactive database, which is accessible, in free dissemination, via the web.

- 145 Users help-desk services have been permanently guaranteed. In addition support to users has been provided via specific Comext training courses delivered in Brussels, Luxembourg, Madrid and Frankfurt, for which specific Comext documentation and training manuals have been prepared.

Action 10: Automatic classification system

- 146 Eurostat has launched projects for ensuring the evolutionary maintenance of products related to the CN and designing an automatic classification system.
- 147 The evolutionary maintenance of products related to the CN has been developed with satisfactory results. During the first part of the programme, actions have been concentrated on making available and disseminating in time products in the 11 official languages of the European Union. After the EU Enlargement of 2004 efforts have been focus in adapting programs and databases for taking into accounts the specifications of the 9 new Community languages. The evolutionary maintenance has been realised also by the adoption of most updated version of software and databases.
- 148 In view to modernise the CN a study on the purpose (tariff or statistics) and on the relevance (national or Community) of sub-headings of CN have been made. In addition the identification of the “low trade sub-headings” has been carried out by identifying those products for which the total trade of one year did not surpass 20 Mio Euro in 2004 (EU-15) or 30 Mio Euro in 2005 (EU-25).
- 149 The results of the feasibility study for an automatic classification system have highlighted the complexity of integrating such a tool in the existing system as well as high development and maintenance costs. The project was not carried further. In alternative a project has been launched to develop a specific tool in Eurostat’s classification web server “RAMON”, allowing to browse the Combined Nomenclature, display CN official texts, notes and hierarchies, search by CN codes, keywords and full-text and export CN elements.
- 150 In addition a new stand-alone combined classification search tool has been developed and made available to Member States in two different packages: one addressed to the Competent National Administration, the other to Declarant Parties. The new tool, which works under the Windows operating system, allows to browse the CN, display CN official texts, notes and hierarchy, search by CN codes, keywords, full-text and finally export CN elements.
- 151 *At decentralised level*, France has launched a study on the implementation of a keywords index and a new search engine for the nomenclatures used in national applications (DEB on the web, “Cherche-mots”, IDEP/CN8, RITA), following the decision of Eurostat to stop the provision of the annual file “keywords on the CN” contained in the CD-Rom Intrastat.

Action 11: Dissemination of metadata

- 152 At centralised level, efforts have been made for enhancing the dissemination of metadata. There were no projects launched by Member States under this action.

- 153 Three projects covered the need to re-write, implement and maintain computer tools that ensured the coherent and user-friendly availability of the annual Intrastat version of the Combined Nomenclature and its related products in all official languages. The increased level of linguistic variety due to the Enlargement has been managed with satisfactory results.
- 154 The fourth centralised projects dealt with the inventory and analysis of the ways to implement the most advanced technologies to speed up the distribution of metadata and facilitate their accessibility to the public. Following surveys on users' needs, studies on comparable solutions adopted at international level and the development of an alternative prototype, the Eurostat's classifications web server RAMON has been finally chosen as the most appropriate base for the on-line dissemination of nomenclatures and their related products.

Objective 5: A network based on information-gathering tools taking into account the latest technological developments in order to improve the function offered to data providers

Action 12: Collection Tools

- 155 At a centralised level, information-gathering tools have been maintained or developed in order to improve functions offered to data providers (offline tools, online tools, web forms and CN Search tools) and work has been carried out on standardisation messages for electronic data collection and production controls.
- 156 The development of online tools represented a constant activity during the EDICOM Programme. The most important result was the creation of Intrastat Web Form systems, which allow data gathering via the Internet and the electronic administration of the collected statistical information.
- 157 A stand-alone classification search application called "CN Search tool" was developed at centralised level in order to allow Declarant Parties to download product nomenclatures via a web interface. A number of developments concerning web forms, offline tools and integrated tools have been carried out.
- 158 Among offline tools, it is important to highlight the production of annual updates of the IDEP/CN8 software and the distribution of CD-ROMs to Member States. As the 2004 version of the software was the last developed at central level, decentralised projects were launched on the 'IDEP/CN8 Maintenance and Support' to ensure the continuity of the service provided by Eurostat.
- 159 So, at decentralised level, most Member States have based their actions on the development and the maintenance of IDEP/CN8 systems, allowing a better autonomy and flexibility of the tools, as well as a better harmonisation of the communication between enterprises and data collection centres.

- 160 Actions with all Member States have led to the improvement of the existing current collection tools (Deb on the Web, ROS, Intr@web, CBS-IRIS, ELIS, IDAIS, WG3Stat), or/and the development and implementation of the Intrastat Web forms as data collection tools.
- 161 Another project successfully dealt with the EDIFACT messages maintenance, the production of Message Implementation Guidelines and the support to competent national administrations (CNAs) and providers of statistical information (PSIs).
- 162 Great importance was also given to modernising and standardising messages with the use of new technology and technical features in the existing process, like transmission format standardisation (Message INSTAT/XML or Gesmes format) for Intrastat data collection.
- 163 All these projects were sustained by a lot of promotional campaigns inviting PSI's to use web, online and offline tools rather than paper for data transmission. These campaigns were carried out by means of brochures, CD-Rom/floppy disk, calls, technical assistance and interactive training courses in different languages, information meetings and seminars.
- 164 The quality of created tools and promotional campaigns at centralised and decentralised level have increased the number of PSI's making Intrastat declaration via Web (approximately 100 000 users), a facility of data acquisition, a considerable reduction of the amount of lines sent on paper or floppy disk (decrease of paper about 30%), and as aimed, a real improvement of data transmission quality/consistency and consequently a reduction of burden, cost for data providers and collecting authorities.

Objective 6 (horizontal): Integrated and interoperable network

Action 13: Integrated system-Interoperability-Network implementation

- 165 Services to users were improved by the drafting of user guides, improvements of the COMEXT system's functionalities, organisation of training courses and development of the COMEXT stand-alone version for browsing data on CD-ROM and other distribution media (COMEXT DVD-Rom, distributed to 500 users per month).
- 166 A project was launched to improve the existing methodological reference material by creating the new information database (METODOLOGICA) and developing tools giving easy access to the information. A specific web system dissemination database on External trade (Easy COMEXT) has been developed and made accessible in free dissemination to external users, from October 2004, allowing disseminating more detailed Member States data to the public than before. (70 000 extractions per month in 2006).
- 167 Measures have been launched to modernise the various elements of the trans-European network within the Commission and Member States, including the new Member States (XTNET project).
- 168 A lot of tools and methods have been developed and updated in different domains like processing and validation of data; communication between

national administrations and Eurostat; user access to statistical data and metadata, and data dissemination (Comext server, Easy Comext Client, Analytical Comext client, NPS, XTNET-edit, XTNET-assist, XTNET-publish, Comext-OLE).

