eurostat newsrelease

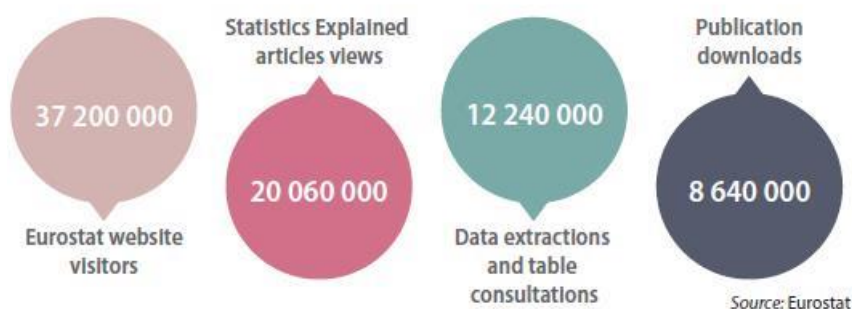## 20.10.2015: World Statistics Day
European official statistics: Better data. Better lives.

On 20 October, World Statistics Day is being celebrated for the second time. This event highlights the importance of official statistics in our society. Official statistics help decision makers develop informed policies that impact millions of people. Improved data sources, sound statistical methods, new technologies and strengthened statistical systems provide better data, which will enable better decisions that eventually result in better lives for all of us.

At EU level, efforts have been made over more than 60 years by the statistical authorities of the Member States, working together with **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, in the European Statistical System, to produce reliable and comparable data. Nowadays European statistics are used in many different ways by a growing number of people.

As **Walter Radermacher**, Director General of Eurostat says "Modern democratic societies rely on a solid basis of reliable and objective statistics to function properly. Decision-makers at EU level, in Member States, in local governments and in business need statistics to make their decisions. But in a democracy all citizens need statistics, as they are essential to evaluate the performance of decision-makers. This is the invaluable role of European official statistics."

European statistics present two main features which make them irreplaceable. They give comparable data for each Member State and their regions, helping to illustrate the similarities and differences within the EU, and as a result they can provide aggregates for the euro area and the EU. Such European statistics exist across a wide range of fields – public finances, prices, external trade, labour market, health, education…

Users ranging from European Commissioners and governments to students and enterprises…

Today, European statistics play a key role in guiding government policy, in supporting decisions made by enterprises and in enabling citizens to judge progress and to compare themselves with their neighbours.

For example, European regional statistics guide the European Commission in the allocation of regional funding, while in the economic area, harmonised price statistics play a key role in the monetary policy of Central Banks. Business people use international trade statistics to investigate new opportunities across the internal market, while European citizens can compare taxation or unemployment in their country with other Member States.

The key role that European statistics play in the European Commission's priorities are set out in a short publication from Eurostat, while other recent publications cover key issues for citizens, such as quality of life, the situation of young people in the EU, the position of the EU in the world and the progress being made in sustainable development.

To learn more about Eurostat and the data we can provide, you can visit our website.

And you can watch our short video for World Statistics Day

Background

The ESS functions as a network in which Eurostat's role is to lead the way in the harmonization of statistics in close cooperation with the national statistical authorities. The ESS also coordinates its work with the EFTA countries, candidate countries, at European level with other Commission services, agencies and the ECB and international organisations such as OECD, the UN, the IMF and the World Bank.

For more information
World Statistics Day
European Statistics for European Policies
Quality of life – Facts and views
Being young in Europe today
The EU in the World
Sustainable development in the European Union
Smarter, greener, more inclusive? – Indicators to support the Europe 2020 strategy
Eurostat's website

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