

Government accounts in the EU Member States: key indicators 2000-2002

Gilles REVELIN

Some key indicators (gross value added, net adjusted disposable income, net saving and net lending/net borrowing) for the general government of EU-15, euro-zone¹ and Member States are presented in this publication, as well as their development over the period 2000-2002.

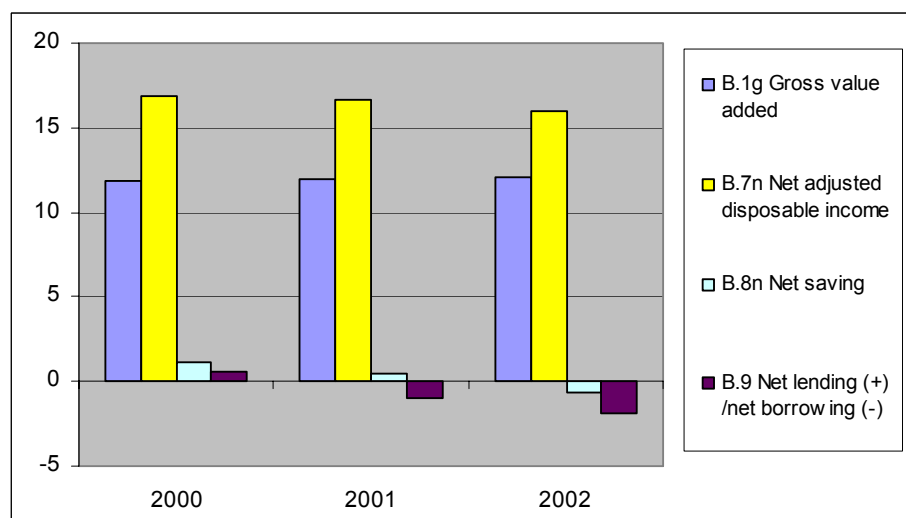


Figure 1: General government key indicators for EU-15 (as % of GDP)

In 2002, for the EU-15, gross value added amounted to about 1105 billion euro (12.1% of GDP), almost unchanged compared to 2000. Net adjusted disposable income fell from 16.9% of GDP (1465.0 billion euro) in 2000 to 16.0% of GDP (1448.0 billion euro) in 2002. Meanwhile net saving (-59.5 billion euro) and net lending/net borrowing (-177.5 billion euro) turned negative between 2000 and 2002. A similar pattern can be noticed for the key indicators of the euro-zone.

For general government, the above key indicators are linked as follows: the main transition items from gross value added to net adjusted disposable income are expenditure on compensation of employees, on interests (paid on government debt) and on social benefits and revenue from taxes on production and imports received from other sectors, from income taxes and from social contributions received; the main transition item from net adjusted disposable income to net saving is actual final consumption expenditure; and the main transition items from net saving to net lending/net borrowing are the expenditure on gross capital formation, on consumption of fixed capital and on investment grants (capital transfers) to other sectors.

For more details on transition items between indicators, please refer to the sequence of accounts in Annex I.

¹ The euro-zone comprises 12 Member states: Belgium, Germany, Greece (from 1.1.2001), Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland.

Statistics in focus

ECONOMY AND FINANCE

THEME 2 – 14/2004

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**Data reporting framework
ESA95 & related legal acts**

The European Commission (Eurostat) receives detailed information on the general government sector and its sub-sectors (central government, state government - when relevant, local government and social security funds) in the framework of the European System of Accounts (ESA95) transmission programme². ESA95 defines for EU Member States a methodology with common standards, definitions, classification and accounting rules, as well as tables (ESA95 transmission programme). Under ESA95, national accounts are presented as a coherent system by means of a sequence of accounts (see Annex1) for all institutional sectors notably general government.

The balancing items of this sequence of accounts can be calculated gross or net, respectively before or after having deducted consumption of fixed capital (for more information about consumption

of fixed capital see ESA95 §6.02-6.05). The present publication focuses on 4 balancing items (key indicators): gross value added, net adjusted disposable income, net saving and net lending/net borrowing.

In accordance with the ESA95 transmission programme, Member States are requested to transmit, among other tables, table 2 "Main aggregates of general government" (transmission delay t+3 months and t+8 months). This table provides complete information on the general government sector³.

