



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY

# **Hellenic Statistical Programme**

## **2017 – 2019**

PIRAEUS 2016







## A. INTRODUCTION

Article 5 of the Statistical Law 3832/2010 "Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS) Establishment of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) as an independent authority", as amended and in force, provides for the compilation, every three years, of a three-year statistical work programme for the ELSS, entitled Hellenic Statistical Programme (ELSP).

The Hellenic Statistical Programme for 2017 – 2019 is the third three-year statistical programme of the ELSS. The two previous ELSPs had been compiled for the three-year periods 2011 – 2013 and 2014 – 2016.

The ELSP 2017-2019 contains the main fields and targets of planned statistical actions of ELSS agencies for the aforementioned three-year period. These statistical actions can be either planned regular actions or ad hoc actions aimed at dealing with emergency needs. The European Statistical Programme 2013 – 2017 and its proposed extension over the period 2018-2020, through the amendment of Regulation (EU) 99/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>(1)</sup>, served as a guide and reference point for the compilation of the ELSP 2017 – 2019. The ELSP sets out the work priorities of the ELSS—i.e., of ELSTAT and the other ELSS agencies—so that the statistical system of Greece can meet European Union and international obligations regarding the required statistics for compilation. These priorities are determined taking also into consideration the required human and financial resources, as well as the administrative burden, which the compilation of the relevant statistics entails. The ELSP 2017 – 2019 is the basis on which the ELSS agencies compile their annual statistical work programmes for 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Section B of the ELSP contains information on the objectives of ELSTAT and the ELSS, in general, as regards the consolidation of the achievements pertaining to the quality of the ELSS statistics and its continuous improvement.

Section C of the ELSP contains information on actions that concern both the production of new statistics and the revision of existing statistics in 2017 – 2019, according to national and international obligations and taking into account users' needs.

Section D outlines the objectives, initiatives and new statistical products of the ELSS agencies, besides ELSTAT, for the period 2017 – 2019.

## B. ENSURING AND FURTHER IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF ELSS STATISTICS

### 1. Objectives and means

The objectives for the three-year period 2017 – 2019 are to ensure and further improve the quality of the statistics produced by the ELSS, by following the highest European and international statistical standards, unswervingly observing the existing rules, fulfilling the undertaken obligations and focusing on enhanced exploitation of human and financial resources while reducing, at the same time, the burden on respondents through the use of administrative data.

The above objectives will be accomplished by fully implementing the Greek and EU legal and statutory framework on statistics. This framework consists of the Greek Statistical Law (No 3832/2010, as amended and in force), the Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European Statistics, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2015/759, the European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP), EU Regulations on statistics, the Regulation on the Statistical Obligations of the Agencies of the ELSS, the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT and the Memoranda of Cooperation between the agencies of the ELSS. A crucial factor for the accomplishment of the objectives is the full implementation of the Commitment on Confidence in Statistics, which was signed by the Greek Government and the European Commission in 2012.

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(1) Regulation (EU) No 99/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 January 2013 on the European statistical programme 2013 – 2017.

Among the specific actions aimed at accomplishing the aforementioned objectives are: the continuation by EL-STAT of the certification process of the statistics of ELSS agencies –which recorded a remarkable progress during the last three-year period– and of the self-assessment of its produced statistics, as well as the implementation of the remaining actions included in the multidimensional Joint Overall Statistical Greek Action Plan (JOSGAP), which was agreed with Eurostat in 2010 with the aim of harmonising the Hellenic Statistical System with the European one. The improvement actions for the implementation of the recommendations of the Report of the Peer Review that was conducted in Greece in November 2014, in the framework of respective peer reviews that were conducted in all EU Member States and EFTA countries, have been incorporated into the above JOSGAP actions.

Besides the aforementioned actions, a series of other works is envisaged in areas such as: further enhancement of the coordination among the ELSS agencies as regards the development, production and dissemination of official statistics of Greece; training and development of the staff of ELSS agencies; regular meetings with data users and responding to their needs; intensive adoption of new technologies, as well as unhindered access to existing administrative data sources for data collection; further improvement of the accessibility of statistics and carrying on the excellent cooperation with Eurostat and the Statistical Institutes of the other EU Member States.

## **2. The European Statistical System Vision 2020**

The European Statistical System Vision 2020 (ESS Vision 2020) was developed by the need to modernise the European Statistical System (ESS) so this:

- is guided by quality in all activities and continues to deliver coherent, relevant and reliable statistics based on internationally harmonised concepts, sound methodologies and a strict data protection regime;
- meets users' needs in a cost-efficient manner;
- promotes efficiency and contributes to the enhancement of productivity through collaboration in sharing methods, tools, technological infrastructure and, where appropriate, data and human resources, based on legal frameworks and all prerequisites needed to ensure statistical confidentiality;
- embraces opportunities provided by the digital transformation and the new data sources to produce statistics;
- delivers statistical data in an interactive and easily understandable way, and promotes the statistical literacy of European citizens and institutions.

The above Vision was agreed in May 2014 by the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC), which provides professional guidance to the European Statistical System (ESS), as the guiding framework for the development of the European Statistical System by 2020. It is a follow-up to the Communication COM(2009) 404 from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the production methods of EU statistics: a vision for the next decade<sup>(2)</sup>, which was adopted in 2009 aiming at modernising statistical production in the ESS and ensuring the competitiveness of the ESS in the future.

The five key areas of the ESS Vision 2020 are presented in Box 1.

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(2) <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EL/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52009DC0404&from=EN>

### Box 1: The five key areas of the ESS Vision 2020



Source: Eurostat.

Eight (8) common projects (ESS VIPs) have been identified for the implementation of the ESS Vision 2020, which constitute the portfolio of the Vision<sup>(3)</sup>. In February 2015, the European Statistical System Committee adopted the initial portfolio of projects, which includes the following projects:

- SIMSTAT and REDESIGN (Single Market STATistics and Redesign of Intrastat)
- ESBRs (European System of interoperable Business Registers)
- VALIDATION (Common Data VALIDATION Policy)
- ADMIN (ADMINistrative data sources)
- ESDEN (European Statistical Data Exchange Network)
- SERV (shared SERVices)
- DIGICOM (/UA/IPROD) (DIGItal COMMunication, User Analytics and Innovative Products)
- BIGD (BIG Data)

The European Statistical System Committee also agreed that there is a need for progress on activities for the implementation of the Vision that are included in a number of supporting frameworks and cover further work on quality, information models and standards, ESS business architecture, as well as on legal and financial issues of the cooperation models within the ESS. ELSTAT participates in the supporting framework “QUAL“, which refers to the quality issues of the portfolio projects.

The development of these projects has already begun and some of them are at the final stage. ELSTAT participates in 3 of the above projects (SIMSTAT and REDESIGN, DIGICOM and BIGD).

### 3. Amendments in the European and the Greek Statistical Law

In April 2015, Regulation (EC) 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European statistics was amended by Regulation (EU) 2015/759. The objectives of this amendment were to: a) reinforce the professional independence and the coordinating role of the National Statistical Institutes, b) improve access of statistical authorities (NSIs and Other National Authorities producing European statistics) to administrative data and c) ensure political support for the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice, through the signing of the Commitments on Confidence in Statistics (CoCs).

By the changes introduced by the amending Regulation 2015/759 it is, inter alia:

- imposed to the Member States the obligation to ensure the professional independence of the heads of National Statistical Institutes and the statistical heads of the Other National Authorities,

(3) More information on the ESS Vision 2020 portfolio can be found at the following link:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/ess/about-us/ess-vision-2020/implementation-portfolio>

- clearly identified the sole responsibility of the heads of National Statistical Institutes for deciding on all matters concerning the production and dissemination of statistics, on statistical activities and on the internal management of the Statistical Office, as well as the performance of their statistical duties within the Statistical Office in an independent manner,
- defined the coordinating role of the heads of National Statistical Institutes within the national statistical system,
- imposed to the Member States the obligation to follow transparent procedures for the recruitment and appointment of the heads of National Statistical Institutes and, where appropriate, of the statistical heads of the Other National Authorities,
- provided to the Member States the possibility to establish a national body for ensuring the professional independence of the producers of European statistics,
- introduced the Commitment on Confidence in Statistics as a measure to ensure public trust in European statistics and to achieve progress in the implementation, at national level, of the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice. It is reinforced the right of National Statistical Institutes for access to all administrative records and use of these records for the production of European statistics and it is granted to the National Statistical Institutes the right to participate in the initial designing, subsequent development or discontinuation of administrative records, thus facilitating further use of those records for the production of European statistics and contributing to the reduction of the response burden.

To align with the above European statistical Law, the Greek Statistical Law 3832/2010 was amended in July 2015 by Law 4334/2015 (Government Gazette 80/A'/16.7.2015), in order to further ensure the professional independence of ELSTAT and to implement the relevant improvement actions in the context of the implementation of the recommendations of the Peer Review Report. The amendment of the Greek Statistical Law defined or clarified, inter alia, issues pertaining to:

- the establishment, composition, role and responsibilities of the Advisory Committee of the Hellenic Statistical System (SYEPELSS), which consists of representatives of entities that use statistical data and assists ELSTAT with respect to taking into account users' needs in the coordination of the strategic goals and priorities of the national statistical information policy,
- the functioning of the Good Practice Advisory Committee, which compiles an annual report on the implementation of principles 1 – 6 of the CoP in the ELSS,
- the possibility of ELSTAT to provide its opinion, prior to the submission to Parliament, on any legal provision that concerns ELSTAT or the Country's official statistics, as well as in the creation of new administrative data sources and public registers or files,
- the selection process of the President of ELSTAT.

#### **4. Coordination within and between the ELSS agencies**

Pursuant to article 2 of the Greek Statistical Law 3832/2010, as in force, ELSTAT coordinates all the activities of the other ELSS agencies, which concern the development, the production and the dissemination of the Country's official statistics in order for them to be developed, produced and disseminated in compliance with the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP). In the context of this coordination, ELSTAT has signed with the other ELSS agencies memoranda of cooperation, which set out the framework for the cooperation with the aforementioned agencies in specific statistical areas, and it collects, on a yearly basis, information both on the statistical works that the other ELSS agencies plan for the coming year and on the statistical works that were carried out during the previous year.

Aiming at enhancing the coordination within and between the ELSS agencies and for the implementation of a relevant recommendation of the Peer Review Report, ELSTAT asked all the ELSS agencies to nominate a statistical head, in accordance with the provisions of principle 1 of the European Statistics Code of Practice. Subsequently, ELSTAT set up the Coordination Committee of the ELSS, which consists of the aforementioned statistical heads and is chaired by the President of ELSTAT. The work of the Coordination Committee of the ELSS is to provide an advisory opinion to ELSTAT on the Regulation on the Statistical Obligations of the ELSS agencies, the priorities of the ELSS, on the basis of the developments at national and international level and on the measures aiming to reduce the administrative response burden of the ELSS agencies, as well as on other issues pertaining to the production of statistics within the ELSS. The Committee is going to start its work in 2016 and is expected to contribute effectively to strengthening the coordination of ELSS activities.



The coordination between the ELSS agencies is expected to be further reinforced in the framework of the certification as "official" of the statistics produced by the above agencies, which has started and will continue in 2016 and over the next three years, 2017-2019 (see next Section).

## **5. Certification as "official statistics" of the statistics produced by ELSS agencies**

A basic obligation of ELSTAT, in accordance with Article 11(6) of the Greek Statistical Law 3832/2010, as amended and in force, is the certification as "official" of the statistics produced by the other ELSS agencies. This certification is an important factor and a tool for enhancing the quality and reliability of ELSS statistics.

Following the two pilot certification exercises conducted in 2013 and 2014, ELSTAT completed and posted on its website the main document used for the certification of statistics of ELSS agencies: "Statement of Principles and Procedures for the Certification of ELSS Statistics". This document covers the purpose of the certification, the principles adopted by ELSTAT when certifying the official statistics, the description of the certification process, the requirements for the compilation of Quality Reports for each statistical process for the production of official statistics and the written evidence provided at the beginning of the certification process. On the basis of the above document, in 2015 ELSTAT completed the basic stage of the certification process for the statistics of all national authorities of the ELSS.

