

# Introduction

The European Statistical System Metadata Handler (ESS MH) is a set of IT applications developed for the production, management, exchange and dissemination of metadata within Eurostat and international organizations (NSI's, Banks, etc.).

It is considered as a metadata warehouse used for a metadata-driven harmonised statistical business process. In this context, it is fully in line with the Eurostat Vision.

The ESS MH also accommodates the different standards in use within the ESS for reference metadata (ESMS, ESQRS, ESMSIP, EPMS, etc.) and for structural metadata (code lists). Its main applications dedicated to data and metadata exchange - the Euro SDMX Registry and Metadata Handler - are fully SDMX compliant.

## The ESS MH components

### European Statistical System - Metadata Handler (ESS MH)

The ESS MH is a web application which has been developed for the production, management, exchange and dissemination of European and national reference metadata files. Its main objective is to enable the ESS members (Eurostat, NSI's, Banks, International organizations) to produce reference metadata files based on the European Standards (ESMS, ESQRS, ESMSIP, EPMS).

eDamis - the Eurostat Single Entry Point - is used by ESS MH to receive national reference metadata files.

The application is widely used, both at Eurostat and national level, to produce metadata files. ESS MH is in full use since February 2014.

Statistical domains implemented in ESS MH can be found in [SDMX Implementation for Metadata exchange](#).

### RAMON and CODED

- Reference And Management Of Nomenclature (RAMON) is a server used for the management and dissemination of various metadata categories such as classifications, statistical variables, etc.

The information presented in RAMON is sometimes available in several languages (e.g. legal acts) and is freely downloadable.

- Concept and DEfinition Database (CODED) is part of RAMON. It is a production tool for creating, storing and managing statistical concepts and variables. The application also enables users to manage individual glossaries

### The Euro SDMX Registry

The Euro-SDMX Registry is a web application acting as a repository of information. It contains all

the SDMX Artefacts (objects) used for the exchange of data and metadata based on SDMX. In this context, the Registry also interacts with several other applications such as the ESS MH or eDamis.

The Registry currently adapts the SDMX Technical Standard 2.0 and in its enhanced version will further adapt the version 2.1 of the Standard.

This upcoming version of the Registry will also be enhanced with several new functionalities such as searching/filtering and browsing/navigation facilities, the identification of interaction/reference between Artefacts, a "What's new" section, etc.

This new version should be available in a few months' time.

## **How to access and use the ESS-MH applications?**

### **European Statistical System - Metadata Handler (ESS MH)**

The NRME ESS MH is available at the following link:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/estat/spe/metaconv/login.jsp>

In order to be granted access to the application, all ESS MH users must have a functional ECAS account.

They have to contact the national administrator of their organisation, who will provide them with the appropriate rights and affect them to their corresponding statistical domains.

### **RAMON and CODED**

The content of RAMON is publicly available here: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon>

The output files and information produced within these applications (ESMS European metadata files, classifications, statistical variables, etc.) are accessible without any restriction:

The European ESMS files produced are available on the Eurostat Data Navigation Tree:

[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/statistics/search\\_database](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/statistics/search_database)

### **The Euro SDMX Registry**

- The current version of the SDMX Registry is available to anybody who has a CIRCABC account at the following page: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/sdmxregistry/index.do>

Once logged-in, the user is presented with a read-only mode where he can view and download all the different types of SDMX Artefacts he wishes.

- In the newest version of the Registry to come, the access control mechanism of the registry has been completely revised. The main changes are the following:

- Use of role-based access control (RBAC) mechanism
- Authentication via ECAS - the European Commission Authentication System
- All publicly available Artefacts will be accessible without any authentication
- The Artefacts with restriction access will be only available to allowed users

The users from official organisation will be attached to their respective organisation (Organisation Scheme) and each organisation can be broken down with a certain hierarchy within this Organisation Scheme.

The new Registry will also enable to distinguish public artefacts (freely accessible by anybody) and private artefacts (with restricted access).