- 169 The enhancing of the analytical interface allowed Member States to improve the deadlines for the transmission of data to Eurostat, consequently also the dissemination at centralised level was sped up.
- 170 At decentralised level, Greece has initiated actions on the implementation of XT-NET, in order to evolve to a more homogeneous system of data collection at European level, and Germany, with the development of the new programs especially focused on correction of inconsistencies found in reporting of product and partner country confidentiality, nationality of the means of transport and conversions of products, is now able to produce external trade data that can be directly loaded by Eurostat into Comext without going through a time-consuming correction process.

ANNEX 1:

Objectives, expected results, performance indicators and actual results of the Edicom II programme (2001-2005).

Objective 1: An information network of better quality, less costly and available more quickly, in accordance with the requirements of the Community policies.

| | Expected results | Performance indicators | Actual results |
|--|--|---|---|
| <i>Action 1:</i> To speed up the availability of the statistics at aggregated level by improving statistical estimation techniques | Member States aggregated figures for the intra and extra euro area trade have been made available around 40 days after the end of the reference month. | The time needed to supply data at aggregated level; | According to the new Intrastat and amended Extrastat legislations, Member States should provide Eurostat with Intra and Extra-EU aggregated statistics within 40 days after the end of the reference month |
| | | Number of Member States complying with the deadline for the transmission of data to Eurostat. | All Member States are in line with the deadline for the transmission of data to Eurostat. |
| | Euro-zone and EU aggregated figures are published around 46 days after the end of the reference period. | The average timeliness for Eurostat to publish press releases. | Delays for the dissemination of EU and Eurozone aggregated figures in press releases have decreased from 53 days in 2002 to 48 days in 2006, better satisfying ECB requests and other user needs. |
| | New methods or tools enabling Member States and/or Eurostat to decrease the revision bias have been developed. | The bias of initial estimates with respect to final results at aggregated level; | The average extent of the revisions of monthly detailed data has been reduced significantly for some Member States. |
| | | Availability and implementation of tools developed. | At centralised level an application (EMDSAS) for estimating missing data has been developed, and improved by clarifying the process and by simplifying its use, together with a program for adjusting data revision (UPDATSAS). |

| | Expected results | Performance indicators | Actual results |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p><i>Action 2:</i> To provide high-quality trade statistics quickly and punctually, by controlling the quality of basic statistics, enhancing quality measurement and assurance, tackling asymmetries, developing imputing and harmonising statistical methods.</p> | A common platform at EU level to control basic statistics has been developed. | A list of controls recommended by Eurostat has been released; | Different recommendations have been listed by Member States to allow the detection and the resolution of asymmetries. |
| | | Number of Member States in agreement with the common platform. | In the framework of action 12, the XTNET validation project, has provided a common platform for the validation of basic data. Few Member States have already started to put in place this system. Full results would be seen within few years. |
| | <p>A common framework for quality assurance has been developed, covering:</p> <p>The regular reporting on quality from Member States and Eurostat including assessment of users satisfaction and ad-hoc methods to control output data;</p> | <p>Number of Member States regularly sending a quality report to EUROSTAT according to a common layout;</p> <p>EUROSTAT regularly releases a synthesis quality report;</p> | Eurostat and most of Member States have produced Quality Reports (QR) in order to analyse data quality and to improve international trade statistics, these QR have been produced in accordance with the official definition of quality in the European Statistics System. |
| | A quality database. | A quality database has been developed and updated. | A quality database "QUIET" has been developed at centralised level. However for the production of the latest Eurostat quality reports the information has been taken directly from the questionnaires fulfilled by Member States. |
| Relevant tools that enable Eurostat and Member States to cope with asymmetries have been developed. | Level of asymmetries; | <p>Over the period of the programme, asymmetries on aggregate level have decreased in spite of EU enlargement with 10 new Member States. Important asymmetries remain on detailed level.</p> <p>Different Members States have done studies in order to reduce asymmetries. Eurostat and Denmark have developed an application in order to study the asymmetries and for reconciliation of external trade data.</p> <p>Different recommendations have been listed by Member States to allow the detection and the resolution of asymmetries.</p> | |

| | Expected results | Performance indicators | Actual results |
|-------------|--|--|--|
| (Continued) | (Continued) | Availability of reconciliation tools. | The Reconsas tool for solving aggregate level asymmetries based on time series has been developed and tested. The political decision to use it in publications has not been taken yet. |
| | Methods/tools enabling Member States to estimate or impute the non-declared trade have been developed and implemented. | Number of Member States using adjustment methods for non-response and trade below the assimilation threshold. | Only four countries: GR, ES, FR (for the years 2002-2005) and MT did not apply any adjustments |
| | The Member States transmission process of monthly data revisions has been improved. | A set of Eurostat recommendations has been released; Number of Member States in agreement with Eurostat recommendations. | The average extent of the revisions of aggregated data supplied by MS to Eurostat has been reduced, especially in Intrastat. However some Member States have still room for improvement. |

Objective 2: A relevant information network adapted to the changing needs of the users within the framework of Economic and Monetary Union and the international economic environment

| | Expected results | Performance indicators | Actual results |
|---|--|--|---|
| <i>Action 3:</i> To provide new short-term indicators adapted to the needs of economic analysis at EU and EMU level | A new application for the calculation of unit value indices has been developed. | Availability of a new application for the calculation of unit value indices. | Different software for the calculation of external trade indices and the realisation of new statistical products have been developed and implemented both at Eurostat and at Member States level. (Action 5) |
| | A system for the production of import/export price statistics of the euro zone has been developed. | Number of Member States producing import and export price specific indices not based on unit values but on real price information. | Gradually ever more Member States switched to providing export/import prices specific indices. Currently 26 Member States provide export data and the Euro Area Member States (have to) provide import figures. |
| | Seasonal adjustment methods used by Eurostat have been improved. | Availability of quality indicators on seasonally adjusted data. | Different methodologies have been defined and tested to assess the stability of the parameters for seasonal adjustments and to adjust short-time series. |
| | A method at the Community and euro zone levels to obtain FOB/FOB trade balance has been developed. | Availability of CIF/FOB adjustments (Number of Member States making these adjustments). | Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Netherlands, Slovakia and Sweden have studied/proposed new methodologies to calculate CIF/FOB adjustments, while Italy developed a pilot survey. |