It should be noted that the figures presented in this publication may differ from the figures reported under the Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP)⁴ since differences exist between the definition of the ESA95 net lending/net borrowing and the EDP net borrowing/net lending⁵ and since (for figure as a % of GDP) the reference GDP may differ.

The figures presented in this

publication are those transmitted for ESA95 table 2. These figures are available in the Eurostat database NewCronos.⁶

**Gross value added
(ESA95 code B.1g)**

Gross value added⁷ is one of the key indicators for all sectors of the economy, including the general government sector. It is defined by ESA95 §8.11-8.12 as the value generated by a unit engaged in production activity and it is calculated as the difference between output⁸ and intermediate consumption, or as the sum of its components.

Government output mainly includes services of administration, defence, law and order, education and – to a different degree – health care. Differences in boundaries between health care public and private organisations (particularly hospitals)⁹ may affect comparisons of the levels of government gross value added between countries.

² According to Annex B of Council Regulation 2223/96 of 25 June 1996, whose consolidated version is available on-line on: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/consleg/main/1996/en_1996R2223_index.html

³ ESA95 table 8 "Non-financial accounts by institutional sector" (transmission delay t+12 months) also gives information on general government sector and sub-sectors as well as on the relations with other sectors of the economy. However, a strict comparison between the balancing items of the two tables for general government sector is difficult due to the difference in transmission delays and in the status of data (final, half-final or estimates) for a given year.

⁴ Maastricht deficit according to Council Regulation (EC) No 3605/93 as amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 475/2000 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 351/2002. EDP data are published twice a year on mid-March and mid-September by Eurostat.

⁵ Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EC) No 2558/2001 on the reclassification of settlements under swap agreements and forward rate agreements specifies that for the excessive deficit procedure, net lending/net borrowing (EDP B.9) of general government includes streams of interest payments resulting from swaps and forward rate agreements.

⁶ The figures are available on New Cronos under the domain "GOV" (Government Sector) collection "MAIN_AGR" (Main aggregates of general government, including total revenue and expenditure). The GDP figures are those available on NewCronos on 15 January 2004.

⁷ Gross value added is calculated at basic prices, that is without taking into account taxes and subsidies on products (which are not allocated to sectors).

⁸ When referring to output, one should consider market output, output for own final use and other non-market output. In principle, the latter output is the most significant for the government sector and is calculated as the sum of costs.

⁹ Please note in this respect that UK data do not yet comply with the reclassification of National Health Service hospital trusts from public corporations to government.

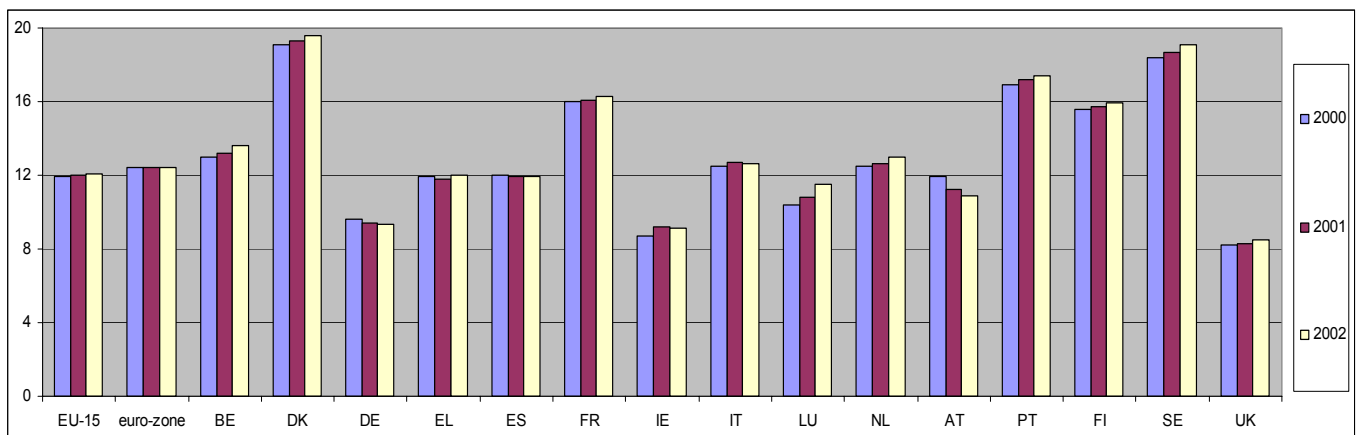


Figure 2: B.1g Gross value added (as % of GDP)

At the level of the EU-15, gross value added increased slightly from 11.9% of GDP in 2000 to 12.0% in 2001 and 12.1% in 2002. It remained unchanged at 12.4% of GDP on the euro-zone.

