

WORK PROGRAMME

2026-2028



National Statistics Office
Uffiċċju Nazzjonali tal-Istatistika

WORK PROGRAMME

2026-2028

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GUIDE TO ACRONYMS AND TERMS

ACCOMSTAT	Survey among collective accommodation establishments which collects information on room nights, bed-places, utilisation rate, and others
AES	Adult Education Survey
ASA	Annual Sector Accounts
BD	Business Demography
BoP	Balance of Payments
CBM	Central Bank of Malta
CDIS	Coordinated Direct Investment Survey
CDE	Customs Data Exchange
CFOs	Casual Field Officers
CfR	Commissioner for Revenue
CIS	Community Innovation Survey
CLV	Chain-Linked Volumes
COMEXT	Statistical database on trade of goods managed by Eurostat
CompNET	Competitiveness Research Network
CPIS	Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey
CPPI	Commercial Property Price Index
CPRI	Commercial Property Rent Index
CVTS	Continuing Vocational Training Survey
DGINS	Directors General of National Statistical Institutes
EBS	European Business Statistics
ECOICOP	European Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council (UN)
EDMS	Electronic Data Management System
EDP	Excessive Deficit Procedure
EGR	EuroGroups Register
EIGE	European Institute for Gender Equality
EHIS	European Health Interview Survey
ELET	Early Leaving from Education and Training

ESA	European Systems of Accounts
ESPH	European Statistics on Population and Housing
ESS	European Statistical System
ESSPROS	European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics
EU	European Union
EU-SILC	European Statistics on Income and Living Conditions
EXTRASTAT	Extra-European Community Trade Statistics
FATS	Foreign Affiliate Statistics
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FSDN	Farm Sustainability Data Network
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
GFS	Government Finance Statistics
GIS	Geographic Information System
GNI	Gross National Income
GNII	Gross National Income Inventory
GVA	Gross Value Added
GVC	Global Value Chain
GVC-IS	Global Value Chains and International Sourcing
HBS	Household Budget Survey
HICP	Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices
HFCS	Household Finance and Consumption Survey
HPI	House Price Index
HR	Human Resources
HRIS	Human Resources Information System
HSE	Health, Safety and Environment
ICCS	International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes
ICT	Information and Communication Technology

IESS	Integrated European Social Statistics
IFATS	Inward Foreign Affiliates Statistics
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standards
IIP	Index of Industrial Production
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INFOSTAT	A statistical software platform
INTRASTAT	Intra-European Community Trade Statistics
IOT	Input-Output Table
ISCED	International Standard Classification of Education
ISP	Index of Services Production
ITGS	International Trade in Goods Statistics
ITSS	International Trade in Services Statistics
LAU	Local Administrative Unit
LCU	Large Cases Units
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LOU	Local Units
MAFA	Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights
MDE	Microdata Exchange
MDI	MicroData Infrastructure
MDL	Microdata Linking
MNE	Multinational Enterprise
MNEnet	European Network of Multinational Enterprise Coordinators
MoUs	Memoranda of Understanding
MSA	Malta Statistics Authority
NACE	Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community
NPISH	Non-Profit Institutions Serving Households
NSO	National Statistics Office
NSI	National Statistics Institute
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics

OCVO	Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PF	Public Finance
PMP	Performance Management Programme
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
PRODCOM	Community Production
PYP	Previous Year's Prices
QMF	Quality Management Framework
R&D	Research and Development
RPI	Retail Price Index
SAIO	Statistics on Agricultural Input and Output
SASP	Single Authorisation for Simplified Procedure
SBR	Statistical Business Register
SBS	Statistical Business Statistics
SDDS	Special Data Dissemination Standard
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDIs	Sustainable Development Indicators
SNA	System of National Accounts
SPEs	Special Purpose Entities
SPSA	Statistical Production Service Architecture
STBS	Short-Term Business Statistics
SUIOT	Supply, Use, and Input-Output Tables
SUT	Supply and Use Tables
TEC	Trade by Enterprise Characteristics
TEFL	Teaching English as a Foreign Language
TIC	Trade by Invoicing Currency
TIFD	Tax Index of Financial Data
TOURSTAT	Survey on inbound and outbound tourism
TSA	Tourism Satellite Accounts

DIRECTOR GENERAL'S FOREWORD

TSI	Technical Support Instrument
UN	United Nations
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
VAT	Value Added Tax
VNR	Voluntary National Review
VoIP	Voice over Internet Protocol



ETIENNE CARUANA
Director General
May 2025

The National Statistics Office (NSO) is pleased to announce the publication of its fifth Work Programme, in alignment with its business plan for the period 2026-2029. This publication exemplifies NSO's unwavering commitment to transparency, accountability, and adherence to the European Statistics Code of Practice.

This Work Programme is an integral component of a comprehensive modernisation strategy. Its primary objective is to enhance the relevance of the NSO's statistical products, improve the efficiency of statistical production, and mitigate the burden on respondents. While numerous activities outlined in this document address European and national commitments, several initiatives are directed toward achieving the NSO's long-term objectives.

The NSO will persist in its collaboration with various stakeholders to access additional data sources pertinent to official statistics. These administrative sources will facilitate the enhancement of the quality and timeliness of NSO's statistical products, concurrently reducing the burden on households and businesses.

In addition to traditional secondary data sources owned by public entities, the NSO will intensify its collaboration with the private sector to access non-conventional data sources, such as scanner data, web-scraped data, and other smart data sources. Recognising the potential benefits of utilising privately owned data for official statistics, the NSO will endeavour to establish numerous collaborative agreements with private data owners to produce more relevant and detailed statistics for all user categories. Furthermore, the NSO will explore innovative methods to generate detailed statistics through micro-data linking and other techniques, in collaboration with other European National Statistical Institutes and Eurostat.

In 2025, the NSO commenced reaping the benefits of its IT platform. Following the completion of all necessary verifications and pilot tests, the NSO initiated the integration of major statistical processes into this framework. The full integration of all major processes is anticipated to be completed during the Work Programme period. This framework is expected to significantly enhance efficiency by replacing numerous manual processes with automated ones, thereby improving standardisation, internal data sharing, and information security. As part of this project, the NSO will also augment its online database by populating it with additional tables generated from the IT platform.

From a corporate perspective, the NSO will prioritise re-skilling and employee training to equip staff with the capabilities to utilise new technologies and complex technical solutions, thereby facilitating notable improvements in official statistics. The Corporate Services Directorate is dedicated to promoting flexible working arrangements and enhancing the NSO as an employer. This includes improving staff retention through family-friendly initiatives, adapting to changes in the work environment, and meeting new data needs and statistical deliverables.

This Work Programme reflects the NSO's steadfast commitment to providing high-quality, timely, and reliable statistics.

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DIRECTOR GENERAL

CENTRAL MANAGEMENT

The Unit is responsible for all EU, international, national, and institutional issues. It maintains communication and cooperation with Eurostat, the Council of the European Union, relevant international organisation, and with National Statistical Institutes, particularly those members of the European Statistical System (ESS). The Unit is also tasked with continuing the strengthening of cooperation with national statistical partners and to oversee the formation and the management of a National Statistical System. Moreover, the Unit is tasked with the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and with the mapping of the SDG-related data flows between the custodian agencies responsible for the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Indicators (SDIs) and national agencies. Due to its horizontal and strategic functions, the Unit works directly with the Director General and acts as his interface with the domain units as well as with national and international agencies.

Main projects for 2025

During 2025, one of the main projects of the Unit is to conclude the initial phase of the National Expert Group on SDIs by concluding all SDG Task Forces. During the year, the Unit will also be finalising and publishing a dedicated website on the national monitoring of the SDIs. The Unit will also continue working on the improvement actions to address the recommendations of the peer review held in 2022, particularly by monitoring the improvement actions agreed with Eurostat. The Unit will also be assisting the Ministry for Environment, Energy and Public Cleanliness with the statistical annex of the SDGs Voluntary National Review (VNR), which the government has committed to present to the ECOSOC's High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2025. The Unit is also tasked with the publication of the 2024 Annual Report and with the updating of the rolling Work Programme. Moreover, the Unit will continue representing Malta in European negotiations on new statistical legislation and in other internal fora ensuring consistency between International, EU, and National statistical processes.

Priorities 2026-2028

- Participate actively in the Council Working Party on Statistics and other interational platforms to ensure visibility for Malta and to safeguard the national interest, while contributing to progress on statistical legislative proposals to the benefit of Malta and the NSO;
- Act as national coordinator on the national alignment with the statistical chapter for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) membership;
- Continue working with national stakeholders and SDG custodian agencies to reduce Malta's SDG-data gaps;
- Coordinate and manage the implemenation of the actions to address the peer review recommondations;
- Seek new opportunities for joint projects with counterpart national statistical institutes, EU institutions and international organisations;
- Manage the governance of the National Statistical System;
- Lead the organisation of the DGINS Conference 2027.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
Ongoing	CM 01	Represent Malta in the Council Working Party on Statistics and follow all non-statistical legislation discussed in other Council Working Parties that have statistical implications on the work of the NSO.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	CM 02	Work on the NSO's Annual Reports and rolling multi-annual Work Programmes.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	CM 03	Develop, manage, and keep updated a website dedicated to the national monitoring of the SDIs.	✓	✓	✓	✓
One-off project	CM 04	Assist the Government of Malta with the preparation of the second VNR on the SDGs to be presented to the United Nations, and publish the statistical annex of the VNR.	✓			
Ongoing	CM 05	Monitor and coordinate the implementation of the improvement actions to address the recommendations of the peer review recommendations.	✓	✓	✓	
Ongoing	CM 06	Coordinate and manage the governance aspect of the National Statistical System.	✓	✓	✓	✓
One-off project	CM 07	Lead the organisation of the DGINS Conference 2027, which will be hosted by the NSO in Malta.	✓	✓	✓	
One-off project	CM 08	Act as focal point for the statistical chapter during Malta's accession process with the OECD.			✓	✓

LEGAL OFFICE

The Unit is responsible for supporting the Director General, National Statistics Office (NSO) and the Chairperson, Malta Statistics Authority (MSA), in the statutory obligations of their respective roles and for providing legal advice when needed. The Unit advises NSO staff members on the application of the MSA 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 and Data Protection Officer.

Main projects for 2025

During 2025, the Legal Unit will strive to have the proposed new MSA Act, which is fully aligned with the amendments brought into force by Regulation 2024/3018 amending Regulation 223/2009, implemented in Malta. The Legal Unit will assist the Director General in making sure NSO fulfils the responsibilities given to NSIs with the coming into force of this new amending regulation. Additionally, the Legal Unit will carry on assisting technical units in accessing new data sources, derived from state owned registers, smart data sources, and privately held data.

