

ELSTAT
Annual Report
2013

A. INTRODUCTION

In this Annual Report, ELSTAT accounts for its activities in 2013. Besides the activities concerning the statistical surveys and tasks outlined in the 2013 Statistical Work Program, the chapters of this Annual Report also contain information about the major issues in the area of statistics in 2013.

In 2013, ELSTAT continued to put emphasis on the following 4 main pillars:

- a) Enhancing the quality and reliability of statistics, by unswervingly observing the principles of the National and European Legislation on Statistics in force and by following the highest European and international statistical standards.
- b) Good governance in the National Statistical Institute by continuously upgrading the processes for the production of statistics through the implementation of clearly defined and transparent rules.
- c) Responding to users' needs, as well as carrying on the cooperation with other statistical producers with a view to improving the quality of statistics.
- d) Intensifying the cooperation with the European and the international statistical community and undertaking of actions in the abovementioned framework.

In 2013, ELSTAT continued the implementation of actions aiming at securing and further improving the quality of produced statistics and at maintaining the confidence of users in them, by unswervingly observing the principles of the National and European Legislation on Statistics. Many of these actions were carried out in the framework of the Joint Overall Statistical Greek Action Plan (JOSGAP).

Among the major events that took place in 2013 is the implementation by ELSTAT of the necessary steps for its financial independence, which became feasible in the context of the fulfilment of the Commitment on Confidence in Statistics that was signed by Greece in 2012. In addition, another noteworthy event is the initiation by ELSTAT, in 2013, of the process of certification as "official" of the statistics produced by the other agencies of the Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS) by conducting the 1st pilot certification exercise.

Given the above, 2013 was one more successful year for ELSTAT regarding the implementation of its statistical works and the assurance of their quality, as well as the further securing of its professional independence and the consolidation of the users' confidence in its statistical output, despite the significant losses ELSTAT incurred in human resources and the constraints in its financial resources.

B. IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND RELIABILITY OF STATISTICS

1. Financial and administrative independence of ELSTAT

The fulfilment of the Commitment on Confidence in Statistics, which was signed by the Greek Prime Minister and the competent EU Commissioner in February 2012, is a crucial factor for the achievement of ELSTAT's targets with a view to ensuring and further improving the quality of produced statistics and maintaining the confidence of users in them. Several improvement actions under this Commitment have been included in the JOSGAP and their degree of materialization is monitored on a quarterly basis along with the other actions of the JOSGAP.

In the framework of the fulfilment of the aforementioned Commitment, certain important steps were taken in 2012 and 2013 with a view to ensuring the independence of ELSTAT and the quality of the statistics it produces. Yet, there are still more steps to be taken for the full fulfilment of the Commitment.

On 1 January 2013, ELSTAT took the necessary steps for its operational independence and its administrative and financial autonomy as a Legal Entity under Public Law, pursuant to the Greek Statistical Law No 3832/2010, as amended in 2012. Among the activities that took place are the following: decoupling the Budget of ELSTAT from the Budget of the Ministry of Finance; assumption by the President of ELSTAT of the competency to authorize the expenditures of ELSTAT (instead of the Minister of Finance); initiation of the independent implementation of ELSTAT's Budget by the Financial Administra-

tion Division of ELSTAT (instead of the Fiscal Control Service of the Ministry of Finance). The implementation of ELSTAT's Budget is scrutinized by the Hellenic Court of Audit and the competent Committee of the Greek Parliament.

In the framework of the conduct of necessary steps towards the financial autonomy of ELSTAT, the following actions, inter alia, took place:

- Establishment of a Cashier's Office in ELSTAT.
- Keeping a complete Commitments Register.
- Implementation of the Double Entry Accounting System applied by the Legal Entities under Public Law.
- Establishment of a fully computerized system for monitoring the operation of the Financial Administration Division (Accountant's Office, Cashier's Office, Budget, Public Accounting, Double Entry Accounting System, Commitments Register, Fixed Assets Register, Warehouse Management).
- Compilation, for the first time, and posting on the internet of the Balance Sheet of ELSTAT (2011 and 2012), after its audit by 2 Certified Accountants.
- Submission of data on ELSTAT's Budget execution to the competent committee of the Greek Parliament on a monthly basis.
- Compilation of Circulars on Administrative and Financial Procedures for ELSTAT in the context of the new financial management of ELSTAT.
- Auditing and settlement at the central offices of ELSTAT of all the expenditures of the 51 Regional Statistical Offices of ELSTAT (this function was being carried out before by the local branches of the Fiscal Control Service of the Ministry of Finance).

2. Certification as "official" of statistics produced by ELSS agencies

In compliance with paragraph 6 of article 11 (Responsibilities of ELSTAT) of the Statistical Law No 3832/2010, as amended and in force, ELSTAT certifies as "official statistics" the statistics produced by the other ELSS agencies. The certification as "official" by ELSTAT of the statistics produced by the other ELSS agencies is an important factor and a tool for enhancing the quality and reliability of ELSS statistics. In 2013, ELSTAT carried out the following preparatory works for the certification:

- a) A group was constituted for conducting the certification process –the Certification Team– which consisted of ELSTAT staff and begun preparing the certifications and the documents and forms to be used during the assessment and certification of the statistics of ELSS agencies.
- b) An expert in assessment and certification of statistics from the UK Statistics Authority provided ELSTAT with technical advice on the elaboration of the aforementioned documents and forms.
- c) The Certification Team elaborated the documents and forms to be used during the assessment and the certification of the statistics produced by the ELSS agencies, including the main document entitled "Statement of Principles and Procedures for the Certification of ELSS Statistics".
- d) During the period from 18 to 22 November 2013, the 1st pilot certification procedure took place for the statistics produced by the other ELSS agencies. This pilot certification exercise pertained to the statistics produced by 3 Divisions of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food. In the context of the preparation for the conduct of this pilot exercise, the aforementioned Divisions were asked to fill in a self-assessment questionnaire. As part of the certification process, the Certification Team, which was set up for this very purpose by the President of ELSTAT, paid a visit to the Ministry of Rural Development and Food with the aim of clarifying and completing the answers in the self-assessment questionnaires. Two experts from the UK Statistics Authority participated in this certification exercise. The experts provided ELSTAT with technical support concerning the organization of the pilot exercise and the elaboration of the draft Certification Report.
- e) The Certification Team of ELSTAT proceeded with the elaboration of a first draft of the Certification Report for the statistics produced by the aforementioned Divisions of the Ministry, on the basis of the answers in the self-assessment questionnaires and on the basis of the discussions which took place with the competent staff of the Ministry during the visit of the Certification Team to their premises.

The draft Certification Report will be completed with the incorporation of comments by users of the aforementioned statistics. After the completion of the draft, pursuant to the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT, the draft Certification Report will be presented to the agency concerned and will be discussed with it, before the Decision of the President of ELSTAT on the certification. The final Certification Report, on the basis of which the President will decide on the certification of the statistics as "official", will be posted on the portal of ELSTAT.

3. Joint Overall Statistical Greek Action Plan

In 2013, ELSTAT continued its works for the implementation of the actions of the Joint Overall Statistical Greek Action Plan (JOSGAP), as these have been amended after the addition, in 2012, of the improvement actions that are included in the Commitment on Confidence in Statistics.

Many of the actions under pillars A, B and C of the JOSGAP have already been implemented. Among the remaining actions of the JOSGAP, significant progress has been achieved for some of them in 2013, whereas the progress recorded by some other actions was not as expected, mainly, on account of exogenous factors.

More specifically, as regards the actions under pillar C of JOSGAP, which focus on improving the quality of the Government Finance Statistics of Greece, almost all of the actions were completed during the three-year period 2010 – 2012. The result of the implementation of these actions of pillar C was the consolidation, since 2012, of the technical conditions for the production of quality and reliable government finance statistics, which had as a consequence the **publication, in October 2013, without any reservations by Eurostat, in the framework of the biannual Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP), for a seventh consecutive time** since November 2010, of the Annual Government Finance Statistics of Greece. This fact constitutes an important series of successes for Greece and has contributed to the creation of a very important and unprecedented track record for the reliability of the government finance statistics of Greece.

As regards the remaining actions under pillar C, in 2013 there was cooperation between ELSTAT and the Ministry of Finance in corresponding the transactions of ESA 95 to the transactions of the national Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), and significant progress has been achieved in this area.

Among the actions provided for in pillar A, which are aimed at enhancing the institutional framework of the ELSS, many of them had been implemented in the three-year period from 2010 to 2012. Out of the remaining actions under pillar A, in 2013 significant progress was achieved in the area of the certification of the statistics produced by other ELSS agencies with the completion of the preparatory work for the certification and the conduct of the 1st pilot certification exercise (see Paragraph 2 above). Progress was also achieved in the establishment of the new organization of ELSTAT.

Preparations continued for the establishment of the new organization of ELSTAT, which had begun in 2012 with the elaboration of a draft organization chart. The elaboration of the draft took into consideration the following:

- a) the need to upgrade the role of the 51 Regional Statistical Offices (RSO) in implementing the full-scale of statistical works, as well as to integrate and better coordinate the Central Office of ELSTAT and the RSOs;
- b) the need to increase productivity and rationalize processes and structures, taking, inter alia, into account the fact that ELSTAT will have fewer staff in the next years in comparison with the previous decade, even if the targets concerning the provision of human resources, laid down in the Hellenic Statistical Program for 2014 – 2016, are accomplished;
- c) the need to secure all the dimensions of quality in the processes of data collection, data processing, and data publication, having as guidelines the practices and structures of other National Statistical Institutes in the European Union;
- d) the institutional framework of the operational independence and administrative and financial autonomy of ELSTAT as a Legal Entity under Public Law.

The elaboration of the draft of the new organization chart of ELSTAT has also taken into consideration the advice provided, in 2012, by experts of the European Statistical System.

Nevertheless, the progress recorded in 2013 for some other actions under pillar A was not rapid. It mostly pertains to the provision to ELSTAT of the necessary financial and human resources for the production of high quality statistics to users, in compliance with its national and European obligations (see Chapters B and G), as well as to the full and timely access to basic administrative data (see Chapter D, Paragraph "Exploitation of administrative data sources for the production of statistics").

The actions under pillar B of JOSGAP aim at improving the processes and capacity for the production of statistics in Greece, mostly, through a program of medium-term technical assistance provided to ELSTAT by Eurostat. In 2013, for some of these actions, there was a continuation of the provision of technical assistance to ELSTAT by experts of the European Statistical System. This concerns the actions pertaining to: upgrading the existing ICT infrastructure and corresponding services of ELSTAT; improving the quality of Structural Business Statistics; improving the statistical Motor Vehicles Register of ELSTAT; upgrading the Sectoral National Accounts and improving the quality of Foreign Trade Statistics. In addition, for some of the actions under pillar B (for improving the quality of Environment Statistics and of Foreign Trade Statistics, and for upgrading the Sectoral National Accounts) progress was achieved in the area of cooperation with the agencies that own administrative data sources, as well as with other producers of statistics.

