



Eurostat Dissemination

How to retrieve a data constraint file from the Dissemination API

Migrating from the Bulk Download (metabase.txt file) to the new dissemination API

User Documentation

Table of Contents

Metabase file.....	2
How to connect and retrieve a data constraint file from the Dissemination API?	2
SOAP (Simple Object Access Protocol)	2
SOAP endpoint – WSDL	3
Examples.....	3
REST (REpresentational State Transfer) Protocol.....	5
REST endpoint – WADL.....	5
Examples.....	5

Metabase file

The metabase.txt file contains the definition of all datasets available in the Navigation Tree. This means all the dimensions that compose a dataset as well as all actual positions in each dimension.

It includes the complete breakdown for all datasets: DIMENSIONS and all corresponding POSITIONS in these dimensions.

It can be downloaded from the [Bulk Download](#) at: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/estat-navtree-portlet-prod/BulkDownloadListing?sort=1&file=metabase.txt.gz>

The metabase.txt file is also available in the new Dissemination API. It is also possible to get the same information dataset per dataset thanks to the data constraints. The following sections of the present document explain how.

Note

The metabase.txt file is also available in the Dissemination API at this URL:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/api/dissemination/catalogue/metabase.txt.gz>

However, this file includes the time periods as they are written in legacy TSV files. So, the metabase.txt file from Dissemination API contains time positions following the naming convention:

- As in legacy TSV files i.e. *YYYYQN* or *YYYYMNN*
- **Not** as in the new API TSV files i.e. *YYYY-QN* or *YYYY-MM*

This is valid until the current [Bulk Download](#) is decommissioned. After its decommissioning, the metabase.txt file from the new API contains time positions as in the new API TSV files.

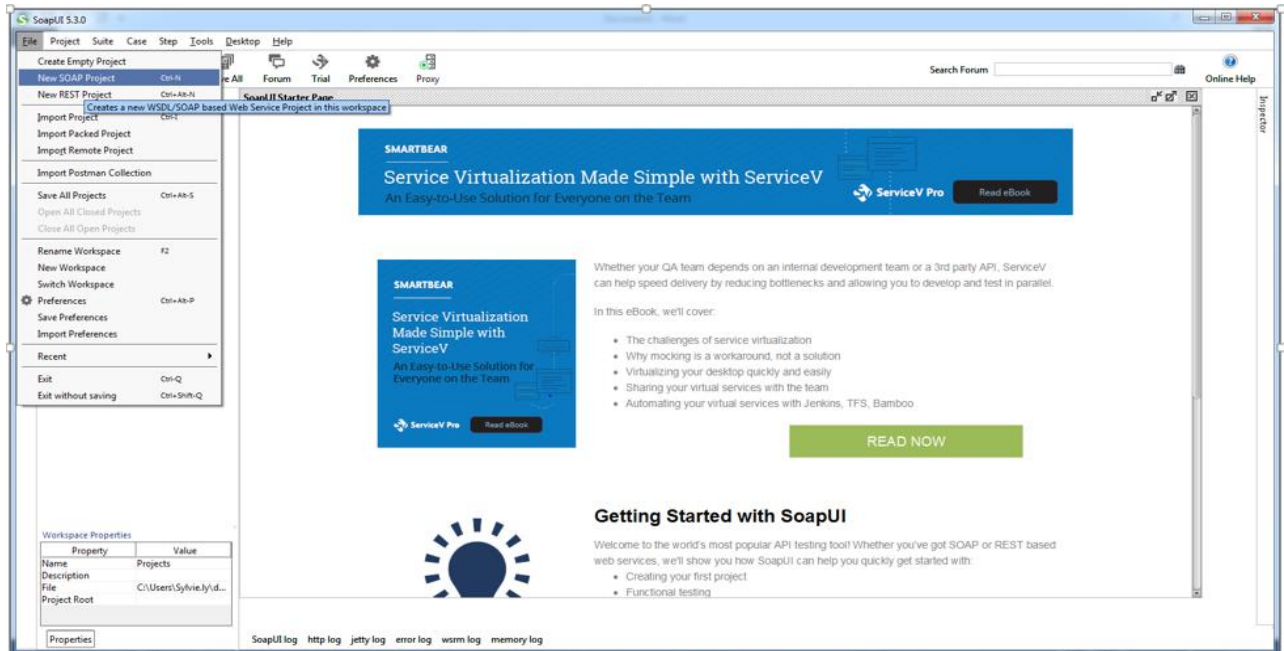
How to connect and retrieve a data constraint file from the Dissemination API?

The data constraint response file contains the list of dimensions of a **specific dataset**, and the positions related to these dimensions.

