

Ref. № 07-05-68/22.12.2022

NATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE  
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President  
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Ms Mariana Kotzeva  
Director General  
ESTAT-DG/MK/A2/AD/D(2022)  
Luxembourg

**Subject:** Follow up and additional information regarding Letter from Eurostat "Statistical obligations under Union legislation", Ref. Ares(2022)7761484

Dear Ms Kotzeva,

Thank you for your letter from the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2022, in which you express your appreciation about the efforts of the National Statistical Institute (NSI) of Bulgaria to address the identified compliance issues and the need of a more detailed action plan.

During September and early October 2022, a structural and functional analysis of the current situation in the Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate was performed, as stated in our letter to you from 8 August 2022. The analysis showed the need of restructuring within the Directorate, namely – of the Non-financial National and Regional Accounts Department.

The structural reform within the Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate was put in place in mid-October 2022. As a result, a new department "Supply Use Tables (SUT) and Institutional National Accounts" was created. The stipulated staff list of the new department consist of head and five experts. Currently, the head of the department and three experts are appointed. Two of the experts are involved in SUT and one in Sector accounts and GFS tables T11, T8, T801, T2, T25. Our plan is to recruit more experts in the course of 2023, albeit it might prove rather challenging, hence further expert technical assistance would be needed.

By this letter, I would like to bring to your attention the Action plan that we propose, consisting of four annexes with detailed timetables. The four annexes are as follows:

**Annex 1** covers the activities related to Non-financial sector accounts and Government finance statistics for 2023.

**Annex 2** includes the planned activities for SUT during 2023 compilation of ESA 2010 Questionnaire 1500 "Supply table at basic prices, including a transformation into purchasers' prices" and ESA 2010 Questionnaire 1600 "Use table at purchasers' prices" at current prices for the reference years 2018, 2019 and 2020.

**Annex 3** covers the foreseen activities, related to the compilation of SUT during 2024 - ESA2010 Questionnaire 1500 "Supply table at basic prices, including a transformation into purchasers' prices" and ESA 2010 Questionnaire 1600 "Use table at purchasers' prices" at current prices for the reference years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2021.

**Annex 4** covers the activities for the compilation of SUT and IOT during 2025 - ESA2010 Questionnaire 1500 "Supply table at basic prices, including a transformation into purchasers' prices" and ESA 2010 Questionnaire 1600 "Use table at purchasers' prices" at current prices for the reference year 2022 and the development of Supply and Use tables at previous year's prices (PYP). According to the Eurostat's transmission program the five-yearly tables are foreseen to be produced in 2025. Therefore, the need of technical and expert help adjusted with the specifics of the compilation of SUT at previous year's prices and IOT will be communicated and requested by us in 2024.

In order for us to go forward, for the activities regarding the development of SUT for the reference years 2018, 2019 and 2020 at current prices, which are planned to be produced in 2023, the NSI of Bulgaria would need the following expert and technical help:

1. A permanent consultant from Eurostat, with hands-on experience in SUT and IOT compilation, to participate in the process of planning, coordinating and compiling the SUT together with the team of experts that is currently being formed in the NSI of Bulgaria. For effective implementation of the work, especially in the initial stages, it is necessary for the expert to conduct on-site and online missions;
2. Maximum participation at the ESTP courses, organized by Eurostat, for the NSI experts, involved in the compilation of SUT and Sector accounts. We think that it would be effective if a training course on Sector accounts and SUT be organized by Eurostat in Bulgaria and be opened both for experts from Bulgaria and from countries in the region;
3. Further expert help and exchange of good practices and models for the compilation of SUT.

Furthermore, the proposed Action plan is in accordance with the recommendations and requirements of the current GNI verification cycle 2020-2024, outlined during the GNI direct verification visit held between 6-9 December 2022 in Sofia. For this reason, the compilation of SUT will start for the reference year 2018. In addition to that, just for your information, an Action plan for addressing the GNI open questions and reservations was discussed and the understaffing issue of Bulgaria's national accounts was also underlined.

In the meantime, I could assure you that the improvement of the internal organization and strengthening the interconnections between the departments within the Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate and between other departments and directorates within the NSI is showing positive results.