In 2025, the Legal Unit will continue providing timely legal advice as necessary, on the interpretation of the MSA Act, GDPR obligations, employment issues, and administrative/judicial procedures. The Legal Unit will prepare necessary documentation for the publication of legal notices, and draft contracts, memos, and reports as necessary. The Legal Unit aims to continue maintaining the system of contracts for sharing anonymised microdata with researchers, including follow-ups on deletion of data after conclusion of research. As part of its existing function, it targets to continue the process of preparing contracts to Casual Field Officers (CFOs). The Legal Unit will also continue updating and maintaining the systems (online database and hard copies of files) of employment contracts of CFOs, and Oaths of Secrecy. Moreover, the Unit while continuing to finalise and/or renew Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with new and existing administrative sources, will focus on concluding MoUs with certain strategic public authorities whose data will greatly enhance the quality of official statistics.

The Unit will continue acting as the Freedom of Information Officer and Data Protection Officer for both the MSA and the NSO, conduct yearly GDPR checklist, review policies, procedures, lead Data Protection Impact Assessments, conduct internal training of staff, and participate in audits as necessary. In 2025, the Legal Unit will be part of the induction process, so new recruits are aware of the legal obligations of the NSO and its powers in collecting and handling data.

Priorities for 2026-2028

- Offer timely legal advice to the Chairperson, Director General, Directors and Heads of Unit ranging from HR issues, interpretation of the MSA Act, EU regulations and other legislation, according to the exigencies of work;
- Draft and oversee the publication procedure of legal notices and preparation of accompanying legal documents;

- Oversee the process of issuance of fines to non-respondents as directed by the Chairperson and Director General;
- Review and renew MoUs and draw up new ones as needed;
- Assist Directors and Heads of Unit with requests for sharing of data from public entities and private enterprises;
- Maintain the system for sharing anonymised microdata with researchers in line with the provisions of respective contracts;
- Lead the process of preparation of employment contracts for CFOs and maintain related databases;
- Ensure adherence to provisions of the MSA Act and its subsidiary legislation;
- Perform the role of Data Protection Officer, continue to offer advice and support on GDPR rules and requirements;
- Conduct internal training to staff on MSA Act and GDPR;
- Review existing policies and assist in the drafting of new policies as a reviewer/owner as the case requires;
- Carry out processes pertaining to the Freedom of Information Officer;
- Draft and review policies and procedures as necessary;
- Support all staff levels in legal matters including research, support in meetings, drafting documentation, and other issues.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
Ongoing	LO 01	Finalise new MoUs with new data sources, derived from state owned registers, smart data sources and privately held data.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LO 02	Maintain system for sharing anonymised microdata with researchers including follow-ups for deletions of data.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LO 03	Ensure adherence to provisions of MSA Act and other applicable legislation and maintain the database of persons who have taken the Oath of Secrecy as prescribed by the MSA Act.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LO 04	Prepare contracts for services as required and represent both the MSA and the NSO.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LO 05	Provide legal advice to the NSO, the MSA, and the line Ministry, and draft and oversee the publication procedure of legal notices including the preparation of accompanying legal documents.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LO 06	Perform the role of Data Protection Officer and Freedom of Information Officer.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LO 07	Ensure that the actions related to the modernisation strategy aligns with the Regulation 223/2009 including the amendments of Regulation 2024/3018.	✓	✓	✓	✓



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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, Special Purpose Entities (SPEs), Gross National Income (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 in the European Union.

Main projects 2025

In the first quarter of 2025 the Unit published the Non-financial Annual Sector Accounts (ASA) Inventory by Institutional Sector: Malta. During the year the unit will update Financial service activities, including SPEs with annual administrative sources for 2022. The insurance sub-sector will be particularly challenging following the implementation of the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) 17 which became effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after the 1st of January 2023. The Unit will analyse its impact on the compilation process and will have to ensure that annual data for 2023 is comparable with finalised data for 2022, before publication in August 2025. The reference income method for 2020 and 2021, while the employment method will be updated for 2022 to 2024.

By the end of the year the unit will be publishing the Annual non-financial Accounts by Institutional Sectors: 2020-2024 and a new release with an in-depth analysis for specific sub-sectors of the economy. A task force on vertical discrepancies between non-financial and financial accounts has been launched with the participation of the NAMS, Balance of Payments (BoP) and Public Finance (PF) units and the Central Bank of Malta (CBM). In 2025, the task force aims to address vertical discrepancies in relation to SPEs, the financial sector and the impact of errors and omission in BoP statistics.

The unit will be involved in the update of the GNI inventory and the compilation of the process tables for 2019 for the Financial service activities, SPEs, Non-Profit Institutions Serving Households (NPISH) mainly in Chapters 3 and 5, Wages and salaries in cash and in kind, actual and imputed social contributions in Chapter 4 and an update of Chapter 7 with the new estimates for exhaustiveness introduced during the 2024 benchmark revision.

Priorities for 2026-2028

- Contribute toward the development of identified System of National Accounts (SNA) and non-SNA driven updates in the upcoming European System of Accounts (ESA);
- Address pending quality issues in relation to non-financial and financial accounts by sector through the analysis of vertical discrepancies in collaboration with the BoP, PF, and the CBM;
- Ensure cross-domain consistency between National Accounts, PF and BoP statistics;
- Address expired derogations with respect to the ESA transmission programme to ensure greater compliance;

- Address outstanding reservations and action points from the current GNI verification cycle;
- Automate certain work processes to enhance efficiency and lessen risks;
- Contribute toward the reduction of vertical discrepancies;
- Ensure preparedness with respect to the forthcoming updates of the United Nations' SNA and Eurostat's ESA manuals.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
Ongoing	NAMS 01	Compilation of Table 8/801: Non-financial accounts by sector, annual/quarterly for 2020 to date ¹ .	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	NAMS 02	Analysis of vertical discrepancies in relation to Table 8/801/13: Non-financial accounts by sector, annual/quarterly ¹ .	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	NAMS 03	Compilation of financial service activities, including SPEs.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	NAMS 04	Calculation of exhaustiveness for the household sector on an annual basis (reference income/employment method).	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	NAMS 05	Include the impact of Reservation 7: Transactions in relation to ships and aircrafts in the GNI questionnaire of 2025 (GNI verification cycle 2023-2024).	✓			
Ongoing	NAMS 06	Compilation of metadata and quality reports.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	NAMS 07	Coordinate work on Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) tables, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) expenditure weights, rents, and Gross Fixed Capital Formation.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	NAMS 08	Compilation of the GNI questionnaire.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	NAMS 09	Compilation of the Rest of the World account using Balance of Payments data.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	NAMS 10	Disaggregation of the financial sector in National Accounts.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	NAMS 11	Address expired derogation on ESA Transmission Programme, Table 26 – Calculation of AN.211 Land for S.14.	✓	✓	✓	✓
New	NAMS 12	News release focusing on specific sub-sectors in relation to ASA.	✓			
New	NAMS 13	Address reservations and action points from the GNI verification cycle 2025-2027.	✓	✓	✓	✓
New	NAMS 14	Compilation of life and non-life insurance activities using IFRS 17.	✓			
New	NAMS 15	Annual institutional sector accounts inventory.	✓			
New	NAMS 16	Update of the GNI Inventory and Process tables	✓			

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Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
New	NAMS 17	New ESA: Produce distributional sector accounts.	✓	✓	✓	✓
New	NAMS 18	New ESA: Identification of Foreign control of corporations in Institutional Sector Accounts.			✓	✓
New	NAMS 19	Compilation of PPP table: GDP expenditure weights.	✓	✓	✓	✓
New	NAMS 20	Compilation of NPISH 2022 based on OCVO data.	✓			

¹ Eurostat makes available various dissemination facilities on its website. The facility of 'Tables' offers selected Eurostat data presented in user-friendly formats. The facility of 'Database' offers the full range of publicly available data in multi-dimensional tables with various selection options and export formats. The actions in NAMS 01 and 02 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 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), Final consumption expenditure, Gross capital formation, External trade, Compensation of employees, Gross operating surplus and mixed income as well as Gross National Income (GNI).

Main projects for 2025

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 in the European Union. During the year 2025, the unit will be working on the publication of quarterly national accounts aggregates including GDP and GNI, annual Supply, Use, Input-Output Tables (SUIOT) for the reference year 2020 and the compilation of the Gross National Income Inventory (GNII) for the reference year 2019.

Priorities for 2026-2028

- Ensure full compliance with Regulation (EU) No. 549/2013 and address pending compliance issues and timeliness in relation to main aggregates and SUIOT;
- Refine current quarterly estimates in nominal terms by introducing statistical methods for benchmarking and modelling;
- 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;
- Automate processes to improve efficiency and enhance data quality;
- Improve the completeness of national accounts main aggregates;
- Contribute toward the reduction of vertical discrepancies;
- Ensure preparedness with respect to the forthcoming updates of the United Nations' Systems of National Accounts (SNA) and Eurostat's European System of Accounts (ESA) manuals.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
Ongoing	NAP 01	Compile quarterly national accounts data in line with the ESA 2010 Transmission programme of data, at current prices, previous year's prices and in chain-linked volumes when required, as well as seasonally (and calendar, when relevant) adjusted series for quarterly data.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	NAP 02	Compile annual GDP by including annual sources: Structural Business Statistics (SBS); Tax Index of Financial Data (TIFD) as well as other surveys and census carried out by the NSO.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	NAP 03	Compile investment matrix (including internal data collection for industries not covered by the NSO's surveys).	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	NAP 04	Compile annual Supply and Use Tables (SUT): Table 15 – Supply table at basic prices including transformation into purchasers' prices; Table 16 – Use table at purchasers' prices.	✓	✓	✓	
Ongoing	NAP 05	Compile annual Input-Output Table (IOT): Table 17 – Symmetric IOT at basic prices.	✓			✓
Ongoing	NAP 06	Compile the GNI quality report and the European Statistical System metadata report.	✓	✓	✓	✓
One-off project	NAP 07	Compile the GNII for the reference period 2019 in line with the National Accounts 2024 Benchmark revision.	✓			
One-off project	NAP 08	Prepare for the GNI mission in which any Eurostat's questions need to be addressed.	✓			
One-off project	NAP 09	Compile Reference metadata for national accounts (generic); annual GDP; quarterly GDP; population and employment; household's consumption; gross fixed capital formation, capital stocks and balance sheets; SUIOT.	✓			
New	NAP 10	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).	✓	✓	✓	✓

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.

Main projects for 2025

In 2025, the Unit's focus is to continue working on the pending Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP) action points and to follow the discussion on the proposed updates of the European methodological manuals, the European System of Accounts (ESA) and the Manual on Government Deficit and Debt, in line with the new System of National Accounts (SNA).