More specifically, in 2013 the progress that was achieved, in terms of the aforementioned actions under pillar B, was as follows:

- In 2013, preparations advanced regarding **the upgrading of the existing infrastructure of the services provided by ELSTAT in the area of Information and Communications Technology (ICT)**.
- ELSTAT completed the elaboration of the specifications for the sub-projects of the project that had been developed in 2012 concerning the upgrading of the existing infrastructure and the services provided by ELSTAT in the area of ICT:
 - Redesign and upgrade of the Integrated Information System.
 - Evaluation and implementation of security policies.
 - Contingency planning.
 - IT service management.
 - Central management of e-mails.
 - Central printing system.

In order to complete the specifications of the aforementioned sub-projects, ELSTAT took into consideration the advice provided by an expert of the European Statistical System, who cooperated closely with ELSTAT in 2013. At the same time, ELSTAT completed the specifications of the remaining two sub-projects, namely the "Upgrade of the portal services for the dissemination of statistics" and the "Human Resources Management System – HRMS". In addition, ELSTAT completed the tender of the sub-project "Central printing system" and initiated the procedure for its approval.

- During the second semester of 2013, extended works were carried out in order to **assess and improve the quality of Business Statistics** produced by ELSTAT.

During that period, an expert of the European Statistical System assessed the procedures for the production and dissemination of the Greek Structural Business Statistics (SBS), on the basis of the Principles 7 – 15 of the European Statistics Code of Practice and put together a proposal for an action plan aiming at improving these statistics.

Moreover, in the second semester of 2013, ELSTAT took up an extended and in-depth examination of the quality of the business statistics it produces. This exercise took place in the context of assessing the data sources that are used for the compilation of the National Accounts. The results of this examination and control will be used to update the action plan aimed at improving the Structural Business Statistics.

- ELSTAT undertook actions for the **creation of a Statistical Motor Vehicles Register**. In this context, an expert of the European Statistical System provided his expertise in the areas of compiling and updating the Motor Vehicles Register, which is necessary for designing the surveys in the transport sector. The expert elaborated a relevant report, which is to be used as the basis for the development of the project aiming at the creation and update of the Motor Vehicles Register.
- In the context of the actions of ELSTAT aimed at **improving the quality of Environmental Statistics**, ELSTAT had initiated in 2012 cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change with the aim of further improving the quality of these statistics. As a result of that cooperation, in 2013 inland waters statistics were transmitted to Eurostat with a greater analysis, both by Region and by Water Department. In the context of the works of ELSTAT, and by virtue of the new European Regulation (EC) No 691/2011 on European environmental economic accounts, statistics were also transmitted to Eurostat, for the first time, pertaining to physical flow accounts on air emissions, to material flow accounts, and to statistics on environmentally related taxes.
In 2013, ELSTAT also compiled the Technical Fiche of the project for improving the quality of Environmental Statistics, in order to be submitted for funding by the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF). Finally, the Technical Fiche was not submitted because ELSTAT was informed that the project could not be funded by the current NSRF. ELSTAT intends to explore the possibility of funding the project through other funding sources (e.g., through its Budget).
- ELSTAT continued the works for **upgrading the Sectoral National Accounts**. In the context of these works, in 2013, ELSTAT cooperated with the Bank of Greece and this cooperation resulted in the achievement of progress in terms of quality of these statistics. In 2013, an expert of the European Statistical System provided ELSTAT with advice in further upgrading the Sectoral Accounts.
- The **quality of Foreign Trade Statistics continued to improve** in 2013, through the implementation of the relevant action plan that had been put into force in September 2011. In this context, in 2013 an expert of the European Statistical System provided ELSTAT with technical advice.

Nevertheless, the progress achieved for some actions under pillar B was not rapid. This was either on account of lack of human resources in ELSTAT or on account of exogenous factors. More specifically:

- In the context of the action for developing a **three-year (2013 – 2015) project for the training of ELSTAT staff**, delays occurred in the cooperation with the agencies involved and at the end, as ELSTAT was informed, this project could not be funded by the current (2013 – 2017) NSRF. However, some of the training series of the three-year training project, which could be covered by the Training Institute (INEP) of the National Centre for Public Administration and Local Government (EKDDA), begun to materialize in the second semester of 2013. After having analysed the situation, ELSTAT intends to explore the possibility to fund the remaining training series –which pertain more to issues on the compilation of official statistics– through other funding sources (e.g., through its Budget).
- As regards the project for **redesigning and upgrading the Statistical Business Register of ELSTAT**, which had been approved for funding in November 2012, it was decided to use a national expert in order to complete the project according to the predefined time schedule (by September 2013, and then, following extension of the deadline, by December 2013). However, on account of the expert's incapacity to complete the envisaged work within the deadlines, the contract was revoked. ELSTAT decided to put out a second call for tenders for this project.
- With the aim of **improving the quality and updating of the Farm Register**, in July 2013 ELSTAT submitted to the NSRF the Technical Fiche of the project for improving the quality and the timely updating of the Farm Register. During the last quarter of 2013, ELSTAT was informed that this project could not be funded by the current NSRF. ELSTAT intends to explore the possibility to finance the project through other funding sources (e.g., through its Budget).

C. GOOD GOVERNANCE BY UPGRADING THE PROCEDURES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF STATISTICS THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF A TRANSPARENT RULES-BASED SYSTEM

In 2013, ELSTAT continued its efforts for further improving the processes for the production of statistics through the implementation of clearly defined and transparent rules. In this framework the following actions are included:

- **Implementing the necessary steps for the financial and administrative autonomy of ELSTAT** (see Paragraph 1, Chapter B).
- **Expanding the role of the Group for Monitoring and Management of the Quality of Statistical Works.**

The Group for Monitoring and Management of the Quality of Statistical Works, in which the senior management of ELSTAT participates, is the highest-level body of ELSTAT that deals with quality issues, aiming at undertaking improvement actions in terms of quality and timeliness of the statistical output of ELSTAT, and it constitutes a "Quality Committee for ELSTAT". In this context, the Group for Monitoring and Management of the Quality of Statistical Works plays an important role in monitoring quality in every stage of the process of the production of statistics.