The actions for filling the position of Director of the Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate, which is vacant for almost 2 years, are ongoing, as the candidates from the recent recruitment procedure, unfortunately, had no relevant professional experience.

Going back to the main topic of the letter, please refer to the Annexes to this letter for additional information about our concrete timetable and suggested approach to address the relevant remaining compliance issues and obstacles, which are ahead of the NSI.

**ANNEX 1**

**Non-financial accounts by sector, Main aggregates of general government and General government expenditure by function**

Data or Variable (E-DAMIS code)	Frequency	Status	Action plan for 2023
T801 - Non-financial accounts by sector — quarterly	For Q4 2022 Deadline: 31.03.2023. For Member States whose currency is not the euro, the data transmission deadline is 3 months.	Q3 2022 will be sent by 31.12.2022	By 31.03.2023 will be compiled and sent to Eurostat
T25 - Main aggregates of general government	For Q4 2022 Deadline: 31.03.2023	Q3 2022 will be sent by 31.12.2022	By 31.03.2023 will be compiled and sent to Eurostat
T2 - Main aggregates of general government — annual	For 2022 Deadline: 31.03.2023	sent for 2021	By 31.03.2023 first transmission of preliminary data for 2022 will be compiled and sent to Eurostat
T801 - Non-financial accounts by sector — quarterly	For Q1 2023 Deadline: 30.06.2023. For Member States whose currency is not the euro, the data transmission deadline is 3 months.	Q4 2022 will be sent by 31.03.2023	By 30.06.2023 will be compiled and sent to Eurostat
T25 - Main aggregates of general government	For Q1 2023 Deadline: 30.06.2023	Q4 2022 will be sent by 31.03.2023	By 30.06.2023 will be compiled and sent to Eurostat
T8 - Non-financial accounts by sector — annual	For 2021 Deadline: 30.09.2022	not yet sent	By 31.07.2023 T8 for 2021 will be compiled and sent to Eurostat along with the revised time series for 2000-2020
T801 - Non-financial accounts by sector — quarterly	For Q2 2023 Deadline: 30.09.2023. For Member States whose currency is not the euro, the data transmission deadline is 3 months.	Q1 2022 will be sent by 30.06.2023	By 30.09.2023 will be compiled and sent to Eurostat

I would like to thank you for your understanding and to express my gratitude for the well-established close cooperation. I would also like once again to stress our commitment. I am confident that with joint efforts we would manage to solve all remaining issues in the near future.

Yours sincerely, **Atanas Georgiev Atanasov**  
Assoc. Prof. Atanas Atanasov, PhD

Digitally signed by Atanas Georgiev Atanasov  
Date: 2022.12.22 16:08:58 +02'00'

**ANNEX 2**

**Supply and Use Tables – Action plan for 2023**

Data or Variable (E-DAMIS code)	Frequency	Status	Action plan for 2023
T15 - Supply table at basic prices incl. transformation into purchasers' prices — annual	For 2020 Deadline: 31.12.2023	Data missing for reference periods 2015-2019	By 31.12.2023, T15 in current prices will be experimentally compiled and sent for the period 2018-2020. We are implementing an action process for 2023, for which we will need expert technical assistance. Operation Process: 1. In the first quarter of 2023 the team for development of SUT will be fully staffed; 2. In the first quarter of 2023 the necessary input data to produce the component submatrices and vectors of the Supply table will be collected; 3. In the second quarter of 2023 we would like to receive expert technical assistance on the steps and methods regarding the production process from the unbalanced tables as well as good practices; 4. In the third quarter of 2023, continuation of the production process, combined with specific expert technical assistance for the balancing steps and methods; 5. In the fourth quarter of 2023, balancing, validating and sending the experimental development of the tables to Eurostat for the period 2018-2020 combined with specific expert technical assistance for the balancing.
T16 - Use table at purchasers' prices — annual	For 2020 Deadline: 31.12.2023	Data missing for reference periods 2015-2019	By 31.12.2023, T16 in current prices will be experimentally compiled and sent for the period 2018-2020. We are implementing an action process for 2023, for which we will need expert technical assistance. Operation Process: 1. In the first quarter of 2023 the team for development of SUT will be fully staffed; 2. In the first quarter of 2023 the necessary input data to produce the component submatrices and vectors of the Use table will be collected; 3. In the second quarter of 2023 we would like to receive expert technical assistance on the steps and methods regarding the production process from the unbalanced tables as well as good practices; 4. In the third quarter of 2023, continuation of the production process, combined with specific expert technical assistance for the balancing steps and methods; 5. In the fourth quarter of 2023, balancing, validating and sending the experimental development of the tables to Eurostat for the period 2018-2020 combined with specific expert technical assistance for the balancing.