Priorities for 2026-2028

- Continue to fulfil Malta's commitment in the reporting of Government Finance Statistics (GFS) and the EDP notification to the European Commission in line with the required methodology;
- Work on the EDP action points emanating from Eurostat's dialogue visits to Malta on this topic;
- Ensure preparedness with respect to the forthcoming updates of the United Nations' Systems of National Accounts and Eurostat's ESA manuals;
- Support the NSO/CBM vertical discrepancies project and make the necessary improvements in the Government's financial account;
- Improve the timeliness and quality of the published data sources and 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	2025	2026	2027	2028
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.	✓	✓	✓	✓

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Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
Ongoing	PF 03	In connection with Eurostat's EDP Mission to Malta held every two years, ensure that GFS and EDP data are compiled in line with established methodological guidance while also addressing remaining and emerging action points.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	PF 04	Scrutinise the statistical discrepancies between net lending/borrowing from non-financial and financial accounts, especially in Corporate Financial Management System data.	✓	✓	✓	✓
New	PF 05	Improve the recording of Government's deposits held at public and commercial banks.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	PF 06	Follow closely the review of the new ESA and the update of the Manual on Government Deficit and Debt following the publication of the new SNA 2025.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	PF 07	Maintain the financial accounts IT system in line with the new ESA Tables 6 & 7.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	PF 08	Publish annual news release on the annual financial accounts of total economy.			✓	✓
Ongoing	PF 09	Provide technical and methodological assistance on classification of government decisions which impact fiscal balance.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	PF 10	Publish the comprehensive Social Protection publication every two years and introduce a new ESSPROS news release.		✓		✓
Ongoing	PF 11	Compile accrued-to-date pension liabilities (every three years) and enhance related news release content.		✓		
Ongoing	PF 12	Update the R&D IT system in line with the new transmission reports and improve compilation of statistics relating to higher education sector.	✓	✓	✓	
Ongoing	PF 13	Improve internal and external collaboration toward having full coverage and quality in R&D statistics.	✓	✓	✓	

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

The Unit is responsible for the compilation of the country's Balance of Payments (BoP) and International Investment Position (IIP) statistics. Other principal responsibilities include the compilation of the International Trade in Services statistics (ITSS) and production of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) statements according to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) BoP and IIP manual (version 6). All activities of the Unit are directed toward reinforcing this domain to ensure that it constitutes a reliable source of input internally, particularly National Accounts, as well as to external stakeholders.

Main projects for 2025

The two key priorities are enhancing the methodology for compiling trade in services statistics and optimising the statistical compilation processes in INFOSTAT¹. To further strengthen trade in services statistics, the plan is to integrate administrative data sources (VAT database and VAT Information Exchange System) with survey data, ensuring greater accuracy and reliability. A new data collection process will be introduced, targeting specific economic sectors as needed.

Regarding INFOSTAT the BoP Unit has proposed an initiative to the Banca d'Italia aimed at enhancing the current compilation processes. Work is set to begin in September/October in collaboration with the Statistics Department of the Central Bank of Malta. Furthermore, the unit is committed to achieving full compliance with validation checks in the BoP/IIP datasets, which will involve further refinements and tweaks in INFOSTAT.

Priorities for 2026-2028

- Continue improving the methodology of compiling Special Purposes Entities (SPEs) statistics;
- Start working to further improve the methodology of compiling statistics for the Gaming sector and resident holding companies by updating the current assumptions with more accurate information;
- Continue working on ITSS as outlined in the above section;
- Develop automated and efficient processes for compiling statistics using administrative sources, supplemented by survey data collection through microdata linking;
- Maintain efforts to strengthen consistency between the BoP and National Accounts with a significant improvement expected in the benchmark revision of 2029;
- Address the reservation on the treatment of international trade by non-resident VAT traders (NR-VATT) to be placed on all EU member states in 2025;
- Ensure preparedness with respect to the forthcoming updates in BPM7;
- Contribute to the reduction of Vertical Discrepancies.

¹ INFOSTAT is an integrated data warehouse. It provides the underlying technical infrastructure to process statistical data.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
Ongoing	BoP 01	Further improve the quality of the data from 2019 onwards.	✓	✓	✓	
Ongoing	BoP 02	Transmit monthly and quarterly BoP and IIP data to Eurostat and the European Central Bank.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	BoP 03	Transmit annual FDI and ITSS data to Eurostat, and Coordinated Direct Investment Survey (CDIS) and Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey (CPIS) data transmissions to the IMF.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	BoP 04	Continue consolidating the methodology developed in compiling BoP/IIP statistics, focusing on groups of companies registered in Malta.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	BoP 05	Continue improving cross-domain consistency especially with National Accounts and Public Finance.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	BoP 06	Continue applying microdata linking and usage of administrative data for the purpose of improved estimation of BoP and IIP statistics, complemented with survey data.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	BoP 07	Create a new process to rely on VAT data as a core source in the compilation of the services account.	✓	✓		
Ongoing	BoP 08	Provide all the necessary support to address Eurostat's reservations and action points	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	BoP 09	Continue working toward meeting set deadlines regarding Services Trade by Enterprise Characteristics and Modes of Supply.	✓	✓	✓	✓

INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS STATISTICS

The Unit is responsible for providing a holistic statistical representation of the international trade in goods of the country. Its main published output are the monthly news releases. By means of these and many customised requests from a range of stakeholders and the wider public, the Unit aims to be a point of reference for 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.

Main projects for 2025

For the year 2025, the Unit is focusing on designing and developing of the new Intrastat and database system. The new system should be in operation by Q2 2026. The introduction of the SASP type Centralised clearance system by Customs in March 2025 will be the basis for the implementation of the Customs Data Exchange (CDE). The International Trade in Goods Statistics (ITGS) Unit is expected to start transmitting CDE data by end of 2025. In 2025, a new National Threshold for Intra-EU Trade will be established and subsequently applied in 2026.

Priorities for 2026-2028

- Continue analysing the data as per Micro Data Exchange (MDE) to identify lacunae in the system and address them in collaboration with other Member States;
- Resort to microdata linking and other methods to address under-reporting;
- Compile estimates, especially regarding the sectors of fuel, aircraft and seacraft, while continuing to explore alternative data sources;
- Ensure that a new Intrastat and database system is designed and implemented by Q2 2026;
- Continue analysing INTRASTAT and EXTRASTAT¹ monthly data to ensure good quality;
- Implement the changes in the methodologies imposed by Eurostat on Trade by Enterprise Characteristics (TEC), MDE and COMEXT;
- Ensure that all Eurostat requirements for data keeps being sent in a timely manner;
- Analyse TEC and Trade by Invoicing Currency (TIC) data which will be used in future analysis to combine it with cross-domain data to shed light on aspects of trade and the economy;
- Publish more Selected Indicators instead of the ITGS Publication;
- Enhance the use of Trade Indices to identify outliers for the improvement of data quality, analyse inflation/deflation of costs of goods and examine the effect on the local market;
- Adopt Microdata linking with Business Units;
- Design and implement a modern and enhanced Intrastat and database management system for all ITGS.

¹ 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).

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
Ongoing	ITGS 01	Continue the MDE data transmission process as per requirements, start to analyse MDE data received from other Member States and identify non-compliant traders.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	ITGS 02	Undertake further automation and implement new requirements in TEC and improve data processing timeframes.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	ITGS 03	Undertake further automation of data analysis and validations to new requirements for the biannual TIC. TIC data will be submitted annually on a voluntary basis.	✓	✓	✓	✓
New	ITGS 04	Develop and implement the CDE.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	ITGS 05	Continue collaboration with CfR to use VAT data to cross-check intra-EU data in Intrastat.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	ITGS 06	Design and implement a modern and enhanced Intrastat and database management system for all international trade statistics.	✓	✓		
Ongoing	ITGS 07	Compile and publish various Selected Indicators.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	ITGS 08	Invest further in economic analysis of International Trade statistics, particularly in relation to other macroeconomic aggregates and initiate the writing of papers on aspects of trade in goods.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	ITGS 09	Raise the Imports/Exports Traders Threshold for the Intrastat reporting obligation.	✓	✓		
New	ITGS 10	Micro Data Linking with Business Statistics Unit.	✓	✓	✓	✓
New	ITGS 11	Study, design, and implement Trade Indices.			✓	✓
Ongoing	ITGS 12	Enhance the StatDB data.		✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	ITGS 13	Cleaning of data especially in sensitive sectors such as food, fuel, etc, to ensure good quality for Trade Indices calculation.		✓	✓	✓

PRICE STATISTICS

The Unit is responsible for the compilation of the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) and the Retail Price Index (RPI). The Unit also produces Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) that feed into the production of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at purchasing power standards and are used to compile deflators. Other tasks include the collection and production of rent statistics, production of the House Price Index (HPI), the Residential Property Price Index and the Owner-Occupied Housing Price Index. Moreover, the Unit publishes monthly data on residential property transactions, showing the number of registered final deeds of sale and promise of sale agreements, the value of final deeds of sale and the number of properties transacted in the final deeds of sale.

Main projects for 2025

For the year 2025, the Unit aims to finalise the reclassification of the HICPs (including HICP, HICP-CT and HICP-AP) timeseries to ECOICOP version 2 – these are to be finalised by mid-year. In relation to the HICP, a new project leading to the integration of Games of Chance in the HICP compilation – as from January 2026 – was launched. Another milestone involves the publication of the Commercial Property Price Index (CPPI) while making significant progress with respect to the Commercial Property Rent Index (CPRI).

Priorities for 2026-2028

- Integration of the Games of Chance Index in the HICP;
- Publish the CPRI;
- Rebasing HICP with base period: Average 2026=100;
- Developing the HPI Flash Estimates;
- Construction of the Commercial Property Indicator weights;
- Exploring the possibility of obtaining scanner data.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
New	PRI 01	Calculation and integration of the Games of Chance Index in the HICP.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	PRI 02	Compilation of the CPPI weights and indices, and subsequent publish the data.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	PRI 03	Compilation and publication of the CPRI.		✓	✓	✓

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Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
New	PRI 04	Rebasing the HICP Indices to 2025=100	✓	✓		
New	PRI 05	Development of the HPI Flash Estimates.	✓	✓		
Ongoing	PRI 06	Implement the ECOICOP version 2 in the HICP, HICP-AP and HICP-CT time series.	✓			
New	PRI 07	Update the RPI weights by devising a weighting structure based on Household Budget Survey data.	✓	✓		

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**BUSINESS, SECTORAL &
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 and administrative sources is transformed into coherent statistics tailored to meet the needs of both internal and external users. The Unit also contributes to the production of key economic indicators, striving to reduce the response burden on businesses, improve process efficiency, and expand research and analysis across a wide range of business-related domains.

Main projects for 2025

The projects for 2025 aim to further ease the response burden on the business community and deliver more relevant statistical outputs. This includes refining processes to make greater use of administrative data sources, reducing the need for direct business surveys.

The Unit will initiate the development of a Micro-Data Infrastructure (MDI) in collaboration with CompNet, introducing a cutting-edge tool that enables researchers to conduct micro-level research without the need for direct access to micro-level confidential data. This initiative will be complemented by a separate project, in collaboration with Eurostat and other EU Member States, aimed at developing and advancing similar microdata linking (MDL) for National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) of EU member states through a consortium of six lead countries, which Malta forms part of. Additional initiatives related to data linking methodologies aim to integrate bank card data in the NSO's statistical inventory to provide a broader perspective on economic activity, particularly where applicable.