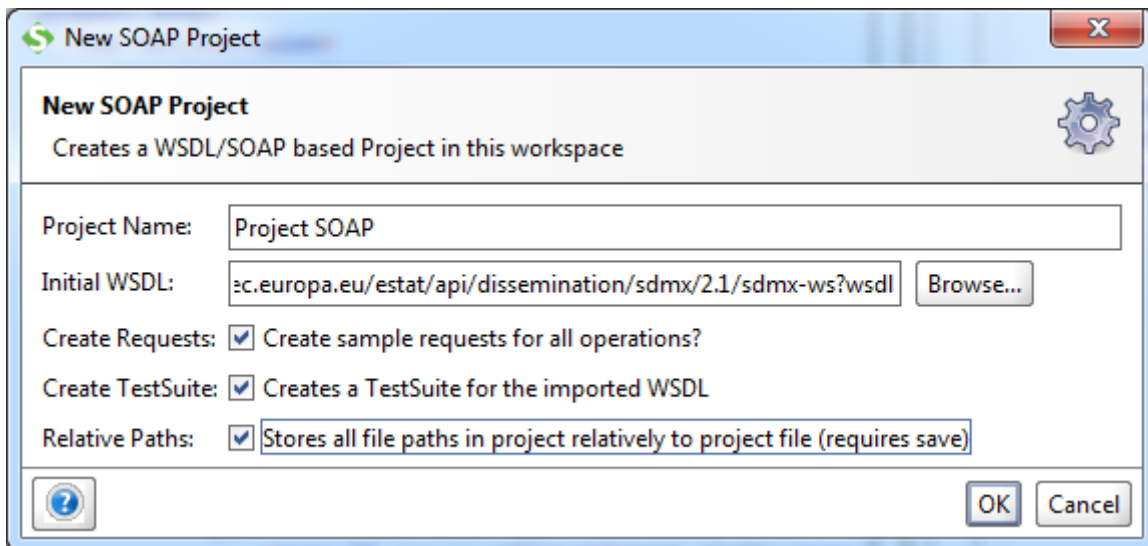
SOAP (Simple Object Access Protocol)

The following steps have been detailed with screenshots from the [SoapUI](#) testing tool (SoapUI can be freely downloaded at <https://www.soapui.org/>).

1-Open a "New SOAP project".



2-Add a WSDL link to create a project.



SOAP endpoint – WSDL

An endpoint describes the type of message and response that can be expected from the web service.

Dissemination (public access to data not under embargo)	https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/api/dissemination/sdmx/2.1/sdmx-ws?wsdl
--	---

Examples

Example of a SOAP request for the **AACT_ALI01** dataset in **SDMX** format.

The Query request message consists in two main sections:

- Header
- Query request

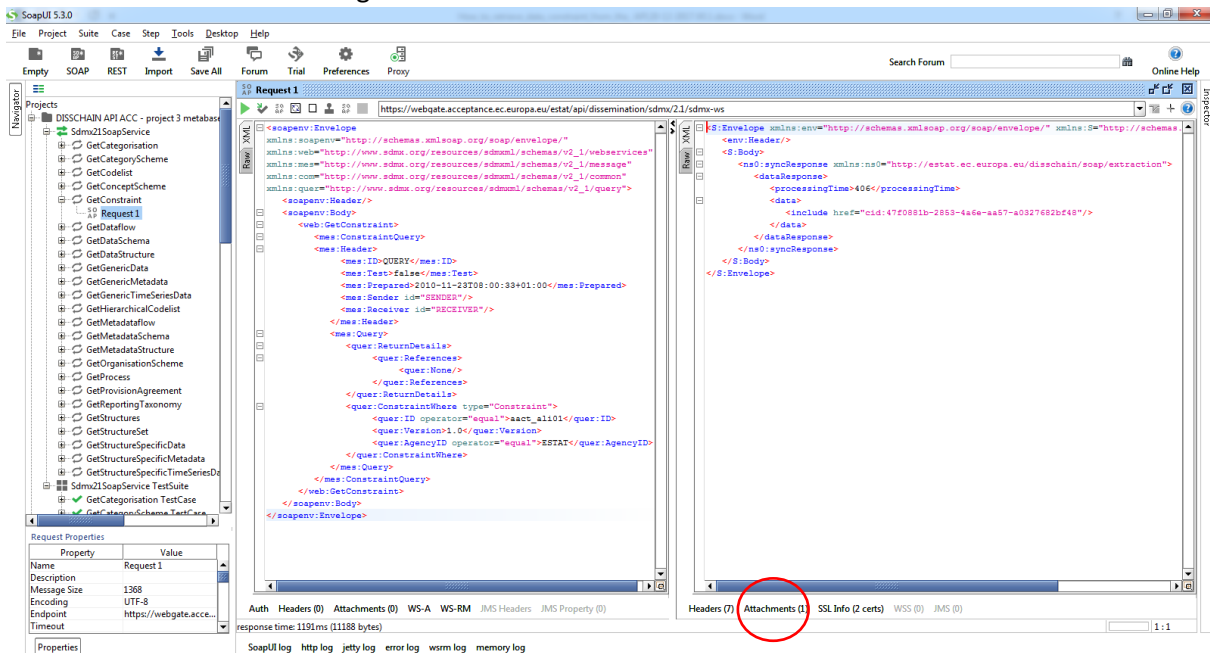
This feature allows to retrieve an SDMX 2.1 Data Constraint using the SOAP protocol from the SDMX 2.1 endpoint.

```
<soapenv:Envelope
xmlns:soapenv="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/envelope/"
xmlns:web="http://www.sdmx.org/resources/sdmxml/schemas/v2_1/webservices"
xmlns:mes="http://www.sdmx.org/resources/sdmxml/schemas/v2_1/message"
xmlns:com="http://www.sdmx.org/resources/sdmxml/schemas/v2_1/common"
xmlns:quer="http://www.sdmx.org/resources/sdmxml/schemas/v2_1/query">
  <soapenv:Header/>
  <soapenv:Body>
    <web:GetConstraint>
      <mes:ConstraintQuery>
        <mes:Header>
          <mes:ID>QUERY</mes:ID>
          <mes:Test>>false</mes:Test>
          <mes:Prepared>2010-11-23T08:00:33+01:00</mes:Prepared>
          <mes:Sender id="SENDER"/>
          <mes:Receiver id="RECEIVER"/>
        </mes:Header>
        <mes:Query>
          <quer:ReturnDetails>
            <quer:References>
              <quer:None/>
            </quer:References>
          </quer:ReturnDetails>
          <quer:ConstraintWhere type="Constraint">
            <quer:ID operator="equal">AACT_ALI01</quer:ID>
            <quer:Version>1.0</quer:Version>
            <quer:AgencyID operator="equal">ESTAT</quer:AgencyID>
          </quer:ConstraintWhere>
        </mes:Query>
      </mes:ConstraintQuery>
    </web:GetConstraint>
  </soapenv:Body>
</soapenv:Envelope>
```

