

## **Minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> User Conference**

On Friday 20 October 2017, the Hellenic Statistical Authority(ELSTAT) held, on its premises in Piraeus, the 8th Annual User Conference in accordance with its Annual Statistical Work Programme.

Fifty-two (52) representatives of the public and private sector participated in the Conference, together with representatives from educational and research institutes. ELSTAT was represented by the Acting Head of the General Directorate of Administration and Organisation, Mr Ioannis Moschakis, the Acting Head of the General Directorate of Statistical Surveys, Mrs Vasiliki Benaki, as well as by the Heads of the competent Divisions and Sections of ELSTAT, in order to record users' comments and requests and to provide, if necessary, answers to questions made by users on the production of statistics

The 8<sup>th</sup> User Conference was a thematic conference focusing on “Demography-Migration”. The President of ELSTAT, Mr Athanasios Thanopoulos, welcomed the participants and referred to the two main reasons leading to the choice of the specific topic of the Conference. The first reason is practical, to draw users' attention to the fact that the time for conducting the 2021 Population — Housing Census is approaching and that, in this context, there is a need for all parties to make preparations, both for ELSTAT, which will conduct the Census and for the users, including policy-makers. The second, equally important, reason concerns scientific criteria, due to the relevance of demography and migration to very interesting scientific questions and issues, such as depopulation, the change in the structure of the population, but also a number of other issues.

Subsequently, the President of ELSTAT made a brief reference to the items of the agenda of the Conference and to the relevant speakers.

Mr Michalis Chouliarakis, former Head of the Division of Administration of ELSTAT, was invited to the Conference and was honoured for his work and scientific contribution to the former National Statistical Service of Greece. The President of ELSTAT made a brief reference to Mr Chouliarakis's CV, focusing on his very extensive and multifaceted work on official statistics in Greece and especially on historical demography and awarded him an honorary plaque.

In line with the Agenda of the User Conference, four (4) presentations were made to the participants:

- *Population and Migration in Greece: methodological approaches and exploratory opportunities*

Mr Kleon Tsimbos, Professor of Demography in the Department of Statistics and Insurance Science of the University of Piraeus, referred to the impact of migration flows on the size, fertility and structure of the Greek population.

- *Greece: Demographic evolution and perspectives*

The Head of Vital Statistics and Migration Flows Statistics Section of ELSTAT, Mr Konstantinos Voulgaris, outlined the work of the Section and the statistics produced by the Section.

- *Mapping and interactive visualisation of the Greek academic presence around the world, 2008 to 2015, Source: National Documentation Centre (NDC)*

Mr Panagiotis Vladis from the Department of Informatics and Telecommunications of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens presented a visualisation tool for mapping the Greek academic activity around the world from 2008 to 2015, using data from the National Documentation Centre (NDC).

- *Main findings of the 2016 User Satisfaction Survey*

The Head of the Statistical Information and Publications Division of ELSTAT, Mrs Akrivi Nikolakopoulou, presented the results of the 2016 User Satisfaction Survey.

Subsequently, the floor was given to the users for any comments and requests concerning the services provided by ELSTAT and the statistical product produced. The comments and requests that were made are outlined below by participating agency and representative.<sup>1</sup>

- **University of Piraeus**

(Mr Kleon Tsimbos)

- Mr Tsimbos requested the posting of all statistics on births, deaths and marriages on a specific spot on the website of ELSTAT under the proposed title “Vital Statistics” or “Civil status recordings”, provided that the design of ELSTAT’s website allows for it.
- He requested that ELSTAT’s website should offer users the possibility to produce tables with the variables of their interest.

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

- He welcomed the fact that ELSTAT has provided access to anonymised micro-data on Vital Statistics, through the relevant procedure.
- He requested the upgrade of the Press Release on Vital Statistics, taking into account, the respective Press Releases of other countries and organisations.
- He also asked the re-issue of the “Vital Statistics of Greece” publication in electronic form.
- **Centre of Planning and Economic Research (KEPE)**  
(Mr Prodromos Prodromidis)
  - Mr Prodromidis asked whether ELSTAT intends to provide KEPE with detailed business data, taking into account statistical confidentiality.
  - He asked whether ELSTAT intends to further exploit statistical data visualisation tools.
  - He requested the continuation of the Annual User Conference, in addition to the thematic conferences, so that users have more time to make comments, observations and requests concerning the production and dissemination of statistics.
  - He highlighted the good cooperation with ELSTAT in the context of providing KEPE with anonymised micro-data for its analyses.
  - He requested ELSTAT to continue its actions for further access administrative data so that more statistics are made available to users for their analyses.
  - He requested the planning of a meeting concerning the availability of data for the development of indicators for evaluating the projects of the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF).
- **National and Kapodistrian University of Athens**  
(Mr Ioannis Kassaras)
  - Mr Kassaras proposed the development of cooperation with ELSTAT in the context of the preparation of the next General Censuses.

- **Ministry of Economy and Development**

(Mr Ioannis Plemenos)

- Mr Plemenos requested to be informed on the availability of updated data from the Statistical Business Register for the last years.

- **Ministry of Rural Development and Food**

(Mr Stylianos Kokkidis)

- Mr Kokkidis asked the opinion of ELSTAT on the experimental statistics as opposed to official statistics.

- **Centre for the Development of Education Policy (KANEP) of the Greek General Confederation of Labour (GSEE)**

(Mr. Nikolaos Paizis)

- Mr Paizis highlighted the usefulness of the Annual User Conferences established by ELSTAT and he requested the continuation of their organisation in parallel with the thematic conferences.

- **National Technical University of Athens**

(Mr Georgios Panagiotopoulos, PhD candidate)

- He asked to be informed about the possibility to match the geographical codes valid before 2001 with the current geographical codes applicable from 2001 onwards.
- He requested to be informed on maintaining the status of areas as mountainous, semi-mountainous and plain areas

ELSTAT, from its part, provided answers and clarifications, where appropriate, to the questions and comments of users, as well as well as information about its response times to specific users' requests.