



Work Programme 2022-2024

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DIRECTOR GENERAL'S FOREWORD



ETIENNE CARUANA
Director General

This is the second edition of the National Statistics Office's work programme. Its main purpose is to map out work and activities for the current year and forthcoming two years for the benefit of internal stakeholders and our external users and statistical partners. From the corporate point of view, Work Programme 2022-2024 joins the stock of institutional records which document operational achievements and progress in the medium term.

While charting the future, the work programme is an important tool to maintain continuity. 2021 saw the carrying out of the eighteenth in the series of population censuses. In 2022, work started on analysis of the data and planning of the content of Census publications. Efforts across all domains to intensify use of administrative sources have been constant. Such efforts will be twinned by initiatives to address non-response in a structured manner. A major project, following closely on Census 2021, will be the start of implementation of the Skills Register which will provide detailed information on the skills characteristics of

the Maltese labour force. The contribution of a relatively new statistical domain – Crime statistics – will be intensified, notably as regards financial crime. After the publication: "Sustainable Development in Malta" published in December 2021, the Office will continue in its route to produce Sustainable Development Indicators (SDIs) by interacting with national agencies by means of SDI taskforces and by building up a wide knowledge base underlying the SDIs. This path mirrors the NSO's vision to act as data stewards and be the central motivator to a truly effective national statistical system and also to participate more actively on the international and European platforms. Additionally, the European Green Deal features high on the European Union agenda. The NSO has been taking note of developments on the European stage; the coming years will necessitate translating the Green Deal into statistical commitments and considering the new technical expertise and staff capacities these will entail.

Work on a strategy for the rebranding of the NSO is advanced. Plans are for a transformation in the organisational culture. The current year and ensuing years will see not simply a new-look logo, website and dissemination tool, but also remodelled statistical products by which to appeal and remain relevant to increasingly evolving audiences.

The period covered by this work programme will see the implementation of a new IT infrastructure that will radically impact the work practices of the NSO, highlighting the need for training and re-training of employees. On the human resources front, preparations for the negotiation of a new collective agreement have started and will intensify in the next months.

Etienne Caruana
Director General
May 2022

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Unit is responsible for maintaining communication and cooperation with EU and international institutions and networks such as the Council of the European Union, European Commission, European Statistical System, United Nations, UN Economic Commission for Europe, and others. The Unit fosters working relationships with such organisations through coordinated and systematic representation. The Unit ensures that Malta's position on all statistical and cross-thematic dossiers that comprise a statistical element is relayed in a timely and effective way at the appropriate supranational levels for eventual adaptation and implementation at the national level. The Unit also coordinates the national monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through, inter alia, the chairing of technical task-forces relevant to the collection of data and the production of statistics for the SDIs and the strengthening of partnerships with other relevant national agencies to ensure coordination and data cohesion on data quality and the production of statistics.

Strategic Priorities

- Strengthen process and coordination internally within the NSO and with other government departments to prepare for negotiations and discussions through all stages of the legislative process;
- Participate actively in the Council Working Party on Statistics to ensure visibility for Malta and to safeguard the national interest, while contributing to progress on statistical legislative proposals to the benefit of the EU Member States;
- Strengthen the NSO's involvement on international platforms through, inter alia, active participation, follow-up and good relations with counterpart national statistical institutes (NSIs);
- Work with the domain Units to utilise opportunities of grants from Eurostat and other foreign funding.
- Actively participate at the early stages of discussion on guidelines/legislation and keep track of their progress and eventual transposition and implementation at EU level. Early stages refer especially to Eurostat task forces and working groups;
- Research and source national data on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), both internally and externally. Build up NSO's role in the monitoring and coordination of Sustainable Development Indicators;
- Strengthen partnerships and cooperation with national agency for the collection of data and the production of statistics for the monitoring of the SDGs;
- Seek new opportunities for joint projects with counterpart NSIs, EU institutions and international organisations.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	IASD 01	Represent the NSO in the Council Working Party on Statistics and participate actively in it	✓	✓	✓
New	IASD 02	Source national data on SDGs and build up NSO's role nationally	✓	✓	✓

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Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
New	IASD 03	Prepare for a second edition of a publication on SDGs			✓
Ongoing	IASD 04	Foster working relationships with counterpart NSIs and EU institutions	✓	✓	✓
New	IASD 05	Promote the Sustainable Development Indicators (SDIs) and disseminate relevant statistics through main media	✓	✓	✓
New	IASD 06	Increase the knowledgebase of the Sustainable Development Indicators and promote cooperation and partnerships with other national agencies through the work of the SDI taskforces	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	IASD 07	Explore opportunities for joint projects with supranational and international bodies: UNECE, OECD, ILO, FAO, IMF, World Bank, and ECB			✓

LEGAL AFFAIRS

The Unit is responsible for supporting the Director General and Chairperson, Malta Statistics Authority in the statutory obligations of their respective roles and for providing legal advice where needed. The Unit advises NSO staff members on the application of the Malta Statistics Authority Act, the European Statistics Code of Practice, statistical and other relevant legislation at the EU and national level. Data protection legislation is a significant part of the Unit's remit. Additionally, the Unit carries out the functions of Freedom of Information Officer (FOI) and Data Protection Officer (DPO).

Strategic Priorities

- Continue to offer timely legal advice to Chairman, Director General, Directors and Heads of Units ranging from HR issues, interpretation of the MSA Act, EU regulations, other Acts and legal notices as the need arises, drafting and preparation of legal documents;
- Identify recurring non-respondents to data collection initiatives and implement policy to address non-response to NSO surveys. Carry out an exercise among a particular respondent group prior to similar exercises among other groups;
- Continue process of reviewing and renewing MoUs and drawing up new ones as needed;
- Continue process of maintaining the system for sharing anonymised microdata with researchers in line with the provisions of respective contracts;
- Assist the Director General to review the NSO's proposal for a new MSA Act and bring it in line with EU regulations;
- Continue to ensure adherence to provisions of new subsidiary legislation;
- As DPO, continue to offer advice and support on GDPR rules and requirements;
- Conduct communication and processes pertaining to FOI Officer;
- Continue to support all staff levels in legal matters: research, support in meetings, drafting documentation, and others.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	LA 01	Review and renew MoUs	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LA 02	Maintain system for sharing anonymised microdata with researchers	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LA 03	Draft data protection impact assessments	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LA 04	Ensure adherence to provisions of new subsidiary legislation	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LA 05	Address non-response to NSO surveys	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LA 06	Undertake review of MSA Act	✓	✓	✓

Economic Statistics

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS METHODS, STANDARDS AND SECTORS ACCOUNTS

The Unit is responsible for the compilation of the non-financial accounts by sector, the compilation of financial service activities except insurance and pension funding, activities auxiliary to financial services and insurance activities, Special Purpose Entities, GNI reservations related to National Accounts, as well as projects aimed at enhancing the methodology and comprehensiveness of National Accounts statistics. The work programme is mainly governed by the legal requirements set by Regulation (EU) No. 549/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European System of National and Regional Accounts (ESA) in the European Union.

Strategic Priorities

- Ensure full compliance with Regulation (EU) No. 549/2013. Address pending compliance issues and timeliness in relation to non-financial sector accounts;
- Address pending quality issues in relation to non-financial accounts by sector. This will be done by enhancing exhaustiveness adjustments for self-employed persons, the analysis of vertical discrepancies in collaboration with the Central Bank of Malta and ensuring cross-domain consistency between National Accounts, Public Finance and Balance of Payments statistics;
- Automate certain work processes to enhance efficiency and lessen risk;
- Address outstanding reservations to achieve fuller compliance;
- Improve the methodology in place for the compilation of Special Purpose Entities, in collaboration with the Balance of Payments Unit;
- Coordinate work in relation to the Purchasing Power Parities transmission, such as GDP weights, the Rents Questionnaire and the VAT Questionnaire.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	NA 01	Table 8/801/13: Non-financial accounts by sector, annual/quarterly for 2005 to date (<i>see note</i>)	✓	✓	✓
New	NA 02	Table 8/801/13: Non-financial accounts by sector, annual/quarterly – analysis of vertical discrepancies (<i>see note</i>)		✓	✓
New	NA 03	Table 8/801/13: Non-financial accounts by sector, annual/quarterly – analysis of the savings ratio (<i>see note</i>)	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	NA 04	Compilation of Financial service activities, except insurance and pension funding and Activities auxiliary to financial services and insurance activities	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	NA 05	Compilation of Special Purpose Entities	✓	✓	✓

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Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
New	NA 06	• Reservation 4: Issues relating to the exhaustiveness of National Accounts	✓	✓	✓
New	NA 07	• Reservation 7: Transactions in relation to ships and aircrafts			✓
Ongoing	NA 08	• Reservation I: Globalisation	✓		
Ongoing	NA 09	• Reservation II: Margins on trading financial assets	✓	✓	✓
New	NA 10	• Reservation III: Missing trader VAT fraud		✓	✓
New	NA 11	• Reservation V: Recording of daily allowances		✓	✓
Ongoing	NA 12	Compilation of metadata and quality reports	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	NA 13	Purchasing Power Parity tables, GDP expenditure weights, rents, and Gross Fixed Capital Formation	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	NA 14	GNI questionnaire	✓	✓	✓

Note: Eurostat makes available various dissemination facilities on its website. 'Tables' offers selected Eurostat data presented in user-friendly formats. 'Database' offers the full range of publicly available data in multi-dimensional tables with various selection options and export formats. The actions in NA 01, 02, and 03 refer to tables transmitted to Eurostat to feed into the online dissemination tables.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS PRODUCTION

The Unit is responsible for the production, analysis and dissemination of the quarterly national accounts, the annual national accounts, and the supply, use and input-output tables for the Maltese economy. The work programme is mainly governed by the legal requirements set by Regulation (EU) No. 549/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European System of National and Regional Accounts (ESA) in the European Union. The National Accounts framework draws on several domain Units, as well as other sources, to provide a statistical description of production, expenditure and income. Salient indicators include Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Gross Value Added (GVA) and Gross National Income (GNI).

