A. INTRODUCTION

Article 4 of the new statistical law 3832/2010 “Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS) Establishment of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) as an independent authority” provides for the compilation of an annual report on the statistical work program of the previous year for ELSTAT.

The annual report of ELSTAT for 2010 provided here differs from the annual reports compiled by the former General Secretariat of National Statistical Service of Greece (NSSG), which was replaced by ELSTAT. More specifically, NSSG had been annually compiling a report on the outcome of the statistical program of the previous year, providing information mostly on the status of statistical surveys. The NSSG report provided information on whether the various stages of each survey scheduled in the annual statistical program were "completed", "continuing", "continuing with delay" or were "discontinued or cancelled" for some reason. This type of annual report was mostly useful to NSSG itself in that it allowed it to follow the progress of the various statistical surveys, but it was of relatively low utility to users of statistics.

The new annual report of ELSTAT is mainly addressed to users. In this annual report, ELSTAT accounts for its activities in 2010. Besides the activities concerning the statistical surveys outlined in the 2010 statistical work program, which had been compiled by the NSSG, the present annual report also contains information on the major statistical events that took place in 2010.

In 2010, three major statistical events took place, aiming at reestablishing confidence in the statistics of Greece:

1. The change of the country’s statistical legislation.
2. The compilation of the Joint Overall Statistical Greek Action Plan (JOSGAP), by the Greek Authorities and Eurostat.
3. The initiation of the implementation of the JOSGAP actions, giving priority to those in the area of Government Finance Statistics.

Other important events in 2010 are considered the first Users Conference convened by ELSTAT on 20 October 2010, as well as the selection of ELSTAT by Eurostat to organize the European Conference on "Quality in Official Statistics", to be held in Athens in May 2012.

B. THE NEW STATISTICAL LAW

In 2010, the new statistical law entered into force. The new law establishes the Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS) and the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT), providing for the independence of ELSTAT and its determining role within the ELSS\(^{(1)}\). By a decision of ELSTAT, the ELSS agencies having the responsibility or obligation to collect statistical data were designated in 2010. The ELSS agencies comprise, besides ELSTAT, the Bank of

Greece and sixteen Government Ministries. Eight out of the above-mentioned sixteen Ministries, ELSTAT and the Bank of Greece constitute the national authorities, which are responsible for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics within the framework of the ELSS. These national authorities were also designated in 2010, by a decision of ELSTAT. According to the statistical law, the activities of ELSS agencies concerning the development, production and dissemination of statistics must be governed by the statistical principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice regarding "professional independence", "impartiality", "objectivity", "reliability", "statistical confidentiality" and "cost – effectiveness". ELSTAT holds a determining role within the ELSS, since, according to law 3832/2010, it coordinates all the activities of the other ELSS agencies concerning the development, production and dissemination of the country’s official statistics and forwards these statistics to Eurostat.

C. JOINT OVERALL STATISTICAL GREEK ACTION PLAN (JOSGAP)

In order to address weaknesses in Greek Government Finance Statistics(2) and reestablish confidence in the statistics of Greece more broadly, the European Commission was asked to take all necessary measures for the harmonization of the Hellenic Statistical System with the European Statistical System. To this end, the Commission and the Greek authorities put in place in 2010 the Joint Overall Statistical Greek Action Plan (JOSGAP).

JOSGAP consists of a significant number of actions allocated to three different pillars (A, B and C).

Actions within Pillar A of the JOSGAP aim at strengthening the institutional framework of the ELSS. In 2010, the following actions of Pillar A were completed: the designation of ELSS agencies; the designation of the national authorities of the ELSS; the notification of the Hellenic Data Protection Authority (HDP A) by ELSTAT concerning all personal data (sensitive and not sensitive), which are kept and processed by ELSTAT, as well as the questionnaires that ELSTAT uses in the surveys that collect sensitive personal data. Moreover, in 2010, most of the remaining actions within Pillar A marked significant progress. Such actions included the compilation of the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the Agencies of the ELSS and of the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT, as well as the compilation of the 2011 – 2013 Hellenic Statistical Program, which could thus be completed within 2011.

