



ESAC-NUCs Workshop

26-27 March 2025

National Gallery, Athens

Day 1 - 26 March 2025

Part 1 - Statistical priorities in the European context: user perspectives and consultation mechanisms

Major changes are underway – climate change and the ecological transition, sustainable development issues, technological changes in the development of AI, major industrial transformations, globalisation and geopolitical tension, demographic challenges with the ageing population and the migration flows, and unforeseen circumstances such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the geo-political changes. All these developments pose significant challenges for official statistics with new policy demands and public expectations at local, regional, national and European levels, which also need to consider international requirements. In these changing contexts, user perspectives on important areas, emerging statistical needs and new priorities are essential.

13:30 – 14:00 **Registration**

14:00 **Welcome** **Athanasios C. Thanopoulos**, *President of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) and ESAC member*

14:15 **Introduction** **Roxane Silberman**, *ESAC Chair*

14:30 – 16:15 **Session 1: Statistical priorities in the context of the ESS and user perspectives**

Chair: **Marie Bohata**, *University of Economics and Management, Prague and ESAC member*

- “Thematic priorities for the European Statistical System (ESS) for the next five years and beyond”, **Mariana Kotzeva**, *Eurostat Director General*
- “CNIS medium term agenda 2024 - 2028: a collaborative approach”, **François Guillaumat - Taillet**, *CNIS Deputy General Secretary*
- “Towards the first statistical five years programme in Wallonia”, **Nicolas Rigo**, *WEPS (Regional statistical authority for Wallonia), Belgium*

Discussion

16:15 – 16:45 **Coffee break**

16:45 – 17:45 **Session 2: Measuring job quality in official statistics: new challenges for policy relevant frameworks**

Chair: **Athanasios C. Thanopoulos**, *President of ELSTAT and ESAC member*

While job quality indicators have provided robust tools for assessing employment conditions, they have remained static in the face of unprecedented and ongoing transformations in the world of work, driven by overlapping crises such as digitalisation (AI, platform economy), decarbonisation, socio-demographic changes and evolving forms of employment and business models. The new European Commission plans to put forward a Quality Jobs Roadmap, which will support fair wages, good working conditions, training and fair job transitions for workers and self-employed. This raises the need to ensure consistency in the measurement, monitoring and evaluation of job quality in support of EU and national level policy.

- “Setting the scene: New challenges for policy relevant job quality indicators in a changing economic context”, **Agnieszka Piasna**, *European Trade Union Confederation and ESAC member*
- “Measuring job quality (and precarious employment) with survey data: state of play”, **Agnes Parent - Thirion**, *Eurofound (online)*

Discussion introduced by **Riccardo Gatto**, *Labour Market and Lifelong Learning Unit, Eurostat (online)*



Venue: **Auditorium “Onassis Foundation”**
National Gallery - Alexandros Soutsos Museum
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Note: all time indications are at Eastern European Time (+01:00 to CET)

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09:30 – 10:45

Session 3: Ageing

Chair: **Claudiu Herteliu**, Bucharest University of Economic Studies and ESAC member

Many developed nations face significant challenges related to population ageing, as they tend to have higher life expectancies and lower birth rates. This can lead to increased healthcare costs, pension burdens, transportation challenges, workforce shortages and other problems. Addressing these issues requires coordinated efforts from many actors to develop sustainable solutions. Statistics are crucial for understanding demographic trends and planning for the associated challenges. While there is a wealth of official statistics available, the completeness and granularity of the data can vary by country and region. Some areas may lack detailed statistics on specific aspects of ageing, such as the economic impact or social implications, highlighting the need for ongoing research and data collection.

- “Collecting and analysing data to understand population health of ageing populations: a Czech perspective”, **Prof. Jakub Hlavka**, PhD., Masaryk University, Czech Republic
- “Inevitable population ageing and lifelong-learning vitality”, **Emeritus Prof. Cleon Tsimbos**, Department of Statistics and Insurance Science, University of Piraeus, Greece
- “Ageing societies”, **Marianna Papamichail**, Chairperson at the Hellenic Actuarial Authority

Discussion introduced by **Jose Domingo Martinez Solano**,
Deputy Head of Unit, Population and Migration Unit, Eurostat (online)

10:45 – 11:00

Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30

Session 4: Adaptation to climate change

Chair: **Peter van der Heijden**, Professor at the Utrecht University and ESAC member

Beyond assessing climate change and pollution –a focus on negative impacts– it is important to develop new kinds of indicators on the development of regional and national resilience against the impending polycrisis (multiple coupled crises that reinforce each other –including climate change, biodiversity loss, geo-political instabilities, inequities and rising costs of living, increasing risks of harvest failures). To assess resilience –the potential of regions to bounce back after shocks– we need indicators assessing changes on how humans engage with the environment and restore healthy and resilient ecosystems, e.g. in urban, forest and agricultural settings. This is another framing than just environmental quality or pollution: it assesses regenerative action and social-ecological relations and processes and dynamics.

- “The process of setting up the climate change indicators”,
Mojca Suvorov, Deputy President of the Statistical Council of the Republic of Slovenia
- “What climate change calls for a change in statistics”, **Xavier Timbeau**, OFCE and Chair of CNIS, Commission on Environment and Sustainable Development (online)
- “Existing climate adaptation frameworks and the role of Earth Observation (EO)”,
Dr Evangelos Gerasopoulos, Director, Institute for Environmental Research and Sustainable Development, National Observatory of Athens

Discussion introduced by **Isabelle Remond - Tiedrez**,
Environmental Statistics and Accounts, Sustainable Development Unit, Eurostat (online)

12:30 – 13:00

Conclusions

Mariana Kotzeva, Athanasios C. Thanopoulos and Roxane Silberman



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13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

Part 2 - Involving the users in the preparation of the statistical programmes: NUCs practices

14:00 – 15:15

Chair: **Athanasios C. Thanopoulos**,
President of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) and ESAC member

Introduction

Roxane Silberman, *ESAC Chair*

- “A framework for embedding new requirements in statistical production”,
Mojca Suvorov, Deputy President of the Statistical Council of the Republic of Slovenia
- “Users and producers of official statistics: relationship in the Portuguese Statistical Council”,
Ivo Sousa, member of the Statistical Council and Director of the Regional Statistical Service of the Azores, Portugal
- “User councils at Statistics Netherlands: Multiple boards for a variety of user groups”,
Eva Witteman, CBS International Relations, Netherlands

15:15 – 15:45

Coffee break

15:45 – 17:00

Chair: **Athanasios C. Thanopoulos**,
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- “The Statistical Council of the Republic of Croatia and its role in the Croatian Statistical System”,
Ivana Šuman, Secretary General of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, member of the Croatian National User Council
- “The role, operation and consultation mechanisms of the Hellenic Users Council”,
Zacharias Bragoudakis, Deputy Director of Economic Analysis and Research, Bank of Greece, member of the Hellenic Users Council
- “Bridging users and producers: Latvia’s approach to Statistical Council and NSI collaboration”,
Vladislavs Vesperis, Representative from the Latvian Statistical Council

17:00 – 17:30

Conclusions and key takeaways

ESAC and National User Councils cooperation: next steps by **Athanasios C. Thanopoulos** and **Roxane Silberman**



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