Strategic Priorities

- Ensure full compliance with Regulation (EU) No. 549/2013. Address pending compliance issues and timeliness in relation to main aggregates and supply, use and input-output tables;
- Improve current quarterly estimates in nominal terms by introducing statistical methods for benchmarking and modelling;
- Improve current quarterly estimates in volume terms by implementing double indicator methods based on annual information derived from the supply and use tables;
- Strengthen revision analysis to reduce revisions in the future, by identifying and providing remedies for any possible bias in the initial figures which can arise either from the source data or the estimation methods used;
- Quantify the characteristics of revisions to assess the impact of revisions on the overall data quality by focusing on three key aspects: accuracy, reliability and stability;
- Introduce a standardised, coordinated, and publicised revision policy. To avoid inconsistencies, revisions to the national accounts should be coordinated with those of related data such as the balance of payments and government finance statistics;
- Undertake a detailed analysis of supply and use tables over time to improve consistency of quarterly estimates;
- Automate processes to improve efficiency and enhance data quality;
- Address further globalisation issues;
- Propose new news releases for Gross Domestic Product and supply, use and input-output tables.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	NAP 01	Compile main aggregates at t+60; this comprises transmission tables 101, 102, 103, 110, 111, 117, 120, 121, 301-303, 501, 502, 2000, 2200, 2600 (<i>see note</i>)	✓	✓	✓

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Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	NAP 02	Compile annual GDP; analyse and integrate annual sources, mainly SBS, Tax Index of Financial Data, English language schools survey collected by the National Accounts; secular and church schools; aquaculture census, and others. Compile investment matrix (including internal data collection for industries not covered by NSO surveys)	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	NAP 03	Integrate work carried out by the National Accounts Methods, Standards and Sector Accounts Unit relating to projects, the addressing of reservations and action points, as well as quarterly and annual GDP data for the financial sector	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	NAP 04	Annually assess seasonally adjusted variables for Tables 101, 102, 103, 110, 111, 117, 120, 121 (<i>see note</i>)	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	NAP 05	Table 15: Supply table at basic prices including transformation into purchasers' prices (<i>see note</i>)	✓	✓	✓
		Table 16: Use table at purchasers' prices (<i>see note</i>)	✓	✓	✓
		Table 17: Symmetric input-output table at basic prices – five yearly (<i>see note</i>)			✓
Ongoing	NAP 06	Compile metadata and quality reports	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	NAP 07	Compile the GNI questionnaire	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	NAP 08	Contribute to the addressing of Eurostat's reservations and action points	✓	✓	✓
New	NAP 09	GNI inventory	✓		
New	NAP 10	Estimate household final consumption expenditure with the new classification of individual consumption by purpose (COICOP 2018)	✓	✓	✓
New	NAP 11	Assess the balancing of products within the SUIOT framework by using both top-down and bottom-up approaches	✓	✓	✓
New	NAP 12	Improve price and volume estimates by implementing double indicator methods to estimate independent price and volume measures of output and intermediate consumption of industries in the production of annual and quarterly GVA at previous year's prices (PYP) and in chain-linked volumes (CLV)		✓	✓
New	NA 13	Table 101-103, 117, 120-121, 301-303, 501-502 – annual and quarterly data for 1995 to 1999 at current prices, PYP and in CLV (<i>see note</i>)		✓	✓

Note: Eurostat makes available various dissemination facilities on its website. 'Tables' offers selected Eurostat data presented in user-friendly formats. 'Database' offers the full range of publicly available data in multi-dimensional tables with various selection options and export formats. The actions in NAP 01, 04, 05 and 13 refer to tables transmitted to Eurostat to feed into the online dissemination tables.

PUBLIC FINANCE

The Unit is responsible for three main data collection processes: Government Finance, Social Protection, and Research and Development in the Government and Higher Education sectors.

Strategic Priorities

- Continue to fulfil Malta's commitment in the reporting of Government Finance Statistics (GFS) and the Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP) notification to the EU Commission in line with the required methodology;
- Work on the remaining EDP action points emanating from Eurostat's EDP dialogue visits to Malta;
- Adjust internal systems, including automation of some work processes, to facilitate the integration of new and enhanced administrative sources. Automation should lessen risk of error and lead to greater efficiency;
- Sustain quality and content of the Unit's disseminated output;
- Improve timeliness of data sources, among others, to reduce time lag between reference period and publication and also to give more timely input to other statistical domains;
- Continue to invest in the staff's technical knowledge and mentoring.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	PF 01	Compile quarterly and annual GFS data including fiscal balance and debt aggregates, Social Protection accounts and R&D activity indicators for Government and Higher Education	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	PF 02	Follow the methodological guidance provided by Eurostat through participation in various fora	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	PF 03	In connection with Eurostat's EDP Mission to Malta held every two years, ensure that GFS and EDP data is compiled in line with established methodological guidance. Address emerging action points	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	PF 04	Continue to monitor and assess data extraction from the new government accounting system, the Corporate Financial Management System (CFMS)	✓		
Ongoing	PF 05	Scrutinise the statistical discrepancies between net lending/borrowing from non-financial and financial accounts, especially in CFMS data	✓		
Ongoing	PF 06	Take on board the new extraction report from the enhanced Financial Data Reporting System (FDRS) and build macros to expedite compilation	✓		
Ongoing	PF 07	Implement enhancements in the Financial Accounts IT system: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change Eurostat tables version from 1.4 to 1.9 (<i>see note</i>) - Introduce Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) conversion for Eurostat tables - Remove unneeded series and other enhancements 	✓		

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Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
New	PF 08	Disseminate technical work through the publication of papers on: -The actuarial model used to compile accrued-to-date pension liabilities -Analysis on the impact of Extra Budgetary Units (EBUs) in Malta	✓		
New	PF 09	Publish annual news release on the annual financial accounts of total economy		✓	
New	PF 10	Shorten compilation process of government expenditure by function by one month, such that the data is published locally at t+12		✓	
Ongoing	PF 11	Provide technical and methodological assistance on classification of government decisions which impact fiscal balance	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	PF 12	Publish the comprehensive Social Protection publication every two years and introduce a new ESSPROS news release.	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	PF 13	Compile accrued-to-date pension liabilities for 2021 and enhance related news release content		✓	
New	PF 14	Improve internal and external collaboration towards having full coverage and quality in R&D statistics	✓	✓	✓

Note: Eurostat makes available various dissemination facilities on its website. 'Tables' offers selected Eurostat data presented in user-friendly formats. 'Database' offers the full range of publicly available data in multi-dimensional tables with various selection options and export formats. The action in PF 07 refers to the modification of output report to a newer version of Eurostat tables.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

The Unit is responsible for the compilation of the country's Balance of Payments, which includes the International Trade in Services Statistics (ITSS) sub-domain. Other principal responsibilities include: the compilation of the International Investment Position (IIP) and production of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) statements according to the International Monetary Fund's Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual Version 6 (BPM6). All activities of the Unit are directed towards reinforcing this domain to ensure that it constitutes a reliable source of input to other Units, particularly the National Accounts Units, as well as external stakeholders.

