

FAQ ON EX ANTE CONDITIONALITIES RELATING TO STATISTICS

This list of frequently asked questions is based on comments received from Member States (MS) on Part II of the Guidance on ex ante conditionalities as regards statistics.

General comment on the Guidance

- Some sub-criteria go beyond the Regulation (for example, definition of "publication and public availability")

Commission's reply: Sub-criteria identified in the assessment grids aim at describing the Commission's expectations for each criterion and at ensuring consistency between Member States through a common framework.

The Guidance was made available for Member States to let them know how the Commission will assess the requirements set out in Annex V of the Regulation. However, there is no regulatory obligation to make use of it.

- This conditionality should not be applicable to TA programmes

Commission's reply: As a general rule, this ex ante conditionality relating to statistical system and result indicators should apply to all programmes, including TA programmes.

- Definition of "arrangements" (a decision communicated to the Commission).

"Which is the form envisaged to communicate the decision of the Member State related to the arrangements for timely collection and aggregation for statistical data? It is required to submit a description of the monitoring system together with the draft of operational programmes?"

Commission's reply: The definition of "arrangements" has been completed in the last versions of the guidance. It has to be understood as a decision communicated to the Commission (either separate or part of the programme).

Criteria for fulfilment requiring arrangements for timely collection and aggregation of statistical data

- *There is a description of the monitoring system in place. "When referring to "monitoring system" this include all types of indicators (output, result, financial) or just the result indicators?"*

Commission's reply: The required monitoring system does not only deal with result indicators, but also covers the collection, storage and aggregation of a broader scope of monitoring data.

- *Data storage: the format and the location where the data will be kept have been identified and arrangements have been made to prevent data corruption or loss. "When referring to "data storage" this mean electronic storage or any kind of format?"*

Commission's reply: Data storage should be electronic. As for the format, the managing authority shall establish a system which records and stores data on each operation necessary for monitoring, evaluation, financial management, verification and audit, including data on individual participants in operations, where applicable.

- *Criterion referring to the publication and public availability of indicators. "It is not clear whether this condition would be fulfilled by publishing the Annual implementation report in electronic version (on MA website). Since AIR contains information about indicators in desired format (name, definition, baseline, target and achieved values), we wish to clarify whether this would be sufficient or is it required to publish information on indicators in different/ separate format?"*

Commission's reply: Information provided in AIR would be sufficient.

Criteria for fulfilment requiring an effective system of result indicators

- *When establishing targets for indicators, it is stated that these "should reflect broad consensus of stakeholders" – rather difficult to achieve such state. Need for COM's interpretation /guidance.*

Commission's reply: The Commission expects that there will be some discussion and debate on the targets for indicators. It is also expected that the ex ante evaluator will analyse the targets.