

Minutes of the 6th User Conference

On Monday 21 December 2015, the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) held on its premises in Piraeus, the 6th Annual User Conference in accordance with its Annual Statistical Work Programme.

Twenty-five (25) representatives of the public and private-sector participated in the Conference, together with representatives from embassies and educational and research institutes. ELSTAT was represented by the Acting President and Head of the General Directorate for Statistical Surveys, Mrs Athanasia Xenaki, the Head of the Division of Organisation, Methodology and International Relations and Acting Head of the General Directorate of Administration and Organisation, Mr Ioannis Moschakis, 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.

Mrs Xenaki welcomed the participants and presented the new Legal Framework of European Statistics, the changes which took place in the Greek Statistical Law in July 2015 and the Vision 2020 of the European Statistical System including the sectors, projects and horizontal activities and procedures complementing its implementation.

According to the agenda of the User Conference, other four (4) presentations were made to the participants.

The Head of the Coordination and Planning Section, Mrs Christina Pierrakou, presented the main achievements of ELSTAT in 2015 in the framework of the main operation axes of ELSTAT, as well as the actions of ELSTAT in response to users' requests made during the previous User Conference, both the completed actions and those undertaken or planned.

Mr Moschakis presented the procedure and the conditions for the provision by ELSTAT of confidential data for scientific purposes and of anonymised microdata of statistical surveys, both with predefined and not predefined anonymisation criteria.

The Head of the Division of Statistical Information and Publications, Mrs Akrivi Nikolakopoulou, presented the purpose and the coverage of the User Satisfaction Survey conducted on annual basis by ELSTAT, as well as comparative results of the corresponding survey of 2013 and 2014. She also informed the participants that ELSTAT is in the process of redesigning the Questionnaire of the User Satisfaction Survey and in this framework feedback from users will be requested by means of a relevant notice to be published on the website of ELSTAT.

The employees of the Division of Informatics and the Division of Organisation, Methodology and International Relations, Mrs Stella Trekla and Mrs Katerina Kalioti, respectively, made a presentation of the new portal of ELSTAT.

After the presentations, the Acting President made a short reference to the web application “PANORAMA of Greek Census Data, 1991-2011”, which is the product of cooperation between the National Centre for Social Research (EKKE) and ELSTAT. She informed the participants on her relevant presentation in the 80th Thessaloniki International Fair. Then, she asked the participants to submit their comments.

The comments and requests that were made are outlined below by participating agency and representative.¹

- **Agricultural University of Athens**

(Mr Stavros Zografakis)

- Mr Zografakis acknowledged the progress made with regard to the improvement of the quality of ELSTAT’s statistics.
- He pointed out the necessity of securing the human resources that are necessary for the completion of ELSTAT’s actions.
- ELSTAT was asked to post on its website external trade data by product, at 2-digit and 3-digit level, and by Country, in line with the OECD database.

- **METRON ANALYSIS**

(Mr Stratos Fanaras)

- Mr Fanaras highlighted the importance of the professional independence of ELSTAT for the development of a stable national statistical system.
- He proposed the creation of a wider statistical community in the Country, which will include accredited research entities.
- He acknowledged the importance of continuing training for ELSTAT’s staff and suggested expanding the above training to young scientists wishing to pursue a career in the field of Statistics.
- He proposed the set up of a register - sampling frame to which researchers from the academic community could have access through faster procedures for the needs of their researches.

¹ Please note that the comments of the representatives do not represent, in all cases, the positions of their agencies.

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

(Mr Dimitrios Emmanouil)

- Mr Emmanouil expressed his satisfaction for the services provided by ELSTAT.
- He highlighted the importance of existence of sampling frames for the conduct of social surveys by research entities.
- ELSTAT was asked to reduce the time needed for data processing for the timely provision of the results of statistical surveys to users and, in particular, to social analysts.
- He pointed out the need to maintain in statistical surveys variables and concepts such as ‘the head of household’, to meet the needs of national users who require comparable data.

- **Harokopio University of Athens**

(Mr Thomas Maloutas)

- Mr Maloutas acknowledged the progress made as regards the cooperation between ELSTAT and the users of statistical data through the annual User Conferences.
- He highlighted the need of contribution of more agencies and data producers for the continuous enrichment of the application “Panorama of Greek Census data, 1991-2011” with new variables and for the upgrading of data search techniques.
- He stressed the need of cooperation among all interested parties in the framework of the preparation of the next 2021 Population — Housing Census, so that the users have at their disposal more, and more detailed, data for their research needs.

- **University of Athens**

(Mr Ioannis Basiakos)

- Mr Basiakos highlighted the need of provision of individual non-anonymised enterprise data to researchers who sign a contract with ELSTAT and a Statistical Confidentiality Declaration.

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

(Mr Nikolaos Paizis)

- Mr Paizis acknowledged the upgrading of ELSTAT's portal, stressing, however, the need for ELSTAT to communicate more effectively with the different categories of users.
- He pointed out the need to develop specific and more detailed national statistics in the field of education, at a lower geographic level than that of the Whole Country and the Region.
- He highlighted the need to compile financial data of public and private vocational training institutes (IEK).

- **Ministry of Finance**

(Mr Andreas Zervas)

- Mr Zervas requested the consolidation of the data of the previous time series of annual and quarterly national accounts (since 1975) with the already existing data and, more generally, the consolidation of all the General Government Accounts data, as well as the exploration of the possibility of changing the seasonal adjustment model.
- He requested the creation and maintaining of a database with all the available data on a quarterly basis, for the needs of the forecasts made by the Ministry.
- He requested the availability of the time series tables in xls format and the co-existence of both the old time series and the revised ones.

ELSTAT, from its part, asked for clarifications, where necessary, on the requests made by users and provided explanations and information to users as regards its point of view on the relevant statistical issues raised, and particularly on how and when it envisages to meet the specific requests of users.