In 2013, the role of the Group was expanded, putting special emphasis on monitoring quality, apart from coordinating the statistical works. The work of the Team is to review the progress made in the materialization of the scheduled statistical works and to address any delays in their completion, as well as to identify and address any problems that may generate risks for the quality and the timeliness of the produced statistical output. The Team analyses issues arising during the different phases of the statistical production and consultations take place concerning the necessary measures that should be taken and the necessary coordination of the statistical works of ELSTAT, always in the light of ensuring and further enhancing the quality of statistical work. When problems are identified, the necessary action plans are developed, implemented and assessed with a view to upgrading the statistical processes and products and for continuously improving them. Moreover, the Team monitors the evolution of expenditures of statistical works, aiming at implementing Principle 10 of the European Statistics Code of Practice on cost-effectiveness.

D. ENHANCED RESPONSIVENESS TO USER NEEDS AND CLOSER COOPERATION WITH PRODUCERS OF STATISTICAL DATA

One of ELSTAT's main concerns since its establishment has been the production of statistics adapted to the needs and requirements of users, at national, European and international level. In this context, ELSTAT gathers the comments and interventions made by the participants in the User Conferences that ELSTAT has established on a yearly basis, as well as the results from the User Surveys it conducts, with the aim of improving its statistical products and services provided, as well as identifying new needs and requirements for the production of statistics. In order to achieve this objective, ELSTAT also takes into consideration the comments and interventions made by the members of the Council of the Hellenic Statistical System (SYELSS), in which all the National Authorities are represented, i.e., the agencies of the ELSS that are responsible for the development, production and dissemination of European Statistics, as well as representatives of the agencies that are important users of data produced by ELSTAT.

In the above framework are also included the activities of ELSTAT aiming at improving various aspects of the layout and content of ELSTAT's portal, as well as at enhancing the other dissemination modes for statistics, by following the developing international standards in order to fulfil, to the maximum extent possible, user needs for timely and reliable information, both at national and international level.

- **Undertaking of actions, in 2013, responding to the conclusions of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd User Conferences**

Taking into consideration the comments and suggestions made during the 1st, 2nd and 3rd User Conferences, ELSTAT included, among others, in its Annual Statistical Work Programs the following: conduct of a Time Use Survey, in cooperation with the General Secretariat for Gender Equality; development of a System of Health Accounts (SHA) at national level, in cooperation with the Ministry

of Health and Social Solidarity and the University of Athens; undertaking of actions for compiling long time series for National Accounts; development of additional statistical data in the areas of tourism, environment, health, household energy consumption and use of renewable energy sources; exploration of the possibility to increase the size of the samples which are used for the conduct of sample surveys in order to produce results at a level below the Country level. As regards the aforementioned works, in 2013, the following progress was achieved:

– *Conduct of a Time Use Survey*

In 2013, the data collection of the Time Use Survey was initiated, with a view to disseminating the survey results in December 2014.

– *Implementation of a System of Health Accounts*

In 2013, ELSTAT was delivered the 5th and last deliverable of the project in compliance with the memorandum of cooperation signed in 2011 between ELSTAT, the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity and the University of Athens, for the implementation of a System of Health Accounts (SHA) at national level. ELSTAT checked the primary data on the basis of which the tables of the System of Health Accounts were compiled and carried out basic consistency checks between the SHA data and the relevant data from other statistical works of ELSTAT. As a result, ELSTAT released, for the first time, statistics on health expenditure in Greece for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011.

– *Tourism Statistics*

In the first semester of 2013, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between ELSTAT and the Ministry of Tourism with the aim of exchanging statistical information for the compilation of statistics in the area of tourism and for the needs of "The Satellite Tourism Account and the Tourism Observatory", as well as for exploring the possibility of conducting new statistical surveys/works in order to satisfy users' current needs and to compile tourism accounts.

At the same time, in 2013, a new special Survey on Rooms for Rent was designed, which from 2014 onwards will be conducted on a regular basis. Moreover, the 2012 Vacation Survey was redesigned in compliance with Regulation No 692/2011. Among the changes which were made is the change in the frequency of the conduct of the survey, namely from a quarterly to a yearly basis.

– *Environmental Statistics*

(See Paragraph 3, Chapter B, "Action for improving the quality of Environmental Statistics").

– *Statistics on energy consumption in households*

In October 2013, ELSTAT published a Press Release with the results of the Survey on Energy Consumption in Households, which had been conducted during October 2011 – September 2012. This survey collected data concerning the energy consumption by end use (space heating – cooling, domestic hot water use, cooking, lighting, etc.) in the residential sector, as well as quantities and type of fuels used. Additionally, information was recorded concerning the energy consumption habits of household members, the type and number of devices and systems used, and also concerning the penetration of energy efficiency technologies in the residential sector. Finally, data have been collected on the socio-economic characteristics of households.

– *Compilation of statistics at a level below the Country level*

In this context, the following steps were taken in order to produce reliable results at a level below the Country level and at the same time to further increase accuracy of results at the level of the Country (reducing statistical error):

1. Designing the Survey on e-commerce in enterprises with an augmented sample of enterprises, in order to produce accurate estimations at the level of the Region (until the present time the results are produced at the level of the 4 Great Geographical Areas – NUTS 1).
2. Augmenting the sample of the Survey on Income and Living Conditions of Households (EU-SILC) by 1,500 households, in order to improve the estimations at the level of the Country but also to render possible the production of results at the level of the Region (until the present time the results are produced at the level of the 4 Great Geographical Areas – NUTS 1).

