DTMT Guidance (version 30 May 2019)

1 Introduction

The Data Transmission Monitoring Tool (DTMT) has been designed with the purpose of facilitating exchange of information among the end users of data, MS and Commission. The objective of this approach is to efficiently monitor and communicate data issues and in the long term improve the flow and quality of data. It is very important for DG MARE that issues are properly reported and commented on at all levels in the DTMT, so that a follow-up of data issues can be ensured.

Data issues which relate to MS not having provided the data for whatever reasons or data quality issues should be reported in the DTMT. In this way, MS will become aware of the data issues identified by EWGs or in preparation of EWGs and can therefore work on solutions for the future.

The data transmission issues should be reported in the DTMT in a standardised and homogeneous way to allow, by using a searchable tool, the quick identification of pending issues and to flag common gaps and issues among MS, among different years of the same data call and, when possible, among different data calls.

The identification of data transmission issues should start right after the deadline for the data call, when the first final dataset is available. The reporting of issues into the DTMT should start right after the expert working group has finished working with data. Direct communication with MS is desirable prior to reporting of issues in the DTMT. The issues that are already dealt with during the process of creating the final dataset should not generally be included in the DTMT and only outstanding issues should be reported, with the exception of timeliness issues which may need to be reported.

This Guidance document has been developed in stages under the guidance of DGMARE, JRC and STECF at the STECF Plenary in March 2019. It is intended to be a living document and updated as needed if changes are made to the DTMT or guidance needs to change. It can be found at (https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/guidelines).

The tool is available at

https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/web/dcf/dtmt

Access credentials are user-specific. All end user groups e.g. STECF (and relevant Expert groups), ICES, GFCM etc., will be provided with log-on credentials by the JRC.

The home page for the JRC and DG MARE is shown in Figure 1. This shows all columns with an example of 5 records.

End users will see a reduced number of columns in accordance with their access rights (see Table 1).

This Guidance document follows the chronological order of the DTMT sections.

2 Guidance for end users on filling in issues in the DTMT

2.1 How to add an issue

The JRC, END USERS and DG MARE can add a new issue using the 'Add issue' button.

Clicking 'Add issue' opens a dialogue box and the end-user simply needs to enter the required information in the appropriate boxes either by entering text or selecting from a drop-down menu (Figure 2).

If the end user fails to insert the relevant information, a warning dialogue box appears.

2.2 How should an issue be selected

Whether an issue should be reported is a *judgement* that must be made by the end-user that identifies a problem which remains unresolved and has had some influence on either the coverage, timeliness or quality of the data submitted.

The data type requested should be identified according to the list for each EWG (see Annex 1, at the end of this guidance document) and entered in the "**Data requested**" field. The entries should be limited to the listed values.

The "**Issue**" field is used to identify which specific part of the data requested is in error, and the nature of the issue. This field should contain enough information to clearly convey which piece of data is the issue. The information should be aggregated to the highest level feasible, without loss of clarity regarding the data being identified. Ideally, data that would be corrected together should be dealt with in a single record. Any issue raised requires a Member State to provide an explanation as to why the issue has arisen.

A clear description of the issues raised is fundamental to the ability of MSs to understand and comment on such issues, so clarity is important.

2.3 Deleting an issue

The JRC, END USERS and DG MARE can delete issues by clicking the button on the extreme left of the record next to the ID number (Figure 1). Clicking the opens up a confirmation to delete dialogue box.

2.4 Selecting the severity of impact of the issue been on the work of the EWG

Severity Field: "Low", "Medium" and "High".

"Low" implies not important impact on the conduct or output of the EWG.

"**Medium**" has influence on the conduct of the WG or the results, such that time has been wasted, or the results are in error but not in a major way.

"**High**" should be chosen where the results of the EWG have been influenced in an important way, such as errors in the output or delays in the conduct of the meeting or the preparation of the report.