| | Expected results | Performance indicators | Actual results |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p><i>Action 4:</i> To manage and improve the processing of confidentiality of statistics in an integrated approach at national and European level.</p> | <p>A methodology making it possible to publish real value of trade statistics (at a level of aggregation to be determined with Member States) has been developed.</p> | <p>Percentage of confidential data in external trade (in quantity and value).</p> | <p>According to figures published in the 2007 Quality Report, the impact of confidentiality on total EU figures of the year 2005 attained 1% of arrivals, 3.5% of dispatches, 3.7% of imports and 3.5%.of exports.</p> |
| | <p>Users of COMEXT have more information on the impact of confidential data in trade statistics.</p> | <p>Availability of a recommendation guide and its implementation by Member States.</p> | <p>Eurostat produced two guide-books. The first targeted to improve the quality of aggregates in Comext and the second providing useful information to Member States on the management rules for confidentialising data.</p> |
| <p><i>Action 5:</i> To increase user satisfaction by providing a more complete range of statistics</p> | <p>Statistics on the proportion of the EU's international transactions carried out by related firms belonging to the same enterprise group have been made available.</p> | <p>Intra-firm statistics available at EU level.</p> | <p>Only few Member States carried out Edicom projects on CIGET and Intra-firm statistics. After having worked mainly on methodology and on IT developments, CIGET and Intra-firm statistics have been calculated on the basis of commodity groups. These encouraging results should be taken as the basis for the further development of EU statistics.</p> |
| | <p>External trade statistics and structural business statistics have been made more comparable.</p> | <p>Trade data by activity sectors are available.</p> | <p>From the other side, results of the EU standardisation exercise on "External Trade by Enterprise Characteristics" carried out in 2002, 2005 and 2006, have been published presenting external trade statistics broken down by six main indicators respectively for 9, 17 and 18 Member States. The exercise has been continued also in 2007 and results are not far from being published.</p> |

Objective 3: A network of information which is better integrated into the general statistical system and adapted to the developments of the administrative environment

| | Expected results | Performance indicators | Actual results |
|--|--|---|--|
| <i>Action 6:</i> To improve the interoperability of registers | Registers of extra-Community traders have been developed. | Number of Member States producing a register for the extra-Community trade. | The available registers have been studied by Member States order to describe the current situation and to verify the possibility to use the information for the improvement or the creation of registers or for the development of new statistical figures. Czech republic developed an Intrastat Register, Greece an Extra-trade Register, Finland a register for Intrastat and Extrastat operators and Portugal a register on international trade operators. |
| | The quality of registers has been improved. | Quality indicators of trade registers and their links (register coverage, proportion of the trade declarants identified in the General Register, etc.). | 18 Member States now link trade and business registers. Coverage rates have increased to well over 90%. |
| | The interoperability of registers has been improved. | Existence of links between intra- and extra- trade registers and the General Business Register. | At this stage, 16 Member States are able to link Business Register with Trade Register (Intra and Extra); while only 2 Member States are not able to link Intrastat and Business Register. 12 Member States do not have a register for Extrastat operators, as Extrastat registers are not required by Extrastat Regulation. |
| <i>Action 7:</i> To adapt the Extrastat system to new information needs and customs developments | <p>A new Extrastat legislation has been adopted which has the main following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the legislation is easier to understand and more transparent; ▪ it takes into account the requirements of users (aggregates, Tariff data,...); ▪ it takes into account the recommendations at international level and developments in customs rules. | Availability of the new legislation. | A new Extrastat legislative framework is still under preparation and should enter in force in 2009. |

| | Expected results | Performance indicators | Actual results |
|--|---|--|---|
| (Continued) | 2. Metadata on Tariff measures have been made accessible to users of community statistics. | Availability of metadata on Tariff measures. | External trade statistics by mode of transport have been made available in Comext and New Cronos. Short Term Statistics (SIF) publications have been produced. External trade statistics by tariff measures have been made available to Comext selected users. |
| | 3. Co-operation between the customs administrations and the authorities responsible for statistics has been improved | Improvement of the quality and timeliness of Extrastat statistics. | The transmission of detailed Member States external trade data to Eurostat has been reduced during the EDICOM II programme by 5 days. On average, data are now available within 40 days after the end of the reference month, or 2 days in advance compared to the legal requirement. |
| <i>Action 8: To adapt the Intrastat system to the development of its environment</i> | <p>A new Intrastat legislation has been adopted which has the main following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the legislation is more understandable and more transparent; ▪ it takes into account the requirements of users; ▪ quality aspects have been reinforced; ▪ possibilities for further simplification of the system have been examined. | Availability of the new legislation. | In order to continue to harmonise the level and quality of Intrastat information and to adapt the system to the changing environment, Eurostat, with the assistance of the Working Group "Methods" and the Committee on Intrastat statistics, has succeeded to draft a new basic and implementing Intrastat legislations, which were adopted respectively by the European Council and Parliament and by the European Commission. The new legislations entered into force in January 2004. |

Objective 4: A network improving the statistical service offered to administrations, users and data providers

| | Expected results | Performance indicators | Actual results |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p><i>Action 9:</i> To disseminate relevant statistics as quickly as possible to all users.</p> | <p>Periodical studies of the information needs to improve dissemination have been undertaken.</p> | <p>Satisfaction of users.</p> | <p>The identification of user needs and satisfaction in terms of statistics and system has been monitored via internet surveys, with the purpose to provide orientations for the further development of the Comext system. 85% of users are satisfied overall with the trade statistics they use. A large number of respondents have expressed a very positive opinion on the evolution of Comext interface and content.</p> |
| | <p>Dissemination of macro-economic statistics has been improved in particular, through a macro-economic database. Selected data have been made available on the www.</p> | <p>Delay in disseminating macro-economic data.</p> | <p>Due to technical improvements and to the application of new statistics methods (i.e. advanced estimators), delays for dissemination of macroeconomic data in press releases (like the external trade balance: intra and extra EU) have decreased from 53 days in 2002 to 48 days in 2006. Eurostat thus meets the expectations of some users, such as the ECB, by making available raw data as well as seasonally adjusted data rapidly. This improvement has been achieved thanks to the new regulations fixing the legal transmission deadline for all aggregated data to 40 days and thanks to the reduction to time for the compilation of the press release, which is passed from 3.5 days to 1.5 days.</p> |
| | <p>Access to detailed statistics has been improved.</p> | <p>Delay in disseminating detailed data.</p> | <p>Dissemination of detailed monthly data has also been improved thanks to the reduction of delays in data transmission to Eurostat.</p> |