3. Augmenting the sample of the Vacation Survey by 2,500 households, in order to improve the estimations at the level of the Country but also to render possible the production of results at the level of the Region (NUTS 2).
 4. Conducting a study in order to define the size of the sample for the Household Budget Survey (HBS), in order to produce results at the level of the Region (until the present time the results are produced at the level of the Country). The conclusions of this study will be used in redesigning the 2014 HBS.
 5. Conducting a study in order to define the size of the sample for the Job Vacancy Survey, in order to produce results by one-digit code of economic activity at the level of the Region (until the present time the results are produced at the level of the Country).
- **Posting on the portal of ELSTAT of data of the final consumption expenditure of households, by purpose, at constant prices, for the years 2000 – 2011**
 - **Initiation of the publication of quarterly Press Releases on the Index of Wages in the main sectors of the economy**
 In 2013, ELSTAT began publishing on a quarterly basis Press Releases on the Index of Wages in the main sectors of the economy (branches B – N of the European Statistical Classification for the Branches of Economic Activity, NACE Rev.2), after having re-examined the methodology used for the compilation of this Index.
 - **Compilation of the Hellenic Statistical Program for 2014 – 2016, of the 2014 Annual Statistical Work Program and of the 2012 Annual Report**
 During the first quarter 2013, ELSTAT compiled the Hellenic Statistical Program for 2014 – 2016, which contains the main fields and objectives of planned statistical actions of ELSS agencies for the aforementioned three-year period. In May 2013, ELSTAT also completed the compilation of the 2014 Annual Statistical Work Program and of the 2012 Annual Report.
 - **Assumption by ELSTAT of the coordination, at national level, of the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) and SDDS Plus of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)**
 ELSTAT, since 1 July 2013, has undertaken the coordination of the aforementioned dissemination standards, which until then was being performed by the Ministry of Finance.
 - **Participation of ELSTAT in Eurostat’s Census Hub project concerning the dissemination of the 2011 Population and Housing Census**
 In this context, the necessary preparations were made for the dissemination of the results of the 2011 Population and Housing Census through Eurostat’s Census Hub. Completion of this work was planned for the first quarter of 2014.
 - **Preparation for the creation of a specialized statistical webpage addressed to young people aged 6 – 18 years old**
 The Division of Statistical Dissemination and Publications proceeded, in 2013, with the exploration and study of specialized webpages addressed to young people developed by other countries, as well as of relevant guidelines of Eurostat. This material will constitute the basis for the creation of a corresponding webpage by ELSTAT.
 - **Digitization of the census – administrative boundaries of the Local Government Organizations (OTA), as they were derived from the 2011 Population and Housing Census**
 During the first quarter of 2013, ELSTAT completed the digitization of the census – administrative boundaries of Local Government Organizations, as they were derived from the 2011 Population and Housing Census. In addition, in 2013 the following works took place:
 - a) update of the analogue maps of the 2011 Population and Housing Census at the level of city blocks and road axes, in order to be able to update the digital files,
 - b) check on the update of the digitization of the 150 settlements (oikismos) of the Department of Attiki at the level of city blocks, road axes and census sectors,

c) digitization, at the level of city blocks and road axes, for the settlements (oikismos) of the 22 Departments of Greece.

• **Organization of the 4th Annual User Conference**

In the framework of implementing its 2013 Annual Statistical Work Program, ELSTAT convened, on 20 December 2013, the 4th User Conference on its premises in Piraeus. During the Conference, ELSTAT provided an overview of its work and the major pillars for its operation from the date of its establishment until the present time. Moreover, ELSTAT presented the tasks undertaken so as to satisfy users' needs as these had been expressed during the three previous User Conferences. Subsequently, users commented on the statistical output and the services provided by ELSTAT in relation with the satisfaction of their needs. Users pointed out, inter alia, the need for:

- a) production of long time series for National Accounts (GDP), including for the years before 2000, as well as of seasonally adjusted quarterly data for GDP,
- b) production of additional data regarding electricity,
- c) quicker production of data for value added by detailed branch of economic activity for the Structural Business Statistics, and of the statistics on accidents at work,
- d) revision of the Index of Industrial Production with a more recent base year,
- e) compilation of statistics on pre-primary education, post secondary non-tertiary education and on lifelong learning; compilation of indices for the age group 25 – 44 years for non-employed persons; development of special statistics for national needs in the field of education, taking into consideration the geographical particularities of Greece; posting on the portal of ELSTAT of methodological notes on education statistics, similar to the corresponding methodological notes of Eurostat,
- f) full recording of accidents at work and of suicides taking place in Greece, as well as compilation of data on suicide attempts.

On the basis of the comments and observations made by the participants in the 4th User Conference, as well as in the other three User Conferences, ELSTAT recorded and processed the needs of users. Satisfying such identified needs is already, to a large extent, reflected in ELSTAT's priorities for the three-year period 2014 – 2016, as they have been integrated into the Hellenic Statistical Program for 2014 – 2016. ELSTAT has prioritized the aforementioned needs on the basis of their importance to the users and how critical the satisfaction of such needs is for the statistical product, and has begun to explore the possibility of satisfying these needs taking into account its available resources and its national and international obligations.

• **Upgrading the portal of ELSTAT**

ELSTAT aims at continuously improving various aspects of the layout and content of its portal and of the other dissemination modes for its statistics, with a view to adapting them to users' needs, both at national and international level.

A project that will also contribute significantly to the achievement of the aforementioned objective is the project for improving and upgrading the existing ICT infrastructure and the corresponding services provided, which will significantly upgrade the portal of ELSTAT by incorporating new tools and technologies (see Paragraph 3, Chapter B). The works for redesigning the portal of ELSTAT and for enriching its content are included in the first two sub-projects of this project.