Among Member States, gross value added of general government was highest in Denmark at 19.6% of GDP in 2002 (19.1% in 2000), in Sweden at 19.1% (18.4%), in Portugal at 17.4% (16.9%), in France at 16.3% (16.0%) and in Finland at 15.9% (15.6%). The lowest levels of gross value added were observed in Germany at 9.3% of GDP in 2002 (9.6% in 2000), in Ireland at 9.1% (8.7%) and in the United Kingdom⁹ at 8.5%² (a rise however from 8.2% in 2000).

Luxembourg is situated below the EU-15 and euro-zone averages in percentage terms, but among

Member States it has the highest increase in gross value added in 2002 as compared to 2000 (an increase of 1.1% of GDP). On the contrary, a sharp decrease can be observed for Austria from 11.9% of GDP in 2000 down to 10.9% in 2002.

Net adjusted disposable income (ESA95 code B.7n)

The balancing item of the distribution of income accounts (primary distribution of income, secondary distribution of income and redistribution of income in kind accounts, see Annex 1) is **net adjusted disposable income**, which shows what remains from government resources to be used for final consumption and accumulation. For more information on these accounts see ESA95 §8.15-8.35.

At the level of the EU-15, net adjusted disposable income decreased sharply from 16.9% of GDP in 2000 to 16.6% in 2001 and 16.0% in 2002. The corresponding percentages for the euro-zone were 15.6%, 15.0% and 14.1%.

In 2002, net adjusted disposable income of general government reached 30.3 % of GDP in Sweden (an increase from 25.7 % in 2000), and 24.5% in both Denmark and Finland (respectively 28.1% and 26.2% in 2000). The lowest levels were observed in Italy with 14.9% of GDP in 2002 (16.6% in 2000), Spain with 14.6% (20.3% in 2000), Austria with 13.6% (16.1% in 2001 and 15.8% in 2000) and Germany with 11.0% (an increase from 9.5% in 2000).

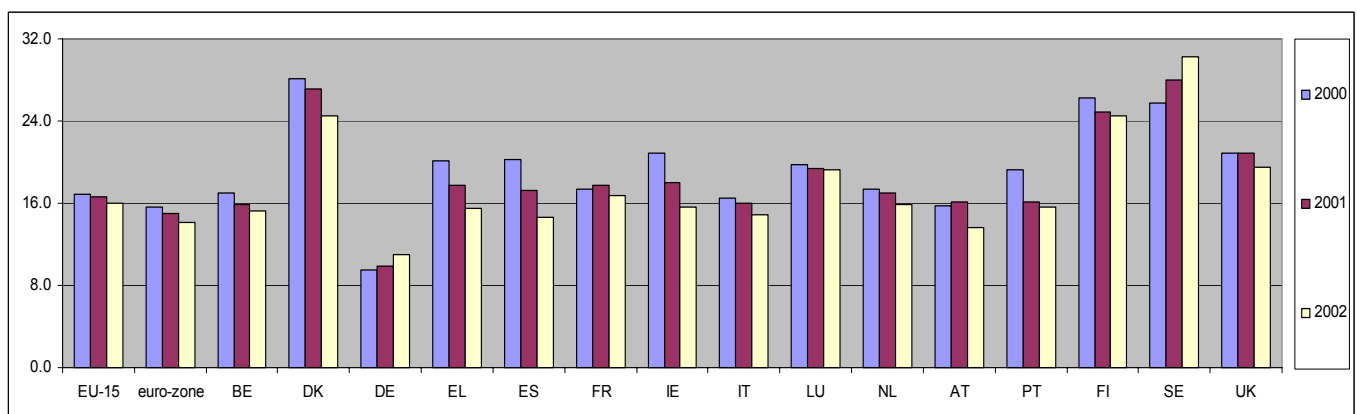


Figure 3: B.7n Net adjusted disposable income (as % of GDP)

**Net saving
(ESA95 code B.8n)**

Net saving¹⁰ is the balancing item of the use of income account (see Annex 1). Government net saving is the difference between government current receipts and current expenditure, before taking account of capital transactions.