| | Expected results | Performance indicators | Actual results |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p><i>Action 10:</i> To provide external trade operators with methods/tools for classifying goods in the Combined Nomenclature.</p> | <p>Tools, which facilitate the classification of goods in the Combined nomenclature, have been made available.</p> <p>The Combined nomenclature has been modernised.</p> | <p>Availability of the tools.</p> | <p>This action has been mainly targeted to maintain, develop and integrate the softwares and systems used by Eurostat for updating the Intrastat version of the Combined Nomenclature. Regarding the informatics aspects there has been the creation of all the products linked with the Combined Nomenclature like: explanatory notes, alphabetic indices, keywords, correlation tables between nomenclatures and also the publication, in different file formats and official languages, of the yearly version of the CN nomenclature.</p> |
| | | <p>Availability of a revised version of the Combined nomenclature.</p> | <p>In order to modernise the CN in the future, in the framework of the WP 2004 and 2005 the analysis of the reasons and usefulness of the CN-8 subheadings of the nomenclature has been carried out.</p> |
| <p><i>Action 11:</i> To provide users with tools necessary for the integration and dissemination of nomenclatures, classifications and other related products.</p> | <p>Nomenclatures and metadata on nomenclatures are easily managed and accessible by all users.</p> | <p>Satisfaction of users.</p> | <p>This action has been carried out at centralised level only. Eurostat concentrated the efforts on the improvement of the system in use for the production of the CN nomenclature, achieving the concrete result that the 2002 and 2003 annual versions of the CN were produced in 11 languages in an efficient way and diffused in time to Member States for dissemination at national level.</p> |

Objective 5: *A network based on information-gathering tools taking into account the latest technological developments in order to improve the function offered to data providers*

| | Expected results | Performance indicators | Actual results |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p><i>Action 12:</i> To develop and implement appropriate electronic data collection tools in the Member States</p> | <p>On-line and off-line data collection systems have been made available to PSIs in the Member States.</p> | <p>Share of electronic declarations in the different Member States expressed in number of PSIs declarations and trade value.</p> | <p>Many Members States have worked on the development of Intrastat Web Forms (IWF), IWF online tools and offline tools (to replace IDEP/CN8 after decentralisation in 2004). Even if they used or have implemented IDEP/CN8, some Member States have chosen to replace it slowly/definitively by new system allowing VAT payers to submit data through Web applications: Deb on the Web, ROS, Intr@web, CBS-IRIS, ELIS, IDAIS, WG3Stat. In 2005, there were approximately 80 000 companies using the software IDEP/CN8.</p> |
| | <p>PSIs have better and enhanced access to collection tools and other related information.</p> | <p>Availability of collection tools.</p> | <p>A web-base tool enables the easy browsing, searching and retrieval of CN codes has been implemented. The system allows the download of product nomenclatures, via a Web interface, in a more simply, user-friendly and intuitive way. During the “Data Production” workshop organised by Eurostat in December 2005 in Luxembourg, the CN-Search Tool and tailor made database with the Combined Nomenclature and other available information in the 20 official languages of the EU has been distributed.</p> |

| | Expected results | Performance indicators | Actual results |
|-------------|--|--|---|
| (Continued) | Standardised Messages have been improved and adapted and implemented by the Member States. | Number of Member States who adapted the standardised messages. | Several researches have been launched, at Eurostat and Member States level, in order to solve specific problems of message standardisation (GESMES / XML), data collection monitoring (STADIUM) and inventory (EDIFLOW), and improve the transmission modules hiding the telecommunication layer (IDEP/IRIS). For Member States, this action consisted in the creation and promotion of electronic tools and on development of systems to receive data in XML format from the PSIs, and make available all-online and off-line electronic Intrastat declaration. INSTAT/XML message has been implemented in the IDEP/CN8 package in parallel with the corresponding EDIFACT format CUSDEC/INSTAT. This package has been distributed to the traders by the national administrations of twelve Member States. |

Objective 6 (horizontal): *Integrated and interoperable network*

| | Expected results | Performance indicators | Actual results |
|---|---|---|--|
| Action 13: To modernise and improve the trans-European network for the collection, production and dissemination of trade statistics | Enhanced controls and appropriate tools have been developed and implemented in the Member States. | Number of Member States having implemented common validation procedures. | Validation work started only in the last year of the Edicom programme. Only GR and DE really worked on the implementation of XTNET validation rules. |
| | Data access and transmission of data between Member States and Eurostat have been improved. | Timeliness of detailed data availability. | Tools and methods have been developed in the following domains: data processing and validation; communication between national administrations and Eurostat; users access to statistical data and metadata. |
| | Electronic dissemination tools have been developed and implemented in Eurostat. | Users satisfaction; Volume of data accessed; Number of users accessing online information; Availability of appropriate metadata; Number of courses and participants for the use of data access systems. | <p>A specific web system dissemination database on External trade (Easy COMEXT) has been developed and made accessible to external users allowing disseminating more detailed Members States data to the public then before.</p> <p>Users internet support and monthly training, in English and French languages, have been delivered to Comext users in Luxembourg, Brussels, Frankfurt and Dublin. Services to users were improved by the drafting of user guides, improvements of COMEXT system's functionalities, the organisation of training courses and the development of the COMEXT stand-alone version for browsing data in CD-ROM and other distribution media. Tools and methods have been developed in the following domains: processing and validating data; communication between national administrations and Eurostat; user access to statistical data and metadata, including greater use of the Internet and improvements to the software for disseminating statistics on the trading of goods.</p> |

| | Expected results | Performance indicators | Actual results |
|-------------|---|--|--|
| (Continued) | An information system on methodology (METODOLOGICA) has been developed. | Availability of a database on methodology. | A project was launched to improve the existing methodological reference material (information system on methodology "METODOLOGICA" and develop tools giving easy access to the information). |

ANNEX 2: Use of EDICOM II financial resources (2001-2005)

Use of EDICOM II financial resources 2001 (Euro)

| Year 2001 | | Commitment | Budget expenditure | Budget expenditure/ Commitment |
|----------------------------------|---------------|------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Objective 1 (actions 1+2) | Total | 2 824 594 | 2 624 540 | 92.92% |
| | Centralised | 1 117 400 | 1 051 490 | |
| | Decentralised | 1 707 194 | 1 573 050 | |
| Objective 2 (action 3+4+5) | Total | 1 119 657 | 1 012 118 | 90.40% |
| | Centralised | 446 657 | 446 657 | |
| | Decentralised | 673 000 | 565 461 | |
| Objective 3 (actions 6+7+8) | Total | 836 535 | 817 320 | 97.70% |
| | Centralised | 518 535 | 518 535 | |
| | Decentralised | 318 000 | 298 785 | |
| Objective 4 (actions 9+10+11) | Total | 1 199 139 | 1 020 222 | 85.08% |
| | Centralised | 1 199 139 | 1 020 222 | |
| | Decentralised | 0 | 0 | |
| Objective 5 (action 12) | Total | 1 849 750 | 1 758 639 | 95.07% |
| | Centralised | 702 425 | 702 425 | |
| | Decentralised | 1 147 325 | 1 056 214 | |
| Objective 6 (action 13) | Total | 944 122 | 929 982 | 98.50% |
| | Centralised | 944 122 | 929 982 | |
| | Decentralised | 0 | 0 | |
| Total (objectives 1 to 6) | | 8 773 797 | 8 162 821 | 93.04% |
| | Centralised | 4 928 278 | 4 669 311 | 57.20% |
| | Decentralised | 3 845 519 | 3 493 510 | 42.80% |
| Support measures | Centralised | 512 735 | 362 412 | 70.68% |
| Total | | 9 286 532 | 8 525 233 | 91.80% |

Source: Evaluators' elaboration based on data provided by Eurostat.