Note: that the issue type "impact on the WG", has been removed

2.5 Different issue types

"Coverage" essentially relates to variables that were called for but not reported. However, when considering coverage, some expert judgement is required to determine whether a variable that was called for and not transmitted needs to be reported. Some common sense is required here. For example, reporting every missing variable for every stratum requested in a data call is not appropriate. Generally, individual coverage issues that are judged to have low impact on the end-user's work should not be reported. However if the cumulative effect of a series of coverage issues for a particular Member State is judged to be medium-high severity, then the description of the issues should be reported.

"Timeliness" essentially relates to data that were not transmitted in accordance with agreed deadlines (legal or operational). If for whatever reason, the data were transmitted after the deadline and were available to the end-user to undertake the work, this should be specified in the "End-user comment" column. If the delay is minor and the data is available for the work, and the delay is not occurring every year the End User may exclude the issue. However, the data are repeated uploaded late but in time for the EWG this should be note as a database entry.

"Quality" is not straightforward to assess but a general rule of thumb is that a quality issue will be one that has had an impact on the work being undertaken by the end-user. Hence quality issues with low severity need not be reported unless there is a cumulative effect. The end users should also look at section 4 of this document and fill in the "End user comment" field of the DTMT accordingly.

<u>Note:</u> that the issue type "**unknown**", has been removed as in practice it has not appeared to be useful.

3 Guidance to Member States on commenting on issues reported in the DTMT

Member States (MS) comments need to address each issue raised directly and provide a suitable explanation or confirmation of correction. Clarification should be provided where the MS has a reason why there is no obligation to provide the data.

Note that MS do not have the ability to add an issue record i.e. there is no "**Add issue**" button available for MS. Double clicking on an issue opens a dialogue box (Figure 3) where the MS can insert its comments. Note that the only editing option the MS has, is to insert/edit text in the "**Member State comment**" box.

4 End user comment and assessment

Two fields are provided, "end user comment" and "end user assessment". The first of these should be used by the end user to provide further information on the data issue, if that is needed, following the MS comment. The field "end user assessment" has several options: "Not assessed", when the end user has not evaluated MS response

"Satisfactory", where the end user considers that the MS response is satisfactory, covers the issue and no further action is needed

"**Unsatisfactory**", where the end user considers that the MS response does not resolve the issue and further action would be helpful to resolve the issue

"**Follow-up needed**" should be used in some situations in which the MS response may be satisfactory as an explanation of the reason for the issue, but there is still a need to follow-up on the issues for so that in the future such issues are less likely.

5 Guidance to STECF on commenting and assessment of data issues reported in the DTMT

Two fields are provided: "STECF comment" and "STECF assessment". The field "STECF comment" should be used to provide further information on the data issue, if that is needed following the MS comment. The field "STECF assessment" has several options:

"Not assessed", which indicates that STECF has not evaluated the MS response.

"Satisfactory", where STECF considers that the MS response is satisfactory, covers the issue and no further action is needed.

"**Unsatisfactory**", where STECF considers that the MS response does not resolve the issue and where further action would be helpful to resolve the issue.

"Follow-up needed" should be used in some situations in which the MS response may be satisfactory as an explanation of the reason for the issue, but there is still a need to follow-up on the issues for so that in the future such issues are less likely.

As for end-users and MS, it is crucial that the STECF and other end-users' comments to issues raised and the associated MS responses are sufficiently clear and informative to allow DG MARE to judge whether the issue can be considered a failure or warrants further clarification from the MS before such a judgement is made.

In assessing issues and MS responses, the current guidance (STECF EWG 18-10) is as listed in Table 2.

In assessing issues and Member State responses, the current guidance (STECF EWG 18-10) is as listed in Table 2. There is scope to further refine the guidance in Table 2 which could be further updated in the EWG 19-09 scheduled for June 2019.