Strategic Priorities

- Complete the Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey (CPIS), Coordinated Direct Investment Survey (CDIS) and International Trade in Services Statistics (ITSS) questionnaire, among other commitments;
- Implement the INFOSTAT system in collaboration with the Central Bank of Malta. This is a top priority and the plan is to migrate all the data from 2004 onwards in stages, ensure consistency with the published series, and re-engineer processes to ensure continuity. Amongst others, INFOSTAT will enable the Unit to fulfil various recommendations made by the Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure (MIP) mission (see note on INFOSTAT);
- Continue to enhance the quality of BoP data, particularly that relating to the most important sectors of the economy, also by improving coherence with other domains;
- Make preparations to meet the deadlines set with regard to Services Trade by Enterprise Characteristics (STEC) and Modes of Supply (MoS);
- Address further globalisation issues;
- Collaborate with Methodology and Quality to improve sampling, weighting, and imputation methodology.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	BOP 01	Proceed with the adoption of INFOSTAT. Significant progress was achieved in 2021. There is a concerted effort to fully implement in 2022	✓		
Ongoing	BOP 02	Submit monthly and quarterly BOP and IIP data transmissions to Eurostat and the European Central Bank; annual FDI and ITSS data transmissions to Eurostat; and CDIS and CPIS data transmissions to the International Monetary Fund. The implementation of INFOSTAT will eliminate manual conversion to BPM6 and render transmission processes more efficient	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	BOP 03	Improve the sampling methodology	✓	✓	✓

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Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	BOP 04	Continue to improve cross-domain consistency	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	BOP 05	Continue developing a sound methodology for the compilation of BOP/IIP statistics, focusing on groups of companies registered in Malta, with a particular accent on Special Purpose Entities (SPEs) and intra-group transactions of Non-Financial Corporations. This stream of work is key for the success of the globalisation exercise, which entails collecting and analysing data on major multinational enterprises (MNEs), thus ensuring the proper recording of their transactions	✓	✓	
Ongoing	BOP 06	Address Eurostat's reservations	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	BOP 07	Continue working towards meeting the deadlines set with regard to Services Trade by Enterprise Characteristics and Modes of Supply. Both exercises are regulated	✓	✓	✓

Note: INFOSTAT is an integrated data warehouse. It provides the underlying technical infrastructure to the collection and processing of statistical data, enables considerable efficiency gains, and includes a diagnostic tool that checks the quality and correctness of the data.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The Unit is responsible for providing a holistic statistical representation of the international trade in goods of the country. Its main published output is its monthly news releases. By means of these and many customised requests from a wide range of stakeholders and the wider public, the Unit aims to be a point of reference to external users with an interest in imports and exports of goods. Internally, the Unit endeavours to be a timely and reliable source of input to the other domain Units.

Strategic Priorities

- Set up and start an analysis process of the data as per the Micro Data Exchange (MDE) multilateral agreement which the NSO signed with Eurostat;
- Combine use of MDE and VAT data to address under-reporting. Compile estimates, especially with regard to the sectors of fuel, aircraft and seacraft, while continuing to explore alternative data sources;
- Continue to improve the Intrastat declaration with the introduction of a newly designed Intrastat system, including databases to efficiently receive and process data from traders. Enhancements and additional fields are to be introduced to allow alignment with the requirements of the new European Business Statistics Regulation (see note on Intrastat);
- Continue to analyse Intrastat (Intra-EU) and Extrastat (Extra-EU) monthly data to ensure good quality (see note on Extrastat);
- Undertake new methods of chasing, to minimize under-reporting;
- Trade by Enterprise Characteristics (TEC) and Trade by Invoicing Currency (TIC) data is already being sent to Eurostat. Start analysing these datasets and publish the results also at the national level.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	INT 01	Continue to optimise processes to enhance efficiency and data quality	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	INT 02	Continue the MDE data transmission process as per requirements. To start analysis of received data from other Member States	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	INT 03	Further automation and implement new requirements in TEC, as well as improve data processing timeframes	✓	✓	
Ongoing	INT 04	Adapt further automation of data analysis and validations to new requirements for the biannual TIC. TIC will be submitted annually on a voluntary basis	✓	✓	✓
New	INT 05	Develop Customs Data Exchange (CDE)			✓

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Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	INT 06	Continue collaboration with CfR to use VAT data to cross-check intra-EU data in Intrastat. This will serve to identify non-respondents and follow up on their legal obligation to report such data, thus enhancing data quality	✓	✓	✓
New	INT 07	Design and implement a modern and enhanced Intrastat and database management system for all international trade statistics		✓	✓
New	INT 08	Compile and publish an annual publication on International Trade		✓	✓
New	INT 09	Invest further in economic analysis of International Trade statistics, particularly in relation to other macroeconomic aggregates		✓	✓

Note: 'Intrastat' (Intra-European Community Trade Statistics) is the name of the data collection system for compiling statistics on international trade in goods between EU Member States. 'Extrastat' (Extra-European Community Trade Statistics) is the system set up by the EU to collect statistics for cross-border trading of movable and physical goods between EU Member States and third countries (non-Member States).

PRICE STATISTICS

The Unit is responsible for the compilation of the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) and Retail Price Index (RPI). These two indices are compiled and updated every month, with the RPI being published locally and the HICP both locally and transmitted to Eurostat. Additionally, the Unit compiles purchasing power parity (PPP) data, which is used to compile deflators and feeds into the production of GDP at purchasing power standards (PPS). Other activities include the collection and production of rent statistics and the production of the House Price Index (HPI) and the Owner-Occupied Housing Index (OOHI). HPI and OOHI are compiled on a quarterly basis and submitted to Eurostat. The Property Price Index (PPI) is published locally once a year. Moreover, the Unit publishes monthly data on residential property transactions, showing the number of registered final deeds of sale and promise of sale agreements, as well as the value of final deeds of sale.

Strategic Priorities

- Collect online price data for cross-border internet purchases. Devise a weighting structure based on a survey on internet purchases;
- Investigate and introduce innovative modes of data collection, such as web scraping;
- Increase the number of products for which price data is collected electronically via computer assisted data collection, rather than through paper-based collection;
- Improve the quality of residential property price indices, mainly by taking into account property characteristics;
- Enhance the residential rent index by evaluating newly available administrative data;
- Continue the work related to the European Systemic Risk Board indicators (ESRB). This entails data cleaning and analysis in the case of commercial rents. With regard to commercial property prices, the work involves analysing the data and deciding on the methodology to be employed.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	PR 01	Continue to develop online price data collection. Collection is on a monthly basis	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	PR 02	Continue to develop and extend the use of web scraping and scanner data techniques	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	PR 03	Extend the use of tablets across many products in RPI and HICP	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	PR 04	Enhance property price indices based on quality adjusted prices	✓	✓	
Ongoing	PR 05	Analyse newly available administrative data on residential rents with the aim of enhancing the residential rent index and updating the sub-weights for rental indices calculated for both RPI and HICP	✓	✓	

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Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	PR 06	Continue to work towards constructing and publishing indices related to the ESRB indicators	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	PR 07	Carry out the Equipment Goods survey (which forms part of purchasing power parity data) in house. Previously this work was sub-contracted	✓	✓	✓

Business, Sectoral and Regional Statistics

STRUCTURAL BUSINESS STATISTICS

The Unit is responsible for drawing up a reliable profile of the structure, performance, and business behaviour of the domestic economy. Information generated by combining data collected from primary respondents with administrative sources is transformed into coherent statistics which are relevant to users' needs, both externally and internally. Another part of the Unit's remit is to provide material for some of the main economic indicators, at the same time reducing response burden and improving efficiency to business processes.

Strategic Priorities

- Compile annual Structural Business Statistics (SBS), Global Value Chains and International Sourcing (GVC-IS) and Foreign Affiliate Statistics (FATS) in a timely manner while implementing the requirements of the European Business Statistics (EBS) Regulation and ensuring the necessary consistency and quality;
- Continue to work towards implementation of the Statistical Unit Enterprise concept (SU ENT) and the provisions;
- Continue the modernisation of the SBS: (1) Methodological review of processes; (2) Develop systems to reduce administrative and response burden; (3) Enhance online data collection systems including the introduction of industry-specific and business type modular questionnaires;
- Increase reliance on scientifically designed models for the estimation of statistical data to improve the overall coverage of the surveys while ensuring that response burden is reduced;
- Increase coherence with other statistical output produced internally by means of effective communication set-ups;
- Continue to optimise opportunities to access administrative data to ensure high-quality SBS;
- Ensure delivery of the methodological and infrastructural developments projected in the grant-based projects: 2020-MT-B5483-GVCIS and 2020-MT-B5640-EBS;
- Contribute towards the international Competitive Research Network – CompNET – by participating in the conferences being organised and by providing the necessary data insights on productivity indicators of the Maltese business economy;
- Develop and maintain the GVC-IS statistics, including the necessary supporting software infrastructure.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	SBS 01	Structural Business Statistics survey	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	SBS 02	Inward FATS	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	SBS 03	Outward FATS	✓	✓	✓
New/ Ongoing	SBS 04	Implement the statistical unit 'Enterprise' (SU ENT) within the domains under the responsibility of the SBS Unit, including designing new tailored questionnaires to satisfy the requirements involved	✓	✓	
New	SBS 05	An impact assessment to supplement the preparatory work related to the additional NACE Sections to be covered by the EBS regulation	✓		
New	SBS 06	Restructure and modernise SBS survey (review of sampling design and methodology). Including: exploring possibilities in collaboration with IT Unit to adapt SBS Survey to web-interviewing (e-questionnaire)	✓		
New	SBS 07	International sourcing/Global Value Chains survey	✓		
Ongoing	SBS 08	Annual review of SBS and IFATS statistics re-transmit at T+30 and T+32 respectively. This initiative is not required by Eurostat but is intended to make better use of administrative data sources towards more accuracy and better quality	✓	✓	✓
New	SBS 09	Fulfil all the new requirements of the EBS regulation linked with the Unit	✓	✓	
Ongoing	SBS 10	Set up structured task force groups as communication channels to improve coherence between the output of Structural Business Statistics, Business Register, Short-term Business Statistics, Labour Market and National Accounts	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	SBS 11	Participate in the Large Cases Units (LCU) network – European Network of MNE coordinators MNEnet	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	SBS 12	Strengthen the participation in CompNet and develop the role of micro-data linking (MDL) within the business statistics domain	✓	✓	✓
New	SBS 13	Assemble an internal quality management system based on standard operating procedures to supplement the GSBPM	✓	✓	✓

