



Ad-Hoc Query on The use of Eurostat figures in national publications

Requested by NL EMN NCP on [October 5th , 2012]

Compilation produced on [16-11-2012]

Responses from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom plus Norway (25 in Total)

Disclaimer: The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.

1. Background Information

The Netherlands would like to investigate in which way Eurostat figures are used for national purposes (for example to inform the Parliament or national authorities) and for publications. In the Netherlands, the Eurostat figures are usually used in international publications (for example the EMN reports). For national purposes mostly national definitions (distinguishing from Eurostat definitions) are used. However, this leads sometimes to confusion between national definitions and Eurostat definitions. We would like to know if other countries experience the same phenomenon.

2. Responses¹

		Wider Dissemination?²	1: How common is the use of Eurostat figures for <u>national</u> purposes/publications?
--	--	---	---

¹ If possible at time of making the request, the Requesting EMN NCP should add their response(s) to the query. Otherwise, this should be done at the time of making the compilation.

Disclaimer: *The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.*

			<p>2: Are Eurostat figures used on the Immigration Service's website, or in any other national official reports (for example to inform national authorities)? Or do you intend to do so in the future?</p> <p>3: Is there confusion on differences between national definitions and Eurostat figures?</p>
	Austria	No	This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further.
	Belgium	Yes	<p>1. For national purposes, mostly national figures are used (data on asylum applications and decisions, returns, acquisition of citizenship, apprehensions...). Due to the use of distinct definitions, national data differ from the data reported to Eurostat. For several data the national definitions are preferred because of the specific national organisational or operational structures and priorities of the asylum and migration instances. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National statistics on return clearly differentiate between forced and voluntary return, because of the different nature of the two processes and also because different institutions are responsible. • National data on asylum applications and decisions refer to the number of cases and not to the number of persons as it is the case in the Eurostat data on asylum. These national data on asylum, excluding the accompanied children, are considered more relevant to give an idea of the workload of the central asylum instance the CGRS (Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons). <p>This does not mean that Eurostat data aren't used at all in national publications or reports. The Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism, a public institution with (among others) the legal mission to inform the public authorities about the nature and scale of migration flows, does use some Eurostat data in its annual report on migration. E.g. The publication of Eurostat data on first residence permits issued to third country nationals by reason (data on Belgium compared to other EU-member states) in this report, raises quite some interest.</p> <p>2. As mentioned, usually national data are used for national purposes; this is also the case on the website of national instances reporting on asylum and migration and in annual reports. However when reports are prepared with the aim to inform policy makers or others about the asylum and migration figures in other member states or to benchmark (what?), the Eurostat figures are certainly valuable and should be preferred, in order to ensure comparability. The rather limited use of Eurostat data might be explained by the fact that the 'Statistical Regulation 2007/862' is relatively new and that national organisations and the media aren't always aware of the existence of the Eurostat data and Eurostat database, or find it too complicated to consult the Eurostat database. For some data it also takes quite long before the Eurostat data are available and as policy makers and media often want the most recent data, they "refer" to national sources.</p>

² A default "Yes" is given for your response to be circulated further (e.g. to other EMN NCPs and their national network members). A "No" should be added here if you do not wish your response to be disseminated beyond other EMN NCPs. In case of "No" and wider dissemination beyond other EMN NCPs, then for the Compilation for Wider Dissemination the response should be removed and the following statement should be added in the relevant response box: "This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further."

Disclaimer: The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.