In 2002, both at the level of EU-15 (-59.5 billion euro) and the euro-zone (-56.3 billion euro), net saving declined to become actually negative forcing governments to borrow or to sell assets. Net saving decreased at the level of EU-15 from 1.1% of GDP in 2000 to 0.5% in 2001 and -0.6% in 2002. The respective percentages for the euro-zone are 0.7%, 0.1% and -0.8%.

In 2002 net saving was highest in Luxembourg 5.7% of GDP (7.2% in 2001 and 8.8% in 2000), Finland 4.6% (5.6% in 2001 and 7.3% in 2000), Ireland 3.0% (4.6% in 2001 and 7.1% in 2000) and Spain 2.7% (rising from 2.3% of GDP in 2001, and 1.7% in 2000). Between 2001 & 2002, net saving is decreasing in all Member States except Spain and Portugal, while 4 Member States (Denmark, Greece, Spain and especially Austria) were on a growing trend between 2000 & 2001. Negative net saving is observed in 2002 in the United Kingdom (-0.5% of GDP), in Italy and the Netherlands (-0.8% each), and most notably in France (-1.8%), Portugal (-2.1%) and Germany (-0.3%).

As detailed in this publication, the relative positions of Member States according to main balancing items (4 key indicators selected) vary considerably from one year to the other. It would be interesting to analyse in more details the developments of the various categories of government spending and financial resources among Member States. When disposable income is high, governments can use their own resources for final consumption and investments. When saving is high, governments can use current resources for investments, otherwise they need to raise money by use of financial instruments such as bonds and loans.

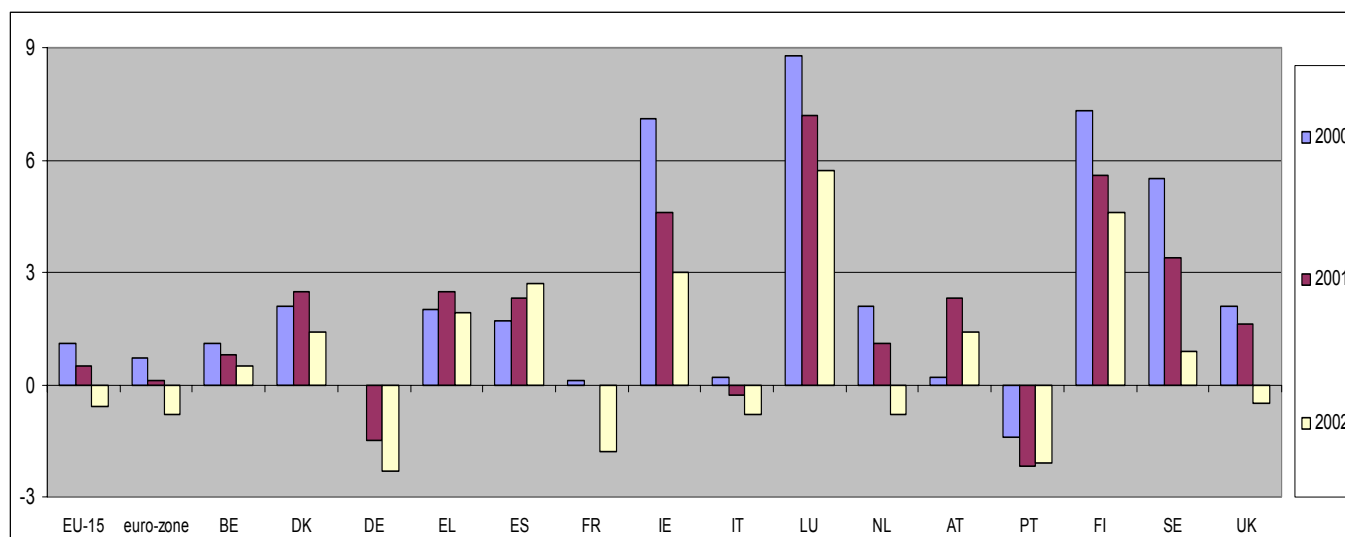


Figure 4: B.8n Net saving (as % of GDP)

¹⁰ Net means after deducting consumption of fixed capital.