Moreover, an action plan will also be developed to explore PRODCOM as a new statistical domain, while continuing to build on existing development supported by an EU grant in the Global Value Chains (GVC) domain, alongside the core activities of Structural Business Statistics (SBS) and Foreign Affiliates Statistics (FATS). In FATS, the focus will include bilateral discussions with other countries to reduce data asymmetries and enhance data quality.

Priorities for 2026-2028

- Compile annual Structural Business Statistics, Global Value Chains and International Sourcing (GVC-IS) Statistics, and Foreign Affiliate Statistics in a timely manner, ensuring compliance with the European Business Statistics (EBS) Regulation, including the annual profiling for the statistical unit 'Enterprise';
- Expand the data inventory at the NSO by exploring the feasibility of national PRODCOM statistics;
- Initiate the development of a MDI with CompNet to enable secure micro-level research without direct access to confidential data, alongside a Eurostat-led project advancing MDL. Maintain and enhance the comprehensive methodological deployment of the statistical unit 'Enterprise' concept;

- Solidify the 2020 modernisation plan of the Structural Business Statistics by building upon the progress achieved through regular methodological reviews for fine-tuning, optimising existing systems for reducing administrative and response burden and enhancements to online data collection and modular questionnaires;
- Increase reliance on scientifically designed models for the estimation of statistical data to improve the overall coverage of the surveys while continuously reducing unnecessary response burden;
- Enhance coherence with other statistical output produced internally by means of effective coordination and communication;
- Continue seeking opportunities to access administrative data with the aim of ensuring consistency and high-quality data;
- Incorporate bank card data as part of the NSO data inventory through a routine process to fill information gaps and enhance the depth of national statistics;
- Actively engage in international conferences and workshops to promote and showcase advancements in statistical practices in Malta.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
Ongoing	SBS 01	Execute routine statistical operations, including conducting the SBS survey, producing inward and outward FATS, maintaining and enhancing the 'Enterprise' statistical unit, and performing annual reviews of SBS and Inward Foreign Affiliates Statistics (IFATS) statistics to ensure greater accuracy and better quality.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	SBS 02	Follow the economic globalisation-related issues and fulfil the duties of a coordinator in the Large Cases Units (LCU) network – European Network of Multinational Enterprise coordinators MNEnet.	✓	✓	✓	✓
One-off project	SBS 03	Maintain participation in CompNet and develop the Micro-Data Infrastructure (MDI) to facilitate secure and efficient micro-level research for researchers.	✓	✓	✓	
One-off project	SBS 04	Assess the feasibility of compiling national PRODCOM statistics, exploring potential methodologies and applications within the manufacturing industries.	✓	✓		
One-off project	SBS 05	Expand GVC statistics through the incorporation of supplementary questions and microdata linking with other statistical domains to broaden the scope of analysis (Grant 2022-MT-GVC-MNE).	✓			
New	SBS 06	Incorporate bank card data as part of the data inventory to fill information gaps and enhance the depth of national statistics.	✓			
One-off project	SBS 07	Assist in NACE Rev 2.1 profiling and back cast the SBS EBS data in alignment with the NACE Rev 2.1 classification.	✓	✓	✓	

BUSINESS REGISTER, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

The Unit is responsible for maintaining the Statistical Business Register (SBR). The Register comprises an exhaustive list of all registered legal units in Malta and is a direct source of Business Demography (BD) data. It also feeds into the EuroGroups Register (EGR), a network of business registers which focuses on multinational enterprise groups and is used by the Member States for statistical purposes. Additionally, the Unit carries out the Research & Development (R&D) survey, which collects data on research in the private sector and the Community Innovation Survey (CIS), which collects data on business innovation.

Main projects for 2025

During 2025, the updates envisaged in the SBR processes will mainly include microdata linking (MDL) with administrative sources to continue ensuring completeness and accuracy in the register. In line with European Council Regulation (EEC) 696/93, the enterprise statistical unit has been included in the reporting process and the Unit will continue working on alignment across domains and maintaining consistency over time. Additionally, the Unit will continue improving the Local Units (LOU) population in Malta using administrative data sources, namely the plastic money and utility consumption data.

The Unit shall continue working on the buildup of the enterprise population timeseries and the process of identifying the births and deaths of complex enterprises. The Unit shall continue working on the identification and flagging of new enterprises in Malta, subject to national scope and footprint, in the form of either being a resident unit or special purpose entity (SPE). Moreover, the Unit will keep abreast with any developments and requirements relating to the EGR and globalisation aspects.

Another major project for 2025 is the transition and implementation of NACE Rev.2.1 in the SBR. It involves MDL with several existing registers and sources to assist in the NACE conversion process. Dual coding is set to continue for a few years, while back casting is projected to go till 2021. Furthermore, another ongoing project will be the Research & Development 2023 data, which is expected to be finalised by the end of June 2025 with the next cycle launched around the same period. In addition, the Unit will launch the Innovation Survey 2024, which requires the implementation of several changes in every cycle.

Priorities for 2026-2028

- Continue improving the updates to the Business Register to increase its overall coverage and level of detail through process automation. Improvements include classification according to the legal unit and statistical unit concepts;

- Compile and maintain the Local Units register through a dedicated survey, while utilising secondary data sources, such as plastic money and utility consumption data points;
- Work toward Business Register comprehensiveness across all industries and sectors;
- Continue to populate the EuroGroups links annually;
- Carry out the R&D and Innovation surveys according to the Frascati and Oslo Manuals respectively. R&D reporting will also be including a considerable number of additional Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) requirements;
- Implement the NACE Rev.2.1 and coordinate with external stakeholders and other NSO Units.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
Ongoing	BRR1 01	Improve updating processes to the SBR using various data sources.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	BRR1 02	Undertake yearly R&D survey data collection and reporting including new OECD required variables.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	BRR1 03	Work on the Innovation Survey.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	BRR1 04	Ensure the submission of BD data in line with the EBS Regulation, compile annual reports on bankruptcies and provide quarterly and regional reporting as well as monthly reports on a voluntarily basis.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	BRR1 05	Complete group data in line with EGR requirements including globalisation aspects such as European profiling.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	BRR1 06	Maintain the annual Local Units population.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	BRR1 07	Implement the conversion to NACE Rev.2.1 in the SBR, data optimisation through MDL of existing registers, and continue dual coding for a number of years, and back cast till 2021.	✓	✓	✓	✓

SHORT-TERM BUSINESS STATISTICS

The Unit is responsible for the compilation of several early indicators that illustrate the most recent developments in the business economy covering industry, construction, wholesale trade, retail trade and services. The indicators encompass production (volume), producer prices, turnover, employment, hours worked, wages and salaries, building permits, construction starts and works completions. Typically, the data is presented in index form and is published in unadjusted, calendar adjusted, and seasonally adjusted formats, as needed.

Main projects for 2025

For 2025, the Unit's work programme will focus on three key projects:

- Administrative/Experimental data sources: The use of plastic money data in compiling the official monthly retail trade indicator to enhance accuracy and reduce burden.
- Automation/Efficiency: The continued automation of all major work processes to improve efficiency and minimise human error through the ongoing SPSA-STBS project and expanded use of the R programming language in the Unit.
- New indicators: The finalisation of new construction indicators – construction starts and works completions – to provide a fuller description of the construction industry.

Priorities for 2026-2028

- Continue the modernisation and digitisation of all the Unit's work processes through the completion of the SPSA-STBS project;
- Continue developing the commercial real estate indicators namely construction starts, works completions and vacancy rates, as recommended by Eurostat and the European Systemic Risk Board;
- Optimise the value of administrative data to assess the feasibility of computing further statistics on construction lead time classified by permit type and locality;
- Improve inter-unit dependencies and coherence to mitigate discrepancies and minimise the risk of significant revisions;
- Seek stronger role for administrative and secondary data sources in the compilation process of short-term business statistics, testing the use of value-added tax data for the larger firms, utility consumption data via smart meters, and plastic money data to improve coverage and quality of statistics;
- Investigate the practical use of statistical programming languages in the routine work processes of the Unit;
- Enhance expertise in key areas critical to the Unit, including temporal disaggregation, outlier detection, imputations, linking primary and secondary data, index calculation and seasonal adjustments.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
Ongoing	STBS 01	Continue the digital transformation of the Unit's data collection system and automate the statistical validation and imputation processes using a suitable statistical programming language.	✓	✓		
One-off project	STBS 02	Investigate the use of plastic money for the monthly retail trade turnover indicator.	✓	✓		
Ongoing	STBS 03	Commercial real estate indicators grant – construction starts: Finalise the indicator in 2025-2026 and put it in regular production (including preparatory work with relevant stakeholders). In parallel, conduct groundwork for construction works completions data.	✓	✓	✓	
One-off project	STBS 04	Explore feasibility to compute new statistics on construction lead time classified by permit type and location.	✓	✓		
New	STBS 05	Commercial real estate indicators – vacancy rates: Develop a dedicated survey for business units operating in NACE 68.2.		✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	STBS 06	Monthly production (volume) indices: Provide Eurostat transmissions and/or news releases on the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), retail trade volume of sales and Index of Services Production (ISP) – the latter from 2024 only.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	STBS 07	Monthly turnover indices: Provide Eurostat transmissions and/or news releases on industry, wholesale trade, retail trade and services turnover (the latter from 2024 only, otherwise quarterly).	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	STBS 08	Producer price indices: Compile monthly news release and provide Eurostat transmission of the industrial producer prices and a quarterly Eurostat transmission on the services producer prices.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	STBS 09	Quarterly labour indicators: Provide news releases and Eurostat transmissions on the industrial (monthly), construction, wholesale trade, retail trade and services employment, hours worked and wages indices.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	STBS 10	Quarterly building permits: Provide news release and transmission of the construction building permits number and square metres indicators.	✓	✓	✓	✓

ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

The Unit has two domains: environment, and agriculture and fisheries. It is responsible for the production of statistics on waste, water, and environmental accounting. It also produces data and statistics on agricultural holdings, land use, animal stock, animal and agricultural products, plant protection products, fertilisers, fisheries, and aquaculture. Both domains are crucial to the implementation measures relating to the European Green Deal, the circular economy, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Main projects for 2025

Environment

During 2025, the Unit will work on the compilation of both the monetary and physical accounts while improving the methodology used for the compilation of these accounts. The Unit seeks to compile the waste statistics covering generation and treatment of waste together with the water statistics and gather daily and monthly climate data from Meteorological Office. Moreover, the Unit will be conducting a survey among the quarries to obtain information on the annual production of hardstone and softstone products.