The certification process of ELSS statistics will continue with the certification of statistics of the other ELSS agencies. ELSTAT plans to complete in 2016 the basic stage of certification of the statistics of these agencies, and to continue within the three-year period 2017 – 2019 the certification of the statistics of all the national authorities of ELSS, with a view to complete it.

At the same time, ELSTAT will continue the self-assessment of its statistics which has already started so that, in combination with the certification of statistics of ELSS agencies and the overall coordination of the statistical works of the ELSS by ELSTAT, to improve the comparability and consistency of ELSS statistics.

## **6. Joint Overall Statistical Greek Action Plan**

ELSTAT will continue the implementation of the actions of the Joint Overall Statistical Greek Action Plan (JOSGAP), aiming at the full harmonisation of the Hellenic Statistical System with the European one. During 2010 – 2012 new actions were added to the actions included in the initial edition of JOSGAP, when it was launched in 2010, in order to cover issues that had not been included in that edition, and in 2015 the actions of A pillar of the JOSGAP, which aim at enhancing the institutional framework of the ELSS, were complemented by the improvement actions decided in the context of the implementation of the recommendations of the Peer Review Report.

A significant number of the above actions of JOSGAP have been completed or are at the stage of completion. The greatest progress has been achieved as regards the implementation of the actions under Pillar C of JOSGAP, which aim at improving the quality of the Greek Government Finance Statistics. Those actions have almost been completed. ELSTAT will focus on completing the actions of the other two pillars, A and B, of JOSGAP.

As regards the actions of pillar A, particular emphasis will be given, in the very near future, on the completion of the new organisation of ELSTAT and the improvement actions based on the recommendations of the Peer Review Report. As regards the completion of improvement actions, some progress has been made with the amendment of the Greek Statistical Law and the completion of the basic certification stage of the statistics of the national authorities of ELSS, as mentioned above. However, until the completion of the compilation of the Hellenic Statistical Programme, notable progress had not been recorded as regards the access of ELSTAT to administrative data, and especially to tax records, for the production of its statistics. Ensuring the above access to ELSTAT by the competent Authorities is important for improving the quality of its statistics and of the ELSS statistics, in general, and in this context ELSTAT will intensify its efforts to achieve it. The certification of statistics of ELSS agencies will remain an important action of ELSTAT for the period 2017 – 2019.

As regards the actions under pillar B of JOSGAP, which aim at improving the processes and capacity for the production of statistics in Greece through a programme of short-term and medium-term technical assistance provided by Eurostat to ELSTAT, the contribution of experts of the European Statistical System in the implementation of these actions, since the launch of JOSGAP hitherto, was decisive. In this context, ELSTAT will seek the continuation of the provision of expertise by these experts, in particular on National Accounts, Envi-

ronmental statistics and Foreign Trade Statistics. After the completion, in 2015, of seven (7) out of eight (8) sub-projects of the project for upgrading the existing infrastructure and services provided by ELSTAT in the field of information and communications technologies (ICT), ELSTAT will seek the development and completion of the 8th sub-project pertaining to the Human Resources Management System (HRMS) of ELSTAT. Furthermore, ELSTAT will continue to carry out training series on specialised statistical topics, for the training of both its staff and the staff of the other ELSS agencies.

## **7. Enhanced use of administrative data sources**

The use of administrative data sources for the compilation of statistics contributes not only to saving human and financial resources for Statistical Authorities but also to reducing the burden on respondents and very often to improving the quality of statistical data (e.g., in relation with their timeliness). For this reason, the European and international statistical community has focused on the exploitation of administrative data sources and of Big Data for the production of statistics. The relatively recent amendment of Regulation 223/2009 on European statistics reinforces, as above mentioned, the right of the National Statistical Institutes to have access to all administrative records and to use them for the production of European statistics. It also gives the right to the National Statistical Institutes to be consulted on and involved in the initial designing and subsequent development of administrative records so as to make them more suitable for their use for the purpose of producing statistics.

Recognising the benefits of using administrative data sources, ELSTAT, focused its efforts during the previous programming periods 2011 – 2013 and 2014 – 2016, on better utilising the available data in the administrative sources of Greece. In this context, ELSTAT signed memoranda of cooperation with ELSS agencies and developed close cooperation with administrative data sources.

The objective of ELSTAT for the period 2017 – 2019 will be the uninterrupted continuation of the successful implementation of the above memoranda of cooperation that have been concluded and put in place, and their update, as and when required by the needs of the Country's statistics. Moreover, ELSTAT will seek to continue and further develop its cooperation with administrative data sources, by formalising this cooperation through the signing of memoranda of cooperation, where appropriate.

A main goal of ELSTAT will be the activation of the memorandum of cooperation pertaining to the provision of tax data to ELSTAT for the updating of the statistical business register, the production of structural business statistics and the needs of the national accounts of Greece. This memorandum of cooperation, which was initially signed in November 2011 between ELSTAT, the General Secretariat for Information Systems (GGIS) and the Social Insurance Institute (IKA) and updated in April of 2014, with the participation of the General Secretariat for Public Revenue (GSPR) to the signatory parties, has not yet been implemented due to the reservations still maintained by the GSPR on supplying to ELSTAT the tax data provided for in this memorandum, and despite the relevant amendments in the Tax Law 4174/2013 —the latest amendment to the Tax Law took place in November 2015— by which the provision of these data to authorised staff of ELSTAT or to persons authorised by ELSTAT is imposed. The expected full implementation of this memorandum will substantially reduce the nuisance to enterprises and their burden for the completion of questionnaires while, at the same time, it will improve the quality and timeliness of the statistical business register, the structural business statistics (SBS) and the national accounts of Greece. The above tax data, if supplied to ELSTAT, will be also used for the production of Foreign Affiliates Trade Statistics (FATS), as well as for the production of short-term economic indices, combined with data from the National Cadastre.

Furthermore, during the period 2017-2019, ELSTAT will also implement a set of similar targeted actions, some of which were not implemented within the previous three years 2014 – 2016, although planned, with a view to maximising the utilisation of administrative sources to meeting needs of specific surveys. Indicatively, among the aforementioned actions are the following:

- Development of cooperation with the Hellenic Police and other competent agencies for the provision of new and updated data required for estimating the size of shadow economy.
- Development of cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, Social Insurance and Social Solidarity for the collection of data from the programme "ERGANI" for the needs of the Job Vacancy Survey.
- Development of cooperation with the Social Insurance Institute (IKA) and the Hellenic Single Payment Authority (EAP) for collecting data on salaries in the private and public sector for the needs of the Labour Cost Indices.

- Development of cooperation with the GSPR/GSIS for the supply of administrative data that are necessary for completing the creation of the Statistical Register of Vehicles and updating it at regular intervals, with a view to using the register as a sampling frame for the needs of the sample statistical surveys of ELSTAT in the road transport sector and the production of more accurate data on the fleet of vehicles of Greece.
- Investigation of the utilisation of the Greek Universities Network (GUNet) and evaluation of the available data on the platform of this system for the collection of data and production of results pertaining to the University and Technological sectors of Higher Education. The use of the platform will prevent the additional burden on surveyed units for filling in ELSTAT's questionnaires and will allow the reduction of the data collection and processing time, the faster production of results and the improvement of their reliability.
- Implementation of the memorandum of cooperation between ELSTAT and the Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism that was signed in January 2013, which provides for the exchange of information regarding the compilation of tourism statistics and the needs of the Tourism Satellite Account and of the Hellas Tourism Observatory. The implementation of this memorandum will result in reducing the burden and cost of the relevant statistical surveys, as well as in improving the quality and availability of tourism statistics from 2017 onwards.
- Continuation of the cooperation with the Payment and Control Agency for Guidance and Guarantee Community Aid (OPEKEPE) for the annual updating of the Statistical Farm Register of ELSTAT, with the least possible burden on the holders of agricultural and livestock holdings for the provision of data, through the use of data contained in administrative, legal and other files and databases.

## **8. Using technology to upgrade data collection**

During the three-year period 2017 – 2019, ELSTAT will carry on the efforts for upgrading data collection for the production of its statistics, aiming at taking full advantage of the possibilities offered by the new technologies for data collection, with the aim of optimising the relevant procedures, especially with regard to saving time and resources.

More specifically, during the period 2017 – 2019 ELSTAT will aim to use the following technologies:

- *Web applications and questionnaires for the collection of data from the surveyed units through the internet.*

In particular, ELSTAT is planning to extend the use of electronic questionnaires for the collection of data from the surveyed units, as well as to upgrade the operability and the content of the existing applications. The following actions are indicatively mentioned, which have already been planned:

- Development of a web application for the collection of data for the Turnover Index in the transport and tourism sectors.
- Development of a web application for the collection of data for the economic short-term indices compiled by the Wholesale Indices and Prices Indices Section and the Retail Sales Indices Section of ELSTAT.
- Development of web applications for the collection of data of the Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC), with a view to the timely collection of data and the reduction of the production cost of the relevant statistics.
- Development of electronic questionnaires for the collection of data of the survey on notarial acts, aiming at reducing the data collection and processing time and accelerating the production and publication of the relevant results.
- Development of a web application for the collection of the required data of the survey on Social Security Funds. This application will contribute to the automation of the data collection through the interconnection of ELSTAT with the relevant application of the project "Integrated System of the Annual Survey on Social Security Funds". The full operation of this application is expected to contribute to improving the quality and timeliness of the produced statistics.
- Development of a web application for the collection of data of the Job Vacancy Survey, the Survey for the compilation of Labour Cost Indices and the Survey for the compilation of Short-term Employment Indices.
- Collection, by electronic means, of the primary data of the Survey on Domestic and International Commercial Traffic in the main Greek ports of Merchant Ships.
- Replacement of paper questionnaires by electronic web questionnaires for the collection of data from

educational units that are not available in administrative sources (MySchool, GUnet), as well as for filling the gaps in the data on educational units that are available on the above sources. The development of web questionnaires is expected to contribute to the reduction of the data collection and processing time and to the faster production and publication of the results. This action was not implemented within the previous three-year period 2014-2016, although it was planned.

- Investigation of the development of web applications for the collection of data of the National Health Survey, with the aim of timely collecting data and reducing the production cost of the relevant statistics.
  - Investigation of the use of new technologies for the compilation of statistics, such as extracting data via mobile telephony, on the basis of the conduct of a feasibility study.
- *Utilisation of the upgraded Integrated Information System of ELSTAT.*
- Replacement of the kept records of items and services that are monitored in the framework of the compilation of the Consumer Price Index, by taking advantage of the possibilities offered by the upgraded Subsystem of Statistical Works of the Integrated Information System. Most of the prices of the above items are collected by filling in a specially designed spreadsheet. These spreadsheets are to be consolidated in a database. The implementation of this project will result to automation of processes, saving of resources, better control of recorded prices and direct information by comparing prices by item and source.
- *Utilisation of the call centre of ELSTAT.*
- Use of the call centre of ELSTAT for the collection of data of the Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) from the households who participated in previous waves of the survey (households who participated in previous years in the survey).
  - Use of the call centre of ELSTAT to collect data of the Labour Force Survey.
- *Use of portable computers (laptops)*
- Extension of the use of portable computers for the collection of data of the Labour Force Survey.