Use of EDICOM II financial resources 2002 (Euro)

| Yaer 2002 | | Commitment | Budget expenditure | Budget expenditure/ Commitment |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Objective 1 (actions 1+2) | Total | 1 846 921 | 1 554 044 | 84.14% |
| | Centralised | 841 860 | 841 860 | |
| | Decentralised | 1 005 061 | 712 184 | |
| Objective 2 (action 3+4+5) | Total | 1 176 006 | 848 247 | 72.13% |
| | Centralised | 475 150 | 307 780 | |
| | Decentralised | 700 856 | 540 467 | |
| Objective 3 (actions 6+7+8) | Total | 821 034 | 733 777 | 89.37% |
| | Centralised | 444 035 | 444 035 | |
| | Decentralised | 376 999 | 289 742 | |
| Objective 4 (actions 9+10+11) | Total | 1 054 351 | 968 081 | 91.82% |
| | Centralised | 835 245 | 770 034 | |
| | Decentralised | 219 106 | 198 047 | |
| Objective 5 (action 12) | Total | 2 049 354 | 1 522 832 | 74.31% |
| | Centralised | 614 295 | 606 295 | |
| | Decentralised | 1 435 059 | 916 537 | |
| Objective 6 (action 13) | Total | 0 | 0 | |
| | Centralised | 0 | 0 | |
| | Decentralised | 0 | 0 | |
| Total (objectives 1 to 6) | | 6 947 666 | 5 626 981 | 80.99% |
| | Centralised | 3 210 585 | 2 970 004 | 52.78% |
| | Decentralised | 3 737 081 | 2 656 977 | 47.22% |
| Support measures | Centralised | 555 267 | 352 101 | 63.41% |
| Total | | 7 502 933 | 5 979 082 | 79.69% |

Source: Evaluators' elaboration based on data provided by Eurostat.

Use of EDICOM II financial resources 2003 (Euro)

| Year 2003 | | Commitment | Budget expenditure | Budget expenditure/ Commitment |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Objective 1 (actions 1+2) | Total | 706 544 | 575 127 | 81.40% |
| | Centralised | 0 | 0 | |
| | Decentralised | 706 544 | 575 127 | |
| Objective 2 (action 3+4+5) | Total | 946 132 | 832 358 | 87.97% |
| | Centralised | 111 674 | 111 674 | |
| | Decentralised | 834 458 | 720 684 | |
| Objective 3 (actions 6+7+8) | Total | 690 995 | 557 015 | 80.61% |
| | Centralised | 0 | 0 | |
| | Decentralised | 690 995 | 557 015 | |
| Objective 4 (actions 9+10+11) | Total | 163 000 | 82 135 | 50.39% |
| | Centralised | 0 | 0 | |
| | Decentralised | 163 000 | 82 135 | |
| Objective 5 (action 12) | Total | 2 372 094 | 2 143 800 | 90.38% |
| | Centralised | 320 640 | 320 640 | |
| | Decentralised | 2 051 454 | 1 823 160 | |
| Objective 6 (action 13) | Total | 1 777 075 | 1 777 075 | 100.00% |
| | Centralised | 1 777 075 | 1 777 075 | |
| | Decentralised | 0 | 0 | |
| Total (objectives 1 to 6) | | 6 655 840 | 5 967 510 | 89.66% |
| | Centralised | 2 209 389 | 2 209 389 | |
| | Decentralised | 4 446 451 | 3 758 121 | |
| | | | 37.02% | |
| | | | 62.98% | |
| Support measures | Centralised | 392 000 | 143 409 | 36.58% |
| Total | | 7 047 840 | 6 110 919 | 86.71% |

Source: Evaluators' elaboration based on data provided by Eurostat.

Use of EDICOM II financial resources 2004 (Euro)

| Year 2004 | | Commitment | Budget expenditure | Budget expenditure/ Commitment |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Objective 1 (actions 1+2) | Total | 1 385 035 | 888 344 | 64.14% |
| | Centralised | 318 655 | 318 655 | |
| | Decentralised | 1 066 380 | 569 689 | |
| Objective 2 (action 3+4+5) | Total | 1 178 494 | 793 905 | 67.37% |
| | Centralised | 236 347 | 236 347 | |
| | Decentralised | 942 147 | 557 558 | |
| Objective 3 (actions 6+7+8) | Total | 226 061 | 130 080 | 57.54% |
| | Centralised | 0 | 0 | |
| | Decentralised | 226 061 | 130 080 | |
| Objective 4 (actions 9+10+11) | Total | 382 402 | 372 218 | 97.34% |
| | Centralised | 346 715 | 346 715 | |
| | Decentralised | 35 687 | 25 503 | |
| Objective 5 (action 12) | Total | 1 585 758 | 1 157 317 | 72.98% |
| | Centralised | 64 000 | 64 000 | |
| | Decentralised | 1 521 758 | 1 093 317 | |
| Objective 6 (action 13) | Total | 863 000 | 850 804 | 98.59% |
| | Centralised | 822 500 | 822 500 | |
| | Decentralised | 40 500 | 28 304 | |
| Total (objectives 1 to 6) | | 5 620 750 | 4 192 668 | 74.59% |
| | Centralised | 1 788 217 | 1 788 217 | |
| | Decentralised | 3 832 533 | 2 404 451 | |
| | | | 42.65% | |
| | | | 57.35% | |
| Support measures | Centralised | 273 164 | 223 515 | 81.82% |
| Total | | 5 893 914 | 4 416 183 | 74.93% |

Source: Evaluators' elaboration based on data provided by Eurostat.