Agriculture and Fisheries

As for the Agriculture domain, the Unit will conduct four important primary data collection projects: (i) the survey among the importers of fertilisers to collect data on sales of fertilisers; (ii) the survey to collect data on the use of fertilisers as part of a Eurostat Grant in view of the Statistics on Agricultural Input and Output (SAIO) Regulation, and; (iii) the survey on the use of plant protection products. The Unit will also continue compiling the data on the sales of pesticides and the monthly and annual data on crops, livestock, animal products, agricultural prices, and economic accounts for agriculture. The statistical farm register will continue to be updated accordingly. Moreover, the Unit will provide assistance to the Agriculture Directorate within the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights (MAFA) for the compilation of the Farm Sustainable Data Network (FSDN) survey. During the year, the Unit seeks to continue with the reassessment of the methodology behind the compilation of various sub-domains within Agriculture Statistics.

With regard to the Fisheries domain, the Unit shall be compiling both the monthly data collection on fish catches and landings and the annual aquaculture and tuna farming statistics.

Priorities for 2026-2028

Environment

- Compile the five monetary modules which are the environmental taxes by economic activity, environmental protection expenditure accounts, environmental goods and services sector, environmental subsidies and similar transfers, and potential environmentally damaging subsidies;

- Compile the two physical modules: economy-wide material flow accounts and air emissions accounts;
- Continue improving the methodology used for the compilation of both monetary and physical modules;
- Continue producing Waste statistics covering generation and treatment of waste;
- Compile Water statistics: freshwater resources, freshwater abstraction by sector, water use by economic activity, and wastewater generation and treatment.

Agriculture and Fisheries

- Continue producing and publishing statistics on structure of farms, agricultural production, agricultural prices and price indices, economic accounts for agriculture, and agro-environmental statistics;
- Carry out the Pesticides Use Survey as part of the SAIO Regulation and the Integrated Farm statistics survey;
- Assist MAFA with the compilation of the FSDN survey;
- Continue to produce and publish Fishery and Aquaculture statistics in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and Aquatic Resources Malta.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
Ongoing	EAF 01	Compile the monetary environmental accounts and the physical accounts: economy-wide material flow accounts and air emissions accounts.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EAF 02	Compile annual Waste statistics.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EAF 03	Compile monthly and annual Water statistics.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EAF 04	Gather Climate data from the Meteorological Office including daily and monthly data.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EAF 05	Conduct the mineral production survey.	✓		✓	
Ongoing	EAF 06	Conduct the Integrated Farm Statistics survey and related modules.		✓	✓	
Ongoing	EAF 07	Update the statistical farm register with data from different administrative sources.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EAF 08	Compile monthly and annual data on crops, livestock, animal products, agricultural prices, and economic accounts for agriculture.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EAF 09	Collect data on the sales of pesticides directly from importers.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EAF 10	Work on the survey on the use of plant protection products among agricultural holdings to estimate the amount applied to selected crops.	✓	✓	✓	✓

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Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
Ongoing	EAF 11	Compile data on mineral and artificial fertilisers in the context of the SAIO Regulation.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EAF 12	Assist MAFA in the compilation of the annual data collection of the FSDN survey.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EAF 13	Compile both monthly data collection on fish catches and landings and annual Aquaculture and Tuna farming statistics.	✓	✓	✓	✓

REGIONAL, GEOSPATIAL, ENERGY AND TRANSPORT

The Unit has three domains: energy, transport, and regional and geospatial. The Unit is responsible for the production of statistics on oil, electricity, gas, and renewable energy. It also produces data on one physical module of environmental accounts: physical energy flow accounting. Within Transport statistics, it produces data on all modes relevant to Malta. Within the regional remit, the Unit produces output which caters to regional policy needs, including the economy, labour market, and energy. Within the geospatial portfolio, the Unit dives deeper into the regional dimension of statistics and engages in projects involving, data integration, microdata linking, Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping and spatial data analysis using ArcGIS software.

Main projects for 2025

During 2025, the Unit plans to develop the Regional Statistics Hub and the Transport Statistics Hub on the NSO's website which will include an array of data, charts and interactive maps to replace the respective publications. To support further the enrichment of the NSO's dissemination strategy, all maps which feature in the NSO's news releases will be interactive. In addition, the Unit will work on the GIS grant: 'A spatio-temporal analysis of the last three Population and Housing censuses (2005-2021) through the 1km² grid'. The Unit will conclude the project of the microdata linking of non-residential electricity consumption to the statistical Business Register by using data provided by the Water Services Corporation, Enemalta plc and ARMS Ltd. Such statistics will also be published on the GIS interactive interface. In relation to the transport domain, the Unit plans to introduce more relevant transport statistics based on the microdata linking of different administrative databases available at the NSO in the dedicated Transport Statistics Hub.

Priorities for 2026-2028

Energy

- Compile and publish news releases dedicated to Energy statistics;
- Compile and submit Physical Energy Flow Accounting statistics;
- Carry out Household Energy Consumption survey in 2026 and 2028 which shall 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;
- Conduct the next survey on the Use of Petroleum Products by Economic Activity in 2026;
- Maintain and improve microdata linking of electricity consumption to the Business Register characteristics (including NACE) by using data provided by Water Services Corporation, ARMS Ltd and Enemalta plc;
- Initiate the compilation of statistics on energy efficiency in buildings in line with European Green Deal requirements;
- Integrate Energy and Transport Statistics in line with European Green Deal requirements.

Transport

- Continue producing and disseminate road transport statistics, including Motor Vehicle and Traffic Accident statistics;
- Maintain and improve the dissemination of sea transport statistics in particular Sea Transport between Malta and Gozo;
- Maintain the compilation of microdata regarding electric-vehicle public charging infrastructure;
- Strengthen and maintain quality and timeliness in data on maritime cargo, basing on data provided by Transport Malta's Ports and Yachting directorate;
- Enhance quality and relevance of Transport statistics through more effective presentation and dissemination.

Regional and Geospatial

- Optimise output across regions (NUTS 3) and Local Administrative Units: LAU 1 (districts) and LAU 2 (localities), together with 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: a point-based spatial layer for the geocoding of street-based databases;
- Maintain work on the integration of geospatial information and statistics;
- Conclude the grant: 'A spatio-temporal analysis of the last three Population and Housing censuses (2005-2021) through the 1km² grid';
- 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;
- Develop short-term regional indicators based on the electricity and water consumption by economic activity;
- Continue contributing to the NSO's dissemination strategy by enriching output with interactive geospatial statistics.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
Ongoing	RGET 01	Produce and transmit Energy statistics monthly, biannually and annually, and disseminate statistics through dedicated news releases.	✓	✓	✓	✓

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Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
Ongoing	RGET 02	Compile yearly Physical Energy Flow Accounts statistics.	✓	✓	✓	✓
New	RGET 03	Carry out another edition of the survey on the Use of Petroleum Products by Economic Activity.		✓	✓	
One-off project	RGET 04	Carry out the Household Energy Consumption Survey.		✓		✓
Ongoing	RGET 05	Develop short-term regional indicators based on electricity and water consumption by industry, and continue improving statistics on electricity consumption by industry.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	RGET 06	Develop the Regional Statistics Hub on the NSO's website and publish 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 an exercise to establish the amount of commuter workers across regions (NUTS 3).	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	RGET 10	Work on Eurostat grant project: 'Data collection for City and Subnational Statistics'.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	RGET 11	Continue working on ReBUDS (in-house point spatial layer) with the final output being grid-based statistics.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	RGET 12	Continue working on the integration of geospatial information and statistics and on the application of interactive Geospatial statistics including through the continued participation in Malta GeoHub and INSPIRE projects.	✓	✓	✓	✓
One-off project	RGET 13	Work on and conclude the Eurostat grant project: 'A spatio-temporal analysis of the last three Population and Housing censuses (2005-2021) through the 1km ² grid.'	✓	✓		
Ongoing	RGET 14	Data collection, producing statistics and dissemination related to Transport.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	RGET 15	Continue exploring new data sources that can be used to improve the quality of transport statistics, and work with data holders to continue strengthening their data registers.	✓	✓	✓	✓
New	RGET 16	Develop the Transport Statistics Hub which will include an array of data, charts and interactive maps.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	RGET 17	Maintain the compilation of the microdata regarding electric-vehicle public charging infrastructure.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	RGET 18	Compile Energy-related and Transport Statistics in line with European Green Deal requirements.	✓	✓	✓	✓



4

SOCIAL STATISTICS

CULTURE AND TOURISM DATA COLLECTION

The Unit is responsible for the production of official statistics on culture and monitoring data collection operations related to the tourism ongoing frontier survey. As for culture statistics, the Unit conducts annual surveys among cinemas and collects data on libraries. Additionally, the Unit collaborates with various stakeholders on ad hoc surveys conducted periodically.

Main projects for 2025

In 2025, the Unit will develop a comprehensive four-year culture statistics plan aimed at reintroducing several discontinued surveys and establishing a robust, systematic data collection framework encompassing various facets of culture. This initiative seeks to create a sustainable and consistent approach to gathering data within this domain, ensuring it reflects the evolving landscape of Malta's cultural scene.

Additionally, regarding Tourism Data Collection, the Unit will continue to work closely with the full-time survey interviewers stationed at Malta International Airport to ensure the quality of the data being collected.

Priorities for 2026-2028

Culture

- Update or re-create four-year culture plan together with stakeholders;
- Resume supply-side surveys among libraries and cinemas;
- Update, launch and publish results from various culture statistics surveys, including those among band clubs, theatres and museums;
- Update register on Voluntary Organisations and work toward the launch of a survey among such organisations;
- Set up a register of sport organisations with a view to launching a related survey.

Tourism Data Collection

- Supervise and monitor all data collection operations related to the tourism border survey.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
New	CDT 01	Develop a comprehensive four-year culture plan in collaboration with stakeholders. This plan will include the re-launch of several culture-themed surveys, such as those among Band Clubs, Theatres, and Museums.	✓	✓		
Ongoing	CDT 02	Carry out annual culture surveys: cinemas and libraries.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	CDT 03	Update register on Voluntary Organisations and work toward the launch of a survey among such organisations.	✓	✓	✓	✓
New	CDT 04	Creation and maintenance of a register on sport organisations.		✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	CDT 05	Monitor TOURSTAT data collection operations.	✓	✓	✓	✓

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 are the European Statistics on Income and Living Conditions. The Unit also produces the Household Budget 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. Moreover, the Unit participates in the data analysis of the Central Bank of Malta's Household Finance and Consumption survey.

Furthermore, the Unit is also responsible for the production of official statistics on Tourism. The main output of tourism statistics is the ongoing frontier survey among inbound and outbound travellers at the Malta International Airport. The Unit also produces a monthly census among collective accommodation establishments, a quarterly telephone survey on national tourism, and other projects falling within this domain.

Main projects for 2025

During the year 2025, EU-SILC 2024 will be completed including the longitudinal by the first quarter and officially published by the second quarter, while EU-SILC 2025 will be finalised with provisional income data by the end of the year. The Household Finance and Consumption Survey (HFCS) 2026 data collection preparations will start by mid-2025. The HBS 2024/2025 data collection phase will be concluded by the end of year.

