



EMOS board

Meeting No 19

12 June 2024

9.30 – 17:30

**Eurostat, Meeting room BECH C3 603
5 rue A. Weicker, Luxembourg**

Minutes

1. Welcome/Introduction and approval of the draft agenda

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 19th meeting of the EMOS board, including Mr Markus Zwick (Destatis) and Ms Marta Kuc-Czarnecka (Gdansk University of Technology), who joined online. He announced that Mr Peter Lugtig (Utrecht University) and Ms Silvia Fabiani (representative of the European System of Central Banks) were not able to join the meeting. The Chair thanked the board members for a smooth start in working together and for successfully concluding the evaluation of the application for the award and renewal of the EMOS label.

The Chair introduced the agenda for the day. Upon the agreement of the members of the board, the agenda was adopted.

2. Annual report 2023

Eurostat presented the annual report for 2023 and the feedback received from the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC) on the recommendations of the EMOS board on the renewal and award of the EMOS label which were discussed at their meeting on 22 May 2024.

For the 2023 edition of the annual reporting exercise, the survey used for the collection of information was slightly revised, and a few new questions were introduced. The annual reporting and label renewal exercises were launched on 28 November 2023 and concluded on 12 January 2024. Eurostat proposed to anticipate the launch of the survey this year to October and to conclude it before the end of the year. The board members supported the proposal.

The survey responses to the questions about contacts with and the employability of EMOS graduates within the national statistical systems show that too little is known about the paths EMOS graduates take after graduation. Eurostat proposed to launch a graduate survey in autumn 2024 targeting all EMOS graduates with the aim of learning about their experiences with the EMOS-labelled programme, better exploring their career paths, testing their interest in an EMOS alumni system and collecting their contact details. Based on the results of the graduate survey, Eurostat proposed to start building a central EMOS alumni system. The board members expressed support for launching the graduate survey, underlining its value also for the future development of EMOS. They proposed that the EMOS alumni system be used to share information on job opportunities and advanced learning opportunities.

Eurostat presented the current system for reporting modifications to the EMOS-labelled programmes. According to the current guide¹, the EMOS board should routinely be consulted about any changes to the labelled programmes. An e-mail with the proposed changes should be sent to the EMOS secretariat at ESTAT-EMOS@ec.europa.eu, which informs the board members. The board evaluates whether the changes are in line with EMOS Guide and EMOS learning outcomes requirements.

Eurostat proposed to remove the obligation to report changes by e-mail throughout the year and to report the implemented and anticipated changes only once per year as part of the annual reporting exercise. This proposal to report and review changes only once per year was in principle accepted. During the year, the EMOS programme coordinators will be able to consult the EMOS secretariat in case of questions regarding any upcoming changes, specifically if the changes would have an impact on meeting the EMOS requirements. In cases of substantial changes that cannot be assessed and

¹ EMOS Guide for applications, annual reports and relabelling: <https://cros.ec.europa.eu/book-page/6-annual-reports-and-relabelling>

decided upon independently by the EMOS secretariat, the modifications will be assessed by the EMOS board during the evaluation of the applications for the award and renewal of the EMOS label. The board agreed that a short course description (which could also be presented as a link to the presentation on the website), module catalogue or syllabi be shared with the board in this case.

The Chair reported feedback from the ESSC on the recommendations of the EMOS board on the renewal and award of the EMOS label. The recommendations of the EMOS board were all endorsed by the ESSC. The EMOS network now consists of 31 EMOS-labelled master's programmes in 17 countries.

The board members congratulated the new and renewed EMOS-labelled master's programmes for their continued valuable contribution to the EMOS network.

3. EMOS mobility programme – lessons learnt

Eurostat presented the lessons learnt from the first edition of the EMOS mobility programme that started in 2020 and was concluded in April 2024. The first edition of the EMOS mobility programme included funding for cross-border internships and conference attendance sponsorships. Eurostat concluded by noting that the EMOS mobility programme was very well appreciated by the members of the EMOS network and announced a new edition, which is foreseen to start in 2025.

In the discussion, the board members expressed their support for the continuation of the mobility programme. University representatives mentioned that the mobility programme was highly appreciated by students and served as a means to attract potential students to EMOS programmes. NSI representatives suggested that it would be good to have a system to receive and review spontaneous applications from the students, as this is sometimes an easier way for the host organisation. The Board members suggested finding a way to attract international organisations as hosts for the EMOS mobility programme, as these kinds of internship positions would be very interesting for students and their skill development.