Guidance to DG MARE on commenting and assessment of data issues reported in the DTMT

DG MARE has access to the entire application, but has edit access to the columns "DG MARE comments/action" and "DG MARE decision" (drop-down menu) only.

Double clicking a record opens up a dialogue box where the comments/action can be inserted and decision can be selected from the drop-down menu. Note that a new option "issue closed" is needed.

Figure 1. Home page of the online Data Transmission Monitoring Tool (DTMT) (JRC and DG MARE View)

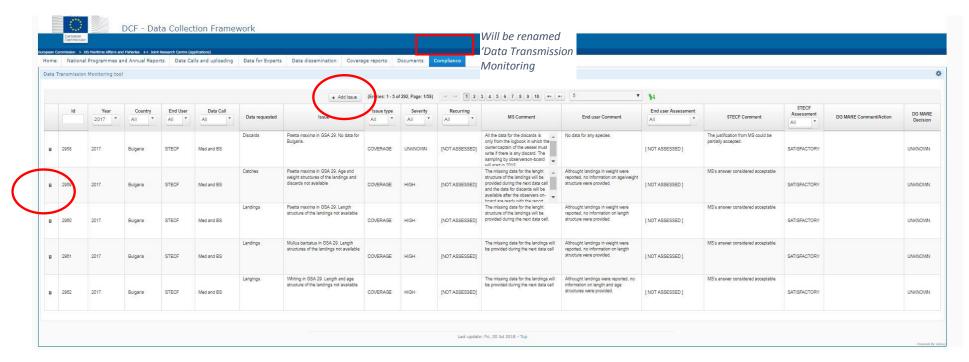


Table 1. Column headers, associated instructions and read/edit access rights

Colours refer to user input permissions. End-user input, MS input, STECF input, DG MARE input

Generally all fields are available to view by all End users, STECF and DGMARE but write permission is only given to the different users according the colour scheme given below. Generally MS will generally only be able to view their own records

ID	automatically generated	
Year	Manual input: Insert year of the most recent data call. This field is used also to identify records by year	
Country	select from drop-down menu	
End user	select from drop-down me	enu
Data call	select from drop-down me	enu
Data requested	• • •	A formal data description which should be taken from the relevant table for each EWG/organization (see Annex 1below)
Issue	Manual input identifying the issue.	The text should be stand-alone and contain explicit detail to be self-explanatory See examples given below by EWG, these should only refer to the data with the issue, by field year etc. and not data that is satisfactory, see Annex 1 for examples.
Issue type	Select from drop-down menu (coverage, quality, timeliness - see text above for basis)	
Severity	Select from drop-down menu (High, medium, low, see text above for basis).	
Recurring Issue?	Select from drop-down menu (yes, NO, UNKNOWN). Mark yes if it is an issue that was raised previously, BUT do not raise it if for example, if the issue had been satisfactorily addressed previously. Do not report for example that MS 'A' did not provide data for 2008-2010 if the data transmission issue relates to a data call in 2017 and this was previously reported and dealt with in 2015	
MS Comment	Manual input by MS. MS should provide sufficient detail to allow the end-user to assess whether the issue has been adequately addressed or whether it should remain as a potential data failure.	
		S only, Read access: end-user that raised the issue, STECF and DG MARE
End-user comment	Manual input. Insert any appropriate comment that justifies the end-user assessment and suggested follow-up action. Note that in some cases end user and STECF will be one and the same.	
End user Assessment	Select from drop-down menu (NOT ASSESSED, SATISFACTORY, UNSATISFACTORY, Follow-up needed - see above)	
STECF Comment/proposed action	Manual input. Insert any a	appropriate comment that justifies the STECF assessment and suggested follow-up action

STECF Assessment	Select from drop-down menu (NOT ASSESSED, SATISFACTORY, UNSATISFACTORY, Follow-up needed- see above)
DG MARE Comment/action	Manual input . Insert any appropriate comment that justifies the DG MARE assessment and follow-up action
DG MARE Decision	Select from drop-down menu (Not a DT Failure, Issue Closed, Failure)

Figure 2. Add issue dialogue box.