Use of EDICOM II financial resources 2005 (Euro)

| Year 2005 | | Commitment | Budget expenditure | Budget expenditure/ Commitment |
|----------------------------------|---------------|------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Objective 1 (actions 1+2) | Total | 703 075 | 579 702 | 82.45% |
| | Centralised | 251 200 | 251 200 | |
| | Decentralised | 451 875 | 328 502 | |
| Objective 2 (action 3+4+5) | Total | 747 650 | 615 036 | 82.26% |
| | Centralised | 461 251 | 461 251 | |
| | Decentralised | 286 399 | 153 785 | |
| Objective 3 (actions 6+7+8) | Total | 579 327 | 360 543 | 62.23% |
| | Centralised | 0 | 0 | |
| | Decentralised | 579 327 | 360 543 | |
| Objective 4 (actions 9+10+11) | Total | 552 028 | 549 028 | 99.46% |
| | Centralised | 552 028 | 549 028 | |
| | Decentralised | 0 | 0 | |
| Objective 5 (action 12) | Total | 2 011 301 | 1 479 816 | 73.58% |
| | Centralised | 1 099 872 | 801 344 | |
| | Decentralised | 911 429 | 678 472 | |
| Objective 6 (action 13) | Total | 1 595 757 | 1 330 840 | 83.40% |
| | Centralised | 1 474 766 | 1 286 381 | |
| | Decentralised | 120 991 | 44 459 | |
| Total (objectives 1 to 6) | | 6 189 138 | 4 914 965 | 79.41% |
| | Centralised | 3 839 117 | 3 349 204 | 68.14% |
| | Decentralised | 2 350 021 | 1 565 761 | 31.86% |
| Support measures | Centralised | 562 693 | 462 255 | 82.15% |
| Total | | 6 751 831 | 5 377 220 | 79.64% |

Source: Evaluators' elaboration based on data provided by Eurostat.

ANNEX 3

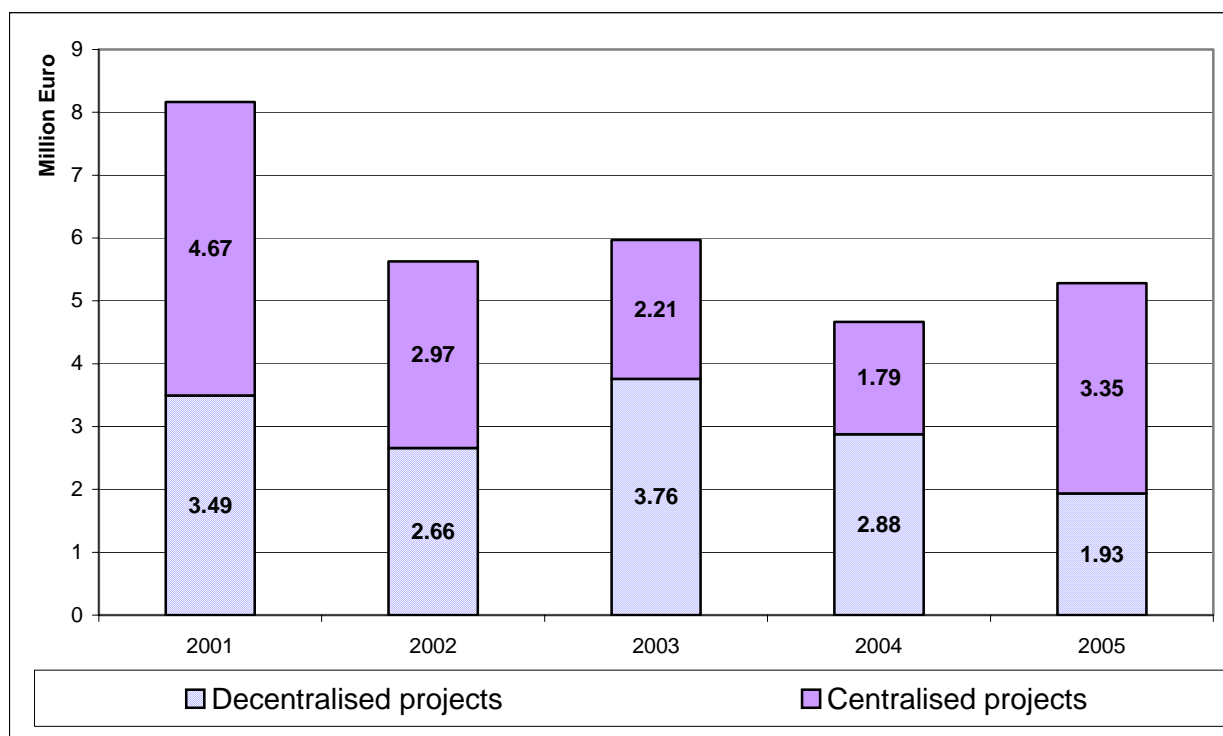
Use of EDICOM II financial resources, by countries (Euro).

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2001-2005 |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Belgium | 150 000 | 0 | 323 163 | 390 397 | 380 000 | 1 243 560 |
| Denmark | 293 375 | 232 054 | 253 165 | 149 869 | 152 331 | 1 080 794 |
| Germany | 297 718 | 167 000 | 313 380 | 96 338 | 0 | 874 436 |
| Greece | 385 361 | 0 | 213 785 | 188 946 | 79 212 | 867 304 |
| Spain | 362 000 | 231 099 | 176 003 | 0 | 0 | 769 102 |
| France | 103 000 | 122 963 | 223 703 | 132 865 | 0 | 582 531 |
| Ireland | 92 000 | 65 621 | 214 366 | 92 386 | 55 913 | 520 286 |
| Italy | 210 643 | 497 359 | 756 381 | 273 656 | 197 636 | 1 935 675 |
| Luxembourg | 7 519 | 19 736 | 6 724 | 13 989 | 14 337 | 62 305 |
| Netherlands | 352 000 | 380 954 | 373 233 | 67 006 | 137 880 | 1 311 073 |
| Austria | 25 000 | 200 914 | 239 641 | 97 360 | 36 500 | 599 415 |
| Portugal | 393 000 | 237 380 | 208 374 | 69 963 | 0 | 908 717 |
| Finland | 293 213 | 156 923 | 208 952 | 137 864 | 17 582 | 814 534 |
| Sweden | 283 500 | 250 906 | 212 421 | 183 981 | 157 793 | 1 088 601 |
| United Kingdom | 245 181 | 94 068 | 34 830 | 53 126 | 112 694 | 539 899 |
| Cyprus | | | | 8 484 | 8 928 | 17 412 |
| Czech Republic | | | | 80 081 | 0 | 80 081 |
| Estonia | | | | 59 532 | 0 | 59 532 |
| Hungary | | | | 21 548 | 45 638 | 67 186 |
| Latvia | | | | 9 366 | 10 673 | 20 039 |
| Lithuania | | | | 116 468 | 95 786 | 212 254 |
| Malta | | | | 21 850 | 0 | 21 850 |
| Poland | | | | 86 092 | 0 | 86 092 |
| Slovenia | | | | 30 342 | 0 | 30 342 |
| Slovakia | | | | 22 942 | 62 858 | 85 800 |
| Total MS | 3 493 510 | 2 656 977 | 3 758 121 | 2 404 451 | 1 565 761 | 13 878 820 |
| | | | | | | |
| Eurostat | 4 669 311 | 2 970 004 | 2 209 389 | 1 788 217 | 3 349 204 | 14 986 125 |
| Supporting measures | 362 412 | 352 101 | 143 409 | 223 515 | 462 255 | 1 543 692 |
| Total* | 8 525 233 | 5 979 082 | 6 110 919 | 4 416 183 | 5 377 220 | 30 408 637 |