Special reference should be made to the electronic collection of data that derive from administrative sources. As already mentioned, extending the utilisation of data from administrative sources is one of the strategic targets of ELSTAT. Therefore, ELSTAT is exploring the use of specialised technologies for the exchange and collection of data based on web technologies, such as the development of web services. Indicatively, the following planned actions can be mentioned, some of which had been included in the previous three-year Statistical Programme of ELSS for the period 2014-2016, but were not completed:

- Development of a web application for the collection of data required for the production of Civil and Penal Justice Statistics. Through this application, the required data will be collected, at an initial stage from all the judicial authorities of Athens, Piraeus, Thessaloniki and Chalkida, and gradually from the other judicial authorities of Greece. This application will contribute to the automation of data collection through the interconnection of ELSTAT with the application of the project "Integrated System for the Management of Judicial Cases of Civil and Penal Justice" of the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights. The full operation of the application is expected to contribute to improving the quality and timeliness of the produced statistics. Until the completion of the aforementioned web application, ELSTAT is exploring its interconnection with the National Penal Register.
- Automated collection of data for the production of Administrative Justice Statistics, through the project "Integrated System for the Management of Judicial Cases of Administrative Justice", which interconnects the administrative courts of Greece.
- Development of a web application for the collection of the required data on road traffic accidents. The implementation of this application will contribute to the automation of data collection, through the interconnection of ELSTAT with the application of the project "Integrated Information System for the collection and management of data on road traffic accidents and imposition of penalties on road traffic" of the Traffic Police Directorate of the Hellenic Police.
- Extension of the electronic data collection of the Survey on In-patient Hospital Care for all the hospitals of Greece.
- Feasibility study on the possibility to obtain electronically the data for the Survey on Building Activity

from the competent administrative sources.

- Investigation of the possibility to use administrative data for the survey on Income and Living Conditions of Households.

## **9. Enhancing accessibility of produced statistics**

In 2015 ELSTAT completed the upgrade of the electronic portal for the dissemination of its statistics, in the framework of the completion of the relevant sub-project of the project for upgrading the existing ICT infrastructure and the corresponding services provided by ELSTAT.

The upgraded portal of ELSTAT is equal to those of advanced European Statistical Offices. During the period 2017-2019, ELSTAT will continue to improve the layout and content of its portal, as well as to enhance the other dissemination modes for its statistics, with a view to fulfilling users' needs, both at national and international level, in line with the evolving international standards.

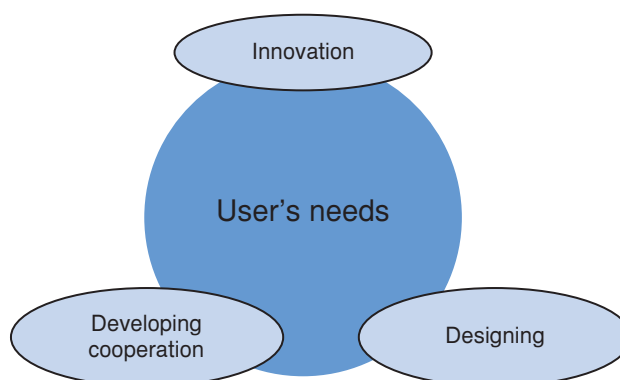
In addition to the general objectives set for the period 2017 – 2019, ELSTAT has also planned the development of specific actions for enhancing accessibility of statistical information. Some of these actions are the following:

- Digitisation of all the settlements counting more than 700 people, on the basis of the 2011 Population and Housing Census data, in the framework of preparing the necessary cartographic material to be used for the conduct of the 2021 Population and Housing Census and of responding to the need for a complete geographical correlation of statistical data with the cartographic base. The digitisation will take place at the level of city blocks, road axes and geographical orientation points.
- Creation on ELSTAT's portal of a special webpage providing information on and access to the main statistical products of the ELSS. This webpage will provide information on the statistical production of each ELSS agency, as well as links to the relevant websites. This action had been included in the three-year Statistical Programme of ELSS for the period 2014 – 2016 but it was not implemented. It will be implemented upon the completion of the basic stage of the certification of the ELSS statistics by ELSTAT, which has been scheduled for 2016.
- Enrichment of the website of ELSTAT with more tables and quarterly Press Releases (in addition to the annual one) concerning the Survey on Road Freight Transport.
- Redesigning of tables and metadata of the 2016 Road Traffic Accidents Survey, whose data will be collected, from 2016 onwards, through the interconnection of ELSTAT (web application) with the application of the project "Integrated Information System for the collection and management of data on road traffic accidents and imposition of penalties on road traffic" of the Traffic Police Directorate of the Hellenic Police.
- Redesigning of tables and metadata of the 2016 Survey on Prisoners (convicts and under trials) and on Prisoners Detained for Debts, whose data will be collected automatically, from 2016 onwards, through the interconnection of ELSTAT with the application of the project "Integrated Information System of Detention Facilities" of the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights. Designing of a relevant Press Release to be issued on a yearly basis.
- Redesigning of tables and metadata of Civil and Penal Justice Statistics when the project "Integrated System for the Management of Judicial Cases of Civil and Penal Justice" of the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights is put into full operation and the interconnection of ELSTAT with this system is achieved. Designing of a new Press Release to be issued on a yearly basis.
- Redesigning of tables and metadata of the Survey on Criminality, when the interconnection of ELSTAT with the National Criminal Register and the extraction of anonymised data from it is achieved.
- Updating of the metadata of the surveys conducted by the Retail Prices and Price Indices Section and the Wholesale Prices and Price Indices Section, and redesigning of the relevant Press Releases.
- Improvement of the metadata and Press Releases of the surveys conducted by the Retail Sales Indices Section and of the Production Indices Section.
- Investigation of the feasibility of developing a web application on the portal of ELSTAT enabling users to produce tailor-made tables from all the surveys of the Trade and Services Statistics Division, aiming at reducing the volume of the relevant users' requests submitted to ELSTAT.
- Consideration of a possible reform of the tables on Education Statistics published on the website, with improvement of their format and in line with the tables submitted to Eurostat.

- Enrichment of the website of ELSTAT with additional and more detailed tables on international trade in goods statistics (International Merchandise Trade).

ELSTAT, from the experience gained so far in the area of dissemination of statistics and in designing the strategy for the dissemination of statistics for the three-year period 2017 – 2019, puts users at the heart of its activities. ELSTAT will proceed to the adoption of a new dissemination and communication strategy (see Box 2), by following European and international best practices, with a view to enhancing its recognition and users' confidence in official statistics.

**Box 2: Schematic diagram of the dissemination strategy**



More specifically, ELSTAT in the context of modernising and upgrading its statistical products and services, will proceed to:

- categorisation and analysis of the needs of users, aiming at creating products and services covering their specific needs,
- development of communication tools (visualisation tools, animation, interactive tools and applications) in the context of upgrading dissemination,
- further development of the infrastructure for access to open data and microdata of statistical surveys in a machine-readable format, and availability of the tailor-made statistics on the portal of ELSTAT, on the condition of ensuring the statistical confidentiality of data. This publication, for Greece, will be in line with the respective content/pattern of Eurostat and will refer to high added value data for the entire Greek territory.

The aim of ELSTAT is the full exploitation of digital tools in order to create innovative products in the framework of the implementation of the DIGICOM project, which is included in the portfolio of projects of the ESS Vision 2020 and in which ELSTAT participates.

#### **10. Reducing the burden of respondents**

As mentioned above, during the programming period 2017 – 2019 ELSTAT will continue to focus its efforts on better utilising the available data in Country's administrative sources, aiming thereby at reducing the burden on respondents, in addition to improving the quality and timeliness of produced statistics and to saving human and financial resources. The planned actions of ELSTAT as regards the use of administrative data sources were presented, indicatively, in Chapter 7. These actions, if implemented, are expected to contribute drastically to the reduction of the burden on respondents.

In the framework of its continuous effort to reduce the response burden of surveyed units, ELSTAT, in addition to the above actions, participates in the following projects of the European Statistical System, which are included in the portfolio of projects of the ESS Vision 2020:

a) Pilot project SIMSTAT of the European Union concerning the implementation of a new system of collecting data for international trade transactions, which is an innovative approach for the simplification of the system for the collection of data on intra-Community trade (Intrastat). This project provides for the collection of data only on intra-Community trade dispatches for all the countries, which will be transmitted to/exchanged among the relevant interested countries, thus abolishing, totally or partially, the collection of data on intra-Community arrivals. This project, if implemented, is expected to contribute significantly to reducing the administrative burden of enterprises, while at the same time maintaining the quality of data, through the exchange and reuse of microdata on intra-Community trade among the Member States.

b) Project "Re-design of Intrastat", which is considering other alternative methods for reducing the burden on enterprises in the framework of intra-Community trade. This project aims at elaborating an operational feasibility study by evaluating a wide range of alternative methods that combine quantitative and qualitative criteria for the selection of the best method for compiling intra-Community trade statistics; this method will contribute, on one hand, to the reduction of the burden on enterprises and, on the other hand, to the production of high quality statistical information.

The detailed actions for the period 2017 – 2019 with respect to the above projects are expected to be finalised in the second semester of 2016, following the relevant guidelines of the European Statistical System Committee.

c) Project ESSnet BIG DATA, whose main purpose is the investigation of "Big Data"<sup>(4)</sup> sources for their integration in the production of official statistics in the ESS. ELSTAT considers important the work being done for the integration of Big Data in the compilation of official statistics. Therefore, it is following with particular interest, inter alia, the issues pertaining to the development of the relevant methodology, as well as the quality issues associated with the Big Data. The development of a Big Data Action Plan and Roadmap (BDAR) at ESS level constitutes a medium-term objective, which can be achieved through the ESS Vision 2020, thus enabling the ESS to respond to data revolution and the use of new sources in the production of official statistics. ELSTAT participates in the following two sub-projects of the project:

- sub-project for the exploitation of web data to develop job vacancy statistics, by developing the relevant applications for automatic extraction of data from the websites of enterprises, and
- sub-project for the exploitation of data collected from the transmission of the position of ships through the Automatic Identification System (AIS). These data are collected worldwide and therefore can be used to improve the quality of statistics on vessel traffic and traffic in ports, as well as to develop models for measuring air emissions.

Furthermore, in the same framework, and for implementing a relevant improvement action that was developed on the basis of the Peer Review Report, ELSTAT has already started to add on its survey questionnaires a question pertaining to the time needed for filling in the questionnaire. The collected answers will be used by ELSTAT for the compilation of evaluation reports on the response burden of the surveyed units.

## **11. Regular meetings with users of statistical data**

ELSTAT, acknowledging the usefulness of the conclusions drawn during the Users Conferences in updating and improving its statistical product, as well as in upgrading its produced services, has established the organisation of such conferences on a yearly basis. The aforementioned conclusions, as well as the results from the Users Surveys, constitute a very useful background for the compilation of the Hellenic Statistical Programme and of the Annual Statistical Work Programmes.

Aiming at familiarising users with statistical data and promoting the rational and sound use of data by them, ELSTAT intends to organise, during the three-year period 2017 – 2019, one-day workshops for targeted categories of users.

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(4) The term "Big Data" means data sets with very large sizes, ranging from a few dozen terabytes to several petabytes. The Big Data require a number of new techniques and technologies for their processing.

## 12. Fostering statistical literacy

ELSTAT, taking advantage of the experience gained from the implementation of the project on "Fostering Statistical Literacy", through the provision of guided tours to groups of pupils and students on its premises, during the previous programming period, will continue and intensify this action during the three-year period 2017 – 2019.

In the context of fostering statistical literacy, ELSTAT has included in its 2016 Statistical Work Programme the development of a specialised statistical webpage addressed to young people aged 6-18 years old, in an effort to bring pupils closer to statistical science. This webpage will be further enriched during the period 2016 – 2019.

## C. NEW AND REVISED STATISTICS DURING 2017 – 2019

The production of new statistics in the ELSS in the period 2017 – 2019 is based, to a large extent, on the priorities of the European Statistical Programme for 2013 – 2017 and its proposed extension over the period 2018-2020, as these are outlined in that programme and will be further analysed in the annual statistical programmes of the European Statistical System for the years 2017 to 2020. Moreover, the production of new statistics is driven by the requirement to cover users' needs, as these have been recorded by ELSTAT during its regular meetings with them.