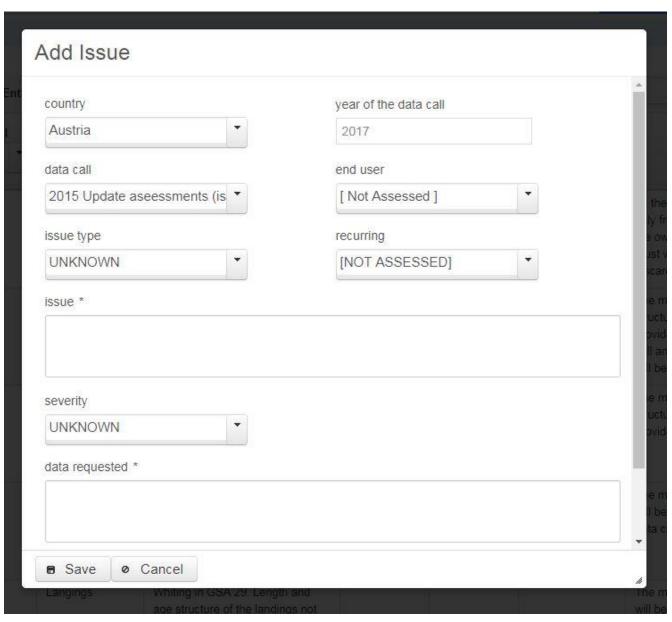


Figure 3. Member State dialogue box.

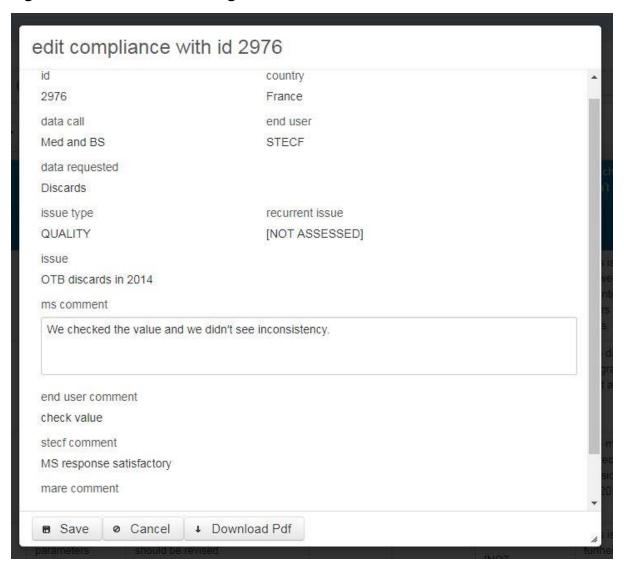


Table 2 - Guidance for STECF evaluation of data transmission issues resulted from EWG-18-10 $\,$

Issue	EWG Assessment	
	and associated comments	
Unclear MS comment in reply to the issue	Follow up necessary	
flagged by the end-user.	+ a comment:	
	"The comment by the MS is unclear."	
The DT issue identified by an end-user is	Not assessed	
not clearly and explicitly described (Enduser must always provide a self-sufficient	+ a comment:	
comment/feedback to the EWG.)	"The end-user should be more specific in defining the deficiencies"	
Information provided by end-users and	Follow up necessary	
MS is contradictory and there is no evidence to allow the EWG to give an	+ a comment:	
assessment.	"The information provided by end-users and MS is contradictory".	
MS mistaken on data transmission.	Unsatisfactory	
The issue raised relates to lack of data	Unsatisfactory	
collection and not data transmission. Hence, data will not be available but situation must be flagged.	A standard comment must be included. "Failure concerning data collection and not data transmission"	
Data exists but MS fails to submit.	Unsatisfactory	
When the issue raised is related to lack of punctuality on data transmission:		
1. If flagged by the End-user with "HIGH" or "Impact on the WG".	Unsatisfactory	
2. If flagged by the End-user with LOW/MEDIUM severity and it proves to be a repetitive issue from past years.	Unsatisfactory	
3. If flagged by the End-user with LOW/MEDIUM severity and it proves not to be a repetitive issue from past years.	Expert should judge according to the MS justification. (no fixed rules agreed)	
If MS according to the agreed NP, plans to collect additional data beyond DCF requirements and does not transmit these data in response to a data call (this additional collection must be however clearly stated in the NP)).	Unsatisfactory	
If the issue relates to data collected and called for in the past and data transmission has previously been	. Satisfactory The Standard comment "Issue is assumed to be closed since it relates to the past and data	