*The share of budget expenditure has been calculated on the basis of the information provided by Eurostat without taking into account 474 500 Euro and 367 581 Euro of provisionally unpaid invoices in 2004 and 2005 which have been suspended after Eurostat's ex post controls (situation on 15th March 2008)

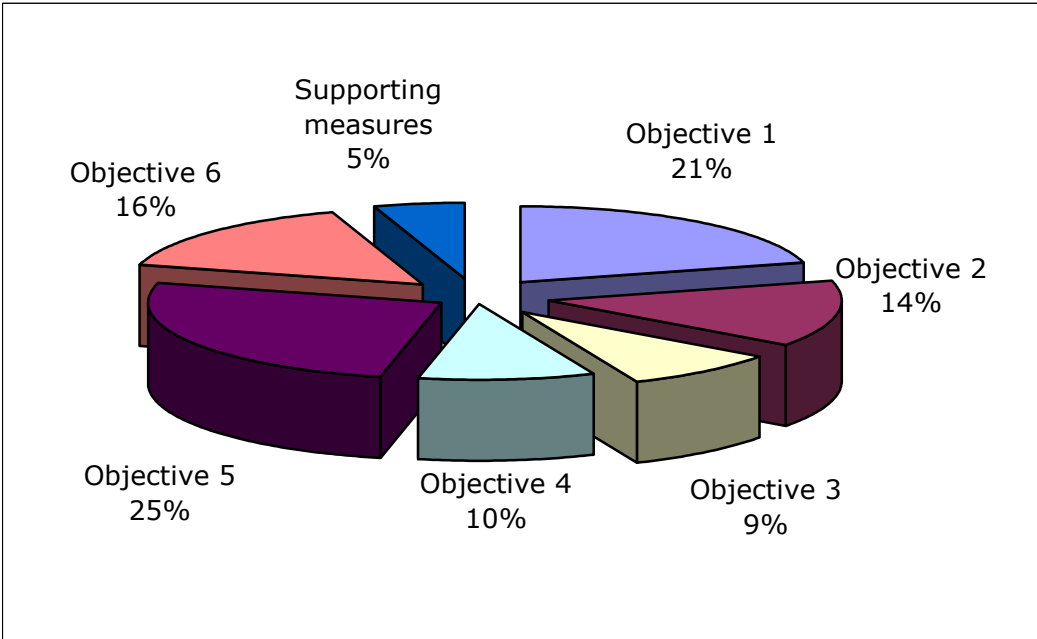
ANNEX 4

Edicom II Programme expenditures on Decentralised/Centralised projects, by year (Mio Euro)



