

STECF EWG 23- 08

Evaluation of the 2022 Annual Reports for data collection and data transmission issues from 2022¹

19-23 June 2023

Terms of Reference (ToR)

Background

Article 11 of the Data Collection Framework (DCF) Regulation (EU) 1004/2017 requires Member States to submit to the Commission an annual report (AR) on the implementation of their national work plans (WPs); and requires STECF to evaluate:

- (a) the execution of the WPs; and
- (b) the quality of the data collected by the Member States.

In preparation for the above, EWG 23-08 will be convened on 19-23 June 2023.

Following STECF request for IT tools to facilitate the AR evaluation, the Commission launched a project to develop a dedicated DCF platform for drafting, submitting and assessing the work plans and annual reports. The progress and first products of the project will be presented for consultation to EWG 23-08.

EWG 23-08 will report the findings to the plenary meeting of the STECF, which will take place 10-14 July 2023, and indicate which sections of the report the STECF Plenary should focus on. EWG 23-08 will work on the ARs submitted by Member States, the DTi uploaded on the Data Transmission Monitoring Tool (DTMT), and the results of the pre-screening, following relevant guidance documents.

Following review and endorsement by the STECF plenary in July 2023, all resulting documentation (annual report evaluation and summary list of follow-up actions and evaluation of data transmission issues and summary list of points requiring reaction) will be communicated to Member States by DG MARE.

Request to EWG 23-08

EWG 23-08 is requested to:

1. Evaluate Member States' AR on the implementation of their WPs in 2022, submitted to the Commission by 31 May 2023. Failures to implement the plan have to be reflected in the overview table (the traffic lights), even if correctly justified.

¹ All 2021 data calls should be assessed by EWG 23-08, including EWG 21-14 fish processing data call.

EWG 23-08 will approve the final grid, guidance and assessment rules at the beginning of the working group meeting. EWG 23-08 must ensure that all AR modules are assessed in a consistent and comparable way, and that the MS performance and reporting are reflected in the STECF assessment.

Prior to the EWG 23-08 meeting, a pre-screening of Member States' ARs will be undertaken through a series of ad-hoc contracts. The pre-screeners will use the new grid for the evaluation of ARs (background document 2), and the guidance for AR evaluators (background document 3). The pre-screeners may comment and propose amendments to the grid and guidance.

Pre-screeners will signal issues that can be fixed by the MSs before EWG 23-08 starts. The MS will provide explanations and resubmit the ARs if necessary at the latest on the first day of EWG 23-08. The following rules will apply to the prior communication:

- All identified issues will be reviewed by another expert when flagged for sending to the Member States.
- The issues will be collated and reviewed by the Commission before relaying them to the Member States at the end of the pre-screening exercise.

The Commission may address additional requests to EWG 23-08 in relation to specific issues that arise from the pre-screening exercise.

2. Evaluate the data transmission issues (DTi) reported by end users for data calls launched during the year 2022.

For data transmission issues, EWG 23-08 is requested to focus on the issues from 2022, recorded in the DTMT²:

- DTi from the Med&BS (101 issues reported)
- DTi from FDI (21 issues reported)
- DTi from Aquaculture (22 issues reported)
- DTi from ICCAT (6 issues reported)
- DTi from ICES (20 issues reported)
- DTi from IOTC (59 issues reported).

The experts are requested to use the DTMT guidance (version March 2023) for the evaluation.

3. Examine and comment on the progress and initial products of the DCF IT project to develop the dedicated platform for work plans and annual reports.
4. Examine the updated Italian AR 2021, submitted to the Commission in January 2023, against the EWG 22-07 evaluation. The updates concern Table and text box 1E; re-evaluation (based on the EWG 22-07 grid) is necessary prior to publishing the AR in the DCF website, and as a basis to AR 2022 evaluation.

² 48 issues reported for the 2022 Fleet Economics data call were evaluated by STECF EWG 22-18 (October 2022)

EWG 23-08 report

The report of the EWG 23-08 should contain the following:

1. At the EU (and regional) level:

An overall evaluation of the execution of data collection, including an estimate of the performance of Member States, major issues and recurring issues across Member States. The overall evaluation should also aim to highlight any deficiencies in data collection in relation to end-user needs at the regional level so that such deficiencies can be taken into account in planning future regional work programmes.

2. For each Member State:

a. With regard to ARs:

- (i) An overall evaluation of whether the Member State executed its data collection activities in accordance with its agreed WP for 2022.
- (ii) A detailed evaluation of the AR, based on the AR evaluation grid provided by the Commission, which will already include the result of the pre-screening exercise. The completed grid should highlight:
 - any persistent or recurring issues regarding *execution* of data collection activities;
 - any persistent or recurring issues regarding *reporting* of data collection activities;
 - all issues that may require the Commission to take remedial action (request for resubmission of the AR or clarification of specific issues). The Commission will seek clarification from Member States on any issues raised during the EWG meeting and feedback from Member State should be evaluated by the EWG during the meeting. The EWG is not required to evaluate feedback from Member States received after 22 June (one day before the EWG meeting ends);
 - any issues that are 'for information' only.
- (iii) A summary list of follow-up actions to be addressed by Member States at the end of the EWG.

b. With regard to DT issues:

- (i) An overall evaluation of Member State performance, of main DT issues per end user/data call and of recurring issues by Member State.
- (ii) An evaluation of Member States' responses via the Data Transmission Monitoring Tool online platform to issues raised by end users of scientific advice (i.e. the STECF, RCGs, ICES and RFMOs to which scientific data is provided by Member States) in relation to data calls issued in 2022. The EWG is requested to evaluate DTi in terms of content by closing issues which have been clarified and highlighting outstanding issues (recurrent and or having an important impact on the activity of a stock assessment working group and the quality of the assessment etc.). The data sets affected shall be underlined.
- (iii) Identify in the evaluation per Member State the comments which require a reaction from Member State (draft a summary list) and those points which are for information only.

3. Comments on the DCF IT platform project.

Background documentation

1. AR 2022 submitted by the MS, possibly updated following pre-screeners remarks (folder 01 background)
2. Pre-screening results, in evaluation grids (version from STECF PLEN March 2023) (background document 2)
3. Guidance for AR evaluators [WP/AR assessment - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&code=sdg-12-8-1&plugin=1) (version from STECF PLEN March 2023) (background document 3)
4. DTMT guidance (version from STECF PLEN March 2023) (background document 4)
5. DTissues recorded in the Data Transmission Monitoring Tool: <https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/web/dcf/dtmt>.
6. Updated Italian AR 2021 and the EWG 22-07 evaluation grid for Italy
7. Documents related to the DCF IT platform
8. EWG 23-08 should take into account relevant assessment files from previous STECF EWGs, including:
 - (WP): STECF EWG 21-17; STECF EWG 22-18
 - (AR): STECF EWG 20-08; STECF EWG 21-09; STECF EWG 22-07
9. For data transmission issues, EWG 23-08 should also consider reports from the following STECF EWGs reporting DTi to the DTMT:
 - (Med&BS): EWG 22-09 and EWG 22-16
 - (FDI): EWG 22-10
 - (Aquaculture): EWG 22-17
 - Relevant ICES reports on data coverage