

# Dissemination of data by scheme

*Item 6.1 of the agenda*

**Eurostat**  
**ESTAT-F5**

# Introduction

## **For information (status end-2013):**

- Existing procedure for the dissemination of data by scheme to "specific users"
- Consultations of countries in 2013 to simplify the procedure:
  - ok for the majority of countries (26)
  - data sensitivity/confidentiality issues for a few (6)

**For discussion:** Implementation of the concept of a "scheme"

**For discussion:** Proposal to disseminate data by scheme in Eurobase (web site)

**Early exchanges of views (EEV):** 18 countries replied (BE,DE,ES,FR,IT,CY,LV,LT,HU,NL,AT,RO,SI,SK,SE,UK,NO,CH)

# Background

- **Legislation** authorises Eurostat to disseminate **data by scheme** for the **Core system** and the **pension beneficiaries** module to “**specific users**” but these may only publish data after applying **grouping of schemes specified by countries**.
- **On a practical basis this has been implemented as follows:**
  1. User requests data from Eurostat
  2. Eurostat requests authorisation from countries + groupings info
  3. Countries reply specifying any dissemination (from Eurostat to user) and re-dissemination (from user to the public) restrictions
  4. Eurostat transmits data to the user accordingly
- **Procedure is cumbersome and contradicts the statistical principle of equal treatment of all users.**

# Consultation in 2013

- **Growing interest → need to simplify this procedure**
  - Core System: Annual requests from OECD + DG EMPL/SPC-FEE request in June 2013
- **Based on consultations undertaken during 2013, the current situation is as follows:**
  - 26 countries have agreed to full dissemination of their data by scheme: BE, BG, CZ, DK, DE, EE (only 2007 onwards), IE, FR, HR, IT, CY, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, AT, PL, RO, FI, SE, UK, IS, NO (only 2008 onwards), CH, RS.
  - 6 countries have not agreed to full dissemination of their data by scheme: EL, ES, LU, PT, SI, SK → sensitivity/confidentiality reasons.

# Dissemination of data by scheme via Eurobase (for 26 countries with no problem)

## Eurostat proposes the following four-step implementation strategy:

- a) Eurostat will prepare explanatory notes to guide users to an appropriate interpretation and use of the data and a list of proposed tables to be included in Eurobase. It will submit these to the countries for comment.
- b) Eurostat will prepare a **final draft** of the overall dissemination framework and then submit this to the countries for final comments.
- c) Upon approval, Eurostat will **start the process** to add new tables to Eurobase and integrate the new explanatory notes into the metadata.
- d) Data by scheme and the corresponding metadata **will be published** on the Eurostat web site. Note: data will be limited to the countries/reference years for which there has been no objection to full dissemination (in principle at least 26 countries).

# For decision:

## Do countries agree with this four-step strategy?

(Box 3 of DOC SP-2014-06.1)

**EEV:** 18 countries BE,DE,**ES**,FR,IT,CY,LV,LT,HU,NL,AT,RO,**SI,SK**,SE,UK,NO,CH

**All agree**

**except CH (new better data source → however creates new problems of confidentiality for 2 schemes)**

ES: data by schemes not useful for comparability (social protection systems are different)

Eurostat: agree (see doc): purpose is "better understanding the differences using a comparable framework"

Other comments ? OK to go ahead for 25 countries (26-CH) ?

## 6 countries: data sensitivity/confidentiality

- **Confidentiality issues → grouping data of certain schemes.**
- However, dissemination of data grouped in this way could **prejudice future dissemination of the data using other more useful grouping methods.**
- **During consultations the 6 countries concerned noted that original sources were being consulted to verify the confidentiality of their data.**
- If even a very limited part of the data is confirmed to be confidential, this will imply a **dramatic modification of the statistical production process and will impact the possibility to use in full modern ICT solutions.**
- Eurostat therefore welcomes the efforts being carried out by EL, ES, LU, PT, SI and SK (+CH) to further investigate the confidentiality status of their data.