In 2013, the following actions were carried out for enriching the portal of ELSTAT (both the Greek and English version of the website):

- Posting on the portal of the Revision Policy of ELSTAT and the Quality Policy of ELSTAT, under the specialised section concerning the ELSS.
- Posting on the portal of the results of the User Satisfaction Surveys that are conducted by ELSTAT under the specialised section entitled "Conferences – User Satisfaction Surveys".
- Continuing the work of updating the tables and covering the gaps in the time series of data posted on ELSTAT's website, as well as enriching the website with the metadata for all the statistical surveys and works after having adjusted them to the European Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange System (ESMS). It is envisaged that the above works will be completed within 2014.

In addition, during 2013, ELSTAT continued the works for developing web applications that could enable the direct access to, management, correlation and mapping of the data from the Population and

Housing Censuses of the years 1991, 2001 and 2011 in the framework of the memorandum of cooperation signed in August 2012 between ELSTAT and the National Centre for Social Research (EKKE). The above memorandum aims at facilitating free dissemination of geospatial data to demanding and specialized users but also to the general public, while at the same time fully ensuring statistical confidentiality of personal data of the people enumerated during the Census.

ELSTAT in the framework of implementing the relevant grant agreement with Eurostat has been elaborating a mosaic map of Greece depicting the Resident Population of Greece for the years 2001 and 2011 in a cell of 1x1 km². For this purpose, it has proceeded to the following actions in 2013:

- Creation of a database and processing of population data from the city/census blocks of 533 settlements (oikismos).
- Digitization of a surface of 12,092 settlements and creation of a polygonal geodatabase by using the maps of the Hellenic Cadastre.
- Structuring of the information in the tables of statistical surveys in such a format that enables entry in the tables of the geodatabase.
- Checks and corrections in the file containing the positional location of the settlements by using the applications provided by the Hellenic Cadastre and Google Earth.

In the same framework, ELSTAT has begun developing applications for web maps with data deriving from the 8 thematic areas covered by its surveys. For this purpose, ELSTAT proceeded with the following actions in 2013:

- Compilation of metadata compatible with the INSPIRE Directive.
- Design of a geodatabase in order to correlate the statistical information on the basis of the administrative division of Greece according to Kallikratis Plan.
- Partial entry of the variables of the tables in the geodatabase.

In the context of the assumption by Greece of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union during the first semester 2014, ELSTAT created on its portal a specialized website, <http://eu2014presidency.statistics.gr/eu2014/index.php/en/>, which contains information on the activities of the Council Working Party on Statistics (CWPS), the progress of the legislative statistical dossiers and any other relevant information, including links giving access to relevant documents and websites, as well as other basic contact information.

- **Fostering statistical education**

In the context of organizing and hosting guided tours of secondary education pupils on its premises, in 2013 ELSTAT had contacts with the competent Divisions of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, and the Ministry of Culture and Sports. In December 2013, the first visit of a group of lyceum pupils took place in ELSTAT. The pupils visited the premises of ELSTAT and the Library of ELSTAT, they were informed on the tasks and the work of ELSTAT, the statistical material they can retrieve from the portal of ELSTAT, as well as on the services provided to users by the specialized Library of ELSTAT (the Library's electronic catalogue, digital Library, European Statistical Data Support Centre – ESDS).

- **Participation of ELSTAT in the 78th Thessaloniki International Fair**

In 2013, ELSTAT participated in the 78th Thessaloniki International Fair (7 – 15 September 2013) with its own stand, with the aim of informing the citizens and the private sector on the work it has accomplished and it continues to undertake, and which aims at continuously improving the quality of the official statistics of Greece and consolidating their reliability at national, European and international level.

The visitors to ELSTAT's stand had the opportunity to be informed about the Mission of ELSTAT, its work during 2010 – 2013, the Hellenic Statistical Programs of 2011 – 2013 and 2014 – 2016, the Annual Statistical Work Programs for the years 2013 and 2014 and the 2012 Annual Report, the Regulation on the Statistical Obligations of the ELSS Agencies, the European Statistics Code of Practice, and the Declaration on Professional Ethics of the International Statistical Institute (ISI). Moreover, visitors to ELSTAT's stand were also provided with the following publications in electronic and paper form: the latest updated editions of the publications "The Greek Economy" and "Living Conditions in Greece", the information publication "Greece in Figures, 2013", as well as thematic publications with statistics from various statistical surveys/works of ELSTAT (labour force statistics, agriculture, live-

stock and fishery statistics, tourism statistics, the results of the 2009 Agricultural and Livestock Census and data on the National and the Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices). The opening ceremony for ELSTAT's stand took place on 8 September 2013, in the presence of the President of ELSTAT, Mr. Andreas V. Georgiou. Material on the presence of ELSTAT in the 78th Thessaloniki International Fair is available at the following link on the portal of ELSTAT:

<http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/PAGE-EXPO78>

• **Meeting of the Council of the Hellenic Statistical System (SYELSS)**

Pursuant to article 2 of the Greek Statistical Law No 3832/2010, as in force, ELSTAT coordinates all the activities of all the other ELSS agencies pertaining to the development, production and dissemination of official statistics of Greece, so that these statistics are developed, produced and disseminated in line with the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice. This coordination is performed, inter alia, through convening, at least twice a year, the Council of the Hellenic Statistical System (SYELSS), in which are represented the National Statistical Authorities, which are the ELSS agencies responsible for developing, producing and disseminating European statistics. The council is convened for information and consultation or provision of opinion of its members on issues pertaining, inter alia, to ensuring the necessary consistency during the production of statistics by the ELSS agencies and the observance by them of the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

In 2013, three meetings of the Council of the Hellenic Statistical System (SYELSS) were realized on the premises of ELSTAT.

