

**ESA2010 data transmission programme:
What's new as of the second half 2014?**

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The European System of National Accounts 2010 (ESA 2010) implements in the European Union (EU) the provisions of the revised global System of National Accounts 2008 (SNA2008). ESA 2010, including the detailed data transmission obligations by the EU Member States to Eurostat, takes in the EU the form of a binding legal act. Beyond that, the ESA transmission programme (TP), its visualisation questionnaires and the underlying data structure definitions (DSDs) are a well-established collection system for national accounts data, considered as a reference at international level. This TP and the associated collection system has proven to be effective and appropriate to transmit national accounts data across Europe (and beyond) since the mid- nineties of the last century. The revisions to the ESA TP were limited to (1) the direct consequences of the methodological changes introduced by the revised SNA2008 and ESA2010, to (2) the integration of transmission requirements formerly imbedded in different legal acts and to (3) to the necessary improvements generated by recognised EU policy needs such as more timely data, better information on wealth and on pension entitlements. Data under the new ESA2010 TP will have to be transmitted for the first time in September 2014. The paper outlines the main differences between the old and the new ESA TP with respect to structure, content, coverage and transmission delays. Moreover, the adoption of SNA 2008/ESA2010 and the work on the associated TP created a new momentum for the further alignment of international standards for the dissemination of macro-economic statistics. SDMX serves as the standard to facilitate statistical data and metadata exchange initiatives and is thus an enabler for rationalisation of data flows, harmonisation of reporting needs and standardisation of information systems.

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