BUSINESS REGISTER, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

The Unit is responsible for maintaining NSO's Business Register (BR). The BR comprises an exhaustive list of all registered legal units in Malta. Business demographic data is taken directly from the BR. The BR also feeds into the EuroGroups Register (EGR), a network of business registers used by the Member States for statistical purposes, which focuses on multinational enterprise groups. EGR tools are managed by Eurostat and they enable identification and analysis of foreign links to enterprises. Additionally, the Unit conducts the R&D survey, which collects data on research carried out in the private sector, and the Innovation survey, covering innovation data from enterprises with 10+ employment.

Strategic Priorities

- Continue to improve updating processes to the BR to increase its overall coverage and level of depth. Details include classification according to the Legal Unit and Statistical Units concepts;
- Compile and maintain the Local Units Register through a dedicated survey;
- Target BR comprehensiveness across all industries and sectors;
- Continue to populate the EuroGroups links annually;
- Undertake methodological improvement to business demography, also through various Eurostat grant-based projects;
- Implementation of the European Business Statistics (EBS) Regulation;
- Carry out the Research & Development (R&D) and Innovation surveys according to the revised Frascati and Oslo Manuals respectively. The Unit will be participating in a microdata linking project under a Eurostat grant-based project;
- Work on Special Purpose Entities checks and identification;
- Follow developments in the NACE Rev. 3 project and liaise with the relevant Units to prepare for its implementation.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	BRRI 01	Improve updating processes to the BR using various data sources, including internal surveys and administrative sources	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	BRRI 02	Undertake profiling exercise to improve alignment with enterprise definition as per European Council Regulation (EEC) 696/93	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	BRRI 03	Undertake yearly R&D survey data collection and reporting	✓	✓	✓

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Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	BRR1 04	Launch the 2022 Innovation survey. Finalise 2020 Innovation survey by June 2022	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	BRR1 05	Business Demography: undertake preparatory work for EBS Regulation on bankruptcies, quarterly and regional reporting	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	BRR1 06	Complete groups data in line with EGR requirements including globalisation aspects such as European profiling	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	BRR1 07	Extrapolate Local Unit population for reference year 2020. Launch Local Unit survey reference year 2021	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	BRR1 08	Undertake SPE work. Main process is carried out every six months	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	BRR1 09	Implement NACE Rev. 3 in the statistical business register	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	BRR1 10	Continue to update the enterprise contact details register. An IT application is being finalised to facilitate the recording and updating of email addresses	✓	✓	✓
New	BRR1 11	Participate in the European Profiling programme	✓	✓	✓

SHORT-TERM BUSINESS STATISTICS

The Unit is responsible for the production of several early indicators that illustrate the most recent developments of the Maltese economy in industry, construction, wholesale and retail trade and services. Indicators produced include production, producer prices, turnover, employment, hours worked, wages and salaries and building permits. Data is published in the form of indices and produced in unadjusted, working-day adjusted and seasonally-adjusted formats.

Strategic Priorities

- Continue to develop a comprehensive set of Services Producer Price Indices (SPPIs) to capture and monitor respective price changes. SPPIs shall serve as deflators for the compilation of new STS Indices of Services Production (ISP). The ISP can also serve as an input to the output approach of quarterly GDP;
- Re-define the presentation and content of the STS news releases into a more user-friendly format;
- Develop and publish a new news release on the construction industry. Indicators would mainly relate to building permits;
- Continue to develop the commercial real estate indicators (namely, construction starts, vacancy rates) as recommended by the European Systemic Risk Board (ESRB);
- Improve inter-unit dependencies and coherence to mitigate discrepancies and minimise the risk of significant revisions;
- Optimise the statistical efficiency of the index calculation process. Investigate more use of administrative and alternative sources to improve response and quality of final product;
- Modernise surveys through a shift towards digitisation of data collection.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	STBS 01	Commercial Real Estate Indicators: finalising work on Eurostat grant related to vacancy rates and develop a dedicated survey for business units operating in NACE 68.2	✓	✓	✓
New	STBS 02	Indices of Services Production (ISP): index will be composed of monthly services turnover and services deflators		✓	✓
New	STBS 03	Monthly Services turnover: by 2024 the turnover component will be removed from the quarterly questionnaire and subsequently incorporated in a dedicated standalone monthly turnover survey of around 1,000 businesses			✓
Ongoing	STBS 04	Services Producer Price Indices (SPPIs): will be used as price indicators in the Unit and as deflators in National Accounts	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	STBS 05	Index of industrial production: output includes a monthly news release, transmission to Eurostat, additional data for CBM, the UN and other international organisations	✓	✓	✓

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Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	STBS 06	Industrial Producer Price Indices (IPPIs): output includes a monthly news release and transmission to Eurostat	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	STBS 07	Industrial turnover, employment, hours worked and wages indices: output includes a news release and transmission of monthly turnover to Eurostat	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	STBS 08	Construction labour inputs: data is collected, estimated, and analysed before transmission to Eurostat.	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	STBS 09	Building permits: data is validated, analysed and seasonally adjusted prior to quarterly transmission to Eurostat. In addition, a quarterly news release will be published	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	STBS 10	Retail trade turnover, employment, hours worked and wages indices: data is collected, estimated, analysed and seasonally adjusted quarterly. Output includes a news release and transmission to Eurostat	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	STBS 11	Services turnover, employment, hours worked and wages indices: data is collected, estimated, analysed and seasonally adjusted quarterly. Output includes a news release and transmission to Eurostat	✓	✓	✓

ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

The Unit is responsible for the production of statistics on waste, water, and environmental accounting within the environmental domain. It also produces data and statistics on agricultural holdings, land use, animal stock, animal and agricultural products, plant protection products, fertilisers, fisheries and aquaculture within the agriculture and fisheries domain. Both domains are important to the System of European Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA). This system will be crucial to the implementation measures relating to the European Green Deal, Circular Economy and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Strategic Priorities - Environment

- Compile the four monetary modules: environmental taxes by economic activity, environmental protection expenditure accounts, environmental goods and services sector, and environmental subsidies and similar transfers, as well as the physical module, economy-wide material flow accounts;
- Continue to produce waste statistics covering generation and treatment of waste;
- Compile water statistics that cover freshwater resources, freshwater abstraction by sector, water use by economic activity, and wastewater generation and treatment;
- Compile the air emission accounts in collaboration with the Malta Resources Authority (MRA), Environment Resources Authority (ERA) and the Regional, Geospatial, Energy and Transport Unit within the NSO.

Strategic Priorities - Agriculture and Fisheries

- Census of Agriculture 2020: compilation of a detailed publication of the results;
- Assist the Agricultural Rural Payment Agency (ARPA) in the compilation of the Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN) Survey;
- Continue to produce and publish statistics on structure of farms, agricultural production, agricultural prices and prices indices, economic accounts for agriculture, as well as agro-environmental statistics;
- Continue to plan for alignment with the requirements of Statistics on Agricultural Input and Output (SAIO), the future framework regulation on statistics on agricultural input/output planned to enter into force in 2022;
- Continue to produce and publish fishery and aquaculture statistics in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DFA).