### 1. New statistics of ELSTAT for meeting European and international obligations

The production of new statistics by ELSTAT during the period 2017 – 2019 is driven, to a large extent, by the need to fulfill its obligations towards Eurostat and other European and international organisations. These involve implementing new EU Regulations, ensuring compliance with existing Regulations, filling in questionnaires, updating databases, etc. The new statistics that are planned to be produced in the three-year period for such purposes are the following (by theme):

#### 2017

- LABOUR MARKET
  - *Statistics on young people in the labour market*, in the framework of the conduct, in 2016, of a supplementary ad hoc survey in the Labour Force Survey (Regulation 318/2013).
- NATIONAL ACCOUNTS
  - *National accounts data*. Publication of revised data with a new base year, 2015 = 100.0.
  - *Production of data for the supply-use table* at constant prices of the previous year, in compliance with the transmission programme of Regulation 549/2013 on the European System of Accounts - ESA 2010, as from reference year 2015.
- INCOME AND LIVING CONDITIONS OF HOUSEHOLDS
  - *Statistics on the access of household to Services*, in the framework of new ad hoc modules added in the 2016 Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU SILC). Statistics pertaining to the access of households to care services for children aged 0 – 12 years, education services (school/studies/lifelong learning), health care and health care services at home (Regulation 2015/245 implementing Regulation 1177/2003).
- EDUCATION
  - *Statistics on pre-primary education – nurseries* (level 01 of the International Statistical Classification of Education - ISCED). Additional statistics compiled by the use of data collected from the Hellenic Agency for Local Development and Local Government (EETAA) – the data cover only the nurseries financed by the National Strategic Reference Framework, through the submission of a relevant application for funding (Regulation 912/2013).
- INFORMATION SOCIETY
  - *Statistics on the use of “shared services” for rental/accommodation or transport services, via web pages or applications such as AirBnB, Uber, etc.* (Regulation to be adopted implementing Regulation 808/2004).



- ENVIRONMENT
  - *Environmental Protection Expenditure Accounts (EPE-A) and Environmental Goods and Services Sector Accounts*. Completion of the above accounts in full consistency with the corresponding National Accounts data (Regulation 538/2014).
  - *Forest accounts*. Production of supplementary forest accounts to those already transmitted to Eurostat, in the framework of a "gentlemen's agreement" and gradual readjustment of these accounts in line with Eurostat tables.
- PRICES
  - *Price statistics on hospital services*, in the framework of the European programme for Purchasing Power Parities (Regulation 1445/2007).
  - *Price indices for dwellings and owner-occupied dwellings* (Regulation 93/2013).

## 2018

- LABOUR MARKET
  - *Statistics on self-employment*, in the framework of the conduct, in 2017, of a supplementary ad hoc survey in the Labour Force Survey (Regulation 318/2013).
- NATIONAL ACCOUNTS
  - *Regional National Accounts data*. The variables to be compiled pertain to the Gross Value Added at previous year's prices (volume changes) (Regulation 549/2013).
  - *Compilation of seasonally adjusted data of quarterly non-financial accounts of the institutional sectors*. (Regulation 549/2013).
- INCOME AND LIVING CONDITIONS OF HOUSEHOLDS
  - *Statistics on the health of the population (including children aged 0 – 15 years), as well as on health determinants (body mass index, physical activity, consumption of fruits and vegetables)*, in the framework of new ad hoc modules added in the 2017 Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) ( Regulation 2016/114 implementing Regulation 1177/2003).
- EDUCATION
  - *Statistics on adult education* in the framework of the Adult Education Survey, with reference year 2016 (Regulation 1175/2014).
- TRANSPORT
  - *Statistics on the road network of Greece*. Statistics pertaining to the total length of the road network of Greece, broken down by road category, in the framework of the need to provide the relevant data for the joint UNECE/ITF/Eurostat questionnaire.
- HOUSEHOLD BUDGETS
  - *Statistics on energy consumption in households* (Regulations 1099/2008 and 431/2014).
- PRICES
  - *Indices: a) Turnover Indices in the Services Sector, b) Material Cost Index for the Construction of New Residential Buildings, c) Producer Price Index in Industry, d) Import Price Index in Industry and e) Services Producer Price Indices*. Release of revised time series of indices with new base year, 2015 = 100.0 and by updating the sample of statistical units and the weights, and compilation of retrospective time series. (Regulations 1165/98, 1158/2005, 1893/2006, 656/2007 and 451/2008).
  - *Input and Output Price Indices in Agriculture – Livestock*. Release of revised time series of indices with new base year, 2015 = 100.0 and by updating the sample of statistical units and the weights, and compilation of retrospective time series, under a "gentlemen's agreement" between the EU Member States and Eurostat.
  - *Indices: a) Turnover and Volume Indices in Retail Trade, b) Index of Persons Employed in Retail Trade, c) Index of hours worked and wages in Retail Trade, d) Turnover Index in Wholesale Trade, and e) Turnover Index in Motor trades*. Release of revised time series of indices with new base year, 2015 =

100.0 and by updating the sample of statistical units and the weights, and compilation of retrospective time series (Regulations 1165/98, 1158/2005 and 1893/2006).

- *Indices: a) Industrial Production Index, b) Turnover Index in Industry and c) Production Index in Construction.* Release of revised time series of indices with new base year, 2015= 100.0 and by updating the sample of statistical units and the weights, and compilation of working day-adjusted time series, using the JDemetra+ software, in accordance with the recommendations of the European Statistical System on seasonal adjustment of these indices. (Regulations 1165/98, 1158/2005, 1893/2006, 656/2007 and 451/2008).

## 2019

### • LABOUR MARKET

- *Statistics on the reconciliation of work and family life*, in the framework of the conduct, in 2018, of a supplementary ad hoc survey in the Labour Force Survey. (Regulation 318/2013).

### • PRICES

- *Cost Index for the Factors of Agriculture-Livestock Production and Land Price Index.* Release of revised time series of indices with new base year, 2015=100.0 and by updating the sample of statistical units and the weights, and compilation of retrospective time series, under a "gentlemen's agreement" between the EU Member States and Eurostat.

## 2. Preparatory work in 2016 – 2019 for the 2020 Agricultural – Livestock Census

The Agricultural – Livestock Census is conducted by virtue of European Regulation 1166/2008. The purpose of the census is to record all the agricultural and livestock holdings in the Country and to collect data on the basic characteristics of their structure and on the population employed in them.

The evolution of the structure of agricultural holdings is a key element for the development of the national and European policy in the agricultural sector and, therefore, it is necessary to collect information in order to compile time series with objective data concerning the characteristics of these holdings. More specifically, with the conduct of the Agricultural and Livestock Census is sought the collection of statistical data on:

- the number of agricultural and livestock holdings at national, regional and local level;
- the characteristics of the holdings regarding their legal form, occupation status of the agricultural land, structure (type of crops, species of animals and birds, cultivation techniques, etc.);
- agricultural production techniques;
- population employed in them.

The Agricultural – Livestock Census is conducted in all the Municipalities and Communes of Greece. It covers all the agricultural and livestock holdings irrespective of their legal form (natural persons or legal entities under public or private law), of whether the production is intended for sale, own-consumption or for both and of the holder's place of residence or of the place where the land or the animals of the holding are located (urban, semi-urban and rural areas).

During the current period, the envisaged consultations between Eurostat and the Member States are taking place in order to establish a new Regulation (Integrated Farm Statistics Regulation), on the basis of which the 2020 Agricultural – Livestock Census, as well as all the other structural agricultural surveys for the next decade, will be conducted in all EU Member States. The new Regulation will constitute a frame for all the structural and other data required at the level of agricultural holding and, in addition, will integrate the surveys on orchard trees and vines. This new Regulation will be proposed at the beginning of 2017 and will be discussed in the Council and the European Parliament in 2017. ELSTAT has proposed the conduct of the 2020 Agricultural – Livestock Census at the end of 2019, exceptionally, following the previous Agricultural and Livestock Censuses conducted in 1999 and 2009, by the inclusion of a relevant provision in the IFS Regulation.

During the period 2016 – 2019 ELSTAT, in the framework of the preparation for the Agricultural and Livestock Census, will proceed to the following preparatory works:

- Designing of the Census (deciding on the manner of its conduct).

- Budgeting of the Census.
- Elaboration of the legislative framework for carrying out the Census.
- Updating of the Statistical Farm Register from administrative sources.
- Designing of the Questionnaire.
- Creation of automated checks of the variables.
- Elaboration of a circular containing instructions to organs conducting the Census.
- Selection and appointment of the organs of the Census (Senior Supervisors, Supervisors and Supervisor Assistants).

### **3. Preparatory work in 2016 – 2019 for the General Censuses for Buildings and for Population – Housing**

In 2021 ELSTAT will conduct the General Censuses for Buildings and for Population – Housing. The conduct of the General Population – Housing Census is a common obligation of all EU Member States. The General Buildings Census is a response to national needs and the Buildings Census to be conducted in 2021 is the eighth Census since 1940.

The aim of the General Censuses for Buildings and for Population – Housing, which are conducted every ten years, is the collection of data concerning the demographic, economic and social characteristics of the population, the composition of households and their housing conditions, and the building wealth in Greece.

More specifically:

- a) The Buildings Census aims at recording the number of buildings in the whole Country and by region, at collecting data on buildings concerning their use, ownership status, period of construction, size, construction materials, etc.
- b) The Housing Census aims at recording the number of dwellings by type, at collecting data concerning the main characteristics of dwellings and their facilities, as well as at recording the number of dwellings in relation to their tenure status.
- c) The Population Census aims at: recording the Country's resident population, namely the inhabitants who permanently reside in every level of administrative division of Greece (Decentralised Administration, Region, Municipality, etc.); recording the Country's de facto population, i.e., the persons who were present on the reference date of the Census, in every level of administrative division of Greece; recording the Country's de jure (registered) population, i.e. the number of citizens registered in every Municipality; collecting data on the composition of households, as well as data on the demographic, social, educational, and economic characteristics of the resident population.

During the period 2016 – 2019, ELSTAT, in the framework of the preparation for the General Censuses for Buildings and for Population– Housing, will proceed to the following preparatory works:

- Designing of the Censuses (deciding on the manner of their conduct)
- Budgeting of the Censuses
- Elaboration of a draft Presidential Decree (legislative framework of the Censuses)
- Designing of the questionnaire of the Pilot Census
- Creation of automated checks of the variables
- Elaboration of a circular containing instructions to the organs conducting the Pilot Census
- Selection and training of the organs conducting the Pilot Census
- Collection and processing of the data of the Pilot Census
- Extraction of the Pilot Census results.

### **4. New statistics of ELSTAT for meeting users' needs**

ELSTAT collects the comments and observations made by the participants in its Annual User Conferences, as well as the results from the Users Surveys it conducts, with the aim of improving its statistical product and the services provided, as well as identifying any new needs and requirements for the production of statistics (see Box 3).

### Box 3. Users' needs

The recorded needs of users cover a wide range of statistical themes. Through the processing of these needs, which has already been done by ELSTAT, clear requirements have emerged, which pertain, indicatively, to the following:

- Provision of statistics at a lower level of administrative division of the Country.
- Reduction of social statistics production time.
- Production of long time series for National Accounts (GDP), including for the years prior to 1995.
- Production of data on the number of persons employed by branch of economic activity, from the Quarterly National Accounts.
- Development of Regional Accounts for several branches of production.
- Consolidation of the data of past time series of Annual and Quarterly National Accounts (since 1975) with the already existing data and, more generally, consolidation of all the data of General Government Accounts and consideration of changing the seasonality model.
- Creation and keeping of a database with all the available data on a quarterly basis, for the needs of the forecasts of the Ministry of Finance.
- Availability of the tables of time series in .xls format and coexistence of the old and the revised time series data.
- Addressing the issue and filling of gaps in time series of statistical data.
- Maintenance of variables and concepts, such as the "head of household", to meet the needs of national users who require comparable data.
- Availability on the portal of ELSTAT of external trade data by product, at 2-digit and 3-digit level, and by Country, in line with the standards of the OECD database.
- Compilation of interactive tables with external trade data by product and by Country, in line with the standards of Eurostat databases.
- Production of seasonally adjusted short-term indices (Industrial Production Index, Retail Sales Index, etc.).
- Production of statistical data on tourist expenditure (structure) at a lower geographical level.
- Production of data on energy consumption and ensuring their quality.
- Creation of a "hub" of statistical data on education in the ELSS, including both national and European statistics, and production of data on post-secondary non-tertiary education after 2008.
- Production of data on education expenditure, for all education levels, as well as data on consumption and living expenditure of students residing in a city other than their place of residence.
- Addressing the issue of discrepancies observed between statistics referring to the same variable that are produced by different agencies, and cooperation between the various producers of statistics, both within ELSTAT and among the ELSS agencies, with ELSTAT as coordinator, in order to ensure comparability of statistics.
- Recording of suicidality in Greece and of suicide attempts, and estimation of the direct and indirect financial cost of suicides for the Country.
- Possibility of access to analytical primary data (microdata) of statistical surveys.