Actions in Pillar B of JOSGAP aim at improving the processes and capacity for the production of statistics in Greece, through a program of short and medium term technical assistance from Eurostat to ELSTAT. In this context, in 2010, notable steps were taken regarding the following actions: improving the quality of the existing statistical business register, improving ICT services within ELSTAT, developing a training program for the staff of ELSTAT, revising the Annual National Accounts, improving the Quarterly and Re-

(2) The European Commission’s Report on Greek government deficit and debt statistics, dated 8/1/2010, outlines the reasons and causes behind the production of not credible statistics by Greece.
gional National Accounts, etc. In addition, some other actions of Pillar B, which were initiated in 2010, are expected to make substantial progress in 2011.

Finally, the actions in Pillar C focus on improving the quality of the Government Finance Statistics of Greece. ELSTAT gave priority to these actions because Government Finance Statistics account, to a large extent, for the lack of credibility of the statistics of Greece, but also because of the imperative need for reliable Government Finance Statistics in order to compile and implement the overall economic and financial program of the country.

By the end of 2010, a large number of critical actions of Pillar C of JOSGAP had been completed. Among these actions were included the significant reinforcement, in terms of human resources, of the National Accounts Division of ELSTAT; the re-setting, on a new basis, of the cooperation of ELSTAT with the General Accounting Office and the Bank of Greece in the compilation of Government Finance Statistics, and its enshrinement in a memorandum of understanding; the reclassification within General Government of a number of large entities which had the ability to incur debt; the recalculation of quarterly Government Finance Statistics from 2009 onwards using data from primary sources and implementing a methodology fully in line with the European System of National Accounts (ESA 95), etc. Many of the actions of Pillar C reached an advanced state of completion in 2010.

The first results from the implementation of these actions have become visible since the end of 2010, when the Greek Government Finance Statistics for the period 2006 – 2009, which were submitted to Eurostat in the framework of the October 2010 Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP) notification, were published by Eurostat without reservations.

In order to advance the JOSGAP actions in 2010, eleven short visits were made to ELSTAT by experts in areas such as: Government Finance Statistics, staff training, information systems, National Accounts, Population Censuses, programming and legislation. These visits were financed by Eurostat.

**D. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STATISTICAL PROGRAM**

This Chapter discusses the most important output, by theme, from ELSTAT’s statistical work during 2010. The full output, in the form of figures, tables, metadata and methodology used, can be found on ELSTAT’s website: www.statistics.gr.

**Agriculture**

The 2009 Agricultural and Livestock Census was conducted, after some delay, in 2010. The purpose of this Census, which is conducted every ten years, was to record all the agricultural and livestock holdings of the country and to collect data on their structure and on the population employed in them.

**Enterprises**

In 2010, ELSTAT embarked on a program to make better use of administrative data sources for the production of statistics, with a view to reducing public expenditure and the response
burden of surveyed enterprises. In this context, a workshop on the improvement of the quality of business statistics through the use of administrative data was organized by ELSTAT during 29 – 30 November 2010. Experts from EU Member States making extensive use of administrative data sources participated in the workshop, alongside with representatives of the Greek public and private sectors.

The basic conclusion drawn from the workshop was that the creation of a single entry point for the submission of data by enterprises could contribute to the drastic reduction of human and financial resources which are required for the production of business statistics, on both the side of the enterprises and the side of ELSTAT. Authorized users—ELSTAT being among them—would have the capacity to extract the data they are interested in. ELSTAT is investigating the feasibility of the creation, in cooperation with other agencies, of the single entry point, taking into account all the requirements of the task (interest of other agencies, legislative arrangements, compatibility of applications, time of completion, cost, etc.).

Health

A memorandum of cooperation between ELSTAT, the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity and the University of Athens was signed in December 2010, to carry forward the implementation of a System of Health Accounts at national level, in the period 2011 – 2012. This system will involve the recording of health expenditures by type of service provision, provider and financing source; personal expenses by illness, sex and age; and relevant price indices and employment data. The data will be collected from public and private hospitals, social security funds, private medical practices, insurance companies, households and, more broadly, from whoever provides, buys and/or finances goods and services related to health care.