			<p>3. Yes, there is quite some confusion. Sometimes national media report on Eurostat press releases or statistical publications of Eurostat. Because these data in the Eurostat publications regularly differ from those used in national reports for the reasons mentioned above, confusion arises over what figures should be considered as accurate, giving the impression that the national data and/or the Eurostat data are unreliable.</p> <p>This being said, when national data are compared with the national data of other countries, there is also confusion possibly leading to incorrect conclusions. This seems especially to be the problem for the asylum data, as these data get quite a lot of attention in the media and for these statistics the comparison with other countries is frequently made. Even respected international organisations sometimes compare national asylum statistics that are not comparable. Consequently, for the sake of comparability, the use of Eurostat data should be further promoted; and where necessary, along with explanations on why these data differ from national data.</p>
	Bulgaria	Yes	<p>1: How common is the use of Eurostat figures for national purposes/publications?</p> <p>The use of Eurostat figures for national purposes in the Republic of Bulgaria is mainly associated with media and corporate reports only. For using these figures in media reports translation is usually applied, while for corporate reports and analyses the use of information in English is more common.</p> <p>There is the linguistic issue as well – the Eurostat figures are available in the three main languages of the EU only but not in Bulgarian, hence the inability to use these figures for official purposes in Bulgaria unless the data is translated.</p> <p>2: Are Eurostat figures used on the Immigration Service's website, or in any other national official reports (for example to inform national authorities)? Or do you intend to do so in the future?</p> <p>No. Since the Eurostat statistic mirrors the national statistics of the MS and the figures related to Bulgaria are submitted to Eurostat by the National Statistical Institute (NSI) for official national purposes in Bulgaria are used the figures of the NSI only. However in national reports and analyses, when a comparison with other MS is needed, the Eurostat figures remain the only reliable source of statistics.</p> <p>3: Is there confusion on differences between national definitions and Eurostat figures?</p> <p>In general no. In the past there might have been some but for the time being and with regard to the Labour Force Survey the statistics of Eurostat and the National Statistical Institute (NSI) of Bulgaria look quite identical. Nevertheless the statistics of NSI provides more detailed data, especially in relation to the smaller NUTS-3 regions of the country.</p>
	Cyprus	No	This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further.
	Czech Republic	Yes	
	Denmark	Yes	
	Estonia	Yes	1. It varies regarding authors of publications.

Disclaimer: *The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.*

			<p>2. Statistics Estonia is publishing mostly Estonian figures but also selected Eurostat figures.</p> <p>3. Sometimes and confusion is rather caused by different definitions used in Estonia.</p>
	Finland	Yes	<p>1: The use of Eurostat figures is not very common on the national level, apart from EU-level comparisons that are made from time to time, and usually relating to a specific issue.</p> <p>2: There is a link to the Eurostat database from the website of the Finnish Immigration Service. The Data in Focus or Statistics in Focus publications on asylum and residence permits are circulated to the relevant national authorities. At present, the EMN Bulletin is also a channel for regularly distributing Eurostat figures on the national level, as well as the EMN-studies that use Eurostat data on particular issues. No specific mention has been made to increase the use of Eurostat data on the national level.</p> <p>3: Yes, there is some confusion on the differences between national and Eurostat figures, although the differences are minor in most cases and attributed to the definitions with which the data is collected.</p>
	France	Yes	<p>1. Eurostat data are not used if national data exist. However, national statistical publications (e.g. studies published by the French National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies - INSEE) include more and more comparative data with EU Member States, in which case the Eurostat data are used.</p> <p>2. See above. French authorities intend to provide more regularly an insight into the situation of other EU Member States. Therefore, Eurostat data would be more mobilized.</p> <p>3. Yes. It is essential to define, with the highest clarity possible, the terms as they are used by Eurostat or within the national framework. Such a problem also arises when comparisons are made on the basis of data used by the OECD. However, the differences between definitions are not always obvious and frequent confusions can be found. For example, the proportion of migrants in the population often gives rise to controversy, as Eurostat or OECD figures are different from those used at national level. It can be explained by the fact that national definition used by the High Council of Integration (Haut Conseil à l'Intégration = HCI) does not include French nationals who were born abroad in the migrant category.</p>
	Germany	Yes	<p>ad 1) Re: article 4 and 6 of the Eurostat Regulation: The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) uses the Eurostat asylum and migration data in the context of international comparisons for publications, e.g. in the "Migrationsbericht" and the "Bundesamt in Zahlen" and for internal purposes. In order to avoid misunderstandings we explain the differences between the two concepts. Regarding article 7 of the Regulation: The German Federal Police uses the database of Eurostat for the compilation of the evaluation products.</p> <p>ad 2) Re: article 4 and 6 of the Eurostat Regulation: Yes, the BAMF is using Eurostat asylum data on his Website. Additionally BAMF sets a link on his website directly to the Eurostat-Database and to the text of the Regulation 862/2007. (http://www.bamf.de/DE/Infothek/Statistiken/statistiken-node.html); This is accomplished by explanatory remarks on the differences. (http://www.bamf.de/DE/Infothek/Statistiken/Asylzahlen/asylzahlen-node.html).</p> <p>Regarding article 3 of the Regulation:</p>

Disclaimer: The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.