**Net lending/net borrowing
(ESA95 code B.9)**

Net lending/net borrowing is the balancing item of the capital account (see Annex I), showing the amount available for the general government sector to lend directly or indirectly to other sectors or the amount the general government sector needs to borrow from other sectors (of the national economy or of the rest of the world).

Net lending/net borrowing decreased at the level of EU-15 from 0.6% of GDP in 2000 to -1.0% in 2001 and -1.9% in 2002 (0.2%, -1.6% and -2.3% respectively for the euro-zone)

In 2002, the highest government net lending (surplus) was reached in Finland at 4.2% of GDP (5.2% in 2001 and 7.1% in 2000), in France at 2.0% (2.8% in 2001 and 2.5% in 2000). For Belgium and Spain the

figure was zero in 2002. Sweden (5.1% in 2000, 2.5% in 2001 and 0.1% in 2002) and Ireland (4.4%, 0.9% and -0.2% respectively) experienced sharp falls.

In 2002, the largest government net borrowing (deficit) was observed in Germany at -3.5% of GDP (-2.8% in 2001 and 1.3% in 2000), in France at -3.1% (-1.5% in 2001 and -1.4% in 2000), in Portugal at -2.7% (-4.3% in 2001 and -2.9% in 2000) and in Italy at -2.5% (-2.7% in 2001 and -0.7% in 2000).

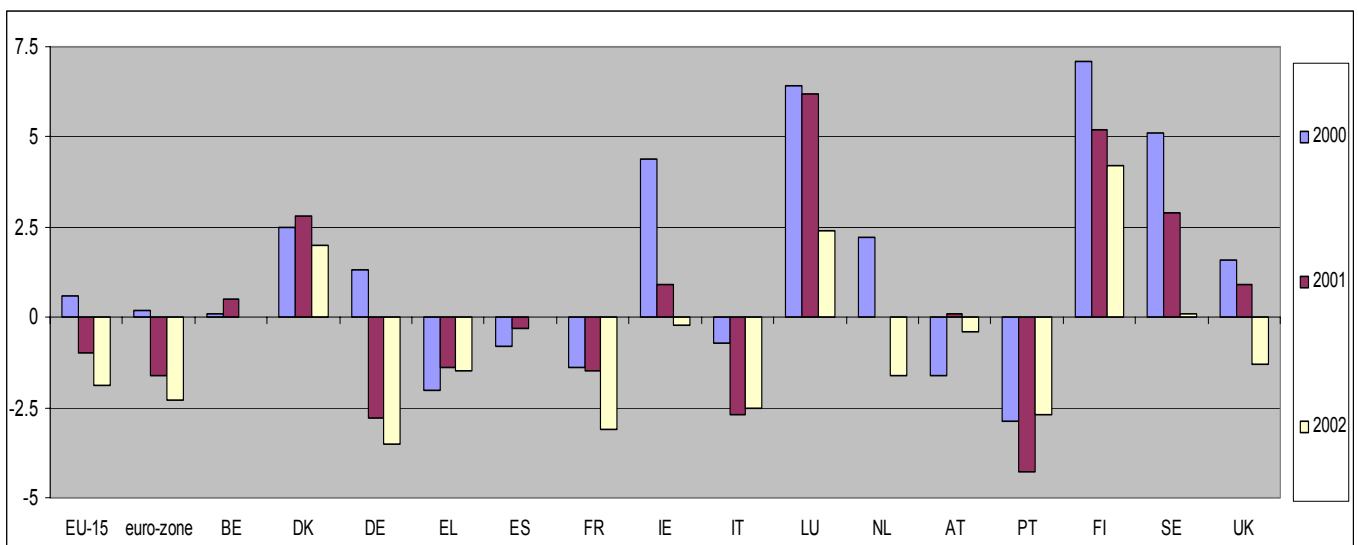


Figure 5: B.9 Net lending/Net borrowing (as % of GDP)