In 2025, the main tourism projects will involve ongoing data collection through the Tourstat, Accomstat, National Tourism, Cruise Passengers, and Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) surveys. This includes analysing the collected data and producing relevant statistics. Additionally, the Unit will continue working on the regular compilation and dissemination of Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSA), following the Technical Support Instrument (TSI) project conducted in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Priorities for 2026-2028

Living Conditions

- Improve the timeliness, quality and efficiency of living conditions indicators and statistics within EU-SILC;
- Improve further the quality of data verification and analysis processes such as 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, and other data collections;
- Produce more themed releases from EU-SILC;

- Assist in the preparations and the data collection of the HBS 2024, and conduct the analysis of the survey;
- Continue to assist our main stakeholders on ad hoc projects and simulations mostly basing on the EU-SILC and the HBS;
- Explore ways on how to improve use of administrative data sources.

Tourism

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

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
Ongoing	LCT 01	Conduct the analysis, transmission of EU-SILC data, and publication of salient results online and through news releases.	✓	✓	✓	✓
New	LCT 02	Further analysis of EU-SILC data and publication of ad-hoc reports / articles.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LCT 03	Assist Pensions Strategy Group and Basic Expenditure Needs projects, led by the Ministry for Social Justice and Solidarity, the Family and Children's Rights.	✓	✓	✓	✓
New	LCT 04	HFCS 2026 collection and analysis.		✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LCT 05	Work on the Household Budget Survey 2024/2025.	✓	✓	✓	
Ongoing	LCT 06	Collaborate on the wellbeing project with the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LCT 07	Assist the Committee working on the National Strategy for Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion 2025-2035.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LCT 08	Carry out TOURSTAT survey.	✓	✓	✓	✓

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Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
Ongoing	LCT 09	Carry out ACCOMSTAT census.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LCT 10	Produce national Tourism statistics.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LCT 11	Produce Cruise Passengers statistics.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LCT 12	Compile monthly and quarterly news releases on tourism supply and demand, and transmit data to Eurostat and quality reporting for Tourism statistics.	✓	✓	✓	✓
New	LCT 13	Conduct a feasibility study among yacht marinas to measure Yacht tourism		✓		
New	LCT 14	Carry out a study on a new seaport survey. This information will complement inbound tourism figures for air passengers.		✓		
Ongoing	LCT 15	Collect data and produce statistics on TEFL.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LCT 16	Work on the update of the pilot project on the TSA.	✓	✓	✓	✓

LABOUR MARKET AND INFORMATION SOCIETY

The Unit covers statistics on the demand and supply side of the labour market and statistics on ICT usage within private households and businesses. Other areas included in its remit are statistics on accidents and fatalities at work, and disability. To cover the different domains, the Unit uses data from administrative sources as well as survey data.

Main projects for 2025

During 2025, the Unit expects to work on the regular deliverables to satisfy the main statistical obligations. The unit also expects to make more headway on disability statistics and will work to produce official data on this domain for the first time.

Priorities for 2026-2028**Labour Market**

- Implement the Labour Force survey in line with the Integrated European Social Statistics (IESS) framework regulation;
- Produce a monthly news release covering harmonised Monthly Unemployment Rates according to the International Labour Organisation 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;
- Explore a new methodology for working out the Labour Cost indices;
- Conduct the data collection of the Structure of Earnings survey 2026;
- Fulfil EU obligations related to the Labour Cost Survey 2024;
- Continue transmission of fatal and non-fatal Accidents at Work statistics;
- Continue to produce indicators deemed to be important for policy-making purposes which include the Gender Pay Gap, Early Leaving from Education and Training (ELET) rate, among others;
- Work on the production of an employment register using a combination of administrative sources.

Information Society

- Carry out annual data collection of ICT usage and e-commerce in enterprises and ICT usage by individuals and household surveys;
- Publish results of both ICT-related surveys at a national level and transmit to Eurostat;
- Introduce new statistical outputs from the ICT usage by individuals and household survey.

Disability

- Collaborate with the line ministry on disability in order to improve the quality of data on this subject;
- Analyse the outcome of the Washington Group questions included in the Census 2021 questionnaire;
- Compile statistics on disability based on administrative data.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
Ongoing	LMIS 01	Implementation of the IESS regulation in terms of the Labour market and ICT household-related statistics.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LMIS 02	Compile registered Employment and Unemployment news releases.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LMIS 03	Compile, disseminate, and transmit results of the Job Vacancy survey.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LMIS 04	Produce the Labour Cost index and explore the feasibility of introducing a new methodology to compile the index.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LMIS 05	Transmit data on accidents and fatalities at work.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LMIS 06	Compile, disseminate, and transmit results of the Labour Cost Survey 2024.	✓	✓		
Ongoing	LMIS 07	Compile, disseminate, and transmit results of the Structure of Earnings Survey 2026.			✓	✓
Ongoing	LMIS 08	Produce Information Society statistics related to enterprises.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LMIS 09	Compile statistics on disability.	✓	✓	✓	✓
New	LMIS 10	Work on an employment register using a combination of administrative sources.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	LMIS 11	Further analysis of LFS and ICT-HH data and publication of ad hoc reports/articles.	✓	✓	✓	✓

POPULATION AND MIGRATION

The Unit is responsible for population counts and statistics on births, deaths, migration, and family formation/dissolution. Annual estimates of the total population, as well as household estimates used for internal weighting purposes, are calculated. Migration statistics are produced as a component of the population statistics as well as part of the specific domain related to asylum and managed migration.

Main projects for 2025

The Unit will continue to compile and disseminate annual estimated of population stock and migration flows, as well as produce statistics on managed migration. In 2025, the Unit aims to release the first national population projections using a new estimation framework. The Unit will also continue assisting the Central Management Unit with the finalisation of the new framework regulation on European Statistics on Population and Housing (ESPH). This will be followed by new discussions related to the implementing acts to continue through and beyond 2025. Finally, the Unit will focus on developing and testing of statistical population register and implementing the signs-of-life method for demographic estimation.

Priorities for 2026-2028**Population**

- Work on the development of a statistical population register for Demographic statistics, including the introduction of the signs-of-life analytic method;
- Devise effective methods to update the register of persons and households for sampling purposes as part of the work on the statistical population register;
- Continue to exploit existing and emerging administrative sources to improve the quality of Demographic statistics;
- Continue to work with stakeholders to improve existing administrative data;
- Lobby for the development of a national Population Register for Malta with the relevant stakeholders and authorities;
- Cooperate with Eurostat in their plan to implement the new framework regulation on European statistics on population and housing;
- Continue to work on a methodology to produce good quality national population projections and participate in related consultations with Eurostat;
- Create a new concept for a publication of Demographic statistics.

Migration

- Continue to work with the key entities involved in international protection and managed migration, ensuring that the new requirements included in Regulation (EU) 2020/851 are satisfied;

- Continue to work on the implementation of amendments to Regulation (EU) 2020/851;
- Continue to identify and tap administrative sources to improve quality and timeliness.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
Ongoing	POP 01	Collect and verify the quality of available administrative registers in demography and migration.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	POP 02	Maintain administrative registers used for producing demographic statistics.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	POP 03	Compile population and household counts for internal purposes, such as survey weighting.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	POP 04	Compile detailed demography and migration statistics and disseminate them nationally and to Eurostat.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	POP 05	Collect and transmit managed migration statistics to Eurostat, including data on International Protection and Residence Permits.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	POP 06	Compile and disseminate population projections.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	POP 07	Work toward the implementation of the signs-of-life method for demographic estimation.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	POP 08	Maintain and update the register of persons and households, which serves as a sampling frame for household surveys.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	POP 09	Preparatory work, data validation, compilation, and submission of European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) dataset, and quality report.	✓	✓	✓	✓

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Unit is responsible for compiling and analysing statistics in two key areas: education and community safety, with a particular focus on crime. In the education domain, the Unit produces statistics on formal education and training, as well as non-formal and lifelong learning, including continuous vocational training, while endeavouring to adapt to the evolving education landscape at both the national and EU levels. Moreover, the Unit develops and produces crime statistics, covering the areas of domestic violence, gender-based violence, crimes involving the crossing of intra-EU borders, and collaborates with various stakeholders within the criminal justice system to enhance the accuracy and relevance of crime-related data.

Main projects for 2025

During 2025, the Unit will continue striving to modernise the data collection and processing of its products in an attempt to improve efficiency and timeliness. Furthermore, the Unit aims to work on two new areas, namely the production of flash estimates on student enrolment in compulsory education during academic year 2024-2025, and the development of statistics on childcare. The Unit will also work on the launch of the next cycle of the Continuing Vocational Training Survey (CVTS).

Priorities for 2026-2028

Education

- Improve timeliness of the 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 development and needs;
- 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;
- Intensify efforts to produce flash estimates on children in education with the aim of providing a more timely overview;
- Launch the 7th round of the CVTS (reference period 2025, with data collection in 2026);
- Launch of the next round of the Adult Education Survey (AES) (reference period 2028, with data collection taking place between July 2028 and March 2029).

Community Safety

- Explore the possibility of collecting and analysing data from the Law Courts Agency;
- Continue to work and collaborate with stakeholders which provide administrative data in all areas;
- Continue to produce statistics on domestic violence;
- Participate in the Eurostat Task Force EU-GBV with the aim of improving the methodology and questionnaire of the Gender-Based Violence Survey (Survey on Safety and Well-being);

- Collect and disseminate results of the 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;
- Cooperate with Eurostat and other international agencies including the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC);
- Compile comparable EU-wide Crime statistics;
- Explore and develop new areas in Crime statistics;
- Cooperate and coordinate with the Human Rights Directorate on data related to hate crime;
- Launch of the next round of the EU-GBV (reference period 2027, with data collection taking place during 2027).

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
Ongoing	EDUCOM 01	Collect data on Education (enrolment, graduates, absenteeism, finance, personnel, mobility), map ISCED, and disseminate statistics through news releases and to Eurostat.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EDUCOM 02	Improve current coverage and content particularly for children benefiting from free childcare scheme.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EDUCOM 03	Compile registers on education personnel, student enrolments and exams.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EDUCOM 04	Conduct the CVTS.	✓	✓	✓	✓
New	EDUCOM 05	AES 2028.		✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EDUCOM 06	Collect Crime statistics and transmit them to Eurostat/ UNODC.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EDUCOM 07	Collect and produce statistics on Domestic Violence.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EDUCOM 08	2028 EU-GBV; and participation in Task Force ¹ .	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EDUCOM 09	Explore and develop new areas in Crime statistics.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EDUCOM 10	Collect and disseminate crime statistics based on administrative registers.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	EDUCOM 11	Mapping of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) to police recorded offences and inmate data.	✓	✓	✓	✓

¹ Subject to conclusion and confirmation of project.

5

DATA RESOURCES, IT & METHODOLOGY

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Unit is responsible for providing operational IT support for the Office’s projects and activities, covering both software and hardware. It also offers essential IT assistance to staff to enhance workflow efficiency.