The satisfaction of these identified and recorded needs of users (including the needs of policymakers) is among ELSTAT's priorities for the three-year period 2017 – 2019. ELSTAT has already set up a priority list of users' needs on the basis of their importance both to users and to its statistical product, and has begun to explore the possibility of satisfying such needs taking into account the availability of resources and its national and international obligations, as indicated in the following paragraphs.

As already mentioned, ELSTAT has moved towards the direction of a more extensive and improved utilisation of data from administrative sources, as well as of new technologies, with the aim of improving the quality and reducing the time needed for the production of statistics in several areas, such as business, education and health statistics.

At the same time, ELSTAT is exploring the possibility of redesigning the samples of its sample surveys, so that they are capable of producing highly reliable results at a lower level of administrative division of the Country. It is obvious that there are several factors affecting this process. For example, the apparent need for increasing the sample size results, at the same time, in increasing the cost for the conduct of the surveys. This cost should, at a first stage, be estimated with accuracy and then ELSTAT has to search for the resources and

the means of funding, which are necessary for the conduct of these surveys. In this context, ELSTAT has started to gradually increase the sample size of the Survey on Income and Living Conditions of Households (EU-SILC), with the aim of producing results at the level of the Region. This action started in 2015 and will be completed with the 2018 survey, with the production of results at the level of Region.

In the context of satisfying the relevant user needs, ELSTAT will proceed to the compilation of the turnover index in wholesale trade, broken down by 3-digit level of economic activity and with retrospective data from the year 2015, as well as to the compilation of the index of hours worked and wages in retail trade, broken down into three (3) main groups of economic activity (food stores, fuel and lubricant stores and other stores) and with retrospective data from the year 2015.

As regards the important issue of providing researchers with analytical primary data of its surveys, ELSTAT has developed and published on its website specific procedures for the provision of such data (confidential data for scientific purposes and anonymised microdata of statistical surveys) and has taken steps to accelerate the provision of such data to researchers. ELSTAT will explore, in cooperation with an external expert, the possibility to enhance the access of researchers to the aforementioned data, while at the same time ensuring the observance of statistical confidentiality and statistical ethics.

The issue of discrepancies observed between statistics referring to the same variable that are produced by different entities is expected to be addressed in the framework of the conduct, by ELSTAT, of the certification of statistics of the ELSS agencies.

In the tourism statistics sector, ELSTAT will proceed, in 2017, in the redesigning of the survey on arrivals by charter flights, as well as of the survey on yachts, on the basis of a relevant feasibility study, with a view to conducting these surveys in 2018. This work was not carried out in the previous three-year period, as scheduled.

On September 25, 2015, in the framework of the 70th session of the General Assembly of the Organisation of the United Nations, the Heads of State adopted, at a special session, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda is an historic event for the international community, since it sets out the objectives and actions that the states should undertake over the next 15 years, in relation to sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes 17 measures and 169 targets to be achieved by 2030. The above goals and targets define the actions that should be taken in several areas, with the objective of eradicating poverty and hunger in the world, ensuring equal rights for all people, protecting our planet from environmental degradation and ensuring the prosperity of all citizens in a peaceful and secure environment.

The monitoring of the implementation of the above measures and targets can be achieved through the compilation of relevant Sustainable Development Indicators (SDIs). ELSTAT, as a member of the European Statistical System and of the United Nations of Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), has contributed to successive rounds of discussions on the availability of those indicators. At national level, ELSTAT, as the body responsible by the law for the coordination of statistical activities of the ELSS agencies, intends to provide methodological guidance to these agencies for compiling, within the framework of their competences, the sustainable development indicators and to include these indicators in the certification process of the statistics of ELSS agencies, with a view to ensuring their quality so that they can be used for the formulation of appropriate policies.

The interaction of ELSTAT—and more generally of ELSS agencies—with the users of statistical information is an extremely useful tool for recording the requirements and determining the priorities of ELSS, as a whole. For the next programming period, 2017 – 2019, ELSTAT, in cooperation with the ELSS agencies, will continue to consider and seek ways and methods for improving the coverage of the needs of users of statistical data, through the coordination of the statistical activities of the ELSS agencies, the development of new statistical methodologies and surveys, and the incorporation of innovative technologies and solutions in statistical production. In this area, the contribution of the Advisory Committee of the Hellenic Statistical System (SYEPELSS)—whose establishment is provided for in the last amendment of the Greek Statistical Law 3832/2010 (see Chapter B, section 3, above)—is expected to be significant. Among the responsibilities of this Committee is to provide an advisory opinion to ELSTAT as regards: a) the areas in which it may be necessary the development of new statistics, b) potential changes in the priorities of production of existing statistics by the ELSS, c) the ways in which the relevance of ELSS statistics can increase for users and d) whether the scope, the level of

analysis and the cost of statistics correspond to the needs of users. In addition, the SYEPELSS provides advisory opinion to ELSTAT, if a request is submitted to it by ELSTAT, on matters that concern the requirements of the users of ELSS statistics, the assessment of the relevance of existing ELSS statistics and the policy on the dissemination of statistics that are produced by ELSS agencies.

## **5. Modifying or discontinuing certain statistical products**

ELSTAT, taking into consideration the availability of resources and users' needs, may proceed, during the three-year period of 2017 – 2019, with some modifications (e.g., reducing the frequency of production) or even discontinuation of the production of certain statistical products, especially those characterised as low-demand products. Such modifications or discontinuations would have to be consistent with any obligations of ELSTAT towards Eurostat or other international organisations. The so-called "negative priorities" determined within the annual programmes of Eurostat for the European Statistical System will constitute potential areas where such modifications or discontinuations of statistics could be considered, while taking, of course, always into consideration national needs. Areas of statistics subject to either modification or discontinuation would be identified in the context of annual work programmes. In any case, the final decision on the statistics to be included among the negative priorities will be taken by the Committee for Monitoring and Managing the Quality of the Statistical Works of ELSTAT, in which the senior management of ELSTAT participates, after the relevant opinion of SYEPELSS. The statistical surveys of ELSTAT which are candidate to be included in the negative priorities are the following:

- Survey on new and extended industrial permits
- Survey on iron and steel industry
- Survey on natural gas consumption
- Survey on the activities of pharmaceutical companies
- Survey on the activities of the Hellenic Post (ELTA)

ELSTAT will also explore the possibility to abolish the two separate surveys conducted for the beginning and the end of the school/academic year, which are conducted for the production of the relevant statistics on education and to replace them by one single survey, as well as the possibility to integrate the surveys on foreign and repatriated pupils/students to the corresponding surveys conducted on every level of education, in combination with the transition to electronic web questionnaires for data collection.

In the context of the certification, by ELSTAT, of statistics of ELSS agencies, ELSTAT will have the necessary cooperation with the agencies in order to address the duplication of produced statistics in the ELSS. This cooperation may result to changes in the production of statistics by ELSS agencies.

## **6. Conditions for the implementation of ELSP for 2017 – 2019**

The implementation of the three-year statistical programme of the ELSS, as well as the completion of JOSGAP actions, which are not yet completed, presuppose the provision of the necessary financial resources from the State Budget and Eurostat, as well as the reinforcement of ELSTAT with the required and appropriate human resources.

ELSTAT has proceeded to the estimation of the expenditures that are required for the implementation of the statistical works included in the 2017 – 2019 Hellenic Statistical Programme. The budgeted expenses and revenues figure in the following tables. The salaries of the additional staff to be recruited/deployed in order to cover the gaps of the employees who retired or are going to retire have been included in the budgeted expenses.

**TABLE 1. ESTIMATED EXPENSES OF ELSTAT FOR 2016 AND BUDGETED EXPENSES IN 2017, 2018 AND 2019, BY TYPE OF EXPENDITURE (IN EURO)**

Type of expenditure	2019	2018	2017	2016
Labour cost	27,203,729	27,018,268	26,943,698	22,253,000
Expenses related to staff traveling within Greece and abroad	745,351	732,172	722,063	587,636
Other operating expenses and costs for the provision of capital equipment	31,465,354	11,811,096	11,830,611	12,049,784
Projects financed by Eurostat	1,526,950	750,000	1,651,332	1,734,447
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,941,384</b>	<b>40,311,536</b>	<b>41,147,703</b>	<b>36,624,867</b>
Investments through the Public Investment Programme	—	—	—	—
Payments mirrored by revenues (amounts subject to withholding)	13,800,000	11,500,000	11,646,594	10,607,210
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>74,741,384</b>	<b>51,811,536</b>	<b>52,794,297</b>	<b>47,232,077</b>

\* The expenses for the preparation of the 2021 Buildings and Population – Housing Censuses have been included in the 2019 expenses.

**TABLE 2. ESTIMATED REVENUE OF ELSTAT FOR 2016 AND BUDGETED REVENUE IN 2017, 2018 AND 2019 (IN EURO)**

Type of revenue	2019	2018	2017	2016
Subsidies for wages and salaries	27,095,379	26,926,227	26,851,383	22,253,003
Subsidies for operating costs	31,924,022	12,240,277	12,249,958	12,246,997
Other revenue	393,014	393,014	393,013	2,124,867
Projects financed by Eurostat	1,526,950	750,000	1,651,332	374,435
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,941,384</b>	<b>40,311,536</b>	<b>41,147,703</b>	<b>36,624,867</b>
Revenue from investments financed by the Public Investment Programme	—	—	—	—
Revenue from mirrored expenses (amounts subject to withholding)	13,800,000	11,500,000	11,646,594	10,607,210
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>74,741,384</b>	<b>51,811,536</b>	<b>52,794,297</b>	<b>47,232,077</b>

**Notes:**

1. The expenses for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019 have been determined on the basis of the Medium-Term Fiscal Adjustment Programme of Greece for 2016 – 2019, submitted on 13.5.2015.
2. The estimated expenses for 2016 are listed on the basis of the adopted budget of ELSTAT for that year.
3. The estimated revenue for 2016 is listed on the basis of the adopted budget of ELSTAT.

## **D. OBJECTIVES, INITIATIVES AND NEW STATISTICAL PRODUCTS OF THE ELSS AGENCIES**

The development and enhancement of statistics of Greece rely on—besides the actions to be undertaken directly by ELSTAT—the actions of all the agencies that comprise the ELSS. In this context, the ELSS agencies have outlined a number of objectives for the period 2017 – 2019. These objectives cover a wide range of themes and issues pertaining to the collection, production and dissemination of statistical information and they include the following:

- Personnel training and development of skills on statistical issues.
- Developing, upgrading and extending the use of technologies for the collection and processing of data for the production of statistics.
- Planned projects or projects which are underway in the framework of NSRF pertaining to the collection, production and dissemination of statistics (to materialise in the three-year period 2017 – 2019).
- Enhancing the accessibility of statistics.
- Meetings with users of statistical data.
- Production of new and revised statistics (in order to meet national and European/international obligations).
- Negative priorities (discontinuation or modification of existing statistical products).