Example of SOAP response:

```
<S:Envelope xmlns:env="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/envelope/"
xmlns:S="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/envelope/">
  <env:Header/>
  <S:Body>
    <ns0:syncResponse xmlns:ns0="http://estat.ec.europa.eu/disschain/soap/extraction">
      <dataResponse>
        <processingTime>207</processingTime>
        <data>
          <include href="cid:47f0881b-2853-4a6e-aa57-a0327682bf48"/>
        </data>
      </dataResponse>
    </ns0:syncResponse>
  </S:Body>
</S:Envelope>
```

The API returns a valid message with the data constraint as an attachment:



REST (REpresentational State Transfer) Protocol

REST endpoint – WADL

An endpoint describes the type of messages and responses that can be expected from the web service.

Dissemination (public access to data not under embargo)	https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/api/dissemination/sdmx/2.1/sdmx-rest.wadl
--	---

The query message consists in the following sections:

- A Method
- An Endpoint
- A Resource
- Parameters

Examples

Example of a REST request for the **AACT_ALI01** dataset in SDMX format thanks to a URL.

The following URL provides in a web browser a valid HTTP call with the name of the data constraint and the relevant format:

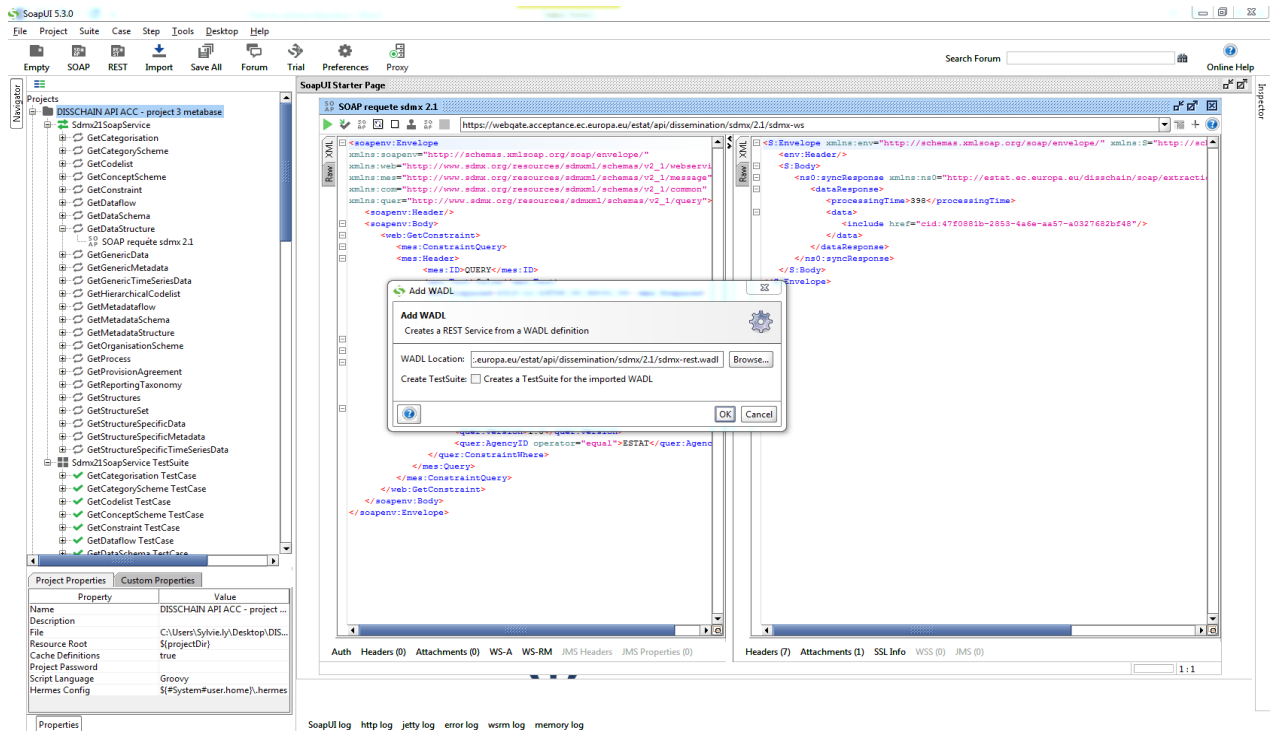
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/api/dissemination/sdmx/2.1/contentconstraint/ESTAT/AACT_ALI01

The dissemination API then returns the SDMX 2.1 data constraint file.

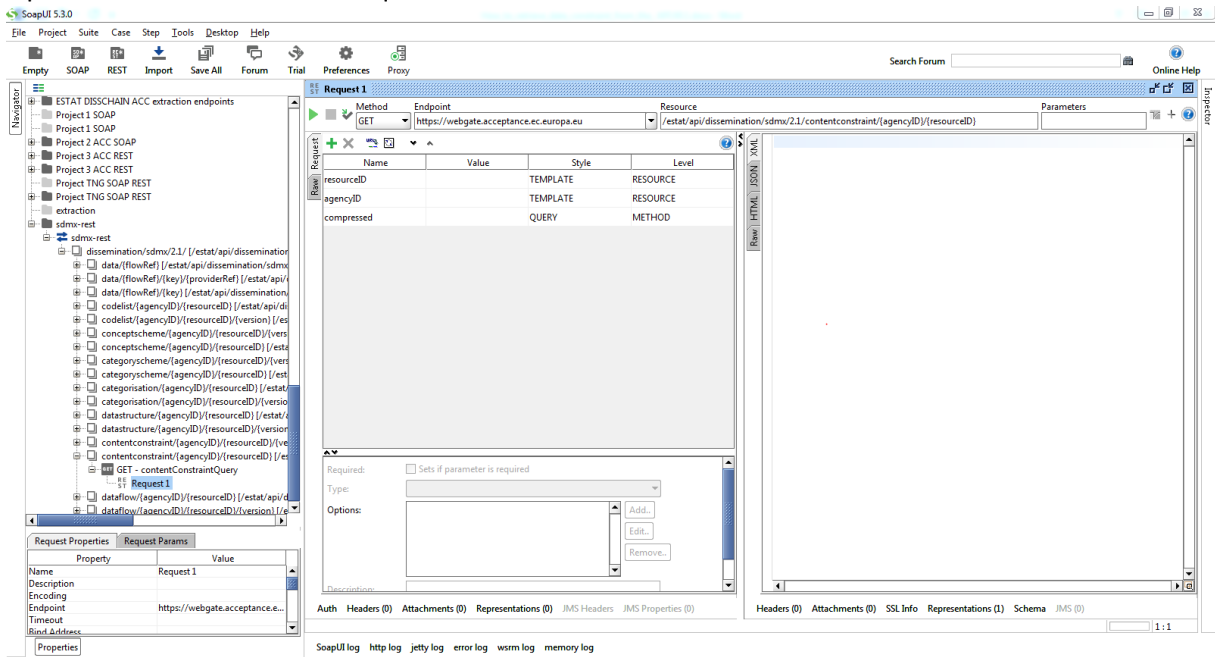
Example of a REST request for the **“AACT_ALI01”** dataset in SDMX format in SoapUI

With SoapUI, right-click on the project to add a WADL link. It creates a REST service from a WADL definition:

How to retrieve a data constraint file from the Dissemination API



Open the contentConstraint request:



In this example, the following parameters have been entered:

- resourceID=AACT_ALI01
- agencyID=ESTAT

How to retrieve a data constraint file from the Dissemination API

The file format is SDMX 2.1.