General government key indicators (main balancing items), 2000-2002

2002								
	B.1g Gross value added		B.7n Net adjusted disposable income		B.8n Net saving		B.9 Net lending (+) /net borrowing (-)	
	bio eur	% of GDP	bio eur	% of GDP	bio eur	% of GDP	bio eur	% of GDP
EU-15	1,105.0	12.1	1,447.5	16.0	-59.5	-0.6	-177.5	-1.9
euro-zone	879.3	12.4	1,006.9	14.1	-56.3	-0.8	-160.0	-2.3
BE	35.4	13.6	42.0	15.3	1.4	0.5	0.1	0.0
DK	35.8	19.6	48.2	24.5	2.5	1.4	3.6	2.0
DE	197.2	9.3	191.9	11.0	-49.3	-2.3	-74.3	-3.5
EL	17.0	12.0	24.7	15.5	2.7	1.9	-2.2	-1.5
ES	82.6	11.9	123.5	14.6	18.6	2.7	0.2	0.0
FR	247.6	16.3	247.1	16.8	-28.0	-1.8	-47.6	-3.1
IE	11.8	9.1	21.5	15.7	3.8	3.0	-0.2	-0.2
IT	158.8	12.6	193.1	14.9	-10.1	-0.8	-31.0	-2.5
LU	2.6	11.5	4.2	19.3	1.3	5.7	0.5	2.4
NL	57.7	13.0	69.9	15.9	-3.6	-0.8	-7.1	-1.6
AT	23.9	10.9	32.6	13.6	3.1	1.4	-0.8	-0.4
PT	22.5	17.4	22.3	15.6	-2.7	-2.1	-3.5	-2.7
FI	22.3	15.9	34.1	24.5	6.5	4.6	5.9	4.2
SE	48.7	19.1	66.9	30.3	2.2	0.9	0.3	0.1
UK	141.1	8.5	325.5	19.6	-7.9	-0.5	-21.4	-1.3

2001								
	B.1g Gross value added		B.7n Net adjusted disposable income		B.8n Net saving		B.9 Net lending (+) /net borrowing (-)	
	bio eur	% of GDP	bio eur	% of GDP	bio eur	% of GDP	bio eur	% of GDP
EU-15	1,059.5	12.0	1,475.4	16.6	47.1	0.5	-85.7	-1.0
euro-zone	846.5	12.4	1,024.6	15.0	8.0	0.1	-112.0	-1.6
BE	33.6	13.2	40.3	15.9	1.9	0.8	1.3	0.5
DK	34.3	19.3	48.2	27.1	4.5	2.5	4.9	2.8
DE	195.3	9.4	205.7	9.9	-30.1	-1.5	-58.9	-2.8
EL	15.5	11.8	23.3	17.8	3.2	2.5	-1.9	-1.4
ES	77.8	11.9	112.6	17.2	15.0	2.3	-1.8	-0.3
FR	236.9	16.1	262.2	17.8	0.6	0.0	-22.5	-1.5
IE	10.6	9.2	20.7	18.0	5.3	4.6	1.1	0.9
IT	154.4	12.7	194.7	16.0	-3.7	-0.3	-32.5	-2.7
LU	2.4	10.8	4.3	19.4	1.6	7.2	1.4	6.2
NL	54.0	12.6	73.2	17.1	4.5	1.1	-0.2	0.0
AT	23.8	11.2	34.2	16.1	4.8	2.3	0.3	0.1
PT	21.1	17.2	19.8	16.1	-2.8	-2.2	-5.3	-4.3
FI	21.3	15.7	33.6	24.8	7.6	5.6	7.0	5.2
SE	45.7	18.7	68.6	28.0	8.4	3.4	7.0	2.9
UK	132.9	8.3	334.1	20.9	26.1	1.6	14.4	0.9