The Chair thanked the board members for their input, which will be considered in the preparation of the new edition of the mobility programme.

4. Future development of EMOS I

The Chair explained that the study on the future of EMOS was concluded in February 2024, and a final report was shared with Partnership Group (PG) in March and the ESSC ahead of their meeting in May. The ESSC welcomed the results of the expert analysis and is looking forward to the proposal for the future of the EMOS programme. The final report was published on the EMOS website and was shared with the board members ahead of the meeting.

As an introduction to the discussion, the Chair presented the main results from the report, focusing on the key achievements and specific challenges from the perspective of the three key stakeholder groups: statistics produces, universities, and students/graduates. The study report identified three different paths for the future development of EMOS: continuing to implement EMOS as a quality label with improvements; develop EMOS as a joint programme; and develop EMOS as a certification programme. In the Exchange of Views that preceded the May meeting of the ESSC, the majority of NSIs that expressed a preference supported the recommendation of continuing to implement EMOS

as a quality label with improvements. In line with that, Eurostat proposed to the board members to follow this preference expressed by most NSIs and to propose a roadmap to overcome some identified challenges and further develop EMOS in line with recent developments in official statistics.

Changes recommended by the study team for this scenario included: reformulation of EMOS label requirements, reformulation of EMOS objectives, broader and clearer communication of EMOS benefits, and better exploitation of the EMOS network.

5. Future development of EMOS II

Based on the changes recommended in the study, Eurostat identified four key areas for action:

- Revision of objectives; definition of a mission and value statement
- Revision of the label requirements
- Revision of learning outcomes
- Future development opportunities

The Chair presented the current EMOS objectives, label requirements, EMOS learning outcomes and shared some ideas for future development opportunities. He proposed that these key areas for action be addressed as part of the reflection on the improvements to EMOS to ensure that they reflect the new data ecosystem and roles for NSIs therein, new techniques and technologies available, as well as the skill needs in NSIs and other potential employers of EMOS graduates. Currently, there is an ongoing discussion within the ESS to extend the role of NSIs to include data custodian and data stewardship roles, looking at the data of the public sector overall. Some NSIs are already developing this.

In line with these identified areas for action, the Chair proposed forming subgroups of the EMOS board. The subgroups would develop concrete proposals on the way forward and prepare documents that would be consulted with the whole board, the EMOS network during the upcoming EMOS workshop, and the PG and the ESSC in 2025.

The Chair opened the discussion and invited the board members to express their interest in the proposed groups. The outcomes of the discussion were the following:

- a) The board members agreed that the EMOS secretariat would work on the first key area, “Revision of objectives, mission and value statement”, and would propose amendments to the existing documents before the other subgroups would start to work.
- b) The members proposed and agreed to combine the work on the “Revision of the EMOS label requirements” and “Revision of learning outcomes” into one subgroup. The group will be chaired by Markus Zwick with the following members contributing to the work of the group: Antonio Ottaiano, Annamaria Bianchi, Adam Czerniak, Olivier Biau, Reinoud Stoel and Marta Kuc Czarnecka.
- c) The members suggested adding emphasis on communication to the subgroup on “Future development opportunities”. The group will be chaired by Kathryn Foskin with the following members contributing to the work of the group: Anna-Carolina Haensch, Petr Mazouch, Marie Bohata, Silvia Fabiani, Peter Lugtig.

The EMOS secretariat will provide the online platform (MS Teams) to host the meetings and the documents of the subgroups and assist the members in case of questions. The board members agreed to follow the following timeline:

June – Sept 2024	Development of document on improvement actions for the future development of EMOS
Oct 2024	Virtual meeting of the EMOS board
Oct 2024	Finalisation of document on improvement actions for the future development of EMOS
15 Nov 2024	EMOS workshop - Discussion on the document on the improvement actions for the future development of EMOS
Nov 2024 – Feb 2025	Finalisation of document on the improvement actions for the future development of EMOS
Mar 2025	Discussion on the document on the improvement actions for the future development of EMOS at the meeting of the PG
May 2025	Discussion on the document on the improvement actions for the future development of EMOS at the meeting of the ESSC

The Chair thanked the board members for the lively discussion and for their active contribution to the development of the roadmap for the future of EMOS.