Issue	EWG Assessment	
	and associated comments	
evaluated.	transmission has previously been evaluated."	

Annex 1 - Values for 'Data Request' and Issues, by EWG

The information below is organised by EWG. Even though some of the data field names are the same for different calls (e.g. Landings), the values of these may end up being different, so they are dealt with separately for each call and should be reported separately in the DTMT. It is there accepted that to uniquely identify a data issue it will be jointly defined by "Data Requested" and a "Data Call" identifiers. Generally entries need to be understandable, so longer forms are used, but for species and gears the following codes are used to uniquely identify data items in the 'Issues' field.

- Gear type in the DCF appendix IV of the 2010/93/EC https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/10213/16106/2009-12-18 Commission Decision 93.pdf
- 3-alpha code FAO ASFIS list of species http://www.fao.org/fishery/collection/asfis/en

FDI WG/data call

FDI Data request

One of the following descriptions should be entered in the Data Requested field

Capacity

Effort

Landings

Discards

Landings length

Discard length

Landings age

Discard age

Spatial effort

Spatial landings

All data

FDI Issue examples

- 1. Data request = Capacity
 - a. Capacity not provided year 2015
- 2. Data request = Effort
 - a. Effort not provided TBB in year 2015
 - b. Effort not provided BEAM and DREDGE areas 27.7.d and 27.7.e
 - c. Effort not provided for vessels with length <10m
 - d. Effort not provided year 2017, although catches data provided same year
- 3. Data request = Landings
 - a. For 2017, total landed weight of all species is 2.5 times higher than the corresponding figure reported in Eurostat dataset
 - b. Landings not provided for quarters 2 and 3 years 2016 and 2017
 - c. Landings not provided for SPECON_TECH T90 for year 2015
- 4. Data request = Discards

- a. Discard weight not provided for year 2015 and 2016
- b. Discards year 2017 are \sim 10 times higher than the previous years; data should be checked to verify their reliability.
- 5. Data request = Landings length
 - a. No length frequency distribution was provided year 2015
- 6. Data request = Landings age
 - a. No landings at age data were provided for HKE
- 7. Data request = Discard length
 - a. No discard length frequency distribution was provided year 2015
- 8. Data request = Discard age
 - a. Discard age data were not provided for any species
- 9. Data request = Spatial effort
 - a. Data not provided for vessels with length >18m year 2015
 - b. Spatial effort data were not provided for year 2016, even if spatial landings data were provided for the same year
- 10. Data request = Spatial landings
 - a. The latitude and longitude values have been swapped
- 11. Data request = All data
 - a. The vessel length was always provided with value Not Known

STECF Mediterranean and Black Sea Assessment EWG / Data Call

MBS Data requested codes

One of the following descriptions should be entered in the Data Requested field Catch

Landings length

Discards length

Effort

Maturity ogive at length

Maturity ogive at age

Growth parameters

Sex ratio at length

Sex ratio at age

Age length key

MEDITS survey TA*

MEDITS survey TB*

MEDITS survey TC*

Other surveys abundance by length and sex

Other surveys biomass by length and sex

Other surveys abundance and biomass by age and sex

^{*} During the EWG for some parameters some cross-checking/ combining of between different data tables may be carried out. In this case the data request code should be modify accordingly (i.e. if there is a mismatch between table TA and TB the codes should be MEDITS survey TA_TB)

MBS Data issues examples

As a general rule the entry for this field should be reported to area (GSA) and the species (FAO 3 digit alpha code) at the beginning and then the details of the issues documented.