			<p>Up to now, the figures regarding migrations in accordance with the definition as presented in the Regulation EG 862/2007 of Destatis have only been published in the form of methodological essays. It is intended to continue this procedure in the same way for the reporting year 2011 seeing that the underlying estimation procedure is very complex and will be refined by and by.</p> <p>The figures delivered to Eurostat have not yet been used by the German Federal Government in their reports. The migration report indicates figures regarding long term migration within the meaning of the Regulation. However, these figures are based on BAMF's own estimations.</p> <p>The use of Eurostat figures for the report is made more difficult because the delivery date to Eurostat for a reporting year is the 31st December of the following year. The migration report must be presented at an earlier date.</p> <p>ad 3) Regarding article 4 and 6 of the Regulation EC 862/2007: Due to the fact that BAMF explains the differences in his publications, on the website and in direct communications misunderstandings are seldom.</p> <p>Regarding article 3 of the Eurostat Regulation:</p> <p>Enquiries regarding the differing figures of Eurostat and Destatis are rare.</p> <p>Regarding the acquisition of the German nationality I would like to give you the following information:</p> <p>In the same way as the Netherlands, for the statistics regarding foreign nationals and the naturalization procedure we make use of German defining differentiations for any information, also for any information passed on to the German Parliament and the German Federal Government. In our opinion at this moment in time there is no requirement for any other definitions, e.g. European definitions. At the moment we are not aware of any cases where the German Federal Government or the German Parliament have been using on its own initiative Eurostat figures with European definitions diverging from definitions based on the German procedure and would therefore ask us for clarifications or explanations due to differences that have occurred.</p> <p>Germany is a federal country. From our own experience we are aware of the basic problems of non-uniform courses of action in the areas where a national legal basis does not prevail and where data is collected on the basis of coordinated statistics from Federal States and are then processed for example for indicators.</p>
	Greece	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The statistical data in the context of the implementation of article 6 of Regulation 862/2007 are collected by our Ministry (which is the data provider) and are used in almost all cases of data requests of ministries, agencies or individuals concerning legal migration. 2. The Eurostat figures are used in many cases during the preparation of national reports (eg under national contributions for monitoring the implementation of the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum or other national reports). 3. National definitions are largely in line with the definitions used in the context of the Regulation. Any differences mainly concern subcategories (for example providing detailed information on the residence permits). Therefore, in most cases there is no any significant

Disclaimer: *The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.*

			confusion. Nevertheless, our intention is to align gradually, where possible, national with Eurostat definitions.
	Hungary	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In that cases if the required information is available on the Eurostat website, the Eurostat data is also used to create analysis and to compare the Hungarian migration processes with international trends. 2. The Eurostat data is not displayed on the ION website, as well as the ION does not use the Eurostat data for the compilation of national report. 3. Such a deviation can not be mentioned in the respect of reporting requirements of ION.
	Ireland	No	This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further.
	Italy	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1: In Italy mainly national statistical sources are used for internal as well as for dissemination purposes but Eurostat figures can be used on certain occasions, such as for EMN studies and other international outputs. 2: Eurostat figures, although not uploaded on the institutional website, may be quoted in national reports, if appropriate, in order to provide a comparative approach among Member States. 3: The same terminology endorsed at EU level is well known at national level. Thus there are no discrepancies between the terminology used in the Italian context and definitions used by the EU.
	Latvia	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Like in the Netherlands, in Latvia EUROSTAT figures are used only for EMN reports and, very rarely, for other ad-hoc questions from international organizations. 2. No, EUROSTAT figures are not used on the website of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, nor in any other national report. We have not planned to do it in the future as figures are not as detailed as those provided for national needs (e.g. as the EUROSTAT figures are rounded). However, there could be some figures used more widely, like, for example, distribution by age and sex of third-country nationals. 3. There has been some confusion but mostly regarding the difference between total (stock) number of third-country citizens, reported in national statistics and that published by EUROSTAT. As a number of non-citizens of Latvia should be reported to EUROSTAT while it does not appear in national statistics, a difference is quite remarkable (appr. 350 000 persons) and it requires an additional explanation. The State Border Guard has noticed some misunderstandings between some national definitions and EUROSTAT figures, for example, apprehended third-country nationals.
	Lithuania	Yes	<p>Q1: There are two main institutions in Lithuania which collect/disseminate information on migration – Statistics Lithuania and the Migration Department under the Ministry of the Interior. The Migration Department uses statistical data collected nationally in publications and reports as it allows to present a more comprehensive picture (i.e. statistical data is collected for more aspects of migration/asylum). Statistics Lithuania uses Eurostat figures mostly for comparison reasons.</p> <p>Q2: The Eurostat figures are not used on the website of the Immigration Service.</p> <p>Q3. Some discrepancies between Eurostat and national definitions exist. Therefore differences in national and Eurostat data may occur. However, responsible authorities provide data to Eurostat in accordance with the Regulation on Community Statistics on migration and international protection (EC) No 862/2007.</p>
	Luxembourg	Yes	1. Eurostat data is regularly used in the national reports made by the National institute of statistics and economic studies (STATEC) (i.e. labour market and social cohesion). The aggregated data from Eurostat, which does not concerned exclusively migration phenomena,

