

Proposal for the Meeting of the Working Group on Cultural Statistics

Luxembourg, 28 - 29 April 2015

AGENDA ITEM 4 : ESSnet framework for culture statistics

The document "Towards an integrated approach to cultural heritage for Europe (COM(2014) 477 final)" of the European Commission recently stressed the transversal (cross-sectorial) nature of cultural heritage. A consensus has been reached among European institutions and member states about the use of a wider definition of cultural heritage, the so-called "integrated holistic approach"¹. The methodology applied by Eurostat in its past cultural statistics however excludes this new consideration. Measuring the activities consisting in producing, disseminating, and preserving heritage should therefore clearly cover:

- All works and materials used for the production and maintenance of heritage (e.g. local restoration industries);
- All different uses of heritage (even if the use is not explicitly for a cultural good or service);
- The consumption of heritage made by tourists including the other direct resources consumed (travel, food, etc.).

The statistics should not only illustrate the heritage itself (number of listed properties), but also reflect how heritage is instrumental in generating economic and social value for other sectors. How could heritage otherwise be a strategic development resource?

With regard to the above, [COUNTRY NAME] urges for further developing the present ESSnet-Culture framework, which addresses this integrated and transversal approach. [COUNTRY NAME] is prepared to constructively collaborate in the realisation of this enhancement.

[COUNTRY NAME] proposes a study of the following indicators:

- 1) Socio-economic indicators concerning immovable heritage. More specifically:
 - added-value generated by immovable heritage in sectors such as restoration, architecture, archaeology;
 - employment within immovable heritage (incl. restoration, architecture, and the archaeological sector);
 - integration of 'cultural tourism' as an intrinsic component of immovable heritage due to its transversal nature (in line with the recommendation of the European Commission);
 - private and public funding for immovable heritage in Europe (e.g. although it only gives partial information, private donations could be used as an indicator).
- 2) Indicators concerning immovable heritage policy. More specifically:

¹ COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION. Brussels, 20 May 2014. Conclusions on cultural heritage as a strategic resource for a sustainable Europe.

https://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/educ/142705.pdf

- number of protected/listed sites in absolute figures and their surface area per member state. This indicator should cover much more sites than the UNESCO ones. It can also be compared with the total building stock divided in age periods;
- number and surface area of the archaeological sites per member state;
- number of restoration works.

The above indicators are not exhaustive, but they represent a first proposal towards further consultation.

AGENDA ITEM 9: satellite accounts

Flanders is currently working on satellite accounts for culture and immovable heritage. It must be noted that the whole range of activities covered by immovable heritage cannot be represented by specific NACE codes. For instance, only 9 out of 20 archaeological companies in Flanders have registered under the NACE class 91.03 (used as a reference for ESSnet). Therefore, half of the private archaeological companies would not be included within the current framework. Archaeological companies also register under the NACE classes 72.20, 43.99, 72.19, 74.90, or 86.90. The same phenomenon was observed for building constructors active in restoration. These mostly dispose of a federal recognition D23 or D24, but do not necessarily report to the NACE class 41.20.

In other words, immovable heritage spreads to different NACE codes, which makes data collection slightly more complex. Nevertheless, the Flanders Heritage Agency managed to develop a methodology to design socio-economic indicators such as value added and employment for the main fields covered by immovable heritage (restoration, archaeology, architecture, tourism).

Despite the fact that restoration contractors do not necessarily belong to the NACE class 41.20 (general construction), we feel that the share of 41.20 companies that work in restoration is large enough to justify their inclusion in the set of indicators. Moreover, it appears to us inconsistent that these activities are considered 'non cultural' while most of the restoration activities fall under it. A percentage of this NACE class could possibly be measured.

Taking into account its experience with the development of satellite accounts for culture and immovable heritage, the Flemish Region and the Flemish Community is willing to share its expertise with Eurostat and other member states.

[MEMBER ORGANISATION]

[DATE]