A precondition for the fulfillment of the objectives set by the ELSS agencies for the three-year period 2017 – 2019 is the availability of the necessary financial and human resources.

The objectives set by the ELSS agencies are outlined, by agency, as follows:

### **Bank of Greece**

The objectives of the Bank of Greece (BoG) pertain to the development of new actions but also to the completion of actions that have already begun and will be put into practice during the three-year period 2017 – 2019. Some of the actions are planned to be completed by 2020. These actions are specified as follows:

- Creation of a Credit Register (loan-by-loan database AnaCredit) - first stage.
- Production of surveillance data for the SSM, development of applications for single data collection and compilation of statistics in the framework of the ECB rules.
- Enrichment of the Register of Institutions and Affiliates Database (RIAD).
- Extension of the use of financial databases (SHS & CSDB), integration of the databases into the compilation of time series and combination with the AnaCredit and data of insurance companies.
- Improvement and extension of ARIADNE application for the compilation of financial accounts and the use of extended business register.
- New mechanism for the collection of insurance companies data, in parallel with the implementation of Solvency II.
- Conduct of a survey on the financial situation of households.
- Improvement of the accessibility of statistical data, in the context of the obligations to international organisations through the Statistics Accessibility and Presentation (STAP) programme of the ECB.
- Monitoring of companies managing non-performing loans and other financial companies.
- Understanding of the national accounting adjustment made to the data of the General Accounting Office for the compilation of national accounts data.
- Collection of statistical data on payments from the payment services providers on a half-yearly basis (instead on a yearly basis), aiming at improving the provided information and the statistical analysis.
- Integration in the ECB statistical frame, and by extension in the existing statistical information for TARGET2, of the statistics on the financial settlement of securities through the single pan-European platform Target2-Securities (T2S).



## **Ministry of Finance**

The objectives of the Ministry of Finance and of its supervised entities for the period 2017 – 2019 are specified as follows:

- Presentation of the Budget Execution in categorisation compatible with the international standards (GFSM-ESA 2010). This will be achieved by producing a new Codicology of Budget Execution (Code numbers of Expenses – Revenue) that will converge to the expenses-revenue categories provided for by the international standards (GFSM-ESA 2010).
- Compilation of a unified chart of accounts for of the entire General Government.

## **Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism**

The objectives of the Ministry of the Economy, Development and Tourism for the three-year period 2017 – 2019 are the following:

- Upgrading of the existing information systems in order to provide updated and reliable statistical information both to the various Services of the Ministry and to third parties.
- Training of the staff in the use of statistical programmes so as to make more effective the recording and publication of statistical data, as well as the recovery of metadata that may arise.
- Exploitation of the enriched statistical data that will arise, for the consolidation or automation /electronication of all the subsystems that are already available in productive operation.

## **Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights**

The main objectives of the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights concern the completion of actions that have already begun and are expected to be fully implemented in the three-year period 2017 – 2019. In particular, the objectives of the Ministry are specified as follows:

- Since February 2016, the Ministry is leading the initiative of rationalising and updating the statistics on justice in civil, criminal and administrative proceedings. To this end, it has set up two Working Groups dealing with the grouped depiction, under tabular form, of data that is considered important to be statistically recorded and kept both in civil and criminal proceedings and also in administrative proceedings. The generated work is the product of the synergy of the Central Service of the Ministry with the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT), judicial officers, staff of major courts and IT responsible staff of the Central Service of the Ministry and of the courts.

The purpose of this project is the systematic and largely simplified collection and maintaining of statistical data on a quarterly basis. The designed tables take into account national needs (Central Service of the Ministry, ELSTAT, courts) and the recent significant legislative changes, of which, for example, new procedures such as indebted households have arisen, etc.

The result of this effort is expected to be the development of statistical tools for monitoring the Justice indicators, with the help of which the weaknesses of the national system of justice dispensation and the areas for improvement will be highlighted, and the improvement of the quality and efficiency of justice in the long term will be strategically designed. Moreover, the standardisation of the requested data is expected to significantly reduce the uneven and arbitrary burden of the judicial Services, in terms of time and human resources, and to allow a more rational allocation of resources among the judicial Services of the Country.

The aforementioned Working Groups are expected to complete their work immediately, thus enabling the collection of data for 2016. The statistics will cover the entire territory during the period that will be needed for the completion and productive operation of the "Integrated System for the Management of Judicial Cases of Penal and Civil Proceedings" and of the "Integrated System for the Management of Judicial Cases of Administrative Proceedings" throughout the Country.

- The "Integrated System for the Management of Judicial Cases of Penal and Civil Proceedings (OSDDY-PP)", one of the most important projects of the Ministry, is implemented, in a first phase, in four judicial districts of Greece (Athens, Piraeus, Thessaloniki, Chalkida), as well as in the Supreme Court of Greece and it is expected to be completed in October 2016. The main objective of this project, which will serve

the civil and criminal courts, is the full digitisation of court proceedings. To implement this function, it is planned the application of a digitised, unified and homogenised model for depicting civil and criminal proceedings, which will support the production of specialised statistics.

The project is expected to be extended to the remaining judicial districts of the Country, since the Ministry has proposed to include in the NSRF for its new programming period 2014-2020 the project entitled "Integrated System for the Management of Judicial Cases of Penal and Civil Proceedings, Phase B", which pertains to the extension of the above system to the remaining courts of the Country.

In the framework of the implementation of this system, a Management Information Subsystem (Business Intelligence platform) is developed with the aim of covering the information needs of the Justice sector through the gathering, analysis and presentation of data coming from the Flows Management Subsystem of the project "Integrated System for the Management of Judicial Cases of Penal and Civil Proceedings".

- The project "Integrated System for the Management of Judicial Cases of Administrative Proceedings", with which all the Greek administrative courts will be interconnected, is at the final stage of implementation and productive operation. A particular objective of the project is the development and operation of a central Management Information and Business Intelligence System, through which complex statistical data from the central database of the "Integrated System for the Management of Judicial Cases of Administrative Proceedings" will be produced.
- The project "E-Services of Detention Facilities", which has already been put into productive operation, pertains to the development of an Integrated Central Information System for the automation of the processes of the competent for the correctional policy Services of the Central Service of the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights, as well as of the Detention Facilities. The objective of the project is the total upgrading and proper functioning of the procedures of the Greek correctional system, as well as the exploitation of the opportunities offered by new technologies. This information system comprises the following subsystems:
  - Electronic protocol, Document Management and Workflow Subsystem.
  - Financial and Accounting Management and Warehouse Management Subsystem – Pharmacy Subsystem.
  - Personnel Management Subsystem.
  - Prisoners Management Subsystem.
  - Managerial Information Subsystem (MIS).
  - System of interoperability with Information Systems of the central database of the project with authorised bodies of the Public Administration (Criminal Record, Police, Courts, EPANODOS).
  - E-Mail Management System.
  - Fleet Management System.
  - Web portal, through which graded access to all Digital Services will be provided to registered users.

In particular, the MIS is an information management subsystem producing statistical data (in the form of statistical reports and interactive screens) on the basis of the questions posed. If the homogenisation of variables and the transition of data are successfully completed, this system will be in full production operation, producing all the requested reports. It should be noted that the statistics to be produced are an upgrading of the hitherto produced statistics. Especially for ELSTAT, the automatic generation of statistical questionnaires has been envisaged. ELSTAT will receive these questionnaires through interconnection with the information system.

- As regards the juvenile delinquency, the Ministry will collect statistical data concerning:
  - Services for Minors' Guardians and for Social Aid
  - Minors Males' Treatment Institute of Volos
  - Corporations for the protection of minors.

Detailed tables with the produced reports have been sent to ELSTAT.

- Data will be collected on the released prisoners from EPANODOS, which is a legal entity under private law supervised by the Ministry.

### **Ministry of Labour, Social Insurance and Social Solidarity**

The objectives of the Ministry of Labour, Social Insurance and Social Solidarity and of its supervised entities pertain to the completion of actions that have begun and are expected to be completed in the period 2017 – 2019. More specifically, the objectives are specified as follows:

- Data on granted social welfare benefits will be collected in cooperation of the Section of Strategic Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation of Insurance and Welfare Benefits policies of the Ministry with the e-Government Centre for Social Security S. A. (HDIKA), with a view to achieving full supervision and coordination of the Services of the Ministry. The granting of welfare benefits requires full supervision for the formulation and implementation of social solidarity policies.
- IKA-ETAM will continue the process for the consolidation of all records of primary data, which begun in November 2015, with a view to covering the needs for statistical information.
- IKA-ETAM plans to reform the Annual Statistical Bulletin and to cover the delay of issuing its annual edition. It also plans to improve the Monthly Statistical Bulletins on the Employment of Active Insured Persons and the issue of the Monthly Bulletin on Pensions.
- The required procedures for the development, production and dissemination of statistics and the improvement of the quality of the annual issue of statistical data of the Insurance Organisation for Self-Employed (OAE) will be accelerated.
- The Integrated Information System of the Hellenic Labour Inspectorate will be completed, with a view to recording, by the Hellenic Labour Inspectorate Services, all the data that refer to the Statistical Actions for 2017 – 2019. The operation of the Integrated Information System will bring significant improvement, both to the quantitative (possibility to gather more statistical data) and qualitative (better and more efficient processing of statistical data to be collected) production of statistics on Safety and Health, as well as on the Inspection of Labour Relations.
- Completion and operation of the Road Transport Inspection System (SEOM), with a view to recording, by the Labour Relations Inspection Services, detailed inspection data on the time limits of work and rest of drivers in Road Transport, in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 561/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EEC) No 3821/85.

### **Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction**

The Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction sets out the following objectives for the three- year period 2017 – 2019:

- Gradual abandonment of the use of the database of the Hellenic Agency for Local Development and Local Government (E.E.T.A.A.) S.A and the establishment of the "Interoperability Hub" as the exclusive instrument for the collection of financial data from the Local Government entities, with a view to accelerating the collection of data and reducing the administrative burden on the statistical correspondents of Local Government. Gradual inclusion of the Supervisory Services of the Local Government (such as Decentralised Administrations or succession schemes) in the users of the "Interoperability Hub".
- Creation of the database "Identity Register of Self-Government" for the collection, registration and processing of information on Municipalities, with a view to monitoring the implementation of the existing legislation and to possessing data to identify any problems, in order to propose the optimal solutions.
- Studying the existing statistics, updating of produced statistics on the basis of the changes in the relevant legal-regulatory framework and enrichment of statistics with further qualitative analysis of the Greek Public Sector workforce.
- Automation of the data production process, by utilising existing infrastructures (information systems), which are sources of data for the production of statistics, in order to accelerate the statistical production process. More specifically, the utilisation of the Integrated Information System for Road Traffic Offences and Accidents is planned with a view to obtaining data on road traffic offences, to easing the burden of the surveyed Services.
- Improvement of the quality of the produced statistical products, with emphasis on the compilation of a quality report for the produced statistics.

- Collection and processing of data pertaining to the transportation of pupils of primary and secondary education, with a view to designing, automating and decentralising the system for calculating the transportation cost of the above pupils.
- Enrichment of statistical data, with statistical representation of the allocation of parliamentary work to the individual competent administrative units, with the aim of depicting statistically the induced administrative burden on them.