Disclaimer: *The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.*

			<p>allows positioning Luxembourg in relation with other Member States from the EU. Also Eurostat data are also consulted to respond to questions or make studies by international organization (i.e. EMN studies).</p> <p>2. The Eurostat figures are not used on the website of the Immigration Service. They are rarely used in report concerning exclusively migrations flows.</p> <p>3. It can lead to confusions and questions in particular because differences occur between figures used for national purposes and those used in international context.</p>
	Malta	Yes	<p>1) Eurostat figures may be consulted to monitor developments taking place across the EU.</p> <p>2) Eurostat figures may be used in national reports to indicate developments across the EU</p> <p>3) Definitions as used by Eurostat are noted and if necessary explained should they substantially differ from national definitions.</p>
	Netherlands	Yes	<p>Q1: In the Netherlands Eurostat figures are usually used to answer (ad hoc) questions of international organisations (for example EMN reports).</p> <p>Q2: The Eurostat figures are not used on the website of the Immigration Service. For national purposes, predominantly the national figures are used, although Eurostat figures are also sometimes published.</p> <p>Q3: Because Eurostat figures are published in several other publications (like the Green Book of the European commission, UNHCR reports, Eurostat data in Focus etc.) it sometimes leads to confusion and questions because differences occur between figures used for national purposes and those used in international context.</p>
	Poland	Yes	<p>1. In Poland Eurostat figures are used mainly for international purposes.</p> <p>2. Statistics published for national purpose are in line with Eurostat definitions (like that of foreigner, illegal stay etc.) but there are differences in methodology for figures.</p> <p>3. There may be confusion on differences between Eurostat statistics and national ones.</p>
	Portugal	Yes	<p>1: In principle, national figures are the ones commonly used for national purposes/publications. Alternatively, Eurostat figures may be used when relevant.</p> <p>2: The Eurostat figures are not used on the website of the Immigration Service. In principle, they are not used in other national reports or for other national purposes, as well.</p> <p>3: Differences between “national figures” and “Eurostat figures” do not use to be a major issue. For this purpose, a clear identification and/or explanation on the relevant statistical source and metadata is a permanent concern from the national authorities.</p>
	Romania	Yes	
	Slovak Republic	Yes	<p>1. Eurostat data (Article 4, 5, 6, 7 of the Regulation 862/2007) are generally used only for the purposes of the EMN studies or when a comparison with data from other MS is needed (e.g. they were also used within the workshop on the comparison of data on the countries of origin of asylum seekers)</p> <p>2. On the website of the Ministry of Interior (Eurostat data according to Articles 4,5,6, 7 of the Regulation 862/2007)only national data are presented, these data are provided also to other authorities and to the public.</p>