The first of the above meetings was held on 9 January 2013. The purpose of this meeting was the information of the SYELSS by ELSTAT and discussion on:

- the European Statistical System Quality Assurance Framework – ESS QAF,
- the preparatory works of ELSTAT on the certification of the statistics produced by other ELSS agencies,
- the time schedule for the compilation of the Hellenic Statistical Program for 2014 – 2016,
- users' comments expressed during the 3rd User Conference of ELSTAT, which was held in December 2012,
- the publication "Living Conditions in Greece", which is posted on the portal of ELSTAT the first Friday of February, May, August and November.

The second meeting of the SYELSS in 2013 was held on 29 March 2013. The purpose of the meeting was to present to the members of the SYELSS the draft Hellenic Statistical Program for 2014 – 2016, for discussion and provision of opinion. The comments of the members of SYELSS were taken into consideration by ELSTAT for the compilation of the final three-year program.

The third meeting of the SYELSS was held on 29 May 2013. The purpose of the meeting was to present to the members of the SYELSS the draft Annual Statistical Work Program for 2014 and the 2012 Annual Report of ELSTAT for information and discussion. During the meeting the SYELSS members expressed comments which were taken into consideration by ELSTAT.

• **Exploiting administrative data sources for the production of statistics**

With the aim of improving its statistical products, while at the same time saving human and financial resources and reducing the burden on respondents, ELSTAT, since its establishment, integrated in its Statistical Work Programs actions intended for the closer cooperation with producers of statistics and the better use of administrative data sources. The obligation to grant ELSTAT access to all administrative data sources and to primary data –including confidential data– is clearly stipulated in the Greek Statistical Law as in force (article 2, paragraph 3 and article 8, paragraph 2), in the Regulation on the Statistical Obligations of the Agencies of the Hellenic Statistical System (article 8, paragraph 4) and in the Commitment on Confidence in Statistics.

In this context, the following actions of ELSTAT were carried out in 2013:

- a) Signing of a memorandum of cooperation between ELSTAT and the Ministry of Tourism (see "Tourism Statistics", above in this Chapter).
- b) Initiation of the cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change on improving the quality of water statistics.

In order to improve the quality of Structural Business Statistics and to reduce the response burden on

enterprises, ELSTAT, pursuant to the relevant memorandum of cooperation signed in November 2011 between ELSTAT, the General Secretariat for Information Systems (GSIS) of the Ministry of Finance –which is the main administrative source for data on enterprises– and the Social Insurance Institute (IKA), ELSTAT repeatedly submitted to the GSIS requests for the provision of data on enterprises, whose transmission to ELSTAT is provided for in the aforementioned memorandum. On account of the need for clarifying several legal and institutional issues, during 2013 the expected progress was not achieved concerning the provision of the necessary data on enterprises by the Ministry of Finance to ELSTAT, in accordance to the above memorandum.

E. INTENSIFYING COOPERATION AND UNDERTAKING OF ACTION IN THE EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL COMMUNITY

ELSTAT, with the objective to be established as an active member of the European Statistical System, continued in 2013 to put special emphasis on the excellent cooperation with Eurostat and the other Agencies of the European Commission, as well as with the National Statistical Institutes of the other EU Member States. In this context, in 2013 there was continuation of the assiduous, coordinated and effective participation of ELSTAT staff in Eurostat Working Groups and of the President of ELSTAT in the meetings of the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC) ex officio, as well as in the meetings of the ESSC Partnership Group, as an elected member⁽¹⁾. In addition, in the context of pursuing the cooperation and active role of ELSTAT and of Greece in the international statistical fora, there was an active participation by ELSTAT in the meetings and workings of international statistical agencies, such as the Conference of European Statisticians, the UN Statistical Commission, and the International Statistical Institute.

In the context of the assumption by ELSTAT of the Presidency of the Council Working Party on Statistics (CWPS) in January 2014, ELSTAT continued, in an intensive manner during 2013, the preparations that had already begun in 2012, aiming at a successful Presidency.

In this context, ELSTAT undertook the following actions:

- Assiduous representation of ELSTAT in all the meetings of the CWPS which were held in 2013 during the Irish and Lithuanian Presidencies.
- Assignment of competencies to the members of the Presidency Team of ELSTAT.
- Representation of ELSTAT in the handover meetings of the Presidency of the CWPS from Ireland to Lithuania (Dublin, June 2013) and from Lithuania to Greece (Vilnius, December 2013).
- Participation of the members of Presidency Team of ELSTAT, as observers, in the trilogue held in December 2013 under the Lithuanian Presidency of the CWPS.
- Development on the portal of ELSTAT of a specialized website dedicated to issues concerning ELSTAT's Presidency of the CWPS.
- Compilation of a special publication entitled "Greece in figures – Special edition" which contains main statistical data for Greece, which have been produced, mostly, by ELSTAT and cover a wide range of areas, as well as selected tables with comparative data of EU Member States. This publication was prepared by ELSTAT to be provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the framework of scheduled events for the Greek Presidency and it is available at the following link on the portal of ELSTAT:

<http://eu2014presidency.statistics.gr/eu2014/index.php/en/greece-in-figures>

F. ASPECTS OF STATISTICAL PRODUCTION

Among the major actions of ELSTAT in 2013, as regards statistical production, are the conduct of the Farm Structure Survey in December 2013 and the release of the results of the 2011 Population and Housing Census for the De facto Population and the demographic characteristics of the Resident Population

(1) The mission of the Partnership Group of the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC) is the further development of the European Statistical System at the highest level, notably through ensuring the effective functioning of the ESSC.

of Greece. Moreover, in 2013 ELSTAT continued the works for the implementation of the new European System of Accounts, ESA 2010, as well as the actions for the exploitation, to the greatest extent possible, of the possibilities offered by the modern technologies for data collection.