### **Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy**

The Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy and its supervised entities have pointed out the following main objectives for the period 2017 – 2019:

- The objective set by the Divisions of the General Secretariat for Ports, Port Policy and Maritime Investment is the continuous maintenance and monitoring of statistical data on matters within their competence area, with a view to drafting relevant reports and recommendations for taking the appropriate measures for the further development of their competence areas. The statistics pertain to: a) the port administration authorities, with a view to having full and clear information on the activities of their supervised entities (Port Authorities, Port Funds), b) port infrastructure issues, as well as data on the technical composition of the land and floating equipment and on the provided port facilities, c) activities, on a monthly basis, of the cruise industry in the ports of Greece, with a view to drafting relevant reports and recommendations for taking the appropriate measures for the further development of this sector, d) damages and repairs of pilotage vessels.
- The objective set by the Headquarters of the Hellenic Coast Guard is the upgrading of the available means for better monitoring and analysing the data it collects. More specifically:
  - Processing, evaluation and utilisation of the collected statistical data on the implementation of the rules of the common fisheries policy and of the recovery plan of the bluefin tuna stocks.
  - Monitoring of the implementation of national and EU legislation as regards the number and type of active professional fishing vessels.
  - Examination of the feasibility and procedures for the issue of permits of general police nature, with a view to facilitating those who have dealings with the Services of the Hellenic Coast Guard.
  - Monitoring of the implementation and examination of the suitability of the institutional framework as regards the exercising of the wider police powers of the Hellenic Coast Guard (General and Specific Port Regulations, coastline and beach protection, etc.).
  - Taking of preventive and corrective measures to prevent and tackle maritime accidents.
  - Checking of the adequacy and effective implementation of the provisions of the Public Maritime Law Code (Legislative Decree 187/73).
  - Checking of the adequacy and monitoring of the implementation of the institutional framework on preventing collisions at sea (Legislative Decree 93/1974).
  - Monitoring of the compliance with the European Directive 2009/16 (Presidential Decree 16/2011) and the cross-checking of the available data in the European platform "THETIS" and in the national electronic platform "ERMIS".
  - Monitoring of issues pertaining to attracting young people to the seafaring profession, processing of statistical data on students at all levels and for all types of Naval Training, as well as implementation of the Integrated Information System of Naval Training through the interconnection of all Public Merchant Navy Schools.
  - Statistical analysis of the data collected from the Certificates of Maritime Competency, examination of the relevant institutional framework and compliance with international and Union requirements.
  - Ensuring of an adequate coastal shipping network to serve the needs of Greek islands, by , inter alia, upgrading the existing computerised system and creating an IT application for recording passenger traffic with on-line connection with the port authorities.
  - Increase of the degree of citizens' satisfaction and of management of their complaints.
  - Monitoring and tackling of issues pertaining to the balance of supply and demand of maritime labour, as well as issues concerning the unemployment of seafarers.
  - Protection of occupational safety and health of seafarers, as well as prevention of accidents at work.
  - Monitoring of records and deletions of vessels enlisted in the National Greek Register of Ships.

- Monitoring of the annual number of licenses for the establishment and revocation of offices under Article 25 of the Law 27/75.
- Monitoring of the annual number of registered and dissolved shipping companies of the Law 959/79 in the relevant Register.
- Monitoring of the compliance with national and international law concerning the protection of the marine environment and of the avoidance of causing marine pollution.
- Checking of the adequacy and efficiency of the institutional framework regarding the issuance of certificates of airworthiness for all types of vessels under Greek flag.
- Ensuring of the proper functioning of authorised/delegated bodies as regards the certification of airworthiness of ships under Greek flag.
- Ensuring of the safe navigation and protection of the marine environment from ships with Greek flag.
- Monitoring of the compliance of ships under Greek Flag travelling abroad in the areas of navigation safety and protection of the marine environment.
- Monitoring of the implementation of Regulations (EC) No 336/2006 (ISM Code) and No 725/2004 (ISPS Code) concerning the safety of ships, ports and port facility against unlawful actions and the safe operation of ships and the prevention of pollution.

As regards the General Secretariat of Aegean and Insular Policy:

- In the field of protection of the natural and built environment of islands, the objective is the integrated interventions for the preservation and promotion of traditional architecture, as well as of sites and landscapes of outstanding natural beauty. In this context, protection provisions are institutionalised, such as the designation of buildings as listed buildings or/and the designation of settlements as traditional settlements, while at the same time a database open to the public has been created, where the designated remarkable buildings, blocks of buildings, settlements and landscapes are recorded.
- In the field of supporting cultural and sports activities in the islands, the objective is threefold: a) the emergence, promotion, visibility and tourist exploitation of more archaeological sites in Aegean, b) the participation of the inhabitants of small islands and/or mountainous settlements in theatrical events through the touring of theatrical performances, c) the participation, to the largest extent possible, of athletes and sailing boats to sport events organised in Aegean ("Aegean Reggata", rowing races, track events, etc.).

### **Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks**

The main objectives set by the Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks and its supervised entities pertain to the implementation of a large number of statistical actions. These actions relate, inter alia, to the collection of statistical data on Public Works Contracts, the collection of statistical data by the Hellenic Post, the compilation of an annual report on the activities of the Urban Transport Organisation and of the Hellenic Railway Organisation (OSE), as well as the compilation of an annual report on the checks conducted on vehicles carrying dangerous goods in the national road network of Greece.

Significant statistical actions are also planned, aiming at collecting data on the traffic of vehicles and the road safety in Egnatia Odos, as well as data on road cross-border mobility, noise, air pollutants, time-distances and capacity/development of sites of special interest of Egnatia Odos.

In the field of recording data on collected waste, special emphasis is placed on data concerning the licenses to practice the profession of road hauliers and the certificates of professional competence.

As regards the telecommunications sector, the objectives of statistical actions concern the fixed and mobile communications, the monitoring of the number portability, the regulation, supervision and monitoring of the electronic communications market, the capacity coverage, the licensing for frequencies and manufacturing of antennas, but also on the electronic complaints management system.

The three-year planning of the Ministry includes statistical actions pertaining to training and information, by means of questionnaires, of the directors of schools in primary and secondary education with a view to conveying to them the messages of the Earthquake Planning and Protection Organisation.

## Ministry of Environment and Energy

The Ministry of Environment and Energy (YPEN) is a multidisciplinary Ministry with horizontal object of occupation that affects all areas of human activities. More specifically, in accordance with its institutionalised organisational chart, its mission is the maintenance and improvement of the environmental quality, the spatial and urban planning of the Country and the promotion of the development in the fields of energy and mineral raw materials, in line with the principles of sustainable development. In order to achieve its mission, the Ministry, having a headquarters and coordinating role, plans and promotes: a) the management and protection of nature and biodiversity, b) the rational management of non-renewable energy resources and mineral raw materials, the exploitation of renewable energy sources and the improvement of energy efficiency, c) the drawing of national forest policy in the context of the multiple functions of forest ecosystems, d) the drawing of national policy on aquatic environment, e) the integrated spatial planning at national, regional and local level, f) the urban planning and preservation of the architectural heritage, g) the upgrading of the quality of life, by strengthening the environmental governance institutions.

## ENVIRONMENT

The key objective of the Ministry, as regards the environment, for the new programming period is the protection of the constitutionally established mixed right (Article 24 of the Hellenic Constitution) of everyone in the natural environment. In this context, the Ministry implements the national "acquis" on environment, consisting of, apart from the national legislation, the EU legislation (e.g. Regulations, Directives) and international agreements and conventions (regional and global), which Greece has ratified by law, as provided for in the Hellenic Constitution. It should be noted that the contribution of the principles of the international environmental legislation was particularly important in the development of EU and national environmental legislation. These principles, resulting either from the international community practices or the jurisdiction of the courts, or even having been formulated in texts of loose binding force (e.g. declarations), took the form of customary law, and later evolved through their implementation to binding legal rules or new "third generation" procedural rights. Among the important principles of the international environmental law, which are implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Energy, are: the principle of sustainable development, which integrates all the other environmental principles, thus contributing to the creation of a customary holistic legal framework on environmental development; the Principle of Prevention and the Principle of Precaution; the "Polluter Pays" principle, according to which the responsibility and the environmental damages costs must be borne by the polluter himself/herself and not by society; and the Principle of Access to Information and of Public Participation in environmental matters.

The particular objectives of the Ministry in the environmental sector, for the period 2017 – 2019, for the proper implementation of the above are:

- Rational management of waste through the collection of data pertaining to: a) the production and management of municipal waste at national level, b) the production and diversion of the biodegradable fraction of municipal waste from landfills, c) the environmental monitoring of landfills and the compliance with the relevant Directive<sup>(5)</sup>. Also, collection of data on all the types of waste through a questionnaire sent to the Solid Waste Management Agencies, landfills and installations/infrastructures that produce waste — through the Annual Report of the Waste Producer<sup>(6)</sup>. In addition, collection of data on generated sewage sludge from the Municipal Water and Sewage Corporations-Waste Management Corporations of the Country, through questionnaires<sup>(7)</sup>.
- Improvement of the recording of information on the production and management of waste, analytically for all waste streams, by virtue of Regulation 2150/2002 on waste statistics.
- Recording of data and data quality/methodology reports — questionnaire for the Structural Indicator on Municipal Waste, through EDAMIS.

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(5) The data are collected through questionnaires sent to landfills — compilation of a standard Report for the implementation of Directive 1999/31/EC — transmission of the Report to Eurostat (3-year report; it should be submitted in 2019 for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018).

(6) Compilation of a standard Report — Transmission of the Report to Eurostat (3-year report; it should be submitted in 2019 for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018).

(7) Compilation of a standard Report — Transmission of the Report to Eurostat (3-year report; it should be submitted in 2019 for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018).

- Production of annual or triennial reports on the implementation of all the Directives and Regulations that relate to waste.
- Reporting on statistical data pertaining to the recording of products and services which have been awarded with the EU Eco-label by the European Union Eco-labelling Board (twice a year: March and November).
- Elaboration and implementation of the national strategy for biodiversity, which includes, inter alia, the integration of biodiversity issues in formal and non-formal education, the strengthening of public awareness on biodiversity, the conservation and restoration of species and habitats of Greece, the prevention and reduction of the impact on biodiversity arising from the climate change, the organisation and operation of a national system of protected areas, the protection of biodiversity from invasive alien species, the conservation of genetic resources of Greece, etc.
- Protection of forests through the taking of preventive measures and the recording of significant data, such as data on reforestation, nurseries, management studies, primary forest products and forest fires.
- Integrated protection and management of water resources (inland and sea) in order to improve citizens' quality of life (implementation of the Management Plans of River Basins and Water Districts of the Country, in accordance with the requirements of Directive 2000/60/EC, pursuant to Law 3199/2003 and Presidential Decree 51/2007, evaluation of the environmental status of sea waters, determination of their good environmental status, definition of a series of environmental targets and associated indicators, and establishment and implementation of a programme for monitoring sea waters, aiming at the continuous assessment and regular updating of targets, in accordance with Articles 8,9,10 and 11 of Directive 2008/56/EC, etc.).
- Monitoring and updating of the national database on wastewater treatment plants of the settlements of Greece.
- Promotion of measures to reduce and adapt to Climate Change (national inventory of air emissions and forecasts) in accordance with the Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP), national inventory on air emissions and forecasts, in line with the EC Directive on National Emission Ceilings (NEC).
- Ensuring of: 1) the right of access to environmental information and 2) the right to public participation in decision-making (through the operation of the Electronic Environmental Register of the Permits of Issuing Environmental Terms of projects and activities, and the relevant consultations).
- Protection against noise (strategic environmental noise mapping).
- Participation in the implementation, in cooperation with the competent Ministry, of a future national plan on sustainable development, which will include the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in particular the 7 environmental goals.

## ENERGY

The objectives of the Ministry of Environment and Energy in the energy sector for the three-year period 2017 – 2019 cover almost the entire range of themes of interest.

More specifically, actions are planned pertaining to the training and development of skills of the staff on issues of statistical interest, through the continuous training in relevant fields, as well as to the study and implementation of new methodologies for the production of energy data and their quality control. At the same time, to the Ministry aims at ensuring the observance of statistical confidentiality, through various actions, such as the relevant commitment of officials, the signing of confidentiality contracts with agencies, etc.

Furthermore, new applications are developed for the collection and processing of statistical data, while, at the same time, the already existing applications are improved. The following data collection tools are indicatively mentioned:

- Maintenance of an online information system for the collection of data on liquid fuels (fuelstat).
- Upgrading of processes and statistical tools aiming at the continuous collection, processing and quality control of outturn energy data of Greece (new electronic data collection forms, etc.).
- Reintegration of the project for the development of a Geothermal Applications Register.
- Improvement of the accessibility of statistical information by posting energy data and observing binding time limits as regards the frequency of statistical data dissemination. Continuous cooperation with users

of the relevant statistics (international organisations, research centres, universities, agencies, individuals, businesses, etc.).