Disclaimer: *The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.*

			<p>As for the Article 4 data the responsible Office within the Ministry of Interior did not consider to use the Eurostat data for national purposes so far.</p> <p>As for the Article 5, 6, 7 data the responsible Office within the Ministry of Interior is considering to use some of the Eurostat data on the national level, especially those on residence permits (Article 6).</p> <p>As for the Article 3 data the responsible Statistical Office is publishing the Eurostat data according to Article 3 on the Statistical Office website in the electronic form as well as in the analytical form (tables), these data are also provided to other authorities and to the public.</p> <p>3. Yes there are differences in the national and Eurostat definitions for the usage of migration data (e.g. regarding the rejected asylum applications or as for the Article 3 data when for the national purposes the data are collected on the basis of permanent residence and for the international purposes on the basis of usual residence). It is also to be noted that there are differences in the definitions of the statistical data on irregular migration (Articles 5 and 7) used by Eurostat and Frontex.</p>
	Slovenia	Yes	<p>Q 1: The Eurostat figures are not used for national purpose or published in national publications.</p> <p>Q 2: The Eurostat figures are not published or used on the Immigration Service's website, or in any other national official reports. In the future we do not plan to use it or published Eurostat figures either.</p> <p>Q 3: We are notices that between Eurostat figures and figures used for national purpose differences occur because of use of different definitions, methodology and system of collections of relevant figures. For example figures based on the Eurostat Regulation showing (only) those decisions of the administrative proceedings (for example residence applications, etc) which are final and legally binding. Methodology which we are using for national purpose showing also numbers of decisions taken by the responsible local administrative units or authority at the first instance of the administrative proceeding, they are not legally binding and enable applicants (aliens) to lodge an appeal at the second instance. In case of the Dublin Regulation our national statistic services collecting figures on daily basis and not just once per year (in March for previous year) as required by the Eurostat Regulation. However our services responsible for statistic at the Ministry of the Interior, if and where it is possible, putting all necessary efforts in order to harmonize national with Eurostat figures.</p>
	Spain	Yes	<p>Q1: In Spain Eurostat figures are mainly used for purposes of international comparability and for international reports, as far as they do not coincide with national data.</p> <p>Q2: There are links to Eurostat as an additional information source on the website of the General Secretariat for Immigration and Emigration. There are also links to Eurostat data in other official websites.</p> <p>Q3: The existence of different definitions in national and European context can be misleading. The statistical authorities try to avoid this confusion by providing users with information on the different methodologies followed to produce national data and Eurostat data.</p>
	Sweden	Yes	<p>Q1: In the Sweden Eurostat figures are used to answer (ad hoc) questions of international organisations (for example EMN reports) and used to make comparisons between different MS on "migration and asylum" profiles</p> <p>Q2: The Eurostat figures are not used on the website of the Immigration Service, nor in any other national report or for other national purposes (for example to inform national authorities).</p> <p>Q3: But, because Eurostat figures are published in several other publications (like the Green Book of the European commission, UNHCR reports, Eurostat data in Focus etc.) it often leads to confusion and questions because differences occur between figures used for national purposes and those used in international context</p>
	United Kingdom	Yes	<p>1: How common is the use of Eurostat figures for national purposes/publications?</p>

Disclaimer: The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.

			<p>The UK primarily analyses Eurostat figures within EMN publications or may refer to them when answering ad-hoc requests about international comparisons. It does not produce regular analysis of Eurostat data within 'National Statistics' publications.</p> <p>2: Are Eurostat figures used on the Immigration Service's website, or in any other national official reports (for example to inform national authorities)? Or do you intend to do so in the future?</p> <p>Monthly asylum figures supplied to Eurostat are published alongside national figures on the Home Office website. This additional analysis is produced to enable some comparison between the two data outputs, as the UK normally only publishes data on a quarterly or annual basis. See: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/asylum-aug-2012?view=Binary</p> <p>Otherwise, Eurostat publications and databases are referred to on both the Home Office and Office for National Statistics websites as a possible source for international comparisons.</p> <p>3: Is there confusion on differences between national definitions and Eurostat figures?</p> <p>Not as far as we are aware. Some of the figures follow identical definitions (e.g. overall international migration). Where there are differences between the national definitions and Eurostat definition-based figures these are well understood by producers, and trends are similar (e.g. asylum applications). Occasionally, the UK receives queries about the differences between national data and that supplied to Eurostat for international comparisons. However, this is fairly uncommon.</p>
	Norway	Yes	<p>Statistics on international migration and on its regulation, as compiled and distributed by Eurostat, are used very sparsely by official Norwegian publications, but they are followed closely by officials in the Immigration Department of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security. As a consequence there has been very little public confusion expressed on the possible difference between those statistics and the statistics that are presented by Statistics Norway (on actual migration, from the Central Population Register) or by the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) (related to the regulation of immigration), except that the Ministry has been concerned by the inclusion by Eurostat of Dublin decisions among rejected asylum applications. This causes the Eurostat rejection rates to give a misleading picture of the actual rejection rates for asylum applications, as they in Norway are calculated on the basis of applications considered on their merits. Statistics Norway provides a link to the Eurostat web-site and UDI provides a link to the web-site of Statistics Norway.</p>