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Eurostat's Data collection of weekly death

Dear members of WG Population Statistics,
Dear colleagues working on Population and Migration data collections,

In the letters sent last week by the Acting Director of Social Statistics of Eurostat, to the DSS it was announced an exceptional temporary data collection on total weekly deaths, in order to support the policy and research efforts related to Covid-19.

This email comes with details on **Eurostat's Data collection of weekly deaths**:

1. The available data on the total weekly deaths are transmitted to Eurostat on voluntary basis. These data are not subject to any validation in Eurostat.
2. A transmission with your most recent weekly deaths is expected every week; no reference week is set up, as every country has its own data processing and release calendar. Data are processed by Eurostat as soon as they are transmitted for a timely dissemination.
3. The first transmission is expected within the week 20-24 April 2020.
4. Data are expected cross-classified by sex, 5-year age-groups and NUTS2 or NUTS3 region (NUTS2016). The age breakdown by 5-year age group is the most significant and should be considered the main option; would that not be really possible, data can be provided with less granularity (See code list in the attached file *Weekly deaths data collection_Instructions for CSV file.xlsx*. The file is also available on Circabc Population group).
5. Data are expected in CSV format, with the dimensions TIME_PERIOD, GEO, AGE, SEX, OBS_VALUE, OBS_STATUS. Details on the dimensions and codes are found in the attached file.
6. Provisional data should be properly flagged with 'p'. Revisions are accepted at any moment and should apply the same data structure.
7. The EDAMIS dataset to be used for data transmission is DEMOMIGR_WEEKDTH_W.
8. A back time series of weekly deaths for as many year as possible, and possibly in the occasion of the first transmission or at the earliest convenience is expected. The best option would be a time series starting from the year 2000, but shorter time series, imposed by your data availability, are also welcomed. The important is to provide a long enough time series for temporal comparisons and statistical modelling.
9. One CSV data file can cover one or more weeks. The "transmission period" introduced in EDAMIS upon transmission should be the most recent week covered by the data file. The back time series (multiple years, multiple weeks) can be transmitted in one data file.
10. The preferred definition of time of death is "by date of occurrence", but in default data by "date of registration" are accepted. Please inform Eurostat which definition is applied in your data.
11. The definition of "week" is given by ISO8601 week number, 01...52/53. The first week of the year is the one that contains the first Thursday of the year. More details in the

attached file. Please inform Eurostat in case a different definition of week applies to your data.

12. The weekly deaths data will be published by Eurostat.

For any questions please do not hesitate to contact Eurostat Unit F2 Population and Migration at ESTAT-SECRETARIAT-DEMOGRAPHIE@ec.europa.eu.