- 2.2.1 Data issues examples for data requested on Fisheries catch, landings and discards by length.
- 1) GSA_09_HKE. Landings in weight are missing in years 2002,2005,2006
- 2) GSA_09_HKE. Abundance by length classes are missing in year 2008 for gear OTB
- 3) GSA_09_HKE. Landings in weight and volume are missing in years 2002,2005,2006
- 4) GSA 09 HKE. Abundance by age classes are missing in year 2008 for gear OTB
- 5) GSA_09_HKE. Abundance and mean weight by age classes are missing in year 2008 for all gears
- 2.2.2 Data issues examples for data requested on Effort
- GSA09_OTB. Fishing days are missing for years 2002, 2012 and 2016 (quarter 1)
- 2.2.3 Data issues examples for data requested Biological parameters and ALK (Age length Key)
- GSA_09_HKE. Maturity at length data are missing for years 2002 and 2012.
- 2.2.4 Data issues examples for data requested from Medits surveys
- GSA_09_HKE. Total weight reported in year 2002 haul number 102 different between table TB and TC.
- GSA_09_HKE. Data in weight and number are reported for year 2002 haul number 102 even though the haul is not reported in table TA.
- 2.2.5 Data issues examples for data requested Other surveys
- GSA_09_HKE. No abundance by length and sex are reported in year 2002.
- GSA_09_HKE. Ratio between total biomass and abundance by length for year 2002 seems to low for the species.

Fleet Socio-economic data call

FSE Data requested

One of the following descriptions/data types should be entered in the Data Requested field

Capacity

Landings

Effort

Employment

Income

Subsidies

Expenditure

Capital Social Multiple*

*when the issue is broader than or covers multiple data types, for example, at the fleet segment level when only capacity data are reported and all other variables are missing.

FSE Data issues entries

- Data Issues should be reported at aggregated at the lowest level possible allowing to identify the issue by
 - main issue +
 - details, first give aggregation level, the detailed variable (see list below by Data Requested field), with year(s), fleet segment, species, sub-region, etc. added as necessary.

Main Issue type

Missing data Partial data Questionable data Confidential*

*missing data due to confidentiality reasons; not necessarily a transmission failure (=missing data) but flagged to highlight the fact that full coverage of the fleet (national and EU) is not achieved because it has been withheld by MS.

Aggregation levels used for different variable types

Aggregation levels	Variable group	Variables
National total	All variables	all
Fleet segment	All variables	all
FAO area (sub-region, level 3	Landings	Weight and value
or 4, GSA)	Effort	Days at sea, fishing days, GT and kW fishing days
FAO species codes	Landings	Weight and value

List of the variables by the variable group defined in 'Data Requested' field.

Data requested	Issue - variables	
Capacity	Number of vessels, age of vessels, mean LOA of vessels, total vessel power, total vessel tonnage	
Landings	Live weight of landings, value of landings	
Effort	Fishing days, days at sea, energy consumption, kW fishing days, GT fishing days, number of fishing trips,	

Employment	Engaged crew, Total hours worked per year (engaged crew) (MAP), Unpaid labour (MAP)
Income	Gross value of landings, income from leasing out quota or other fishing rights, other income
Subsidies	Operating subsidies, subsidies on investments
Expenditure	Personnel costs, energy costs, other non-variable costs, repair & maintenance costs, rights costs, value of unpaid labour, consumption of fixed capital,
Capital	Fishing rights, Investments, Long/short debt (MAP), tangible asset value (replacement), total assets (MAP)
Social	Employment, FTE, unpaid labour

Aquaculture Socio-economic data call

Aquaculture Data requested

One of the following descriptions/data types should be entered in the Data Requested field

Income

Capital

Costs

Raw material weight

Employment

Number of enterprises

Sales

Social

Environmental

Multiple*

*when the issue is broader than or covers multiple data types (e.g. there are reported more enterprises than persons employed), and it is decided to report aggregated.