# For information:

**EL, ES, LU, PT, SI and SK are invited to update the WG on the progress made with their data sources on confidentiality issues and their plans/expectations for 2014.**

(Box 1 of DOC SP-2014-06.1)

**EEV: SK: problem has been reduced from 20 to 2 schemes !!!!  
+CH: 2 schemes**

**EL, ES, LU, PT, SI: please update the WG  
(sensitivity? confidentiality? → huge consequences for ICT facilities)**

Info from 2013 consultation:

- LU: problem limited to 4 schemes.
- PT thought a clear picture of the situation could be obtained by the end of 2014.
- SI: general re-assessment of the confidentiality issue was under way.



# Other points of consideration

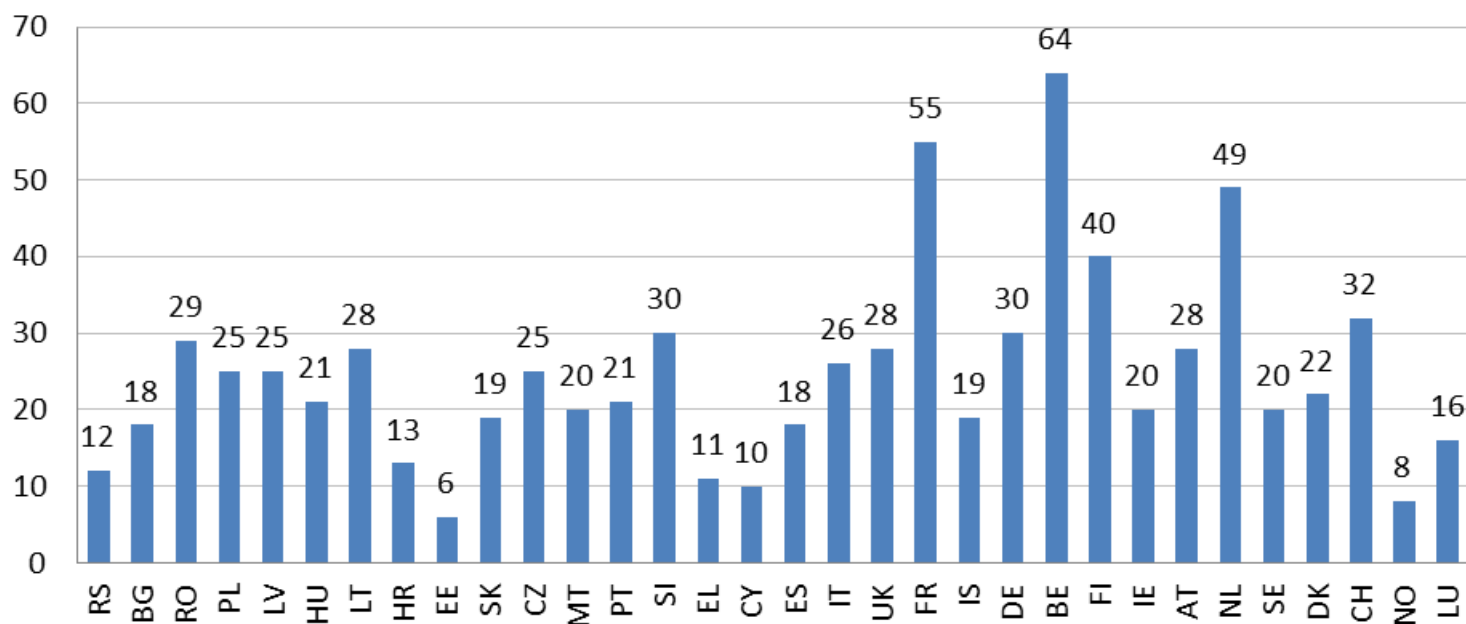
- **During consultations the following points were raised:**
  - Metadata could be expanded to provide clarifications to appropriate use of data by scheme and explanations addressing differences between national data and ESSPROS data. → OK
  - Detailed data are not available for some schemes. Estimates for these are acceptable but should be documented using metadata and flags. → OK
  - Data by scheme are not particularly helpful for comparison between countries. → OK indeed users instead ask for these data to gain a more concrete and detailed understanding of the aggregated results published at country level. Better understanding the differences in social protection systems but using a comparable framework
  - The concept of “scheme” may have been interpreted and implemented in different ways by different countries. → see analysis