Main projects for 2025

The Unit will focus on the onboarding of statistical domains onto the Statistical Production Service Architecture (SPSA) platform, marking a significant step in the ongoing IT transformation of statistical processes. Moreover, a new online statistical database shall be implemented, that seamlessly integrates with the data warehouse to enhance the accessibility and dissemination of statistics. The Unit will continue to provide IT-related assistance to production units, supporting data collection and the production of statistics. The maintenance and upgrading of the office’s IT infrastructure remain a priority to ensure optimal performance and reliability. Furthermore, emerging technologies will be actively researched to explore their potential applications within the NSO, identifying opportunities to enhance efficiency and drive innovation in statistical processes.

Priorities for 2026-2028

- Onboard statistical domains onto the SPSA platform;
- Provide IT-related assistance for data collection and the production of statistics by production units;
- Support and maintain the IT infrastructure;
- Explore new technologies to facilitate and modernise statistical production.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
Ongoing	IT 01	Onboarding statistical processes onto the SPSA platform.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	IT 02	Provide IT-related assistance for data collection and the production of statistics by production units.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	IT 03	Develop large-scale data collection systems for a number of domains including Trade Statistics, the Statistical Business Register, the European Health Interview Survey, and the Household Finance and Consumption Survey on behalf of the Central Bank of Malta.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	IT 04	Support and maintain the IT infrastructure.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	IT 05	Explore new technologies to facilitate and modernise statistical production.	✓	✓	✓	✓

INFORMATION SECURITY

The Unit is responsible for establishing and maintaining an information security management system that supports the NSO in achieving its business objectives while protecting its interests. This includes ensuring the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of data, complying with international standards, and fulfilling legal and regulatory requirements related to data management and usage within its jurisdiction.

Main projects for 2025

The Unit plans to enhance the NSO’s information security posture by providing tailored training to all staff, implementing business continuity scenarios and disaster recovery plans, and conducting periodic vulnerability scans, spot checks, and simulated sessions. Alongside risk assessments, inventory updates, and internal document reviews, the Unit will also oversee and follow up on internal and external audits planned for 2025.

Priorities for 2026-2028

- Conduct an annual risk assessment to identify operational risks;
- Coordinate two annual audits to ensure compliance with international standards;
- Establish and perform regular vulnerability scans, spot checks, and simulated sessions;
- Develop and maintain a business continuity and disaster recovery plan, including regular reviews and testing to minimise long-term operational disruptions;
- Regularly update inventories, policies, procedures, and supporting documentation;
- Enhance information security awareness sessions for staff, featuring key security principles and engaging, tailored audio-visual content.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
Ongoing	IS 01	Conduct annual risk assessments to identify operational risks.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	IS 02	Facilitate two audits per year for compliance.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	IS 03	Perform regular vulnerability scans, spot checks, and simulations.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	IS 04	Maintain and test a business continuity and disaster recovery plan.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	IS 05	Update inventories, policies, and procedures regularly.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	IS 06	Enhance staff security awareness with engaging training.	✓	✓	✓	✓

METHODOLOGY AND QUALITY

The Unit supports other domain units in enhancing and harmonising methodologies, focusing on quality aspects like survey design, sampling, statistical inference, data anonymisation and metadata. It ensures alignment with European regulations and fosters harmonisation across the Office.

Main projects for 2025

The Unit is set to roll out the Quality Management Framework (QMF) in 2025. This initiative will help to assess and enhance methodologies across technical domains to boost data quality and coherence. Concurrently, a separate effort will serve to update internal documentation for key work processes to align with international standards. The Unit also plans to collaborate with other NSO functional units to organise a series of internal workshops focused on enhancing staff skills, knowledge, and personal development. Additionally, a comprehensive metadata overhaul will update reference metadata reports, process documentation, the metadata repository, and the content on the dedicated metadata website.

Priorities for 2026-2028

- Implement and update the QMF covering all stages of the statistical data life cycle, including data collection, processing, analysis, and dissemination;
- Assess methodologies across various domains to ensure they are fit-for-purpose and properly documented;
- Draw samples for individual, households, and business surveys according to specific methodologies;
- Apply appropriate anonymisation techniques to protect the confidentiality and privacy of personal and business data;
- Develop standardised questionnaires for surveys to ensure the collection of consistent and comparable data;
- Update relevant metadata reports together with the metadata repository and dedicated website content;
- Design and organise a series of internal workshops focused on enhancing staff skills, knowledge, and personal development.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
Ongoing	MQ 01	Publish, implement and update the QMF.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	MQ 02	Methodological assistance and improvements across various domains.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	MQ 03	Generate samples of individuals, households, and businesses while ensuring anonymisation of these outputs and related data.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	MQ 04	Review survey questionnaires in line with internal and international standards.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	MQ 05	Set up and update metadata content.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	MQ 06	Setting up of internal workshops.	✓	✓	✓	✓

DATA COLLECTION UNIT

The Unit is responsible for collecting, verifying, and processing primary data through various methods. While its primary focus is supporting the Social Statistics Directorate, it also provides services to third parties that commission the NSO for specific studies.

Main project for 2025

The Unit aims to support the Social Statistics Directorate and third parties in collecting, verifying, and processing data for various surveys. In collaboration with the Data Processing Unit, it will develop a comprehensive set of standard operating procedures for key data collection processes and projects. Additionally, training activities and materials for field officers will be enhanced to improve effectiveness.

Priorities for 2026-2028

- Act as the main channel for the collection and coding of social data from households and individuals;
- Conduct an average of 10 surveys per year, including those commissioned by third party organisations with the aim of contributing to policy making in various areas;
- Recruit and train field officers in personal interviewing techniques, with enhanced training activities and materials to improve effectiveness;
- Assist in the planning and staff recruitment stages of surveys in the economic and business domains.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
Ongoing	DC 01	Data collection and coding activities for internal and external users.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	DC 02	Recruitment and training of field officers.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	DC 03	Assistance in survey planning.	✓	✓	✓	✓
One-off project	DC 04	Develop internal standard operating procedures for data collection processes.	✓			

DATA PROCESSING

The Unit oversees the quality assurance of primary data gathered through surveys before it is passed on for statistical production. It is also responsible for collecting secondary data from external sources and maintaining a detailed register of all administrative data available at the NSO, as well as pseudonymising all personal data to ensure secure storage and facilitate internal linkage.

Main project for 2025

The Unit aims to validate all primary social data collected by the NSO through a framework that includes data collection tool requirements, test cases, and data validation processes. It will also provide technical support during fieldwork and prepare methodological reports as needed. For all major projects, including key administrative areas, a set of standard operating procedures will be created in collaboration with the Data Collection Unit. Additionally, the Unit will serve as the central hub for receiving administrative data and implementing data pseudonymisation across relevant domains. All data sources will be consistently catalogued and regularly updated in a centralised Data Inventory.

Priorities for 2026-2028

- Conduct data validation for specific data collection projects, including establishing data collection tool requirements and test cases;
- Implement pseudonymisation across all relevant domains;
- Centralise the collection of administrative data sources within the office;
- Develop a series of internal standard operating procedures to govern various data collection processes;
- Provide technical support to other domains during fieldwork;
- Produce methodological reports for specific projects.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
Ongoing	DP 01	Validate data for centralised collection projects, including tool requirements and test cases.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	DP 02	Implement pseudonymisation across relevant domains.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	DP 03	Centralise the collection of administrative data.	✓	✓	✓	✓
One-off project	DP 04	Develop internal standard operating procedures for data collection processes.	✓			
Ongoing	DP 05	Provide technical support to other domains during fieldwork.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	DP 06	Produce quality documents in the form of methodological reports, where applicable.	✓	✓	✓	✓



6

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 the 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, toward maximising staff motivation and workforce stability.

Main projects for 2025

During 2025, the Unit will introduce a new additional induction programme for new employees and implement a training strategy plan for all NSO employees, based on the skills analysis conducted in 2024. The strategy will include job shadowing initiatives across all units and the implementation of training for managers and other technical training for staff members. The Unit will also present a report on the Staff Satisfaction Survey 2024, outlining key findings and recommendations. The Unit will then implement HR-related recommendations and monitor the progress. Ultimately, the Unit will draft new or strengthen policies aligned with the new Collective Agreement:

- Alternative Working Arrangements Policy;
- Performance Management Programme Policy;
- Internship Programme Policy;
- Professional Development, Sponsorship and Study Leave Policy;
- Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy;
- Drug & Alcohol Policy.

Priorities for 2026-2028

- Enhance the skills database to identify skills gaps in the short and long term while formulating a holistic training strategy with the aim of investing further in the continuous development of NSO employees and sustaining a culture of job shadowing;
- Continue updating the Human Resources policies and procedures;
- Ensure that personal files comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) requirements;
- Contribute to business continuity measures such as job rotation and job shadowing;
- Contribute to a structured approach for the wellbeing of staff through the Staff Social Committee;
- Make continuous enhancements to the Human Resources Information System (HRIS);
- Improve the new Performance Management Programme (PMP) system through the analysis of the feedback received and the introduction of a new Policy;
- Resume with the transition of HR procedures from paper to electronic means;
- Introduce a new additional induction programme for new employees.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
Ongoing	HRSD 01	Enhance the existing skills database with the aim of developing a comprehensive Skills Gap Analysis Strategic Report and to sustain and promote a culture of job shadowing. This initiative will provide insights into both organisational and individual training needs. The unit is already geared to provide Emotional Intelligence and Management training for managers, and training in Python and R for Statistical Officers and employees whose duties involve data analysis and other technical functions.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	HRSD 02	Review and implement key HR policies and procedures, with particular focus on aligning them with the provisions outlined in the new Collective Agreement. This includes the revamp of the Alternative Working Arrangements Policy to reflect the updated clauses and support evolving work practices. In addition, the Unit will implement the Change in Stream procedure and issue an Expression of Interest for eligible employees who have completed over 20 years of service at the Administration Officer 4 (AO4) grade to participate in a structured colloquium process as stipulated in the new Collective Agreement.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	HRSD 03	Ensure that personal files comply with, and are managed according to GDPR requirements.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	HRSD 04	Enhance the features for better user experience of the Human Resources Information System (HRIS).	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	HRSD 05	Contribute to a structured approach for the wellbeing of staff through the Staff Social Committee.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	HRSD 06	Implementation of a new policy aimed at strengthening NSO's Performance Management Programme. This policy is intended to enhance consistency, transparency, and alignment between individual performance and organisational objectives.	✓			
Ongoing	HRSD 07	Compile the Staff Satisfaction Survey 2024 Report and take the necessary actions.	✓			
New	HRSD 08	Introduce a new additional induction programme for new employees.	✓	✓		
Ongoing	HRSD 09	Actively intensify recruitment efforts across all employment streams, including full-time employees, casual part-time officers, and interns. The primary objective is to achieve full staffing complement and to ensure timely replacements for outgoing personnel, thereby maintaining operational continuity and minimising disruptions.	✓	✓	✓	✓

PROCUREMENT, SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

The Unit is responsible for a range of horizontal services. Salient among these is the procurement of goods and services that amount to less than €10,000, 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 undertaken. The Unit provides every support to all Units whether domain or horizontal, facilitating operations such as local transport, foreign travel, and assistance in the day-to-day handling of survey participants and interviewers.