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	EAF 01	Compile the Environmental Accounts: monetary and physical	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EAF 02	Compile the Air Emission Accounts	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EAF 03	Compile annual Waste statistics	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EAF 04	Compile monthly and annual Water statistics	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EAF 05	Gather Climate data from Meteorological Office: daily and monthly	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EAF 06	Publication: The Climate of Malta: Statistics, Trends and Analysis (2011-2020)	✓		
Ongoing	EAF 07	Conduct Mineral Production Survey: obtain information on the annual extraction and production of this natural mineral resource in Malta in past two years		✓	
Ongoing	EAF 08	Census of Agriculture: finalise publication of results	✓		
Ongoing	EAF 09	Integrated Farm statistics: survey among agricultural holdings on structure of the agricultural holding, labour force, rural development, irrigation, soil management practices and machinery and equipment		✓	✓
Ongoing	EAF 10	Statistical Farm Register: update of the farm register with data from different administrative sources	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EAF 11	Agriculture statistics: compile monthly and annual data on crops, livestock, animal products, agricultural prices, and economic accounts for agriculture	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EAF 12	Continue with reassessing the methodology behind the compilation of various themes within Agriculture and Fisheries statistics	✓	✓	
Ongoing	EAF 13	Rebasing (2020=100) of the agricultural price indices		✓	
Ongoing	EAF 14	Sales of pesticides: data collected directly from importers. The Unit will seek more collaboration and commitment from MCCA in this respect	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EAF 15	Pesticides Use survey among agricultural holdings to estimate the amount of pesticides used on selected crops. The Unit requires tangible collaboration and commitment from MCCA		✓	✓
Ongoing	EAF 16	Compile data on mineral and artificial fertilisers (related to SAIO). The Unit will seek assistance from the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Animal Rights		✓	✓
Ongoing	EAF 17	FADN survey: assist ARPA in the sample design and compilation of annual data collection	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EAF 18	Compile monthly data collection on fish catches and landings	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EAF 19	Aquaculture and tuna farming statistics: annual census among the local aquaculture and tuna farms	✓	✓	✓

REGIONAL, GEOSPATIAL, ENERGY AND TRANSPORT

The Unit is responsible for the production of statistics on oil, electricity, gas, and renewable energy within the energy domain. It also produces data on one physical module of environmental accounts: Physical Energy Flow Accounting (PEFA). Within the transport domain, it produces data on all modes relevant to Malta. To realise its regional remit, the Unit produces output which is important to regional policy needs, including the economy, labour market, and energy. Within its geospatial portfolio, the Unit engages in projects involving GIS mapping and spatial data analysis.

Strategic Priorities - Energy

- Compile and publish news releases dedicated to Energy statistics;
- Compile and submit Physical Energy Flow Accounting (PEFA) statistics for reference year 2020;
- Carry out Household Energy Consumption survey in 2022. This will be used for the compilation of the annual energy consumption questionnaire;
- Compile and transmit monthly, biannual and annual questionnaires on energy statistics to Eurostat and the International Energy Agency (IEA);
- Conclude the analysis of the survey carried out on the use of fuel among businesses (Fuel Use Survey) in collaboration with the Energy and Water Agency and the Environment and Resources Authority for reference years 2018 and 2020;
- Pair electricity consumption to the Business Register as per data provided by ARMS Ltd and Enemalta for reference years 2020 and 2021.

Strategic Priorities - Transport

- Continue to produce and disseminate motor vehicle and traffic accident statistics;
- Continue to produce and disseminate statistics on sea transport between Malta and Gozo;
- Conclude the National Household Travel survey 2021 which was conducted in collaboration with Transport Malta;
- Strengthen and maintain quality and timeliness in maritime cargo statistics based on register data from the Ports and Yachting Directorate within Transport Malta;
- Enhance quality and relevance of Transport statistics through more effective presentation and dissemination.

Strategic Priorities - Regional and Geospatial

- Optimise output cross regions (NUTS 3) and Local Administrative Units: LAU 1 (districts) and LAU 2 (localities), addressing requirements and user needs;
- Produce and disseminate geospatial and urban audit statistics in line with NUTS Regulation (including TERCET typologies) and INSPIRE directive;
- Maintain work on a Realistic Building Defined Street Layer (ReBuDS): a point-based spatial layer for the geocoding of street-based databases. This project is included in a grant on geo-referenced data within the Census of Population and Housing;

- Collaborate with internal and external stakeholders on initiatives to improve the quality and efficiency of official statistics at NUTS 3 and LAU levels;
- Seek to further improve the methodology used for the compilation of regional Gross Domestic Product at NUTS 3 level and NACE A*10/11;
- Evaluate the quality of existing sources at a regional level and propose potential improvements and innovation;
- Contribute to NSO's dissemination strategy by enriching output with interactive geospatial statistics.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	RGET 01	Produce and transmit Energy statistics monthly, biannually and annually	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	RGET 02	Compile yearly PEFA statistics	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	RGET 03	Conclude the Fuel Use survey in collaboration with EWA and ERA	✓		
Ongoing	RGET 04	Produce and publish news release: "Renewable Energy from Photovoltaic Panels (PVs)". Geospatial statistics based on single-point data resulting from smart meters shall be applied	✓	✓	✓
New	RGET 05	Maintain and improve annual statistics on electricity consumption by industry	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	RGET 06	Regional statistics MALTA publication and thematic news releases	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	RGET 07	Conduct further research to maintain and enhance methodology used for the compilation of regional GDP based on the residence principle	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	RGET 08	Maintain coverage of annual time series data to year 2000, on regional employment statistics by sector, industry, place of work and residence	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	RGET 09	Undertake exercise to establish the amount of commuter workers across regions (NUTS 3)	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	RGET 10	Maintain work on ReBUDS (in-house point spatial layer), the final output being grid-based statistics	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	RGET 11	Develop interactive geospatial statistics and continue to participate in SIntegraM and INSPIRE projects	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	RGET 12	Work actively on Eurostat grant project: Population and Housing Census: geo-referenced data	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	RGET 13	Continue and conclude work on Eurostat grant project: Integration of geospatial information and statistics	✓	✓	
Ongoing	RGET 14	Compile and publish quarterly data on the stock of motor vehicles and traffic accidents	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	RGET 15	Compile and publish quarterly news release on sea transport between Malta and Gozo. Seek to improve it by using new dataset based on the automated ticketing system	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	RGET 16	Compile and publish annual Transport statistics publication	✓	✓	✓

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Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2021	2022	2023
Ongoing	RGET 17	Conclude the National Household Travel survey in collaboration with Transport Malta	✓		
Ongoing	RGET 18	Strengthen administrative registers in collaboration with the Ports and Yachting Directorate within Transport Malta	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	RGET 19	Integrate Energy and Transport statistics in line with European Green Deal requirements		✓	✓

Social Statistics

LIVING CONDITIONS AND TOURISM

The Unit is responsible for the production of official statistics on household income distribution, living conditions and social exclusion, a major output being the European Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) survey. The Unit also produces the Household Budgetary Survey (HBS), an important source of statistics on household consumption. Additionally, the Unit collaborates with the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society on the Wellbeing project, and with the Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Department for Health Regulation, among other organisations. The Unit participates in the data analysis of the Central Bank of Malta's Household Finance and Consumption survey (HFCS). With regard to tourism, the principal output is the ongoing frontier survey among inbound and outbound travellers at the Malta International Airport. The Unit is also responsible for a monthly census among collective accommodation establishments and a quarterly telephone survey on national tourism, among other projects.

Strategic Priorities - Living Conditions

- Improve on the timeliness, quality and efficiency in the production of living conditions indicators and statistics within the European Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) survey;
- Improve further the quality of data verification and analysis processes: consistency checks, imputation and weighting;
- Continue to collaborate with the Economic Policy Department on the Euromod dataset, the aim being to produce auxiliary information and flash estimates based on EU-SILC;
- Continue to improve coherence between household income data compiled from administrative sources and EU-SILC data. Improve coherence with other collections such as Education, Childcare and Employment;
- From 2022, drive the production of longitudinal data from EU-SILC;
- Revise existing EU-SILC estimates further to the provision of updated data from the Census of Population and Housing 2021;
- Start preparations for the implementation of HBS in 2024;
- Continue to assist our main stakeholders on ad hoc projects and simulations mostly basing on EU-SILC and HBS;
- Analyse the Household Finance and Consumption survey (HFCS) and transmit results to the Central Bank of Malta.

Strategic Priorities - Tourism

- Explore possibilities of extending coverage of Tourism statistics such as more detailed information on cruise liners, yacht marinas and Tourism Satellite Accounts, possibly also engaging an expert;
- Exploit more administrative sources to enhance the quality of output and to minimise response burden;
- Cooperate with other Units within NSO to increase cross-domain coherence;
- Undertake overall improvements in all stages: data collection, data analysis and presentation of output;
- Continue to produce indicators deemed to be important for policy-making purposes: inbound tourists, inbound tourist nights, tourist expenditure, and others.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	LCT 01	EU-SILC data analysis and transmission	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LCT 02	EU-SILC questionnaire design	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LCT 03	EU-SILC 2022-2024 data collection	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LCT 04	Publish EU-SILC news releases	✓	✓	✓
New	LCT 05	Following the post-censal revision, a publication incorporating EU-SILC data		✓	
New	LCT 06	Assist Pensions Strategy Group and Basic Expenditure Needs projects, led by Ministry for Social Justice and Solidarity, the Family and Children's Rights	✓	✓	✓
New	LCT 07	HFCS 2023 analysis		✓	✓
New	LCT 08	HBS 2024 data collection and analysis		✓	✓
Ongoing	LCT 09	Collaborate on the wellbeing project with the President's Foundation for the wellbeing of society	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LCT 10	Enhance all tourism surveys	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LCT 11	TOURSTAT survey	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LCT 12	ACCOMSTAT	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LCT 13	National tourism	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LCT 14	Cruise passengers	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LCT 15	Compile monthly and quarterly news releases on tourism supply and demand	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LCT 16	Alternative project: Feasibility study among yacht marinas to measure yacht tourism	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LCT 17	Study to launch a new seaport survey. This information will complement inbound tourism figures for air passengers		✓	✓
Ongoing	LCT 18	Data submissions to Eurostat and quality reporting in Tourism statistics	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LCT 19	Statistics on Teaching English as a Foreign Language	✓	✓	✓

LABOUR MARKET AND INFORMATION SOCIETY

The Unit is responsible for Labour Market statistics from the demand-side and supply-side approach. It also produces ICT statistics which include internet use and take-up of e-government services and e-commerce. Labour market output comprises the Labour Force survey (LFS) and enterprise-based surveys, the Job Vacancy survey (JVS), Labour Cost survey and Structure of Earnings survey. Additionally, the Unit produces statistics on fatal and non-fatal accidents at work, labour cost indices, registered employment and unemployment, and disability. From 2022, the Unit will start on the implementation of the Skills Register project.

