

Update to the European System of Accounts (ESA)

Rasa Jurkoniene
Eurostat unit D.1

IMF GFSAC meeting May 13-15 2025

GFSAC 2025/05/07

eurostat 

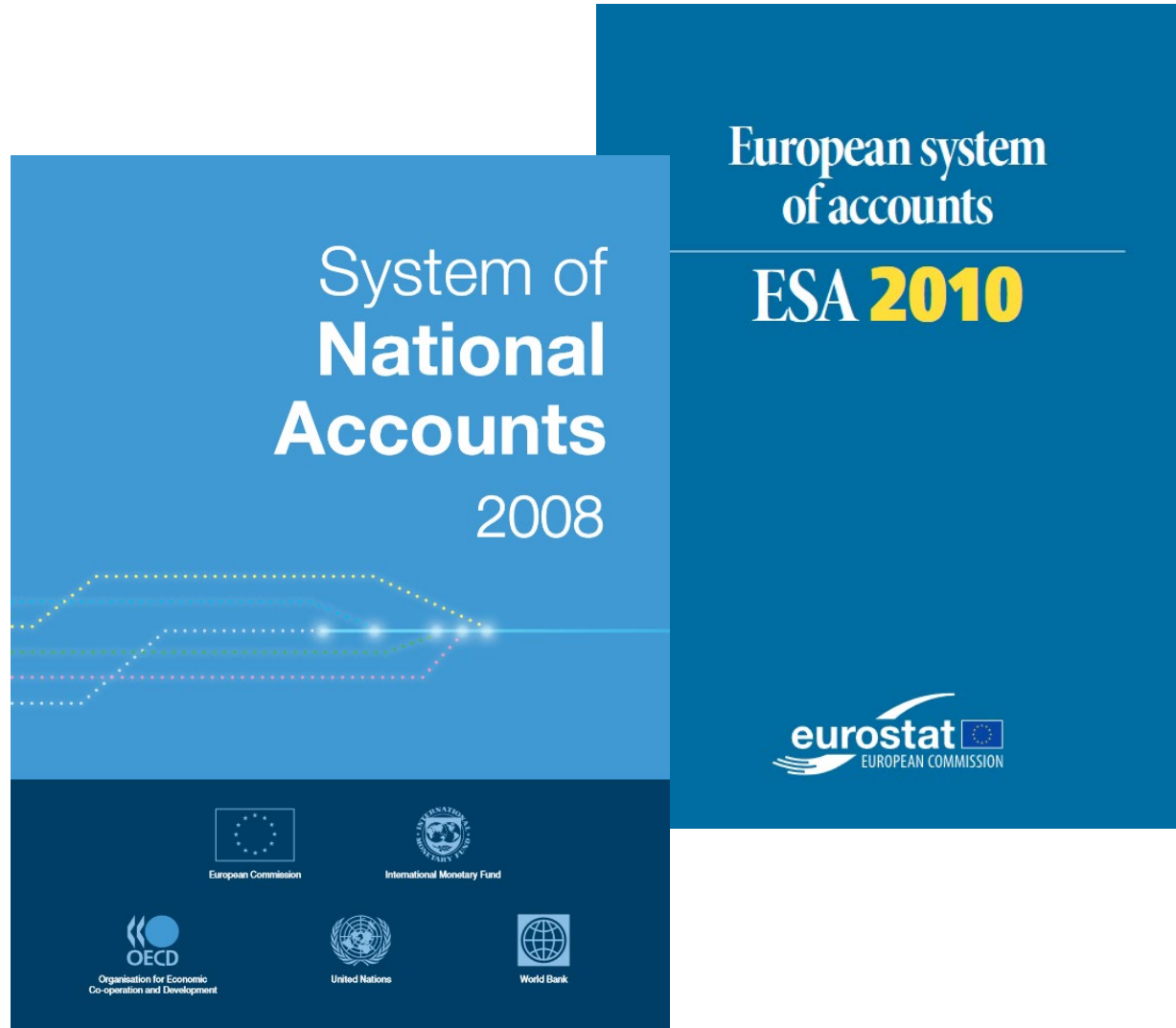


European
Commission

Introduction

- ESA status
- Revision process
- Updated government chapter – process and timeline
- Government chapter development

What is ESA



- ESA 2010 is broadly consistent with the 2008 SNA regarding definitions, accounting rules and classifications
- ESA was adopted in the form of a Regulation: basic Act, Annex A - methodology, and Annex B - data transmission programme
- EU regulations are directly applicable; they come into force and are legally binding without any action on the part of Member States

