

Minutes of the 10th User Conference

On Monday 23 December 2019, the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) held on its premises, in Piraeus, the 10th Annual User Conference, in accordance with its Annual Statistical Work Programme for 2019.

Sixty-two (62) representatives of the public and private sector participated in the Conference together with representatives from educational and research institutes. ELSTAT was represented by its President, the Head of the General Directorate of Administration and Organisation, Mr Ioannis Moschakis, the Head of the General Directorate of Statistics, 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 10th User Conference was a thematic conference focusing on "Microdata of statistical surveys". The President of ELSTAT, Mr Athanasios Thanopoulos, welcomed the participants and referred to the reasons leading to the choice of the specific topic of the Conference, highlighting the importance, for both ELSTAT and the users of statistics, of producing and disseminating statistical surveys microdata for scientific purposes. He also stressed the need to ensure statistical confidentiality and respect for both users and surveyed units. Finally, he referred to the great work of the forthcoming Censuses (Agricultural – Livestock Census at the end of 2020 and Population – Housing Census in 2021).

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

The team of the 1st General Upper Secondary School of Karditsa, consisting of Mr Evangelos Kassos, Mr Christos Balaktsis and their teacher Ms Panagiota Kogia, was invited at the Conference and honored for its distinction (3rd place) in the 2nd European Statistics Competition.

In line with the Agenda of the User Conference, three (3) presentations were made:

– *Access of users to microdata of statistical surveys*

The Head of the Statistical Confidentiality Assurance Section of the Division of Methodology, Quality Assurance and International Relations of ELSTAT, Mr. Ioannis Nikolaidis, presented the three (3) categories of files of statistical surveys microdata (public use files, scientific use files and secure use files), as well as the actions of ELSTAT

(already implemented and future actions) in terms of compiling the files and providing users access to them.

– *Main findings of the 2018 User Satisfaction Survey*

The Head of the Statistical Information and Publications Division of ELSTAT, Ms Andromachi Piperaki, briefly presented the services and products provided by ELSTAT, as well as its actions. She also made a brief presentation of the results of the User Satisfaction Survey for the year 2018.

– *Implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation in Statistics*

The Advisor to the Office of the President of ELSTAT, Ms Artemis Kritikou, briefly presented the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council (General Regulation for the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data – GDPR) concerning the processing of personal data for statistical purposes.

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 representative¹.

- **Centre of Planning and Economic Research (KEPE)**

(Mr. Prodromos Prodromidis)

- Mr Prodromidis suggested the development of cooperation between ELSTAT and the National Statistical Institutes of neighboring countries, in the context of the collection of data on population flows from Greece to the above countries and vice versa, as well as their mapping.
- He requested ELSTAT's guidance and provision of know-how on statistical confidentiality issues.
- He highlighted the good cooperation with ELSTAT in the context of its active participation in the 32nd Panhellenic Statistics Conference organised by the Greek Statistical Institute, in collaboration with the Department of Mathematics of the University of Ioannina, on 30 May – 1 June 2019, in Ioannina.

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

- He suggested the self-presentation of ELSTAT at the 33rd Conference of the Greek Statistical Institute, which will take place on 15-17 May 2020, in Larissa.
- He recognised the importance of fostering statistical literacy in Greece.
- **Institute of Trade and Services of the Hellenic Confederation of Trade & Entrepreneurship**
(Ms Elissavet Salpea)
 - Ms Salpea requested information on the impact of the GDPR on providing the Institute with individual data of very small enterprises.
- **Athens University of Economics and Business**
(Ms Iriini Thomaidou)
 - Ms Thomaidou requested information on the accessibility to Eurostat's and other countries' statistical databases.
- **Agricultural Economics Research Institute, Hellenic Agricultural Organization "Demeter"**
(Ms Iriini Tzouramani)
 - Ms Tzouramani requested information on the certification of researchers by ELSTAT for access to microdata of statistical surveys.
- **Centre of Planning and Economic Research (KEPE)**
(Mr Ioannis Cholezas)
 - Mr Cholezas requested the collection, in conducted surveys, of data on those who are paid the minimum wage.
- **University of Patras (Department of Economics)**
(Mr Nikolaos Giannakopoulos)
 - Mr Giannakopoulos requested the addition in the next 2021 Population-Housing Census of the variable on gross income.
 - He requested that the values of the variables of anonymised microdata of statistical surveys to be matched with the questions of the respective questionnaires.

- He requested the exploration by ELSTAT of the possibility of a long-term matching of employees with their employers, in the context of conducting economic analyses and evaluating public policies.

Centre for Educational Policy Development of the Greek General Confederation of Labour

(Mr Nikolaos Paizis)

- Mr Paizis pointed out the improvement concerning the inclusion of statistics of Greece in time series of data published by Eurostat.
- He emphasised the need for the conduct of cross-sectoral surveys in the future, for policy-making.
- He stressed the need for ELSTAT to be prepared for its access, in the near future, to interconnected administrative databases, in the context of the production of statistics.
- He requested ELSTAT to take into account the needs of the research community in terms of the publication of statistics, along with its respective obligations arising from European Regulations.
- He stressed the need for the further development of ELSTAT dialogue with the users of statistics and not only once a year in the context of the annual User Conference.

- **Greek National Tourism Organisation (GNTO)**

(Ms Pinelopi Nobilaki)

- Ms Nobilaki requested the publication of more timely statistics, even provisional, on arrivals-nights spent and expenses of tourists in Greece.

- **Small Enterprises' Institute of the Hellenic Confederation of Professionals, Craftsmen & Merchants (IME GSEVEE)**

(Mr Leonidas Vatikiotis)

- Mr Vatikiotis requested the publication of additional statistics on ELSTAT's website in relation to the data collected from the questionnaires of its statistical surveys.
- He requested the publication of statistics at a more detailed breakdown than the existing one.

ELSTAT, from its part, provided answers and clarifications, where appropriate, to the questions and requests of users.