# Implementation of “scheme” concept

- **A statistical review of the implementation of the concept of a “scheme” was conducted (Doc SP-2014-06.1-Annex)**
- **The Methodology states (part 1 § 42):**
  - “a social protection scheme is a distinct body of rules, supported by one or more institutional units, governing the provision of social protection benefits and their financing.”*
  - “(i) social protection schemes should at all times meet the condition that **it must be possible to draw up a separate account** of receipts and expenditures”*
  - “(ii) **preferably**, social protection schemes are chosen in such a way that they provide protection **against a single risk or need and cover a single specific group of beneficiaries.**”*

# Implementation of “scheme” concept

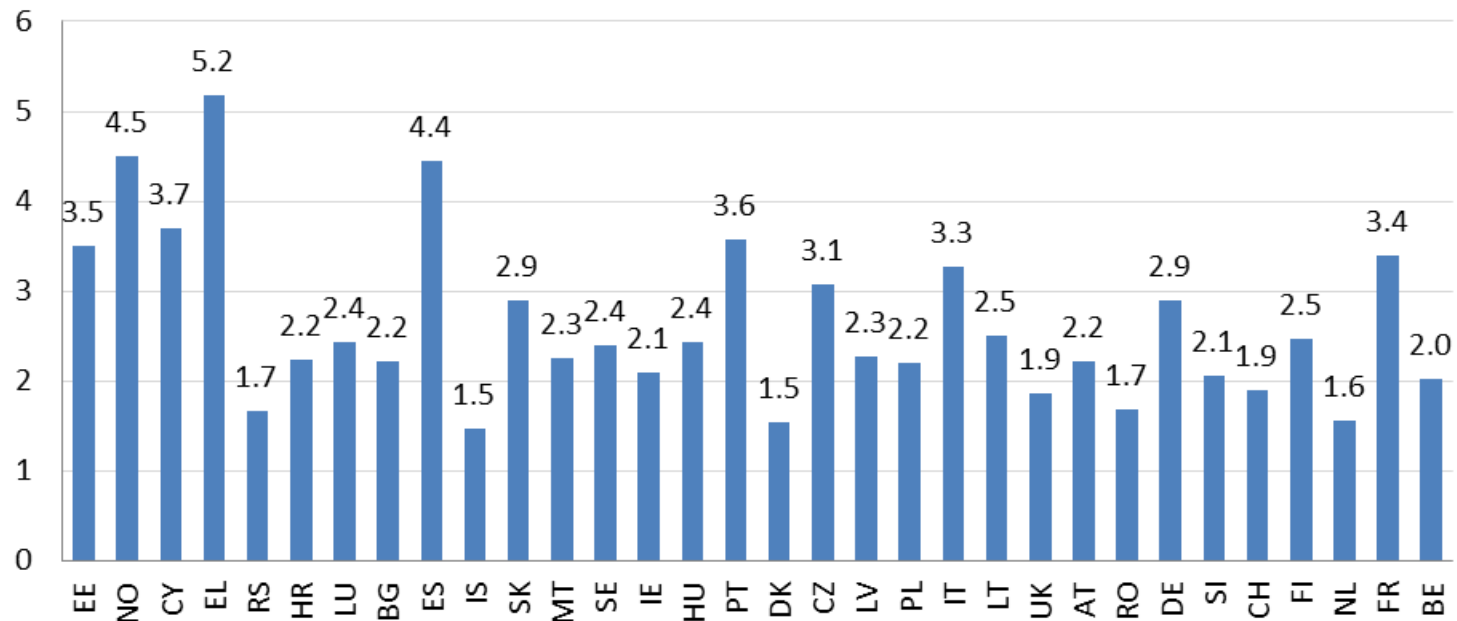
**Figure 1: Number of schemes with expenditure on benefits, 2011**  
*In ascending order by GDP per capita (in Euro)*



