Dissemination of data by group of schemes

*Item 6.2 of the agenda*

Eurostat
ESTAT-F5

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Working Group Social Protection
Introduction

For information
  o Background information concerning the categorisation of schemes (the five criteria)

For discussion:
  o Review of the current status of the information concerning categories of schemes

For discussion:
  o Proposal to disseminate data by groups of schemes

EEV: 17 countries
  o BE, DE, ES, FR, IT, CY, LV, LT, HU, AT, RO, SI, SK, FI, SE, UK, CH
Background

- The ESSPROS manual requires that countries provide information on the characteristics of each scheme in conjunction with their quantitative data for the core system (see part 1 section 4.2).

- Information on five distinct characteristics:
  1. Decision-making: Type of unit which takes the essential decisions
     Government-controlled vs. not government-controlled
  2. Legal enforcement: Existence or absence of a legal obligation for people membership
     Compulsory (by government) vs. non-compulsory
  3. Establishment of entitlements: Way entitlements are established
     contributory vs. non-contributory
  4. Scope: Scope of the scheme
     universal vs. general vs. special
  5. Level of protection: Basic vs. supplementary provided
Background

- For each of the 5 criteria there is a number categories of schemes are defined in the methodology.
- Countries are required to select the one category for each criterion that best describes a given scheme.
- This provides a system by which schemes (and their data) can be grouped together according to the different recognised categories for each of the five characteristics.
Consultation in 2013: status

- **Dissemination in Eurobase:**
  - The 26 countries that agreed to disseminate data by scheme (see item 6.1) also agreed to disseminate data by groups of schemes via Eurobase.
    - 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.
  - Now 25 (-CH).

- Despite the agreement reached with 26 countries (now 25), Eurostat decided to wait until this meeting of the Working Group to obtain full confirmation before proceeding with dissemination.
Consultation in 2013 + EEV + 6.1: status

- Dissemination of data by group of schemes in Eurobase:
  - The 26 (now 25; -CH) countries that agreed to disseminate data by scheme (see item 6.1) also agreed to disseminate data by groups of schemes via Eurobase.

  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), RS.

  **EEV:** 12 countries confirmed agreement: BE, DE, IT, CY, LV, LT, HU, AT, RO, FI, SE, UK
  + 1: FR: yes in principle, but only next year (need to improve quality)
  + 2 (NL, NO): agreed with 6.1 (by scheme) implicitly agreed with 6.2
  + 10 (BG, CZ, DK, EE, IE, HR, MT, PL, IS, RS): no comment confirm agreement?

From 6.1 conclusions:
**OK to go ahead for 24 countries (+FR next year)? How?**
Procedure for the dissemination of data by groups of schemes via Eurobase for 25 (24) countries

- Eurostat proposes the following steps:
  - To draft explanatory notes to be added in the metadata. These will be submitted to countries for comments.
  - Upon approval, Eurostat will take the necessary step to add tables to Eurobase and integrate the explanatory notes into the metadata.
  - Data by groups of schemes 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 of data by scheme (in principle 25 countries; FR to be postponed).

- In the meantime, issues related to missing information for inactive schemes and multiple classifications for certain scheme need to be solved in co-operation with the countries concerned.
What about the other 6 (now 7) countries

- **EL, ES, LU, PT, SK, SI + CH**

- **To wait for a definition of a solution for the dissemination of data by schemes (item 6.1) before taking any decision here.**

- **EEV:**
  - ES strongly agree. Some solutions are being identified for 6.1. To be discussed with Eurostat bilaterally → OK for Eurostat.
  - SI, SK and CH support the strategy of gradual dissemination.

- **Other comments? (EL, LU, PT ?)**
Issues to be solved: for all countries

- A review of the information on scheme characteristics has been conducted (Doc SP-2014-06.2-Annex)
- This revealed a number of issues:
  - Differences in the way that this information is reported (i.e. difference characters used, upper case, lowercase...etc.)
  - 2 countries lack of information for "old" (now "inactive") schemes which will be necessary to produce time series data: IE, LU.
  - 8 countries have schemes with multiple categories for a single characteristic which makes it impossible to calculate results by group of schemes: AT, BE, CH, DK, IE, IS, NL, PT. Note: some of these countries do provide explanations for multiple classifications.
Solutions proposed: guidelines

Specify a single character to be used (e.g. “X”) to indicate the appropriate category.

Specify the classification also for old (now "inactive") schemes

Cases where multiple categories might apply to a single characteristic.
A) choose the predominant character (+ clarifications in metadata)
B) Split the scheme

Cases where characteristics change over time:
A) Collect information on criteria on an annual basis;
B) Create a new scheme (to replace the old scheme), especially if changes are substantial and support the idea that the scheme is not anymore the same
For discussion:

Do countries where issues were identified (BE, DK, IE, LU, NL, AT, PT, IS, CH) agree with the actions proposed in doc SP-2014-06.2-Annex?

Do countries agree with the compilation of guidelines for the completion of information on the classification of schemes, provided in document SP-2014-06.2-Annex? (Box 2 of DOC SP-2014-06.2)

BE, AT and CH provided comments on how to solve problems with their "critical" schemes according to the guidelines.

Other comments? (DK, IE, LU, NL, PT, IS)

Guidelines adopted? If Yes, please implement (if necessary contact Eurostat bilaterally)
Thank you

Possible Conclusions

- Strategy for dissemination by groups of scheme adopted

- To start with 24 + 1 (FR) countries

- Problematic issues: guidelines adopted

- Issues to be solved by some countries applying guidelines (if necessary, in bilateral contact with Eurostat)