European Statistical Advisory Committee (ESAC) & National Users Councils (NUCs) Conference

"European statistics at a crossroad: priorities, opportunities and constraints"

20-21 October 2026

Instituto Nacional de Estatística – INE, Statistics Portugal
Av. António José de Almeida
1000-043 Lisboa – Portugal

Co-organized with Eurostat and Statistics Portugal

Day 1 – 20 October 2026

09:00 – 17:30

09:00 - 09:30 Registration & coffee

09:30 – 10:00 Welcome, Antonio Rua, President of INE and ESAC Member, **Mariana Kotzeva**, Director-General of Eurostat and **Roxane Silberman**, ESAC Chair

10:00 – 12:30 Celebration of the European Statistics Day

Chair: Antonio Rua, President of INE

The conference will open with a celebration of the European Statistics Day (ESD). It will be an opportunity for all stakeholders to assess the changes, opportunities, difficulties, and growing demands on European official statistics since the launch of this initiative by ESAC Participants will be invited to reflect on the increasing instability in the world demanding great agility from official statistics to respond to urgent data requests from users, opportunities offered by the possibility of using administrative data and private data sources, in a context of a deluge of unverified data, growing distrust and misinformation, and upheavals on all levels brought about by the rapid growth of artificial intelligence.

Portuguese initiatives for the European Statistics Day

This session will be conducted entirely in Portuguese. Brief contextual explanations in English may be provided by the organisers at selected points during the session.

Portuguese initiatives highlighting both statistical literacy and the role of official statistics in society:

- Presentation of a special edition of the Statistical Yearbook of Portugal, published for the first time in the two official languages of Portugal: Portuguese and Mirandese
- The official launch in Portugal of the 2026/2027 European Statistics Competition

(11:00 – 11:30 coffee break)

Chair: Mariana Kotzeva, Director-General of Eurostat

Keynote speech: *Official Statistics - keeping pace with evolving user needs in a fast-changing world* by Pádraig Dalton, Consultant on Official Statistics and Chair of the UN Consultative Advisory Board on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
The keynote speech will explore how the evolving needs of users over time in a fast-changing world has impacted on the world of Official Statistics. It has highlighted the need for compilers of Official Statistics to modernise, and "look up and out" rather than "down and in". Modernising and expanding the role of Official Statistical compilers while continuing to adhere to the core values and principles of Official Statistics, has been a significant challenge. The speech will examine what has been achieved to date and identify remaining challenges to be addressed into the future

(12:30 – 14:00 Lunch)

14:00 – 17:30 Prioritisation, simplification, opportunities and challenges

This part of the program will allow for discussion of the "simplification" initiative proposed by Eurostat to reduce the burden on both producers and respondents, while striving to preserve the quality and comparability of the data. This will include among other things, a discussion on the simplification of business and trade statistics.

Introduction

*Eurostat simplification initiativ*e, Mariana Kotzeva (Director-General of Eurostat)

Discussion

Use cases

- *Update on revamping of European Business Statistics: Eurostat* Petra Sneijers, Eurostat's director of Business statistics

Discussion

(15:45 – 16:15 coffee break)

Use cases (follow up)

- *German SysdU Initiative: Opportunities and Challenges from the Perspective of the Business Community,* Solveigh Jäger, Federation of German Industries
- *Modernising the Economic Accounts for Agriculture through the Integration of Administrative Data in* Lithuania, Vaida Šapolaitė, Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences, Institute of Economics and Rural Development
- *Improved Access to Administrative Data for Research: The French Experience,* Mathilde Godard, CNRS & Dauphine University, Paris, France

Discussion

Day 2 – 21 October 2026

09:00 – 17: 30

09:00 – 12:30 Measuring the impact of Artificial Intelligence

Chair: tbc

The session will be devoted to the new questions posed by measuring the impacts of artificial intelligence on the whole society, which official statistics urgently need to address what are the demands of users, what data to be measured, which data sources, what proposals could derive from researchers working in this field and which first initiatives is emerging at national and European levels.

Introduction

*Data sources: state of play and projects***,** Alvaro Diez Soto, Eurostat

Discussion

(10:00 – 10:30 coffee break)

Panel session

Chair: tbc

- *The impact of AI on the labour market: What do we know so far?* Marguerita Lane, Labor Market Economist, OECD
- *An economist's perspective on AI's past, present, and future*, Luis Cabral, Professor of Economics, Stern School of Business, NYU
- *Are we still measuring what matters? Capturing the changing realities of societies in an increasingly fragmented world*, Athanasios Thanopoulos, Deputy Director-General, Eurostat
- *Measuring AI exposure in European labour markets*, Pablo Casas, Joint Research Centre (JRC)
- *From data to policy using microsimulations***,** Ralf Münnich, Chair of the German Statistical Advisory Council

Discussion

(12:30 – 14:00 Lunch)

14:00 – 17:15 Overview of main topics discussed throughout the year by the National User Councils

(15:30 – 16:00 coffee break)

Chair: tbc

The final part of programme will conclude with an overview of the main issues discussed throughout the year by the National User Councils. Previous editions, with presentations on their national bodies and activities, provided useful knowledge sharing. We aim to go a step further this year and enable everyone to have a shared perspective on the issues debated in each national context, thus contributing to the consolidation of a European community of users around official statistics.

Introduction: *Short Overview of topics discussed by the NUCs and ESAC throughout the year*, Roxane Silberman, ESAC chair

Panel session with

- Zacharias Bragoudakis, Statistical Advisory Committee, Greece (SY.EP.EL.S.S.)
- Isabelle Collet, Conseil national de l'information statistique CNIS, France
- Henryk Domański, Statistical Council, Poland
- Pedro Magalhães, Portuguese Statistical Council
- Ralf Münnich and Andrea Schultz, German Statistical Advisory Council
- Branka Ostrman, Statistical Council of Croatia
- Dumitru Pirvu, National Statistical Council in Romania
- Cliona Sadlier, National Statistics Board
- Vaida Šapolaitė, Institute of Economics and Rural Development, Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences
- Marcus Scheiblecker, WIFO Austrian Statistical Council
- Biruta Sloka, Latvian Statistical Council National
- Mojca Suvorov, Statistical Council of the Republic of Slovenia
- Anna Udvarvölgyi, National Statistical Council, Hungary

Discussion

Conclusions and key takeaways: ESAC and National User Councils cooperation: next steps

17:15 – 17:30 Wrap up: Antonio Rua**,** President of INE and ESAC Member