# Implementation of “scheme” concept

**Figure 2: Average number of functions with expenditure per scheme, 2011**

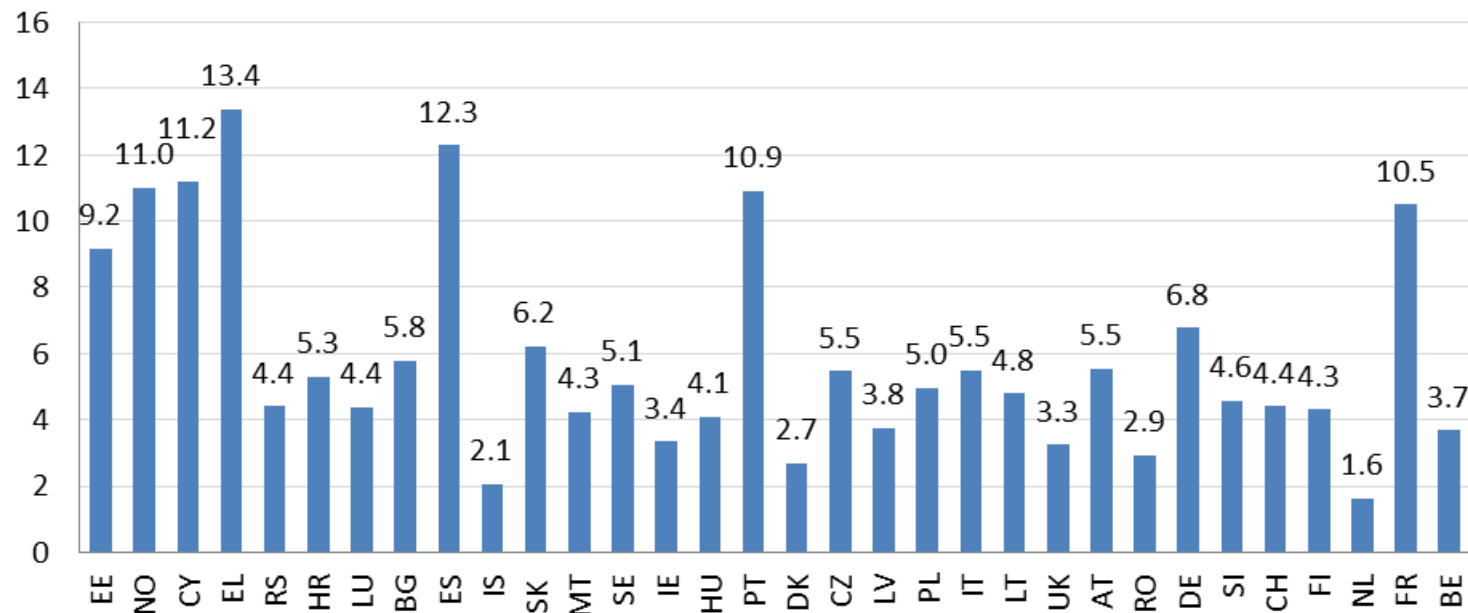
*In ascending order by number of schemes with expenditure*



# Implementation of “scheme” concept

**Figure 3: Average number of detailed benefit types with expenditure per scheme, 2011**

*In ascending order by number of schemes with expenditure*



# Implementation of “scheme” concept

- Further analysis is required for a full assessment
- There is evidence to suggest that schemes are not delimited in a homogeneous way across countries.
- However, methodology allows for such differences.
- Countries could verify if a more “detailed” implementation of the definition of scheme could be relevant and feasible on a **voluntary basis**, in some apparently extreme cases (schemes covering more than 6 functions and more than 20 different types of benefits).

functions (>6): NO, CY, EL, ES, MT, SE, HU, PT, PL, IT, UK, AT, DE, CH, FR

detailed benefits (>20): NO, CY, EL, ES, SK, PT, CZ, PL, AT, DE, SI, CH, FR

- **EEV: DE: no. IT: maybe (to evaluate). ES: not mandatory.**

# **For discussion:**

**Do you have other ideas for further analysis of the concept of "scheme" ?**

**How to proceed for "heterogeneous schemes" ?**

**Bilateral contacts ?**

**PRAGMATIC APPROACH**

# Thank you

## Conclusions:

- 1) four- step strategy: ok for 25 countries ?
- 2) further investigation about confidentiality for 7 countries (deadline: end 2014?)
- 3) concept of scheme: possible harmonisation, however gradual and pragmatic medium-long term process