GFS methodology



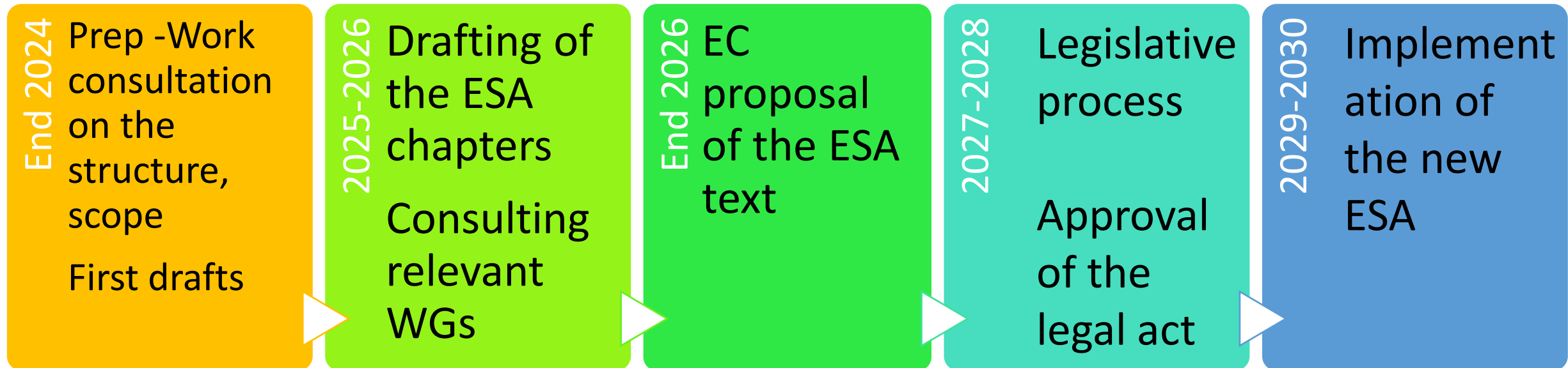
- The MGDD is complementing the ESA 2010 by interpreting the general rules
- provides guidance on the statistical treatment of specific government operations as well clarifications on the issues raised in the EU regarding GFS
- first published in 1999 is regularly updated (following the national accounts benchmark revision cycle)

NEW ESA

- In the EU, the implementation of the 2025 SNA will take place through a new legal act that encompasses an update of the ESA 2010 methodology (Annex A) and the ESA 2010 transmission programme (Annex B)
- ESA 2010 will maintain its broad alignment with the SNA, thereby preserving comparability of EU macroeconomic statistics with those of other world economies
- ESA drafting process has started and is advancing in technical groups



ESA revision timeline



ESA revision principles

The review of ESA will be driven by the following principles:

- a. keeping broad alignment with the updated SNA,
- b. ensuring correspondence between methodology and the transmission programme,
- c. striving to improve clarity and efficiency of the text,

The ambition is not to deviate too much in length as compared to the ESA 2010 edition (some descriptive parts could be shortened)