National Accounts

In 2010, preparatory works were carried out pertaining to the revision of Annual National Accounts (GDP) for the period 2000 – 2010 with the implementation of a new base year. This major statistical work was included in the JOSGAP. An expert on National Accounts visited ELSTAT in December 2010 in order to assist the National Accounts Division of ELSTAT in compiling a comprehensive plan consisting of specific tasks aimed at updating and improving the quality of national accounts, including a realistic work plan and timetable for the benchmark revision of GDP, with a view to submitting this plan to Eurostat in the beginning of 2011.

Prices

The national Consumer Price Index (CPI) is revised at regular time intervals, according to the results of the latest Household Budget Survey (HBS). The CPI revisions mainly aim at the revision of the weights and the renewal of the sample of items (goods and services)
which are included in the index, by taking into consideration the most up-to-date composition of consumption, which is based on the results the HBS.

In 2010, the national CPI was revised with 2009 as a new base year, on the basis of the results of the latest HBS. The geographic and population coverage of the revised CPI is the same as that of the previous CPI (with 2005 as base year). Moreover, there is no change in the cities where price collection would take place. The "basket" of items of the new CPI contains 800 goods and services, in total. In comparison with the previous CPI, 26 new items were added and 10 items were deleted. The new CPI is being published since January 2011.

**Government Finance**

In 2010, a fundamental reengineering of the processes and more generally of the overall approach to the production of Government Finance Statistics—deficit and debt statistics—took place, in line with:

- the strict observance of the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice (fo-cusing on the principle of professional independence, the principle of quality commitment and the principle of impartiality and objectivity),
- the results of the European Commission’s Report on Greek government deficit and debt statistics (8/1/2010) and
- the rules of the European System of National Accounts (ESA 95).

Moreover, the National Accounts Division of ELSTAT, which is responsible for compiling the Government Finance Statistics, was reinforced with seven new employees transferred form other Divisions of ELSTAT and its staff was trained during specialized seminars with a view to carrying out effectively the necessary actions envisaged in Pillars B and C of the JOSGAP.

There was close cooperation, at technical level, with Eurostat, in the framework of the four methodological visits undertaken by Eurostat to ELSTAT in 2010, including an extended methodological visit from 10 October to 9 November 2010. In the context of this cooperation in October and November 2010, ELSTAT jointly conducted with Eurostat a quality control on the primary sources of Government Finance Statistics data, aiming at identifying any risks for the statistical data and at ensuring that any future revisions would be within the typical range for EU Member States.

Work was initiated on the revision of the Register of General Government Institutions. This Register was used until mid-2010 to compile Government Finance Statistics. Priority was given to addressing quality problems with the debt and deficit statistics of Greece, on account inter alia of the erroneous classification, outside General Government, of a number of large entities that had the capacity to incur debt. The improved Register was made public on ELSTAT’s website in December 2010.

Moreover, ELSTAT elaborated innovative, even by EU standards, memoranda of understanding to be signed by ELSTAT and all government Ministries, the General Accounting Office and the Bank of Greece, with a view to ensuring the transparent, reliable and timely
production of Government Finance Statistics. The memorandum of understanding with the General Accounting Office and the Bank of Greece was the first to be signed in December 2010, and then followed memoranda with other Ministries.

Aiming at transparency, EDP notification tables and the respective press releases begun to be posted on the website of ELSTAT from 15/11/2010 onwards. The announcement dates of the 2011 EDP notifications were included in ELSTAT’s press release calendar for 2011.

ELSTAT cooperated with the General Accounting Office concerning the compilation of a monthly questionnaire for the collection of data by both institutions from General Government institutions. ELSTAT also collaborated with the Ministry of Interior and the Hellenic Agency for Local Development and Local Government for the development of a web application pertaining to the collection of economic data from local authorities, with a view to initiating its operation in the first quarter of 2011. Moreover, in 2010, ELSTAT made significant steps forward regarding the development and completion of web applications for the on-line transmission to ELSTAT of quarterly and annual data of General Government institutions, with a view to activating this application in the context of the 2011 EDP notifications.