In conclusion of this item, the Chair summarised the work done by the EMOS secretariat to enhance the internal communication within the EMOS network and external communication. Last year, the new EMOS website on Eurostat's CROS portal² and a new EMOS webpage on the Eurostat website³ were launched. The EMOS website on CROS includes new sections aimed at better getting to know each other within the network ('Meet EMOS students'⁴, 'Meet the EMOS network'⁵, new page for EMOS board⁶, new pages for all shared learning material⁷). External communication has also been intensified by active use of LinkedIn (LinkedIn pages 'European Master in Official Statistics'⁸ and 'Jobs in official statistics'⁹).

The EMOS board members welcomed the presentation of the intensified communication activities. The Chair invited the board members to consult the new content, to follow EMOS on LinkedIn, and to promote these communication activities within their networks.

6. EMOS workshop 2024 programme

The Chair explained that the previous EMOS workshops were very successful in providing a platform for the EMOS network to share experiences and discuss ideas. The results of the study on the future of EMOS show that there is a need for more opportunities for network members to engage with each other. As a result, the EMOS workshop will be organised as an annual event. The 10th EMOS workshop will take place on 14 and 15 November 2024 in Wiesbaden, on Destatis premises. The Chair thanked Mr Markus Zwick, a member of the EMOS board from Destatis, for offering to host this annual workshop. Mr Zwick briefly presented the organisational aspects of the conference.

² EMOS website: <https://cros.ec.europa.eu/dashboard/emos-dashboard>

³ EMOS webpage on Eurostat website: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/european-statistical-system/programmes-and-activities/education-and-training/european-master-official-statistics>

⁴ Meet EMOS students: <https://cros.ec.europa.eu/book-page/meet-emos-students>

⁵ Meet the EMOS network: <https://cros.ec.europa.eu/book-page/meet-emos-network>

⁶ EMOS Board: <https://cros.ec.europa.eu/book-page/emos-governance>

⁷ EMOS learning resources: <https://cros.ec.europa.eu/book-page/emos-learning-resources>

⁸ EMOS LinkedIn page: <https://linkedin.com/company/theemos>

⁹ 'Jobs in official statistics' LinkedIn page: <https://linkedin.com/company/official-statistics-jobs>

The Chair presented the objectives of the workshop, namely, to share the results of the EMOS expert analysis and the feedback from ESSC, share good practices from the EMOS network, discuss the work of the EMOS board subgroups related to the specific areas for improvement for the future development of EMOS, discuss the proposed improvement actions for the future development of EMOS, to validate the results and the proposed roadmap, and to define the next steps.

The board members were invited to comment on the programme of the conference and to propose a keynote speaker. The members agreed that it would be good to have a keynote speaker who could provoke discussion on topics related to the future of official statistics, such as artificial intelligence (AI) and programming, generative AI in data science, ethical and trust aspects in using AI, and AI challenges in teaching.

The Chair thanked the board members for their valuable suggestions. The board members were invited to propose names for potential keynote speakers via e-mail. The Chair informed the board that the next in-person board meeting will be organised back-to-back with the EMOS workshop on the morning of 14 November 2024.

7. Concluding remarks and any other business

The Chair presented the conclusions for each item on the agenda.

The members of the board were invited to submit abstracts for the next NTTS conference which will take place in Brussels in March 2025. The deadline for submission of the abstracts is 30 September 2024.

The Chair thanked the members of the board for their active participation.

Participants - EMOS board meeting 12 June 2024

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	Name	Affiliation
1	Annamaria Bianchi	University of Bergamo
2	Olivier Biau	INSEE
3	Marie Bohata	Center for Economic Research and Graduate Education – ESAC representative
4	Adam Czerniak	Warsaw School of Economics
5	Kathryn Foskin	Central Statistics Office Ireland
6	Anna-Carolina Haensch	LMU Munich
7	Marta Kuc Czarnecka	Gdansk University of Technology (<i>online</i>)
8	Petr Mazouch	Prague University of Economics and Business
9	Antonio Ottaiano	Istat
10	Reinoud Stoel	Statistics Netherlands
11	Markus Zwick	Destatis (<i>online</i>)
12	Albrecht Wirthmann	Eurostat
13	Dario Buono	Eurostat
14	Maja Islam	Eurostat
15	Carola Carstens	Eurostat
16	Tina Steenvoorden	Eurostat
Excused:	Silvia Fabiani	Bank of Italy – European System of Central Banks representative
	Peter Lugtig	Utrecht University