

Memorandum of Understanding

between the

Deutsche Bundesbank,
Wilhelm-Epstein-Strasse 14,
60431 Frankfurt am Main, Germany

and the

Federal Statistical Office,
Gustav-Stresemann-Ring 11,
65189 Wiesbaden, Germany

Preamble

- Having regard to the performance of statistical tasks by the Federal Statistical Office, notably pursuant to section 3 of the Federal Statistics Act (*Bundesstatistikgesetz*) and within the framework of the European Statistical System (ESS) pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics,
- Having regard to the performance of statistical tasks by the Deutsche Bundesbank, notably pursuant to section 18 of the Bundesbank Act (*Bundesbankgesetz*) and within the framework of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB) pursuant to Article 5 of the Protocol on the Statute of the European System of Central Banks and of the European Central Bank, and Regulation (EC) No 2533/98 concerning the collection of statistical information by the European Central Bank, and observing the Deutsche Bundesbank's independent position under the EU treaties,
- Underlining the shared responsibility and the respective obligations of the Federal Statistical Office and of the Deutsche Bundesbank in certain statistical domains,
- Acknowledging the Deutsche Bundesbank's strong interest as a user in federal statistics on the real economy and on prices as part of its monetary policy and financial stability tasks,
- Having regard to the requirement for the ESS and ESCB to cooperate closely at the European level pursuant to Article 2a of Regulation (EC) No 2533/98 concerning the collection of statistical information by the European Central Bank and Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics, in order to guarantee high-quality statistical results, minimise the reporting burden and ensure the coherence necessary to produce European statistics, and having regard to the mutual understanding that these objectives are also hallmarks of the cooperation between the Federal Statistical Office and the Deutsche Bundesbank,

- In the mutual endeavour to further develop the long-standing and trusting cooperative relationship that has existed between the Federal Statistical Office and the Deutsche Bundesbank in the performance of tasks at the national level and of obligations in an international context, notably at the European level,
- Having a reciprocal understanding of the legal, organisational, staffing and financial framework in which the other party operates and with the will to take advantage of existing synergies and the desire to develop, produce and disseminate high-quality statistical data,
- Having regard to the United Nations' Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, international and European recommendations for upholding the quality of official statistics, best practices and, at the Federal Statistical Office, the "European Statistics Code of Practice", and, at the Deutsche Bundesbank, the "Public commitment on European Statistics by the ESCB",
- The Deutsche Bundesbank and the Federal Statistical Office do hereby declare their willingness to continue their cooperation on the basis of the self-commitments set forth hereinafter and, in light of the multiple challenges facing official statistics, to press ahead with said cooperation in an effective and forward-looking manner.

Section 1 Subject of the cooperation

- (1) The parties to this agreement shall work together as partners in a spirit of trust in the performance of their respective tasks and obligations regarding the development, production and dissemination of statistics, the responsibility for which is shared among them.
- (2) Forms of cooperation which were developed in a spirit of partnership and with a division of labour according to each party's area of responsibility currently exist with regard to the national accounts and the financial accounts, the statistics on the government sector in connection with the excessive deficit procedure (EDP), the foreign trade and balance of payments statistics, the harmonisation of gross national income, corporate statistics such as the statistics on foreign affiliates (FATS), ensuring the quality of treatment of multinational enterprise groups, the EuroGroups Register (EGR), setting up a register for basic enterprise data as well as exchanging master data in line with the Statistics Register Act (*Statistikregistergesetz*) and exchanging information regarding the classification of economic entities to institutional sectors in line with the System of National Accounts. The cooperation also includes work in the field of seasonal adjustment as well as the statistics used in the macroeconomic imbalance procedure (MIP).

- (3) The cooperation furthermore encompasses the performance of common tasks in an international context, such as the United Nations (UN), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the G20 (the group of the twenty most important industrial countries and emerging market economies), in particular regarding the fulfilment of international standards, such as the IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standard, and, at the European level, in particular in the European Statistical Forum (ESF), on the Committee on Monetary, Financial and Balance of Payments Statistics (CMFB), in the Council Working Party on Statistics and regarding the fulfilment of requirements as part of recommendations issued by the European Systemic Risk Board (ESRB). This also includes an exchange of information and consultations, provided it is pertinent and permitted to do so, as part of the work of the ESCB's Statistics Committee (STC) and the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC).
- (4) By mutual agreement, the parties may conclude supplementary agreements to this Memorandum of Understanding that outline the individual areas of cooperation in greater detail.

Section 2 Scope of the cooperation

- (1) The parties shall provide each other with the statistical data and associated information required for the performance of their tasks in their fields of cooperation pursuant to section 1, giving due regard to the legal regulations and to the agreed time schedule.
- (2) The cooperation also encompasses the further development of statistical methods, procedures and techniques, the aim essentially being to achieve mutually agreeable arrangements provided this is necessary for each party to fulfil its respective tasks. Each party's area of responsibilities remains unaffected hereby.
- (3) Both parties to this agreement undertake to exchange information in a comprehensive and timely manner, in compliance with the legal regulations, on the statistical fields in which cooperation is pertinent under this agreement.
- (4) Both parties shall ensure that the statistical information they provide online contain electronic links to related statistical fields of the other party.

- (5) In the performance of their common tasks in an international context and at the European level, the parties notably undertake to forward documents and consult each other insofar as this is possible under the legal regulations.

Section 3 Regular meetings

- (1) The Federal Statistical Office and the Deutsche Bundesbank's statistical area shall normally hold annual management-level meetings to deliberate on matters relating to their common statistical work and current issues of strategic importance.
- (2) Information shall be shared on an ongoing basis at the working level.

Section 4 The Deutsche Bundesbank's special interest as a user

The exchange of information and opinions shall further take into account the Deutsche Bundesbank's strong interest as a user in federal statistics on the real economy and on prices for the purpose of monetary policy and financial stability analysis. The statistical responsibility of the Federal Statistical Office shall remain unaffected hereby.

Section 5 Data protection and confidentiality

Both parties stress that they shall ensure compliance with all the relevant data protection and confidentiality provisions and follow up on any breaches in an appropriate manner.

Section 6 Liability

The parties agree that this Memorandum of Understanding does not constitute a legal obligation; in particular, there is no liability due to infringements of this agreement.

Section 7 Costs

The Deutsche Bundesbank and the Federal Statistical Office shall refrain from charging each other any costs under this agreement.

Section 8 Amendments

If so requested by either party, but no later than after five years, the parties shall mutually review the agreement and amend it as appropriate.

Section 9 Termination

- (1) This agreement is unlimited in duration.
- (2) Both parties may terminate the agreement by giving one year's notice. Both parties shall endeavour to conclude a new agreement before said notice period elapses. If a new agreement is not concluded before said notice period elapses, the notice period shall be extended once only for a further year.

Section 10 Final provisions

- (1) This Memorandum of Understanding has been drawn up in duplicate. Each party shall receive one copy and confirm receipt thereof.
- (2) This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the date of its execution and replace any earlier versions.

Deutsche Bundesbank

Frankfurt am Main, 13 September 2021

(signed)

Federal Statistical Office

Wiesbaden, 13 September 2021

(signed)