In December 2010, ELSTAT submitted to Eurostat quarterly Government Finance Statistics for the first three quarters of 2010 and all the quarters of 2009. These quarterly Government Finance Statistics were recalculated using mainly data from primary sources and the updated classification of the General Government institutions.


**Preparation of the 2011 General Censuses for Buildings and for Population – Housing**

In the framework of its scheduled regular statistical surveys, ELSTAT accelerated the preparatory works for the General Censuses for Buildings and for Population – Housing of 2011. These Censuses are conducted every ten years and form the basis for policy-making at national and Community level.

More specifically, during the second half of 2010, ELSTAT took some coordinated measures in order to accelerate the preparatory works for the censuses, such as:

a) selection of Census Supervisors and Assistant Supervisors from the staff of ELSTAT in a manner that would minimize any negative effects on the regular statistical activities and output of ELSTAT,

b) training of Census Supervisors,

c) recruitment of 200 temporary employees for the censuses. These employees were recruited in compliance with the procedures laid down by the Supreme Council for Personnel Recruitment,

d) finalization and production of the questionnaires to be used in the Buildings Census,
e) compilation and production of two of the principal Circulars necessary for the conduct of the Population – Housing Census (Circulars 1 and 2),

f) development of a system for the selection of the temporary staff to be used in the conduct of the censuses (Section Chiefs and Enumerators) with meritocratic criteria and transparent procedures,

g) selection of Section Chiefs in compliance with the above-mentioned procedures,

h) ensuring and initiation of the cooperation with two experts on population censuses; one expert from Eurostat and one expert from Greece,

i) purchase of an Optical Character Reader (OCR) system for capturing the information in the questionnaires of the General Censuses for Buildings and for Population – Housing, as well as in the questionnaires of other censuses and surveys of ELSTAT.

E. ADAPTING STATISTICAL OUTPUT TO USER NEEDS

A fundamental concern of ELSTAT is the production of statistics adapted to the needs and requirements of users, at national, European and international level. In this context, and beyond its efforts to provide users with reliable Government Finance Statistics, ELSTAT took up a number of actions aiming at identifying and satisfying user needs. More specifically, in 2010, ELSTAT organized two conferences with the participation of users of statistical data. It also started the work of upgrading both its website and various press releases and publications, so as to adapt them in order to meet the changing needs of users.

1. The 2010 Users Conference

ELSTAT convened the first Users Conference on 20 October 2010, on the occasion of World Statistics Day. This conference provided an important opportunity for ELSTAT to receive comments and suggestions from users in a number of areas: dissemination of statistical information, gaps and weaknesses of the statistics produced by ELSTAT, access to statistical data, and future steps for strengthening ELSTAT’s cooperation with users.

Users pointed out, inter alia, the need for:

a) compilation of additional statistics in the areas of health and education (mainly economic data),

b) compilation of statistics on the use of time,

c) compilation of statistics on wealth and capital,

d) development of a System of Health Accounts,

e) compilation of additional statistics at the level of municipality.

ELSTAT studied the comments and suggestions raised during the conference, with a view to taking appropriate actions within the existing and anticipated constraints on its budget. In
In this context, a memorandum of cooperation between ELSTAT, the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity, and the University of Athens was signed in December 2010, to carry forward the implementation of a System of Health Accounts at national level (see Chapter D, above). ELSTAT also included in its annual statistical work program for 2011 the carrying out of the preparatory work necessary for the conduct of a Time Use Survey in cooperation with the General Secretariat for Gender Equality.

The Users Conference helped ELSTAT be directly informed on how users evaluate its statistical products and draw conclusions on how these products could be more useful for them. The impressions of both users and producers of statistics (ELSTAT) from the above-mentioned conference were very positive. There was general agreement that regular meetings between ELSTAT and users should be organized.

2. The 2010 Conference on Poverty and Social Exclusion

ELSTAT also convened the first conference on Statistics on Poverty and Social Exclusion on 9 December 2010. Participants included users of statistics in this area. The main conclusion of the conference was the need to expand the array of statistics compiled in this area so as to capture the multiple aspects of the phenomena of poverty and social exclusion.

