Economic statistics at the service of financial markets' participants



Summary

- I. Analysis of the needs
- II. Quality of statistical information
- III. Our replies to these requirements
 - short-term macroeconomic indicators
 - broader and longer term perspective
- IV. New tools for a modern statistical communication
- V. Cooperation and exchange of experience

I. Needs of financial markets' participants

- **■** Financial markets' information needs
 - Risk evaluation
 - Analysis of situation and trends in the economy
 - Optimisation of performance
- The crisis has increased demand for both financial statistics (in particular, on monetary and public finance issues) and non-financial statistics (growth-related issues)



II. Quality in statistics: dimensions

Consistency with theory

Which theory???

Quality = Fitness for Purpose

Political relevance

Measurability

Who decides???

Reliability, timeliness, ...???



II. Quality in statistics: aggregation

Composite indicators Not labelled as Specific "Official Statistics" Purpose Indicato r(sets) Multi-**Accounting** systems Purpose Primary information from surveys, registers etc.



III. Our answers

- The primary quality of Eurostat statistics is to integrate in a consistent framework financial and non-financial data
- National accounts offer the best illustration of complementarities between financial and non-financial statistics, because the accounting structure requires global coherency between both types of analysis



III. Short-term and long-term analyses

- Participants in the financial markets and analysts need statistical information useful for short-term as well as long-term macroeconomic analysis
- Eurostat has developed data for these two types of needs



III. Short-term macroeconomic indicators

- In cooperation with ECB and DG ECFIN, Eurostat publishes macroeconomic indicators
 - Principal European Economic Indicators "PEEIs" Areas covered: consumer prices, quarterly national accounts, business activity, labour market, external trade, housing
- Highlighting some essential trends
 - GDP, private final consumption and investment in volume, government deficit and debt, threemonth interest rate, long term government bond yields, euro-dollar exchange rate

III. A broader and longer term perspective

- Monitoring of public finances: extended powers of control have been given to Eurostat within the Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP)
 - Two "Macro" Directorates in Eurostat
 - C "National accounts, prices and key indicators"
 - D "Government finance statistics"
- Alert mechanism has been set up to detect / correct macroeconomic imbalances ("Macroeconomic Imbalances Procedure") based on a scoreboard of indicators relating to external imbalances and competitiveness as well as internal imbalances

III. A broader and longer term perspective ctd

- European Union has launched "Europe 2020", a long-term development strategy in order to promote a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth
 - Trends in innovation, research and development and competitiveness, environment and green growth, education, employment and social cohesion are analysed
- "European Semester" is another initiative which develops an integrated analysis at European level on fiscal policy, macroeconomic imbalances, financial sector issues and growth-enhancing structural reforms

IV. New communication tools

- Eurostat's objective: to go where the users are
 - mobilizing the most modern communication tools at the service of the most demanding users including financial markets' participants
 - statistical data widely available on website
 - cooperation with Google and others in order to further facilitate the search for statistical data
 - Twitter
 - applications for mobile devices (Eurostat App)



V. Cooperation + exchange of experience

- Cooperation with the European Central Bank in order to (further) optimise the integration between financial and non-financial statistics.
- Exchange of experience between statisticians and participants in the financial markets should be better explored
 - to better know information needs (for the producers)
 - to better know the diversity of statistical information (for the users)



Thank you for your kind attention

Question time