NEW ESA - Government accounts

- Starting point- the ESA 2010 chapter 20 – Government accounts

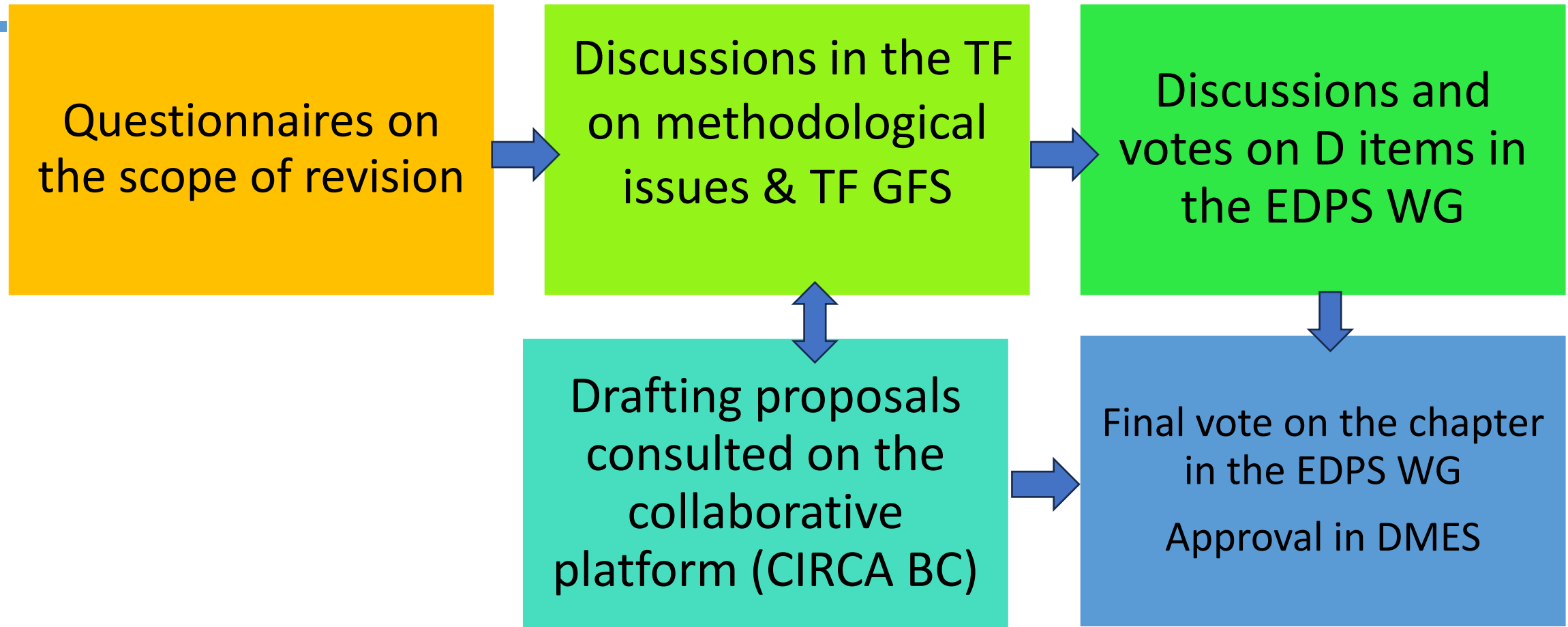
Potential changes of 4 types are foreseen:

- **Type A:** corrections of typos/errors
- **Type B:** MGDD and other guidelines uplift;
the methodological development that took place after ESA 2010 adoption will be reflected in a concise way
- **Type C:** new elements brought by the SNA Review
- **Type D:** other changes to ESA

Minimum changes in terms of volume of text (only necessary corrections) and concise additions (main principles)



Government chapter revision process



Additions to the ESA chapter 20

Revised ESA chapter on government will include the main methodological developments undertaken since the ESA 2010 methodology was finalized.

The methodological development could come from:

- a. the MGDD updates
- b. other methodological documents (decisions, guidance notes, clarifications, and GFS interpretations)

Additions to the ESA government chapter

Examples of topics stemming from the MGDD text:

- delimitation of general government,
- rearranged transactions,
- taxes; delineation between payable and non-payable tax credits,
- time of recording of military expenditure, multi-country schemes,
- decommissioning costs,
- income contingent loans, loans not expected to be fully repaid,
- energy performance contracts, concessions,
- defeasances and bailouts, standardised guarantees;

Additions to the ESA government chapter II

Topics coming from Eurostat decisions, guidance notes, clarifications and GFS interpretations:

- transfer of pension obligations,
- some elements stemming from guidance notes relating to the high energy prices,
- mobile phone licences,
- recording of the EU own resources



ESA vs SNA

- Current ESA 2010 is broadly consistent with the SNA 2008
- The aim is to keep this principle of conceptual alignment also for the future ESA and SNA 2025
- ESA is an essential tool at European level to achieve the objectives set by the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. Statistics compiled following the ESA methodology are used for administrative purposes (e.g., own resources, excessive deficit procedure, allocation of structural funds) and for the analysis of the coordination and convergence of Member States' economic policies. This specific use requires in fact greater accuracy in the definitions, classifications and accounting rules.

The way forward

Discussions on the text continue in the technical WGs. While ensuring conceptual alignment, some adaptations to the European context might be necessary (e.g. European ETS system). More elements will become available closer to the finalisation of the draft text.

Discussions are ongoing as regards the ESA introduction date by 2029/2030; decisions are likely soon.

THANK YOU!

 ec.europa.eu/eurostat

 [@EU_Eurostat](https://twitter.com/EU_Eurostat)

 [@EurostatStatistics](https://www.facebook.com/EurostatStatistics)

 [@EU_Eurostat](https://www.instagram.com/EU_Eurostat)

 [@Eurostat](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Eurostat)