Aquaculture Data issues entries

- Data Issues should be reported at aggregated at the lowest level possible allowing to identify the issue by
 - main issue +
 - details, first give aggregation level, the detailed variable (see list below by Data Requested field), with year(s), segment, species, etc. added as necessary.

Main Issue type

Missing data Partial data

Questionable data

Confidential*

*missing data due to confidentiality reasons; not necessarily a transmission failure (=missing data) but flagged to highlight the fact that full coverage of the sector (national and EU) is not achieved because it has been withheld by MS.

Aggregation levels used for different variable types

Aggregation levels	Variable group	Variables
National total	All variables	all
Segment	All variables	all
FAO species codes	Sales	Weight of sales and Value of sales per species
Medicines or treatments administered by type	Environmental	Medicines

List of the variables by the variable group defined in 'Data Requested' field.

Data requested	Issue - variables
Income	Gross sales (total), Operating Subsidies, Other Income
Costs	Wages and salaries, Imputed value of unpaid labour, Energy Costs, Livestock costs, Feed costs, Repair and maintenance, Other operational Costs
Capital	Total Value of Assets, Consumption of fixed capital, Financial Income, Financial Expenditure, Net Investments, Subsidies in investments, Debt
Raw material weight	Livestock used, Fish Feed used
Employment	Persons employed, Persons employed FTE, Number of hours worked by employees and unpaid labour, Unpaid labour, Unpaid labour FTE
Number of enterprises	Number of enterprises with less or equal than 5 employees, Number of enterprises with 6-10 employees, Number of enterprises with more or equal than 11 employees.
Sales	Weight of sales per species, Value of sales per species
Social	Employment, FTE, Unpaid labour
Environmental	Medicines, Mortalities

Processing Socio-economic data call

Processing Data requested

One of the following descriptions/data types should be entered in the Data Requested field

Income

Capital

Costs

Employment

Number of enterprises

Weight of raw material

Social

Multiple*

*when the issue is broader than or covers multiple data types (e.g. there are reported more enterprises than persons employed), and it is decided to report aggregated.

Processing Data issues entries

- Data Issues should be reported at aggregated at the lowest level possible allowing to identify the issue by
 - main issue +
 - details, first give aggregation level, the detailed variable (see list below by Data Requested field), with year(s), size class, product, etc. added as necessary.

Main Issue type

Missing data Partial data

Questionable data

Confidential*

Aggregation levels used for different variable types

Aggregation levels	Variable group	Variables
National total	All variables	all
Size class (optional)	All variables	all
Product (optional)	Weight of raw material	Weight of raw material

^{*}missing data due to confidentiality reasons; not necessarily a transmission failure (=missing data) but flagged to highlight the fact that full coverage of the sector (national and EU) is not achieved because it has been withheld by MS.

List of the variables by the variable group defined in 'Data Requested' field.

Data requested	Issue - variables
Income	Gross sales (total), Operating Subsidies, Other Income
Costs	Personnel costs, Value of unpaid labour, Payment for external agency workers (optional), Energy Costs, Purchase of fish and other raw material for production, Other operational Costs
Capital	Total Value of Assets, Consumption of fixed capital, Financial Income, Financial Expenditure, Net Investments, Subsidies on investments, Debt
Employment	Number of persons employed, FTE national, Number of hours worked by employees and unpaid labour, Unpaid labour
Number of enterprises	Number of enterprises.
Weight of raw material	Weight of raw material (optional)
Social	Employment, FTE