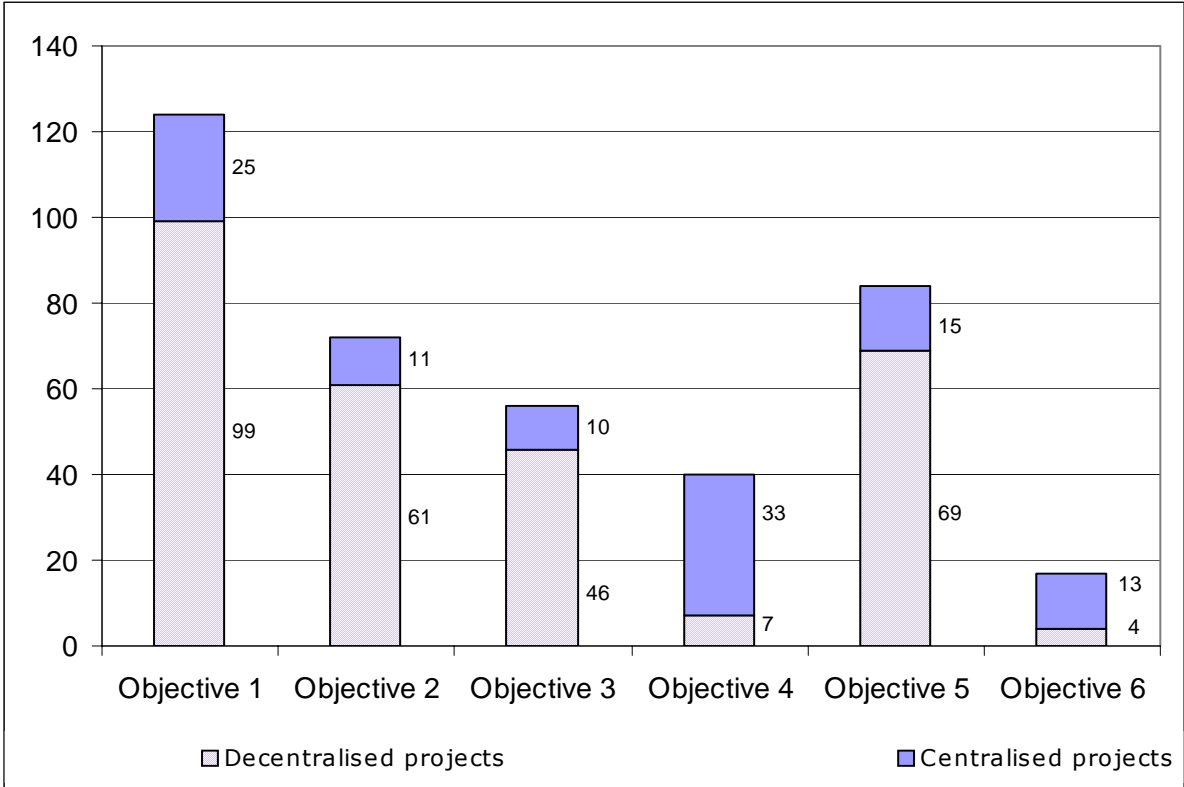
ANNEX 5

Share of expenditure by Edicom II objective



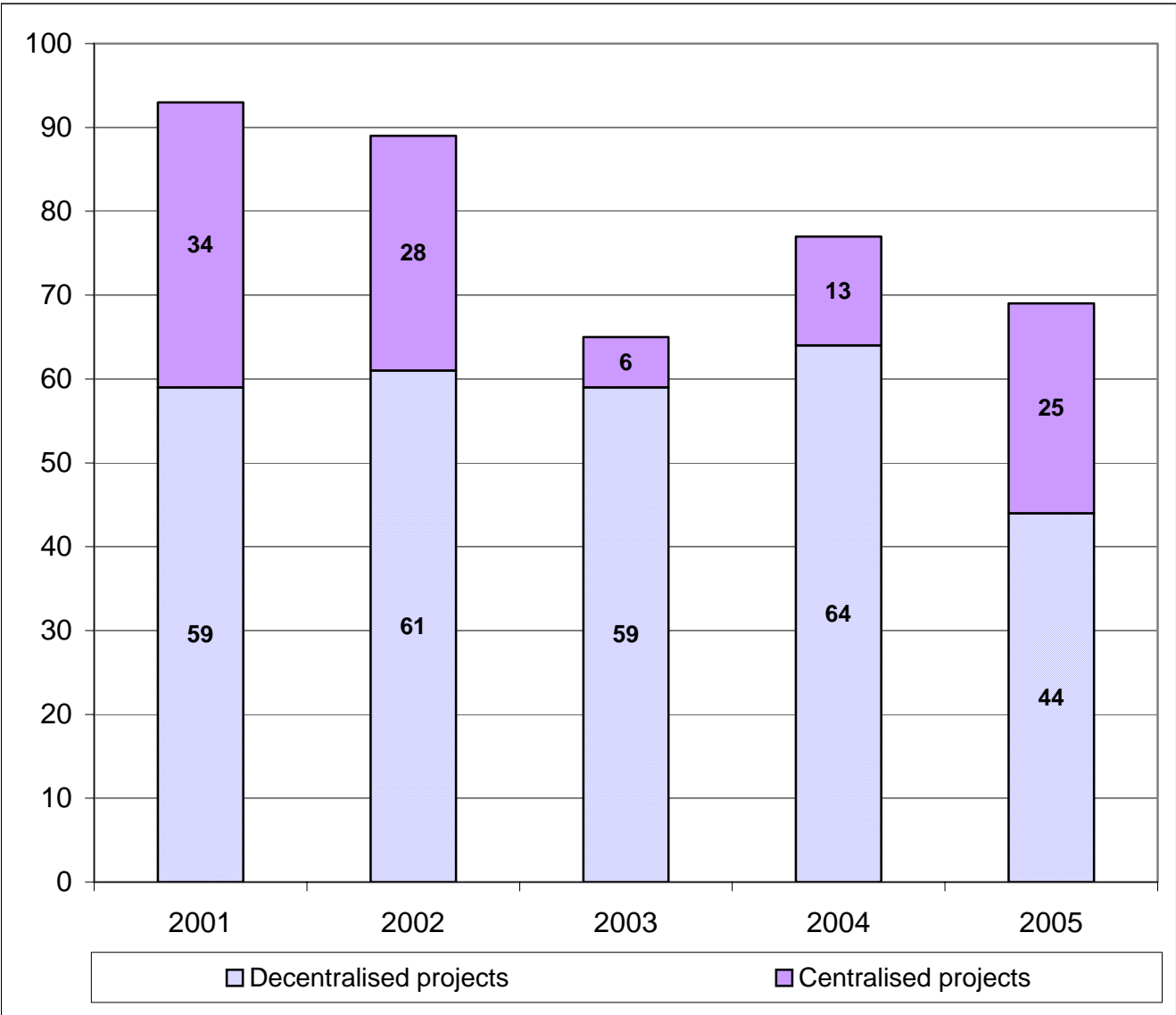
ANNEX 6

Number of Decentralised/Centralised Edicom II projects, by objective (2001-2005)



ANNEX 7

Number of Decentralised/Centralised Edicom II projects, by year



ANNEX 8

Number of Decentralised/Centralised projects, by action and year (2001-2005)

| Actions | Years | | | | | Nr Proj. |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | |
| 1 | 13 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 33 |
| 2 | 26 | 16 | 9 | 28 | 12 | 91 |
| 3 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 10 | 4 | 31 |
| 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| 5 | 9 | 7 | 10 | 2 | 5 | 33 |
| 6 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 18 |
| 7 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 18 |
| 8 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 20 |
| 9 | 6 | 11 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 27 |
| 10 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 9 |
| 11 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| 12 | 14 | 17 | 21 | 15 | 17 | 84 |
| 13 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 17 |
| TOT | 93 | 89 | 65 | 77 | 69 | 393 |
| <i>of which:</i> | | | | | | |
| Decentralised Projects | 59 | 61 | 59 | 64 | 44 | 287 |
| Centralised Projects | 34 | 28 | 6 | 13 | 25 | 106 |

ANNEX 9

Number of Edicom II projects, by objective and country (2001-2005)

| Countries | Edicom Objectives | | | | | | Total |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| | Obj. 1 | Obj.2 | Obj.3 | Obj.4 | Obj.5 | Obj.6 | |
| AT | 2 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 14 |
| BE | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 9 |
| CY | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| CZ | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| DE | 13 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 25 |
| DK | 16 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 32 |
| EE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| FI | 8 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 24 |
| FR | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 16 |
| GR | 2 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 16 |
| HU | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| IE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| IT | 6 | 8 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 23 |
| LV | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| LT | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| LU | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 17 |
| MT | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| NL | 3 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 14 |
| PL | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| PT | 6 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 16 |
| SK | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| SI | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| ES | 7 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 10 |
| SE | 11 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 26 |
| UK | 7 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 13 |
| Tot. Dec. | 99 | 61 | 46 | 7 | 69 | 4 | 286 |
| Tot. Cen. | 25 | 11 | 10 | 33 | 15 | 13 | 107 |
| TOTAL | 124 | 72 | 56 | 40 | 84 | 17 | 393 |

ANNEX 10

Number of Edicom II projects, by action and country (2001-2005)

| Countries | Edicom actions | | | | | | | | | | | | | Total |
|------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | |
| AT | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 14 |
| BE | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 9 |
| CY | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| CZ | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| DE | 3 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 25 |
| DK | 3 | 13 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 32 |
| EE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| FI | 2 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 24 |
| FR | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 16 |
| GR | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 16 |
| HU | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| IE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| IT | 0 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 23 |
| LV | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| LT | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| LU | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 17 |
| MT | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| NL | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 14 |
| PL | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| PT | 3 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 16 |
| SK | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| SI | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| ES | 2 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 10 |
| SE | 4 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 26 |
| UK | 1 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 13 |
| Tot. Dec. | 26 | 73 | 27 | 6 | 28 | 16 | 14 | 16 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 69 | 4 | 286 |
| Tot. Cen. | 7 | 18 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 21 | 8 | 4 | 15 | 13 | 107 |
| TOTAL | 33 | 91 | 31 | 8 | 33 | 18 | 18 | 20 | 27 | 9 | 4 | 84 | 17 | 393 |