ELSTAT has studied the comments and suggestions expressed during the two conferences with a view to taking appropriate actions within the existing and envisaged constraints on its budget.

F. UPGRADE THE PROCEDURES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF STATISTICS

ELSTAT lays particular emphasis on the transparency, acceleration and improvement of procedures for the production of statistics. Transparency concerns the selection mode of the temporary staff used by ELSTAT for the conduct of statistical surveys, as well as the production of statistics based on a sound and well documented methodology in line with European and international standards. The acceleration and improvement of procedures for the production of statistics is achieved through the cooperation with other producers of statistics in Greece and abroad (ELSS agencies, National Statistical Institutes, etc.), as well as with the use of modern ICT facilities for statistical data collection and processing.

1. Selection of temporary staff for the conduct of statistical surveys

In 2010, ELSTAT started to address the issue of the development of an appropriate system for the selection of temporary staff used in the conduct of statistical surveys based on meritocratic criteria and transparent procedures, with a view to beginning implementation of this system in 2011.
2. Cooperation with other producers of statistical data

In the context of improving Greek Government Finance Statistics, ELSTAT proceeded in 2010 with the preparation of Memoranda of Understanding with the General Accounting Office (GAO), the Bank of Greece (BoG) and Government Ministries (see Chapter C, above). The Memorandum of Understanding between ELSTAT, GAO and BoG was signed in December 2010.

3. Use of ICT facilities for statistical data collection, processing and dissemination

In 2010, ELSTAT made significant progress towards the development and completion of web applications for the online transmission to ELSTAT of quarterly and annual data from General Government institutions, such as Social Security Funds, Public Hospitals, Government Enterprises, and Extra-Budgetary Funds. ELSTAT is aiming at expanding the use of ICT facilities for data collection.

In 2010, ELSTAT took steps towards using Optical Character Readers (OCR) for the processing of the data of the 2009 Agricultural and Livestock Census.

In September 2010, the Informatics Division of ELSTAT made an inquiry concerning user needs and identified and documented the current situation as regards the systems, software and human resources. A report was produced outlining these needs as well as the broader ICT needs of ELSTAT. In November 2010, an external ICT expert visited ELSTAT for consulting purposes. The expert submitted his suggestions and recommendations in the framework of the implementation of a development project.

G. OTHER MAJOR EVENTS IN 2010

1. Participation of ELSTAT in the 75th Thessaloniki International Fair

ELSTAT participated in the 75th Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF), for the first time as an independent Authority, with its own stand. Information material for the new ELSTAT and its major statistical programs, as well as a number of data publications covering a big part of the statistical surveys conducted by ELSTAT were available in ELSTAT’s stand for the visitors. The opening ceremony of ELSTAT’s stand took place on 12 September 2011, in the presence of the President of ELSTAT, Mr. Andreas V. Georgiou. The participation of ELSTAT in TIF was successful.

2. Creation and promotion of ELSTAT’s Digital Library through the Internet

In 2010, an important project, that of the organization of ELSTAT’s Digital Library on the Internet, was completed. The Digital Library is aiming at developing and preserving ELSTAT’s printed material and promoting it through the Internet. During the project, 3,443
ELSTAT books and magazines, and 6 atlases, dating back to 1859, were digitized. The database is being continuously enriched with ELSTAT’s new publications.

The creation of the Digital Library started with the procedure of digitization, followed by the water marking and digital text production by implementing Optical Character Readers (OCR) to the tables of contents. The digitized material was then accompanied by the appropriate metadata for easier management and finally the Internet environment was developed in the Greek and English languages.

3. Organization of the 2012 European Conference on "Quality in Official Statistics"

In 2010, ELSTAT applied for and was selected by Eurostat to organize the European Conference on "Quality in Official Statistics", in Athens in May 2012.