Strategic Priorities - Labour Market

- Implement the LFS in line with the Integrated European Social Statistics framework regulation (IESS);
- Produce a monthly news release covering harmonised monthly unemployment rates according to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition. Output includes monthly data transmissions;
- Continue to compile and disseminate data on registered employment and unemployment in collaboration with JobsPlus;
- Produce quarterly Job Vacancy statistics and publish results at a national level;
- Produce quarterly Labour Cost indices and transmit results to Eurostat;
- Improve timeliness of statistics compiled from administrative sources;
- Revise existing LFS estimates further to the provision of updated data from the Census of Population and Housing 2021;
- Finalise data analysis of the Labour Cost survey 2020. Publication planned for 2022;
- Launch and conduct Structure of Earnings survey 2022. Publication planned for 2024;
- Continue transmission of fatal and non-fatal accidents at work statistics;
- Continue to produce indicators deemed to be important for policy-making purposes: Gender Pay Gap, Early School Leavers rate, and others;
- Start to implement the Skills Register project.

Strategic Priorities - Information Society

- Carry out ICT enterprise-based and ICT household surveys annually;
- Improve timeliness in the publication of results as soon as possible after the reference year.

Strategic Priorities - Statistics on Disability

- Disability statistics are planned to gain more importance in the coming years. Efforts will be made to tap more administrative sources. The outcome of the Washington Group questions, included in the Census 2021 questionnaire, will also be analysed;
- Compile and disseminate statistics basing on administrative data.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	LMIS 01	Labour Force survey and modifications in context of IESS implementation and quality improvements	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LMIS 02	Registered employment and unemployment news releases, including review and update exercise	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LMIS 03	Job Vacancy survey	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LMIS 04	Labour Cost Index	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LMIS 05	Accidents and fatalities at work	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LMIS 06	Labour Cost survey	✓		
New	LMIS 07	Structure of Earnings survey	✓	✓	✓
New	LMIS 08	Skills Register	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LMIS 09	Produce Information Society statistics; compile, disseminate and transmit results	✓	✓	✓
New	LMIS 10	Identify sources for and compile Disability statistics	✓	✓	✓

POPULATION AND MIGRATION

The Unit is responsible for population counts and statistics on births, deaths, migration, and family formation/dissolution. Annual estimates of household and total population are also used for internal weighting purposes. Migration statistics are produced as a component of Population statistics.

Strategic Priorities - Population

- Continue to exploit existing and emerging administrative sources to improve the quality of demographic statistics;
- Continue to work with stakeholders on improvements to existing administrative data;
- Lobby for the development of a national Population Register for Malta in consultation with the relevant stakeholders and authorities;
- Continue to work on testing the use of a statistical population register for Demographic statistics including the possibility of introducing the new signs-of-life analytic method to estimate the usual resident population;
- Revise existing population estimates further to the provision of updated data from the Census of Population and Housing 2021;
- Cooperate with Eurostat in their plan to implement a new framework regulation on European statistics on population and housing;
- Devise effective methods for updating the register of persons and households, also used as a sampling frame for household surveys;
- Continue to work on a methodology to produce better-quality population projections. Participate in related consultations with Eurostat;
- Create a new concept for a Demographic statistics publication;
- Collaborate with the Department of Health Information and Research (DHIR) to produce Health statistics, possibly in a joint publication.

Strategic Priorities - Migration

- Continue to work with the key entities involved in international protection and managed migration, ensuring that the new requirements forming part of Regulation (EU) 2020/851 are satisfied;
- Continue to work on the implementation of amendments to the Regulation (EU) 2020/851;
- Continue to tap other administrative sources to improve quality and timeliness;
- Plan a publication.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	POP 01	Demography and migration: collect information, verify quality	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	POP 02	Compile population and household counts for internal consumption (ex. weighting)	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	POP 03	Transmit full and final Demographic statistics to Eurostat	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	POP 04	Collect Residence Permits statistics and transmit to Eurostat	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	POP 05	Structured dissemination of demographic data through publications	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	POP 06	Collect statistics on international protection and transmit to Eurostat	✓	✓	✓
New	POP 07	Pilot project on the integration of asylum seekers in the job market	✓	✓	
Ongoing	POP 08	Compile detailed Migration statistics and transmit to Eurostat	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	POP 09	Maintain administrative registers used to produce Demographic statistics	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	POP 10	Population projections	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	POP 11	Participate in consultation on the new framework regulation on European statistics on population and housing	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	POP 12	Maintain and update register of persons and households	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	POP 13	Collaborate with DHIR on production of Health statistics	✓	✓	✓

CRIME STATISTICS

The Unit is responsible for collection and compilation of Financial Crime statistics, including Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism statistics. Additionally, it is responsible for data collection on Gender-Based Violence, Domestic Violence, as well as information on Voluntary Organisations.

Strategic Priorities

- Continue to take forward work already accomplished on Financial Crime statistics, including coordination and collaboration with the National Coordinating Committee on Combating Money Laundering and Funding of Terrorism (NCC), and other major stakeholders;
- Collect statistics on Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT);
- Continue to work with stakeholders that are sources for administrative data;
- Continue to produce statistics in the area of Domestic Violence, in line with the obligations mentioned in Article 13 of the Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence Act in the Laws of Malta. Continue to collaborate with the Commission for Gender-based and Domestic Violence;
- Implementation of the Safety and Wellbeing survey. Fieldwork and analysis planned for 2022;
- Establish a national data collection on trafficking in human beings in line with Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combatting trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims;
- Initiate stakeholder coordination for the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) mapping;
- Cooperate with Eurostat and other international agencies: European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to produce and compile comparable EU-wide Crime statistics;
- Explore and develop new areas in Crime statistics;
- Update register on Voluntary Organisations and work towards the launch of a survey among such organisations.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	CRI 01	Collect statistics on money laundering and financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) in collaboration with major stakeholders	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	CRI 02	AML/CFT effectiveness template: Collect information on confiscations from multiple stakeholders bi-annually	✓	✓	✓
New	CRI 03	Review and enhance the collection and production of statistics on AML/CFT	✓	✓	

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Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	CRI 04	Collect Crime statistics and transmit them to Eurostat/UNODC	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	CRI 05	Coordinate with the major stakeholders on the mapping of the ICCS classification	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	CRI 06	Assist the Police Department with data collection and data provision	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	CRI 07	Collect statistics on domestic violence	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	CRI 08	Assist stakeholders in the area of domestic violence to improve current data collection	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	CRI 09	Implement the Safety and Wellbeing survey	✓	✓	
Ongoing	CRI 10	Coordinate ad-hoc requests from UNODC	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	CRI 11	Explore and develop new areas in Crime statistics	✓	✓	✓

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

The Unit is responsible for statistics on Education and Culture. In the education domain, the Unit produces statistics on formal education and training, together with statistics on non-formal and lifelong learning, endeavouring to keep pace with an evolving education system at national and EU level. The Unit is also responsible for the production of Culture and Sport statistics and collaborates with the Arts Council Malta on large-scale surveys.

Strategic Priorities - Education

- Improve timeliness to production and dissemination of Education statistics;
- Intensify efforts to collect data and publish statistics on non-compulsory education including childcare;
- Improve responsiveness and relevance to user needs by keeping in mind new policy needs;
- Explore new areas such as, among others, coverage of courses undertaken by Maltese with foreign education establishments; focus on STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths);
- Continue to produce indicators deemed to be important for policy-making purposes such as participation in education by level and formal and non-formal adult learning;
- Analyse data and disseminate final results of the Continuing Vocational Training survey (CVTS);
- Continue with preparations for the Adult Education survey (AES). Implementation planned for Q3/2022.

