

On Tuesday 18 December 2012, the Hellenic Statistical Authority held on its premises in Piraeus, the 3rd Annual User Conference, in accordance with its Annual Statistical Work Programme.

Thirty-one (31) representatives of the public and private-sector participated in the Conference, together with representatives from educational and research institutes.

The President of ELSTAT, Mr Andreas Georgiou, welcomed the participants and referred to the purpose of the Conference: a) presentation of the work and the main operation axis of ELSTAT since its establishment, b) presentation of ELSTAT actions to address user requests made during the 1st and 2nd User Conferences, c) recording of users' comments and needs concerning the statistical output and the services provided by ELSTAT. Mr Georgiou provided a detailed description of the printed material which had been distributed to the participants and he presented the work and the main operation axis of ELSTAT since its establishment.

Subsequently, the Head of the Division of Organisation, Methodology and International Relations, Mr Ioannis Moschakis, presented the actions taken and planned by ELSTAT to address user requests made during the previous two User Conferences.

Following the presentation of the actions, the President of ELSTAT asked the participants to express their comments. One general comment made by the participants was the very good cooperation with ELSTAT's officials. Other comments and requests that were made are outlined below, by participating agency and representative.¹

• **Ministry of Finance**

(Mrs Zeta Dimitrakopoulou)

- She pointed out to the lack of time series for National Accounts, especially before 2000.
- She pointed out to the lack of seasonally adjusted quarterly data for National Accounts.
- She requested the production of seasonally adjusted quarterly data for the

¹ It should be noted that the comments of the representatives do not represent, in all cases, the positions of their agencies.

Labour Force Survey.

- **Bank of Greece**

(Mrs Dafni Nikolitsa)

- She pointed out to the lack of long time series for national accounts, as well as of seasonally adjusted data.
- She noted the lack of data on wages since 2008.
- She pointed out to the lack of relevantly recent data on the statistical business register.
- She highlighted the usefulness of ELSTAT cooperation with the users of statistical data during the design stage of the relevant questionnaires.

- **National Centre for Social Research (EKKE)**

(Mr Dimitrios Emmanouil)

- He requested a more detailed breakdown for the variable “citizenship” in ELSTAT’s surveys questionnaire on households (Labour Force Survey, Household Budget Survey).
- He noted the need to collect data on the variables “time of arrival in Greece” and “time of stay in Greece” for immigrants.
- He requested the collection of data on the estimated value of immovable property.

- **KLIMAKA NGO — Intervention hotline for suicide 1018**

(Mrs Eleni Vekiari)

- She noted the lack of disaggregated data on suicides, as well as on the profile of people who commit suicide or attempt to commit suicide.
- She requested the production of data on suicide attempts in socially excluded population groups, as well as data on the monitoring of living conditions of these groups.

- **University of Thessaly**

(Mr Vyron Kotzamanis)

- He requested more metadata on ELSTAT's website, the adoption of the most recent classifications in ELSTAT's surveys and the taking of relevant steps to avoid gaps in the time series of statistical data.
- He highlighted the importance of ELSTAT cooperation with the Greek Land Register and Mapping Agency, the Cadastre S.A. and the Army Geographical Service for the elaboration of cartographic maps and geospatial data.
- He stressed the need to reduce the production time and improve the quality of population and demographic statistics.
- He requested ELSTAT to include in its surveys the "gender" variable, as well as the "citizenship" variable, broken down into at least 4 large categories.

- **Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change**

(Mr Dimitrios Meimaris)

- He highlighted the importance of data availability for the development of new environmental indicators.

- **University of Patra**

(Mr Michael Ntemousis)

- He underlined the importance of primary data of ELSTAT surveys for the analysis of researchers and he requested access to them.

(Mr Nikolaos Giannakopoulos)

- He requested from ELSTAT to post on its website anonymised survey data, with the possibility of inter-linking them (on the basis of a common variable, e.g. VAT number).

• **General Secretariat for Gender Equality**

(Mrs Maria Zervou)

- She requested the cooperation of ELSTAT for the compilation of Gender Indicators, in the framework of a UN Action Plan on Gender Equality.

ELSTAT, from its part, provided answers and clarifications, where appropriate, to the questions and comments of users. Moreover, ELSTAT provided information on its point of view on all the above statistical issues, as well as well as information about its response times to specific users' requests.

In line with the agenda, Mrs Olga Siskou, from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, gave an overview of the project for the development of a System of Health Accounts at national level, undertaken by the Ministry of Health, the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and ELSTAT in the context of a memorandum on cooperation between the above bodies. The last deliverable of the project is expected to be completed in January 2013.