This conference has been taking place approximately every two years, starting in 2000, each time in a different Member State of the European Union. The need for continuous improvement of the quality of European statistics established the above conference. The quality conference has become a top-level scientific meeting, with the participation of notable members of the international statistical community. Participants in the conference usually number in the hundreds and the scientific contributions made in the conference become a reference point for improving the quality of statistics.

The application for the undertaking of the organization of the conference demonstrates the importance ELSTAT attaches to the quality of statistics.

H. ELSTAT’S HUMAN RESOURCES

1. ELSTAT’s personnel

In 2010, the number of ELSTAT staff recorded a decrease, compared with 2009, due to the retirement of employees and also due to the limited recruitment of new employees, on account of the constraints imposed by the economic adjustment program of the country. More specifically, on 31 December 2009, ELSTAT staff amounted to 1,007 employees: the permanent staff numbered 984 employees (330 men and 654 women) and the staff working under private contract of unlimited duration numbered 23 employees (6 men and 17 women). The total number of ELSTAT staff, on 31 December 2010, was 966: the permanent staff numbered 944 (326 men and 618 women) and the staff working under private contract of unlimited duration numbered 22 (6 men and 16 women). Thus, in 2010 the total number of ELSTAT staff decreased by 4.1%.

On 31 December 2010, 655 out of 966 (total number) employees of ELSTAT worked in the Central Office and 311 employees worked in the Regional Offices. All the employees are over the age of 30. More than 54% of the staff is over 44 years old.

The following table depicts the allocation of ELSTAT staff by sex and education level, in 2009 and 2010 (31st of December).
In 2010, the staff of National Accounts Division of ELSTAT was reinforced through the transfer of 7 employees from other ELSTAT Divisions.

2. Training of ELSTAT’s staff

The JOSGAP lays a lot of emphasis on the training of ELSTAT staff and provides for a specific action aimed at developing a continuous training program. In this context, an exercise was conducted in 2010 to record the training needs of ELSTAT employees. In addition, an expert on training issues visited ELSTAT and produced a report on the current training needs and made suggestions for future steps. This report will form the basis for the development of a continuous training program for the staff of ELSTAT.

In June 2010, 14 employees of the National Accounts Division participated in a training course on Government Finance Statistics, which was organized in Athens by Eurostat.

I. ELSTAT’S BUDGET EXECUTION

ELSTAT’s expenses in 2010 are classified in 7 types:

a) Wages and salaries of ELSTAT permanent staff, including basic salary, allowances, social security contributions, etc.

b) Additional and incidental benefits for the permanent staff.

c) Expenses related to the staff’s moving within Greece and abroad: travel and subsistence expenses for the permanent staff of ELSTAT moving out of the Office, for the purpose of conducting statistical surveys in the field or participating in meetings, seminars etc. abroad, as well as expenses related to the transfers or detachments of ELSTAT employees to other Services, in Greece or abroad.

d) Other operating expenses, including expenses related to ELSTAT’s property – buildings (Central and Regional Offices) such as rents, heating, communication, water sup-
ply, security, cleaning and maintenance costs, advertisement and public relations expenses, temporary staff remuneration, etc.

e) Expenses for the provision of goods and capital stock, including expenses for the provision of consumables (materials for the maintenance and repair of premises and equipment, paper, stationery, medical and pharmaceutical supplies), fuels, furniture, PCs, printers, photocopiers and other office equipment.

f) Expenses for the conduct of censuses (buildings, population – housing, and agriculture)

g) Projects financed by Eurostat, including expenses in the context of the conduct of statistical works financed by Eurostat.

The allocation of ELSTAT’s expenses in 2010, by type of expenditure, is presented in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of expenditure</th>
<th>Amount paid (in euro)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wages and salaries</td>
<td>18,773,011.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional and incidental benefits</td>
<td>18,179,862.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses related to staff moving within Greece and abroad</td>
<td>158,714.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other operating expenses</td>
<td>5,243,071.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses for the provision of goods and capital stock</td>
<td>241,902.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses for the conduct of the censuses for buildings, population – housing and agriculture</td>
<td>7,560,994.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects financed by Eurostat</td>
<td>4,059,717.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>54,217,273.88</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>