T25 - Main aggregates of general government	For Q2 2023 Deadline: 30.09.2023	Q1 2022 will be sent by 30.06.2023	By 30.09.2023 will be compiled and sent to Eurostat, consistent with T2 for the whole time series
T2 - Main aggregates of general government — annual	For 2022 Deadline: 30.09.2023	By 31.03.2023 first transmission of preliminary data for 2022 will be compiled and sent to Eurostat	By 30.09.2023 will be compiled and sent to Eurostat, consistent with T25 for the whole time series
T8 - Non-financial accounts by sector — annual	For 2022 Deadline: 30.09.2023	By 31.07.2023 will be compiled and sent to Eurostat along with the revised time series for 2000-2020	By 31.10.2023 data for 2022 will be compiled and sent to Eurostat along with the revised time series for 1995-2021
T801 - Non-financial accounts by sector — quarterly	For Q3 2023 Deadline: 31.12.2023. For Member States whose currency is not the euro, the data transmission deadline is 3 months.	Q2 2022 will be sent by 30.09.2023	By 31.12.2023 will be compiled and sent to Eurostat
T25 - Main aggregates of general government	For Q3 2023 Deadline: 31.12.2023	Q2 2022 will be sent by 30.09.2023	By 31.12.2023 will be compiled and sent to Eurostat
T11 - General government expenditure by function — annual	For 2022 Deadline: 31.12.2023	sent for 2021	By 31.12.2023 will be compiled and sent to Eurostat

**ANNEX 3**

**Supply and Use Tables – Action plan for 2024**

Data or Variable (E-DAMIS code)	Frequency	Status	Action plan for 2024
T15 - Supply table at basic prices incl. transformation into purchasers' prices — annual	For 2021 Deadline: 31.12.2024	Data missing for reference periods 2015-2017	By 31.12.2024 T15 in current prices for 2021 and for the period 2015-2017 will be compiled and sent
T16 - Use table at purchasers' prices — annual	For 2021 Deadline: 31.12.2024	Data missing for reference periods 2015-2017	By 31.12.2024 T16 in current prices for 2021 and for the period 2015-2017 will be compiled and sent

**ANNEX 4**

**Supply and Use Tables – Action plan for 2025**

Data or Variable (E-DAMIS code)	Frequency	Status	Action plan for 2025
T15 - Supply table at basic prices incl. transformation into purchasers' prices — annual	For 2022 Deadline: 31.12.2025	sent for 2015-2021	By 31.12.2025 data for 2022 will be compiled and sent
T16 - Use table at purchasers' prices — annual	For 2022 Deadline: 31.12.2025	sent for 2015-2021	By 31.12.2025 data for 2022 will be compiled and sent
T15 and T15 at PYP - annual	For 2022 Deadline: 31.12.2025	missing	In 2024 we will issue a specific request for expert technical assistance for the development of annual SUT tables at comparable prices
T1610	Five-yearly	missing	In 2024 we will issue a specific request for expert technical assistance for the development of the five-yearly tables
T1611	Five-yearly	missing	In 2024 we will issue a specific request for expert technical assistance for the development of the five-yearly tables
T1612	Five-yearly	missing	In 2024 we will issue a specific request for expert technical assistance for the development of the five-yearly tables
T1620	Five-yearly	missing	In 2024 we will issue a specific request for expert technical assistance for the development of the five-yearly tables
T1630	Five-yearly	missing	In 2024 we will issue a specific request for expert technical assistance for the development of the five-yearly tables
T17	Five-yearly	missing	In 2024 we will issue a specific request for expert technical assistance for the development of the five-yearly tables
T18	Five-yearly	missing	In 2024 we will issue a specific request for expert technical assistance for the development of the five-yearly tables
T19	Five-yearly	missing	In 2024 we will issue a specific request for expert technical assistance for the development of the five-yearly tables