As regards the production of new statistical information, a continuous increase is recorded in the obligations for output data. More specifically, the following actions will be carried out:

- Collection and processing of energy data (final consumption by branch of economic activity code of the national classification STAKOD, etc.), with a view to meeting the needs arising from the amendments of European Regulations and from international requirements on energy data.
- Satisfaction of the new, already known, requirements for the three-year period (half-yearly gas prices, new methodology for calculating oil stocks, etc.).
- Development of infrastructure for checking the energy efficiency improvement measures (Buildingcert).
- Ad hoc processing of energy data for the production of data requested by users.

Finally, main objectives of the Ministry of Environment and Energy, as regards, in particular, the production of its statistics, are the following:

- Intensification of the efforts for the certification of its statistics as "official" statistics.
- Improvement of the coordination of Ministry's Services as regards the designing and implementation of statistical actions and the production of statistics in the framework of Union and national legal framework.
- Improvement of staff skills in the development, production and dissemination of statistics, through training seminars, etc.
- Improvement of the technological/information infrastructure of the Ministry related to the development, production and dissemination of statistics, given the limited financial resources (e.g. utilisation of co-financed projects).

#### **Ministry of Rural Development and Food**

The main objectives of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food for the period 2017 – 2019 focus on:

- Improvement of the collection and processing of produced statistics, through the interconnection and interoperability of existing registers and databases. The relevant digital convergence projects are implemented by the Payment and Control Agency for Guidance and Guarantee Community Aid (OPEKEPE), in cooperation with the Directorate for e-Government of the Ministry. The Services of the Ministry will be the operators of the projects after their completion.
- Exploitation of the collected statistics, on the one hand for informing the relevant users who have dealings with the Ministry and, on the other hand, for monitoring and evaluating the applied from 1-1-2015 new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The monitoring and evaluation of the CAP will be implemented, as provided for and determined in the EU legislative framework, in accordance with a set of indicators (impact, results and performance) that are based on measurable data and relate to the structure and objectives of the CAP, as regards its two pillars, namely providing agricultural market and income support (Pillar I) and the Rural Development Projects (pillar II).
- Certification of the statistics produced by the services of the Ministry and its supervised entities, in accordance with the guidelines and instructions of ELSTAT.

#### **Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs**

The objectives of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs and of its supervised entities for the programming period 2017 – 2019 focus on the following:

- continuous alignment of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs and its supervised entities with the rules of the Hellenic Statistical System and the requirements for ensuring and improving the quality of the statistics they produce;
- production of new and revised statistics so as the Ministry and its supervised entities meet the new needs of users and implement the new methodological requirements;
- further development of the technological base that supports the production of statistics of the Ministry



and its supervised entities;

- statistical analysis of the data of the Departments of Greek Universities and Technical Educational Institutes (TEI);
- reduction of bureaucratic procedures and the respective burden of educational institutions by gradually abandoning data collection by correspondence;
- possibility of integrated single information on Higher Education through the following actions:
  - extension of the application "Education Business Intelligence System" in all academic institutions in the Country,
  - completion of the BI configuration, in order to be fully operational and meet the statistical needs related to the Higher Education.
- collection and processing of primary data on the examinations for admission to Tertiary Education; updating of existing data, adaptation of statistical products regarding the new system of access to Tertiary Education and exploitation of the available statistical data for the information of users;
- development of a system for the collection and analysis of data on drop-out rates, with a view to prevent early school leaving;
- longitudinal monitoring of physical development of children aged 5-18 years and planning of targeted health policies in the framework of the actions developed in the European Union for the period 2014-2020 (EU Action Plan on Childhood Obesity 2014-2020);
- collection of data on the attendance of pupils with special learning difficulties and of persons with disabilities in schools of primary or secondary education or in special education schools, as well as data on the educational and auxiliary staff and its characteristics.

In particular, the National Documentation Centre (EKT), which is an entity supervised by the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs sets the following objectives for the three-year period 2017 – 2019:

1. Continuous alignment of the National Documentation Centre with the rules of the Hellenic Statistical System and the requirements for ensuring and improving the quality of the statistics it produces.
  - 1.1. Continuous compliance with the requirements for the certification as "official" of the statistics produced by the National Documentation Centre [statistics within the scope of Regulation (EC) No 955/2012, statistics on the Greek scientific publications in international journals, statistics on the career of doctorate holders and statistics on the participation of women in the field of Research and Development (R&D)].
  - 1.2. Implementation and continuous improvement of quality assurance procedures, in line with the relevant quality manuals developed by EKT for its statistics.
  - 1.3. Full implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between EKT and ELSTAT for the production of statistics on Science and Technology and the coverage of needs of the National Accounts of Greece.
  - 1.4. Systematic updating and continuous enrichment of the registries of entities with R&D activities, from which data are collected.
  - 1.5. Development of criteria, procedures and tools for anonymisation of microdata of statistical surveys of EKT.
  - 1.6. Training of the staff of EKT for improving and expanding its knowledge and skills, with a view to ensuring the quality of the produced statistics.
2. New and revised statistics in order for the National Documentation Centre to respond to new users' needs and to implement the new methodological requirements.
  - 2.1. Investigation, evaluation and pilot production of new statistics depicting significant aspects of national and regional innovation system, such as:
    - innovation for specific branches of economic activity of high interest, such as creative industries, tourism (one of the 8 strategic areas of the "Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovation Operational Programme" of the NSRF 2016 – 2020);
    - correlation of innovation and global value chains
    - correlation of innovation and public procurement

- networking of higher education and research institutions with the private sector
  - modern trends in the publication of research results, using alternative bibliometric indicators, such as altmetrics, book metrics, open access journals, as well as conference papers (conference proceedings).
- 2.2. Alignment with the instructions developed by Eurostat for the adoption of the new 2015 Frascati Manual for the production of R&D statistics and the government budget appropriations on R & D (GBAORD), by virtue of Regulation No 995/2012.
  - 2.3. Alignment with the instructions developed by OECD for the adoption of the new 2015 Frascati Manual for the statistics on Research, Development and Innovation.
  - 2.4. Alignment with the instructions for the adoption of the new Oslo Manual, which is under revision, for the production of statistics concerning innovation in enterprises, by virtue of Regulation No 995/2012.
  - 2.5. Maintaining of the active role of EKT in the Working Groups of Eurostat and OECD in order to ensure the immediate adoption of the methodological developments and the promotion of Greek positions.
3. Further development of the technological base of the National Documentation Centre supporting the production of statistics:
    - 3.1. Optimisation of the central Data Management System of EKT for the management of R&D data, which supports the following requirements: data storage, processing, maintenance of copies, calculation of indicators, interconnection with other systems and/or external sources.
    - 3.2. Adoption of the use of the SDMX standard for the electronic transmission of statistical data on R & D.
    - 3.3. Full integration in the internal procedures and functions of individual information systems developed by EKT, such as the system for the collection of R&D and GBAORD primary data, the visualisations system, the Business Intelligence system, the CERIF database interconnected with administrative data sources.
    - 3.4. Development of new information systems for microdata collection, including data from administrative sources.
    - 3.5. Implementation and continuous improvement of IT security policy according to the standard ISO/IEC 27001: 2015.
  4. Satisfaction of users' needs and improvement of the understanding of statistics produced by the National Documentation Centre by the various groups of users.
    - 4.1. Provision to the competent agencies with the indicators for monitoring the NSRF 2014-2020 and the smart specialisation strategy relating to Research, Development and Innovation and produced by EKT statistics.
    - 4.2. Continuous development and enrichment of the website <http://metrics.ekt.gr/> (Greek and English version) with data and publications — continuous and regular dissemination of the results of statistical surveys.
    - 4.3. Improvement of the clarity of the statistics published by the use of new visualisation tools, interactive graphs and infographics.
    - 4.4. Organisation of one-day conferences and workshops with users of statistics.

### **Ministry of Culture and Sports**

The objectives of the Ministry of Culture and Sports for the period 2017-2019 focus on the following:

- production of new statistics. Several agencies and supervised entities of the Ministry collect data for internal use and aim to use these data for the production of statistical data. The following data are indicatively mentioned: data collected for cultural activities, festivals, suitability of films, educational programmes, events and exhibitions organised by museums and archaeological sites, registration of traffic (website/social media/search engines). Furthermore, supervised entities have planned the collection of new statistical data. Indicatively, the following data: number of pupils/schools attending every year theatre performances, counting and analysis of the ages and educational levels of students participating in training programmes;
- improvement and enrichment, in collaboration with ELSTAT, of the tables filled in by the Services of the

Ministry on behalf of ELSTAT, with a view to compiling more detailed statistics concerning the activities of the Ministry, as well as the reassessment of collected data;

- improvement of the dissemination of statistics: publication on the website of the Ministry of: a) the three-year statistical programme, b) the annual statistical work programme and the annual report of the statistical programme of the previous year, c) statistical data collected by the Services and supervised entities of the Ministry.

It should be noted that actions for the above objectives have been launched since 2016.

### **Ministry of Health**

For the three-year period 2017 – 2019, the Ministry of Health and its supervised entities aim at completing the actions that are underway and mainly pertain to the implementation, improvement and extension of information systems and technologies for the collection and processing of reliable data for producing statistical products.

These actions are specified as follows:

- Creation of a permanent mechanism for communication and consultation with the Informatics Directorates of the Ministry, its supervised entities, the Regional Health Services and the hospitals, in order to fully define the priorities to meet the needs of the Ministry and its supervised entities at the level of IT applications and Health Systems.
- Modernisation of the organisational, operational and financial framework of the National Health System (ESY) through, inter alia, the productive operation of the Management Information System (MIS) and Business Intelligence (BI). The MIS-BI is an integrated MIS solution for the health sector. having the ability of interoperable interconnection of the existing information systems and contributes to the implementation of a modern management information environment of both the Ministry and the other involved agencies. It meets the needs for fast, efficient and consistent management of the information and data of all kinds. The statistical analysis of these data supports the taking of strategic decisions at the level of the Ministry and of the Regional Health Services.
- Collection of encoded analytical data on the epidemiological surveillance of all communicable and non-communicable diseases, diagnoses, healthcare, births and deaths by cause, breastfeeding, abortions, health of newborn, congenital anomalies, syndromes, rare diseases, dementia, assisted reproduction, prevalence of diabetes and the therapeutic or non-therapeutic actions conducted in external Diabetes Clinics and Diabetes Centres.
- Collection of data on the national stocks of vaccines, as well as the availability and consumption of vaccines per Health Unit.
- Collection of data on the establishment, organisation and operation of centres for the prevention of addiction and of various units dealing with addiction; employed persons; beneficiaries; therapeutic or non-therapeutic actions conducted; and financial data of these entities.
- Collection of data on drug prescription per formulation, month, year, Department, hospital, public structure of health services provision and physician.
- Collection of analytical data on the healthcare professionals and the staff of hospitals and of public structures of primary health services provision of the Primary National Health Network (PEDY), per grade of physician, educational level and specialty, with identification data for each employee.
- Collection of analytical coded data on the traffic of patients in Health Units, by demographic characteristics, social security fund, clinic, type of diagnosis, Closed Consolidated Hospital Expense, medicines, medical actions and the aggregate hospitalisation cost.
- Creation of a Long-standing Patients Register for better access of patients to health care services.
- Creation of a centralised mechanism for specification standards and accreditation of e-Health applications and continuous updating through the cooperation of the Ministry with HDIKA S.A. and the Agency HL7 Hellas (health level 7).
- Operation of the Health Atlas, by EOPYY, which will contain a number of applications for the information of the citizens; the next editions of the above Atlas will contain information and tools for executive use, researchers and health professionals.