Main projects for 2025

The main project for the Unit in 2025 is the refurbishment of the bathrooms and replacement of the passenger lift at the Valletta premises apart from addressing any other minor maintenance and refurbishment works at both the Valletta and Gozo offices. Furthermore, after the finalisation of a technical architect's report based on survey plans of the NSO Valletta premises, a refurbishment plan including renovation aspects shall be presented for approval purposes. The Unit will continue providing all basic supporting services falling under its responsibility while also providing specific support for all projects e.g. The Household Budgetary Survey, undertaken by the different units at the office.

Priorities 2026-2028

- Continue managing procurement processes which fall within the remit of the Unit;
- Continue providing daily support to the Office: mail handling, driving, portering, messengerial duties and physical security;
- Administer overseas travel arrangements;
- Maintain and upgrade premises, both in Malta and Gozo, and oversee security services, in line with national/international standards and practices, and general assessments undertaken from time to time;
- Maintain and continue the development of the VoIP telecommunication system;
- Finalisation of a technical architect's report of the NSO Valletta premises, and drafting of a refurbishment plan including renovation aspects;
- Provide assistance throughout any tender process for the refurbishment of the Malta office of the NSO followed by any additional duties which may be required during the tender adjudication phase;
- Administration of all maintenance and refurbishment works, both in Malta and Gozo premises.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
Ongoing	PSR 01	Provide support to the Office including, but not limited to, general procurement and logistics.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	PSR 02	Administer overseas travel.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	PSR 03	Maintain all NSO premises, coordinate and monitor embellishment projects of premises.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	PSR 04	Maintain VoIP telecommunication system.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	PSR 05	Provide all assistance necessary throughout the refurbishment of the Valletta premises.	✓	✓	✓	✓
New	PSR 06	Prepare a refurbishment/renovation time plan for the NSO's HQ.	✓	✓		

HEALTH AND SAFETY AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT MANAGEMENT

The Unit is responsible for a variety of tasks emanating from the operations of the Office, including but not limited to health and safety aspects, employee mental health awareness, and acting as the first line of contact in related situations. The Unit also takes care of daily logistics in respect of cleaning and security services provided by third-party service providers, and the administration of the registry.

Main projects for 2025

In 2025 the Unit will continue the project of verification and retention of old registry file documents, with the aim to start the systematically transfer of files to the National Archives of Malta, starting from the 1986 ones. Priority will also be given to the digitisation of the present registry files and the initiation of the general use of the Electronic Data Management System (EDMS) through the establishment of an explicit taskforce and project plan. Moreover, based on the findings of a mental health survey carried out in 2024 among staff, the Unit will seek professional recommendations which will be implemented starting from this year.

Priorities for 2026-2028

- Preside over Health, Safety and Environment Committee meetings;
- Organise information talks by professionals for employees;
- Update the Occupational Health and Safety report, including a generic update of the risk assessments for the Valletta office, the Ghajnsielem Gozo office and the office at the Malta International Airport;
- Conduct regular fire drills and provision of safety training;
- Undertake General Registry administration;
- Verify and transfer old registry file documents to the National Archives of Malta;
- Digitise the relevant files and initiate the general use of the EDMS through the establishment of a taskforce and project plan;
- Implement professional recommendations following the staff mental health survey;
- Manage the daily cleaning and security services of the office supplied by third-party service providers.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
Ongoing	HSAS 01	Preside over the Health, Safety and Environment Employee Committee (HSE) meeting on a regular basis, organise professional information talks for employees, and implement recommendations accordingly.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	HSAS 02	Review and, when necessary, update the Occupational Health and Safety Report for the Malta and Gozo offices and to incorporate environmental elements and related risk-assessments.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	HSAS 03	Conduct regular fire drills and provision of safety training.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	HSAS 04	Manage the General Registry administration, including the digitisation of the required files and initiation of the general use of the Electronic Data Management System (EDMS) through the establishment of a taskforce and project plan.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	HSAS 05	Manage daily services (cleaning and security) provided by third-party providers.	✓	✓	✓	✓
New	HSAS 06	Initiation of a Disaster Recovery Plan for NSO.	✓	✓	✓	✓

COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION

The Unit is tasked with coordinating internal efforts to publish news releases and other publications. It also produces content for various dissemination materials, including the website, social media platforms, newsletters, press releases, videos, infographics, and promotional campaigns. The Unit identifies appropriate fora and audiences for disseminating the NSO's products and services, while extending public relations strategies. Additionally, it is responsible for nurturing relationships with the media, one of the NSO's most strategic partners, and promoting data literacy, particularly among the younger generation.

Main projects for 2025

Beyond publishing news releases, maintaining the website, and producing visuals, the Unit aims to enhance data literacy among the general public, particularly the youth. This is achieved through media collaboration and encouraging survey participation by emphasising their importance. In 2025, the Unit will focus on establishing a media committee made up of journalists to assist the NSO identify areas for improvement and enhancing the presentation of data to our audiences. The committee will also select topics for further information, with NSO experts providing presentations on these topics, their compilation, and analysis. In addition, a User Satisfaction Survey will be launched in 2025 to gather feedback from our data users and identify areas for improvement. To promote data literacy, the Unit will participate in the European Statistics Competition for the second time, targeting secondary and post-secondary students aged 14-18. This competition fosters connections with the education sector. Moreover, distinct promotional campaigns will be launched, tailored for both international audiences and the public, to build trust in the NSO, raise awareness, and boost survey response rates. Additionally, the campaign for the Household Budget Survey will proceed as planned.

Priorities for 2026-2028

- Ensure that the re-branding goals are retained and identify opportunities for continued enhancements. Includes continuously improving the NSO website to ensure it remains effective and engaging;
- Continuously enhance the Intranet portal and induce improvement in internal communication;
- Manage processes for news releases, publications, visualisations and maps;
- Maintain a good relationship with stakeholders and set up a media committee;
- Ensure continued adherence to the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) Plus and enhance the existing datasets with the inclusion of any additional indicators proposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF);
- Reorganise and manage the library and related services;
- Populate the new online database, facilitating access to meaningful statistics for our users;
- Improve social media presence;
- Participate in the European Statistics Competition as part of promoting data literacy with a focus on the younger generation;

- Continue translating statistical products into Maltese and create a Statistical Glossary featuring a list of statistical terms;
- Create and implement a marketing campaign, also tailored for individuals with a foreign background, with the aim of raising awareness, fostering trust and increasing their response rate to our surveys.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
Ongoing	CD 01	Ensure that the re-branding goals are retained and identify opportunities for continued enhancements. Includes continuously improving the NSO website to ensure it remains effective and engaging.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	CD 02	Continuously enhance the Intranet portal and induce improvement in internal communication.	✓	✓	✓	
Ongoing	CD 03	Undertake processes of disseminated products: news releases, publications, data visualisations and maps.	✓	✓	✓	✓
New	CD 04	Maintain a good relationship with stakeholders and set up a media committee.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	CD 05	Ensure continued adherence to the SDDS Plus and enhance the existing datasets with the inclusion of the any additional indicators proposed by the IMF.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	CD 06	Reorganise and administer library collection and related services.	✓	✓	✓	
Ongoing	CD 07	Populate the new online database, facilitating access to meaningful statistics for our users.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	CD 08	Improve social media presence.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	CD 09	Promote data literacy with a focus on the younger generation, in particular through participation in the European Statistics Competition.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	CD 10	Continue translating statistical products into Maltese and create a Statistical Glossary featuring a list of statistical terms.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	CD 11	Create and implement a marketing campaign, also tailored for individuals with a foreign background, with the aim of raising awareness, fostering trust and increasing their response rate to our surveys.	✓	✓	✓	



7

FINANCE

BUDGET, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

The Unit is responsible for the financial management and budgetary aspects of the NSO. It prepares the three-year budget presented to the Budget Office, Ministry for Finance on an annual basis. The Unit also prepares and sends an annual cashflow budget to the Ministry at the beginning of each year and updates it every quarter with actual expenditure and re-submits it to the Ministry for a new subvention request for the following quarter. Moreover, core tasks of the Unit include the coordination and review and financial management of all EU grant applications, and drafts and coordinates the tendering processes.

Main projects for 2025

As a priority for 2025, the Unit will coordinate tenders and quotations for the commencement of the refurbishment of the premises. The Unit will also assist the Human Resources and Staff Development Unit in the calculations of the arrears of salaries as the new Collective Agreement for all staff will be signed. During 2025, the Unit will start issuing payments to Households for their participation in the Household Budgetary Survey. Moreover, as in previous years the Unit will manage European Commission grants both at application and completion phases.

Priorities for 2026-2028

- Keep record of all expenditure by month and by Unit together with analysing any variances;
- Maintain an ongoing control over travel and overtime budgets;
- Prepare monthly Management Accounts;
- Manage the NSO's finances, including effecting all payments to suppliers and interviewers, reimbursements to the NSO staff, and VAT returns;
- Prepare the three-year and annual financial budgets;
- Liaise with external auditors for the annual financial audit;
- Discuss with Tax Authorities matters related to VAT, Income Tax, salaries, and reimbursement of pensions to the Treasury in connection with ex-NSO employees;
- Coordinate European Commission grants;
- Maintain and up-keep of contracts of services for both payables and receivables;
- Draft tender documents and ensure coordination with the Sectoral Procurement Division and Department of Contracts in relation to tenders and procurement processes;
- Issue payments to Households for their participation in the Household Budget Survey;
- Assist in the calculations of the salaries' arrears of staff after concluding the new Collective Agreement.

Project Timeline

Status	No	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028
Ongoing	BUDG 01	Keep accounting records and bank statements up to date, analyse salaries, travel, and overtime expenditure on a quarterly basis and submit VAT returns on a quarterly basis.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	BUDG 02	Prepare monthly Management Accounts and final financial statements for the external audit and liaise with external auditors as required.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	BUDG 03	Prepare financial budgets, and monitor and regularly report on expenditure.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	BUDG 04	Liaise with the domain Units on EU grants, making sure records are updated and sent to Eurostat and manage Financial Statements in connection with Grants.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	BUDG 05	Draft and coordinate tenders and procurement processes.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	BUDG 06	Keep record of contracts for services and for third-party surveys.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing	BUDG 07	Monitor payments to contractors and temporary workers, including their party survey interviewers.	✓	✓	✓	✓
New	BUDG 08	Issue payments to Households for their participation in the Household Budget Survey.	✓	✓		
New	BUDG 09	Assist in the computation of arrears of salaries calculations together with the Human Resources and Staff Development Unit.	✓			



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