Strategic Priorities - Culture

- Update the four-year culture plan together with stakeholders;
- Resume supply-side surveys among book publishers; libraries; and cinemas;
- Publish the results of a Culture Participation survey from the practitioners' perspective, carried out jointly with the Arts Council Malta;
- Set up a register of sport organisations with a view to launching a related survey.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	EDUC 01	Data collection on education	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EDUC 02	Give priority to improvement of current coverage and content particularly paid childcare.	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EDUC 03	Data cleaning and analysis – enrolments, entrants, finance, personnel, graduates, mobility; ISCED mapping, ISCED and fields classifications. Compile registers on education personnel, student enrolments and exams	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EDUC 04	Statistics on Absenteeism	✓	✓	✓

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Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	EDUC 05	Compile regular news releases on education	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EDUC 06	Continuing Vocational Training survey 2020	✓		
New	EDUC 07	Adult Education survey 2022	✓	✓	
Ongoing	EDUC 08	Publish results of the Culture Participation survey: from the practitioners' perspective, a joint project with the Arts Council Malta	✓		
Ongoing	EDUC 09	Conduct culture surveys: book publishers, cinemas and libraries	✓	✓	✓
New	EDUC 10	Possibility of launching surveys among theatres, museums and band clubs	✓	✓	✓
New	EDUC 11	Creation and maintenance of a register on sport organisations	✓	✓	✓

Data Resources, IT and Methodology

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Unit is responsible for providing operational IT support for the Office's projects and activities and at a more basic level, providing IT support to staff members to facilitate their work. In the years covered by this work programme, the Unit will be heavily engaged in the Statistical Production Service Architecture (SPSA) Transformation Project, involving a complete transformation of IT systems underpinning all stages of the business process from collection to data storage and dissemination.

Strategic Priorities

- SPSA Transformation Project – a complete transformation of the IT systems used by the NSO to switch from various isolated domain-specific applications to generic centralised tools. Following the start of the project in June 2021, the project shall move on to the design and implementation phases in 2022;
- Shift from traditional virtualised infrastructure to cloud enabled services;
- Around 20 new in-house software applications per year for internal domain units;
- Transition from printed to online forms for business surveys;
- Introduction of web scraping to complement other data collected by domain units covering Price Statistics (starting with Commercial Rents statistics) and subsequently applying to Job Vacancy Statistics; Training for staff to build internal capability;
- Implementation of a new dissemination online database;
- Upgrading of office hardware;
- Projected tenders – Software development and support; Printers.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	IT 01	Server migration to Azure	✓		
Ongoing	IT 02	SPSA IT Transformation Project	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	IT 03	Micro Data Exchange software system	✓		
Ongoing	IT 04	Statistics on Income and Living Conditions	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	IT 05	Labour Force survey	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	IT 06	Adult Education survey	✓		
Ongoing	IT 07	Community Innovation survey	✓		

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Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	IT 08	Job Vacancy survey	✓		
Ongoing	IT 09	ESA SDMX reporting	✓		
Ongoing	IT 10	Gender-Based Violence survey	✓		
Ongoing	IT 11	ACCOMSTAT	✓		
Ongoing	IT 12	ESTS: online questionnaire for short-term business statistics	✓		
Ongoing	IT 13	IT Support	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	IT 14	Upgrade hardware	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	IT 15	BOP migration to INFOSTAT	✓		
Ongoing	IT 16	TOURSTAT rewrite	✓		
Ongoing	IT 17	Preparations of CAPI devices (incl. procurement aspects)	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	IT 18	ICT survey	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	IT 19	Business demography	✓		
Ongoing	IT 20	IT budgeting	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	IT 21	Census Hub	✓	✓	
Ongoing	IT 22	One-off projects (CATI surveys and other enquiries)	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	IT 23	Web scraping	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	IT 24	SDG website	✓		
Ongoing	IT 25	Statistical dissemination portal	✓		
Ongoing	IT 26	Tender covering software development and support	✓		

INFORMATION SECURITY

The Unit is responsible for establishing an information security management system (ISMS) that enables the NSO to achieve its business goals while protecting its interests by: a) ensuring the confidentiality, integrity and availability of data; b) complying with the ESS Core IT Security Framework and the ISO/IEC 27001:2013 standard; and c) fulfilling its legal and regulatory obligations with regard to the management and use of data under its control.

Strategic Priorities

- Annual risk assessment to determine the risks pertaining to the NSO including their likelihood of occurrence and potential impact;
- A minimum of two annual audits: one internal and one external (which may be split into multiple surveillance audits to cover domain-specific issues) with a view to the ISO 27001 re-certification. A separate audit requested by Eurostat may also be carried out in-line with European needs;
- The setting-up of a Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plan including regular reviews and tests to enable the NSO to restore operations while minimising the long-term negative impact on the organisation in case of potential unforeseen disaster(s);
- The updating of a series of inventories, covering: (a) software and hardware (b) data and (c) other supporting assets;
- Annual update of all related documentation, including policies, procedures and other supporting documents outlining internal work practices covering data sharing and other operational aspects;
- A series of awareness sessions covering salient information security features targeting all staff;
- Setting-up of a document management system;
- Securing the perimeter of the new regional office located in Ghajnsielem;
- Projected tender to identify consultancy services required.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	IS 01	Risk assessment	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	IS 02	Internal and external audits	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	IS 03	Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plan	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	IS 04	Awareness sessions to NSO staff	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	IS 05	Secure perimeter of the regional office	✓	✓	
Ongoing	IS 06	Review of internal policies, procedures and other material	✓	✓	✓
One-off	IS 07	Tender to identify external consultants	✓		

METHODOLOGY AND QUALITY

The Unit is responsible for providing technical assistance to other technical units, covering the quality and methodological aspects pertaining to sampling, survey design, questionnaire design, data collection, data validation and statistical inference. Quality issues are domain as well as process-specific, ensuring that every aspect of every business process is in line with European guidelines governing data and metadata. Additional activities of the Unit are data anonymisation and streamlining of administrative data across statistical domains.

Strategic Priorities

- Update work processes documentation in line with the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM);
- Coordinate the third round of Eurostat Peer Reviews including preparatory work prior to the event scheduled for October 2022:
 - provision of preliminary information to the Peer Review team
 - online training on the ESS Code of Practice, the Peer Review concept and practice for all staff and Other National Authorities (ONAs)
 - assistance to the Peer Review board during the event and provision of reactions to the improvement actions set out;
- Pseudonymise and anonymise all sensitive personal and business data used internally within the Office and other data disseminated to third parties;
- Publish the Quality Management Framework (QMF) and implement it in the Office. The QMF covers the stages of data design, collection, processing and dissemination;
- Assess/re-design methodological aspects in place in various domains;
- Update reference metadata and further improve the structural metadata repository with its standardised set of variables and classification of all data;
- Extract samples for all individual, household and business surveys;
- Standardise the questionnaires used by the Office to gather statistical information;
- Coordinate requests for administrative data from external third parties;
- Provide anonymised census data for research purposes;
- Assist the Census Office in the post-enumeration exercise to ensure optimal coverage and data quality;
- Assist the relevant units on data-related topics including: data mining; metadata; and methodological reports.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	MQ 01	Implement the Quality Management Framework	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	MQ 02	Undertake documentation of work processes	✓	✓	
Ongoing	MQ 03	Carry out other metadata work	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	MQ 04	Coordinate next round of Quality Peer Reviews	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	MQ 05	Coordinate requests for administrative data from external third parties	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	MQ 06	Assess/re-design of methodological aspects in place in various domains	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	MQ 07	Assist other Units with data mining, methodological reports and other tasks, including questionnaire design, sampling, data validation and anonymisation of data	✓	✓	✓
One-off	MQ 08	Involve the Unit in Census of Population and Housing work	✓	✓	
One-off	MQ 09	Undertake anonymisation of census data		✓	✓

DATA MANAGEMENT

The Unit is responsible for collecting, inputting, and handling microdata collected from respondents. Such services extend to third parties that commission the NSO to conduct specific studies on their behalf. The Unit's activities conform to established methodologies and are in line with quality standards - by way of harmonisation, timeliness, and response burden - contained in the ESS Code of Practice and set by the NSO from time to time.

Strategic Priorities

- Act as the main channel for the collection and coding of social data collected from households and individuals;
- Complete digitisation of household surveys;
- Conduct between ten to fifteen distinct surveys per year, to support policy making in various areas;
- Assist survey-taking in the Economic and Business, Sectoral and Regional Statistics directorates in the planning and staff recruitment stages;
- Conduct four major surveys covered in the timespan of this work programme: Gender-Based Violence; Adult Education; Household Finance and Consumption; Household Budgetary Survey (HBS);
- Train and coordinate field officers involved in personal interviewing for the purpose of collecting information from primary respondents.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	DM 01	TOURSTAT survey	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	DM 02	Statistics on Income and Living Conditions	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	DM 03	Labour Force survey	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	DM 04	ICT in Households survey	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	DM 05	National Tourism survey	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	DM 06	Online Purchases survey	✓	✓	✓
One off	DM 07	Survey on Safety and Wellbeing	✓		
One-off	DM 08	Adult Education survey	✓		
One-off	DM 09	Household Finance and Consumption survey (for CBM)		✓	

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Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
One-off	DM 10	Household Budgetary Survey (HBS)			✓
Ongoing	DM 11	CATI among ESF training participants (for PPCD)	✓	✓	✓
One-off	DM 12	Survey on public attitudes	✓		
One-off	DM 13	Household Energy Consumption survey (for EWA)	✓		
Ongoing	DM 14	Recruit and train field officers	✓	✓	✓

CENSUS OFFICE

The Unit is responsible for all data management aspects of the Census of Population and Housing in Malta particularly the collection, validation, analysis and dissemination of data within a national and international context. It also oversees other operational aspects of the Census which are led by other horizontal Units within the NSO.