2000								
	B.1g Gross value added		B.7n Net adjusted disposable income		B.8n Net saving		B.9 Net lending (+) /net borrowing (-)	
	bio eur	% of GDP	bio eur	% of GDP	bio eur	% of GDP	bio eur	% of GDP
EU-15	1,023.3	11.9	1,464.8	16.9	95.5	1.1	52.4	0.6
euro-zone	800.4	12.4	996.3	15.6	42.3	0.7	11.8	0.2
BE	32.3	13.0	39.7	17.0	2.8	1.1	0.3	0.1
DK	32.7	19.1	44.9	28.1	3.7	2.1	4.3	2.5
DE	195.4	9.6	232.1	9.5	-0.5	0.0	26.8	1.3
EL	14.7	11.9	21.8	20.1	2.5	2.0	-2.5	-2.0
ES	73.2	12.0	101.8	20.3	10.3	1.7	-4.8	-0.8
FR	227.5	16.0	255.5	17.4	2.0	0.1	-20.0	-1.4
IE	9.0	8.7	20.3	20.9	7.3	7.1	4.5	4.4
IT	146.1	12.5	187.8	16.6	2.0	0.2	-7.9	-0.7
LU	2.2	10.4	4.3	19.7	1.9	8.8	1.4	6.4
NL	50.3	12.5	70.7	17.4	8.4	2.1	8.9	2.2
AT	24.5	11.9	29.8	15.8	0.4	0.2	-3.4	-1.6
PT	19.5	16.9	20.1	19.3	-1.6	-1.4	-3.3	-2.9
FI	20.3	15.6	34.2	26.2	9.5	7.3	9.2	7.1
SE	47.9	18.4	77.4	25.7	14.4	5.5	13.2	5.1
UK	127.5	8.2	324.4	20.9	32.6	2.1	25.6	1.6

Annex 1 – Simplified sequence of accounts for general government

USES	RESOURCES
<u>I. PRODUCTION ACCOUNT</u> P.2 Intermediate consumption <i>B.1g Gross value added</i> K.1 Consumption of fixed capital <i>B.1n Net value added</i>	P.1 Output
<u>II.1.1 GENERATION OF INCOME ACCOUNT</u> D.1 Compensation of employees D.29 Other taxes on production, payable D.39 Other subsidies on production <i>B.2 Operating surplus</i>	<i>B.1g Net value added</i>
<u>II.1.2. ALLOCATION OF PRIMARY INCOME ACCOUNT</u> D.4 Property income (mainly interest paid on government debt)	<i>B.2 Operating surplus</i> D.2 Taxes on production and imports, receivable D.3 Subsidies D.4 Property income
<i>B.5 Balance of primary incomes</i>	<i>B.5 Balance of primary incomes</i>
<u>II.2 SECONDARY DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME ACCOUNT</u> D.5 Current taxes on income, wealth, etc. D.62 Social benefits other than social transfers in kind D.7 Other current transfers <i>B.6 Disposable income</i>	D.5 Current taxes on income, wealth, etc. D.61 Social contributions D.7 Other current transfers
<u>II.3. REDISTRIBUTION OF INCOME IN KIND ACCOUNT</u> D.63 Social transfers in kind <i>B.7 Adjusted disposable income</i>	<i>B.6 Disposable income</i>
<u>II.4.2. USE OF ADJUSTED DISPOSABLE INCOME ACCOUNT</u> P.4 Actual final consumption D.8 Adjustment for the change in net equity of households in pension funds reserves <i>B.8 Saving</i>	<i>B.7 Adjusted disposable income</i>
<u>III.1 CAPITAL ACCOUNT</u> P.5 Gross capital formation K.1 Consumption of fixed capital K.2 Acquisitions less disposals of non-produced non-financial assets <i>B.9 Net lending (+)/Net borrowing (-)</i>	<i>B.8 Saving (net)</i> D.9 Capital transfers receivable and payable

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Mr Mrs Ms

(Please use block capitals)

Surname: _____ Forename: _____

Company: _____ Department: _____

Function: _____

Address: _____

Post code: _____ Town: _____

Country: _____

Tel.: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Payment on receipt of invoice, preferably by:

Bank transfer

Visa Eurocard

Card No: _____ Expires on: ____/____

Please confirm your intra-Community VAT number:

If no number is entered, VAT will be automatically applied. Subsequent reimbursement will not be possible.