Strategic Priorities

- Conduct adequate quality checks on the data to identify any areas of undercover coverage, including any post-enumeration exercises required for better coverage;
- Analyse and consolidate all census data (including institutional households);
- Publish a series of thematic census publications (including the Preliminary Report) to address national needs;
- Transmit census data in hypercube and GIS form to Eurostat within stipulated timeframes.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
One-off	CO 01	Coordinate and conduct data collection among institutions	✓		
Ongoing	CO 02	Data validation and consolidation	✓	✓	
One-off	CO 03	Conduct post-enumeration exercise	✓		
One-off	CO 04	Conduct data analysis and data linkage with various registers and administrative sources	✓	✓	
One-off	CO 05	Publish a series of thematic census publications	✓	✓	✓
One-off	CO 06	Transmit census data in hypercube and other forms to Eurostat (including metadata)	✓	✓	✓

Corporate Services

HUMAN RESOURCES AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Unit is responsible for holistic human resources management: recruitment, selection, retention, training, continuous professional development, and wellbeing. At the strategic level, the Unit is an important player in the implementation of the Office's medium and long-term strategy and change management. One of the main priorities is renewal of corporate policies and fostering awareness of their provisions among staff. The Unit will continue to build on the structural changes which occurred in the past years, towards maximising staff motivation and workforce stability.

Strategic Priorities

- Contribute to business continuity measures such as job rotation and job shadowing;
- Create skills database to identify skills gaps in the short and long term;
- Continue to update HR policies and procedures;
- Devise a strategy to attract, train and assess interns with the aim of addressing future recruitment needs;
- Ensure personal files comply with GDPR requirements;
- Contribute to the Office's post-COVID-19 normalisation plan;
- Contribute to a structured approach for the wellbeing of staff;
- Devise enhancements to DAKAR, the HR software system;
- Improve the PMP system by having in place individual improvement plans and by instituting Key Performance Indicators (KPIs);
- Take an active part in the formulation and implementation of the holistic Training Strategy;
- Start planning transition of HR procedures from paper to electronic means, while leading the digitisation process of the Registry through the Electronic Document Management System;
- Plan and execute a number of social activities to foster social interaction among staff;
- Support Collective Agreement negotiations.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
New	HRSD 01	Devise a strategy to attract, train and assess interns with the aim of addressing future recruitment needs	✓		
Ongoing	HRSD 02	Review and implement HR policies and procedures, including new policies on job shadowing and job rotation for succession planning	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	HRSD 03	Ensure personal files comply with GDPR requirements	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	HRSD 04	Enhance DAKAR features	✓	✓	✓
New	HRSD 05	Identify the characteristics of the Skills Database and set about its formulation	✓	✓	✓

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Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
New	HRSD 06	Provide support during negotiations related to the upcoming Collective Agreement	✓	✓	
New	HRSD 07	Lead the digitisation of the Registry through the Electronic Document Management System (EDMS)	✓	✓	
New	HRSD 08	Improve the PMP system by having in place individual improvement plans and by instituting Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	✓	✓	

PROCUREMENT, SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

The Unit is responsible for a range of horizontal services. Salient among these is the procurement of goods and services in line with good practices and standards laid down by Public Service procurement rules and guidelines. Another task is the upkeep of the premises and the coordination and supervision of embellishment projects when undertaken. The Unit provides all manner of support to the domain and other horizontal units, facilitating operations such as health and safety, local transport, foreign travel, and assistance in the day-to-day handling of survey participants and interviewers.

Strategic Priorities

- Continue to take forward procurement processes, including tendering processes;
- Continue to provide daily support to the Office: mail handling, driving, portering, messengerial duties; supervision of security personnel;
- Maintain health and safety procedures put in place during COVID-19: quarantine of documents, sanitiser supplies, and others;
- Administer overseas travel arrangements;
- Maintain and upgrade premises and oversee security services, in line with national/international standards and practices and general assessments undertaken from time to time;
- Introduce a VOIP telecommunication system;
- Establish holistic Training Strategy;
- Take forward the design and completion of the new premises housing the Gozo regional office;
- Undertake market and design research as well as tendering and finishing processes in the context of proposed new premises for the Malta main office.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
Ongoing	PSR 01	Undertake procurement processes including tenders	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	PSR 02	Provide logistical support	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	PSR 03	Put health and safety measures in place, including safety practices linked to Covid-19	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	PSR 04	Handle arrangements for overseas travel	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	PSR 05	Maintain premises and monitor security services	✓	✓	✓
One-off	PSR 06	Undertake the organisation of embellishment projects	✓	✓	✓

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Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
New	PSR 07	Introduce a VOIP telecommunication system	✓		
New	PSR 08	Start with establishing the Training Strategy	✓		
New	PSR 09	Design and complete the new Gozo premises	✓	✓	
New	PSR 10	Undertake research and advance work towards proposal for new premises for the main office	✓	✓	✓

HEALTH AND SAFETY AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT MANAGEMENT

The Unit is responsible for a variety of issues emanating from the daily tasks of the Office, including but not limited to the health and safety aspects in the Office, employee mental awareness and first line of contact in respective situations. Other daily logistics in respect to cleaning and security services provided by third-party service providers, are included in the remit.

Strategic Priorities

- Establish the Health, Safety and Environment Employee Committee;
- Update of the HSE report, including a generic update of the respective Risk Assessments. This shall include the Gozo premises and the MIA office;
- Re-establish an Evacuation Plan and constituting regular Fire Drills;
- Set up a list of organisations/entities that may aid the mental well-being of employees when in particular difficulties and/or challenges;
- Administer the daily cleaning services of the Office provided by third-party service providers;
- Manage the daily security services of the Office provided by third-party service providers.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
New	HSAS 01	Establish the Health, Safety and Environment Employee Committee (HSE)	✓		
New	HSAS 02	Update the HSE report (H&S report dated July 2020). Incorporate an environment element and risk assessments from various aspects	✓	✓	
Ongoing	HSAS 03	Re-establish the Evacuation Plan and hold regular fire drills	✓	✓	✓
New	HSAS 04	Set up a list of organisations/entities that may aid the mental wellbeing of employees when in particular difficulties and/or facing challenges	✓		
Ongoing	HSAS 05	Administer the daily cleaning services of the Office provided by third-party service providers	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	HSAS 06	Manage the daily security services of the Office provided by third-party service providers	✓	✓	✓

COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION

The Unit is responsible for internal coordination towards collective efforts to publish news releases and publications. It also creates content for dissemination materials including the website, social media, newsletters press releases, videos, infographics, and leaflets. The Unit identifies suitable fora and audiences in which to disseminate the NSO's products and services and extend public relations strategies. Additionally, its responsibilities include nurture of relations with the media organisations, as one of the Office's most strategic partners.

Strategic Priorities

- Organise re-branding exercise and carry out publicity campaign linked to re-branding;
- Undertake general and specialised training for Unit staff in view of the re-branding;
- Develop new website;
- Develop new Intranet portal and induce improvement in internal communication;
- News releases, publications and visualisations;
- Improve the Office's public relations;
- Continue to work towards SDDS Plus adherence following progress with both CBM and the International Monetary Fund, the Standard's owner-organisation;
- Assist in implementation effort linked to the Eurostat Peer Review happening in October 2022;
- Reorganise and manage the library and related services;
- Start the implementation of the new Online Database;
- Work on Revisions Policy;
- Improve social media presence.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
New	CD 01	Re-branding exercise and related campaign, including general and specialised training	✓	✓	
New	CD 02	Develop the new website	✓		
New	CD 03	Develop new Intranet portal and induce improvement in internal communication	✓	✓	
Ongoing	CD 04	News releases, publications, data visualisation	✓	✓	✓
New	CD 05	Continue to advance progress towards adherence to the IMF's SDDS Plus information standard	✓	✓	
Ongoing	CD 06	Assist with the Eurostat Peer Review	✓		

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Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2022	2023	2024
New	CD 07	Reorganise and administer library collection and related services	✓	✓	
New	CD 08	Start to implement the Online Database	✓	✓	
New	CD 09	Work on Revisions Policy	✓	✓	
New	CD 10	Improve social media presence	✓	✓	