- **Conduct of the Farm Structure Survey**

In December 2013, ELSTAT conducted the Farm Structure Survey which is now conducted in all EU Member States every three years. This survey was conducted on a sample of 90,000 agricultural and livestock holdings throughout the Country. The purpose of the survey is to monitor the evolution in the structure of the agricultural and livestock holdings and to this end the relevant data are collected together with employment data of the population in the aforementioned holdings.

- **Release of the results of the 2011 Population – Housing Census concerning the De facto Population and the demographic and social characteristics of the Resident Population of Greece**

In 2013, ELSTAT continued the data processing of the 2011 Population – Housing Census. On 15 March 2013, ELSTAT announced the results for the De facto Population, that is to say the individuals who were present at the site of the enumeration. On 23 August 2013, ELSTAT released the demographic characteristics of the Resident Population, as regards sex, age, citizenship, family status, and family nucleus of the households.

- **Continuing the works for the implementation of the new European System of Accounts, ESA 2010**

During 2013 ELSTAT continued the works for the implementation of the new European System of Accounts, ESA 2010, which has to be completed with the submission of the new results in September 2014. In the framework of the ESA 2010 data transmission program, among others, the following works are included, important stages of which were completed in 2013:

- Calculation of fixed assets and of gross fixed capital formation, by branch of economic activity and by investment good.
- Compilation of balance sheets for non-financial assets.
- Reduction of the time for producing the results of the Quarterly and Regional National Accounts.
- Compilation of time series for National Accounts data from 1995 or 1999, as appropriate.

The aforementioned works are implemented in the framework of a grant agreement with Eurostat, with the assistance of an expert of the European Statistical System.

- **Increased use of new technologies for data collection**

In this context the following actions of ELSTAT are included, which took place for the first time in 2013:

- Activating the electronic collection from administrative sources for the data of the Annual Survey on Accidents at Work.
- Expanding the electronic data collection for the Annual Survey on In-patient Hospital Care to all hospitals in Greece.
- Conduct of the Time Use Survey for the first time with the use of tablets.
- Redesigning the Household Budget Survey questionnaires, thus making them processable by Optical Character Readers (OCR).

G. HUMAN RESOURCES OF ELSTAT

1. ELSTAT personnel

In 2013, there was a continuous decrease in the number of ELSTAT staff, in comparison with 2012, due to the retirement of employees, while at the same time there were restrictions and delays in the hiring of new staff by ELSTAT and the deployment of staff to ELSTAT from other government agencies. More specifically, on 31 December 2013, the total number of ELSTAT staff amounted to 791 employees: the permanent staff numbered 765 employees (275 men and 490 women) and the staff working under Private

Contract of Unlimited Duration numbered 26 employees (7 men and 19 women). The total number of ELSTAT staff, on 31 December 2012, was 835: the permanent staff numbered 814 (296 men and 518 women) and the staff working under Private Contract of Unlimited Duration numbered 21 (5 men and 16 women). In 2013, 54 employees retired and 10 employees were redeployed. Thus, in 2013 the total number of ELSTAT staff decreased by 5.3%.

In comparison with 2009 (31 December), when ELSTAT staff numbered 1,007 employees, a net decrease by 216 employees (22%) had been recorded in the number of ELSTAT staff by the end of 2013. This drastic decrease in the number of ELSTAT staff has created particularly difficult conditions for the timely implementation of the actions that have been planned in the framework of the Annual and Three-year Programs of Statistical Works of ELSTAT.

As it is stipulated in the Hellenic Statistical Program for 2014 – 2016 (Paragraph 4, Chapter C), the implementation of the above program presupposes the reinforcement of ELSTAT with the required and appropriate human resources. ELSTAT has estimated the minimum human resources that are necessary for the fulfilment of its obligations as the National Statistical Institute amounting to approximately 950 employees. In addition, the Commitment on Confidence in Statistics expressly lays down commitments for the Greek Government to reinforce ELSTAT with the necessary human resources, in order for ELSTAT to provide users with high quality statistics, in accordance with all obligations at national and European level.

With the aim of achieving the adequate staffing of ELSTAT, in order to meet its national and international statistical obligations and to cover the gaps generated by the massive retirement of employees, ELSTAT continued in 2013 the procedures for the redeployment to ELSTAT of, initially, 37 dully qualified public servants, as well as for the hiring of 10 specialized scientific personnel, procedures which had been initiated in the last quarter of 2012.

Out of the employees who had submitted an application for redeployment to ELSTAT, 31 were selected, since the others did not meet the minimum necessary typical qualifications. Nevertheless, there were delays in signing the relevant joint ministerial and ministerial decisions for the redeployment of the aforementioned employees. These delays had, inter alia, the consequence that 7 candidates withdrew their applications, and the redeployment of another 2 employees was not approved. Until the end of December 2013, 10 ministerial decisions had been signed, out of the 22 active applications for redeployment.

In October 2013, ELSTAT submitted an invitation for the redeployment of another 58 civil servants. A total number of 35 applications were valid, in terms of minimum typical qualifications, for the 58 positions and all the applications were approved. In December 2013, ELSTAT asked for the timely signing of the ministerial and joint ministerial decisions, in order to avoid any withdrawals of applications by the 35 candidates who had been selected.

As regards the hiring of the 10 specialized scientific personnel, which is provided for in the Greek Statistical Law No 3832/2010 as amended and in force, the progress achieved during 2013 was slow, on account of the need to clarify several legal and institutional issues.

On 31 December 2013, out of the 791 employees of ELSTAT, 566 worked in the Central Office and 225 employees worked in the Regional Statistical Offices.

The following table depicts the allocation of ELSTAT staff, by sex and education level, in 2012 and 2013 (31 December):

Education level	Men			Women			Total		
	2012	2013	Change %	2012	2013	Change %	2012	2013	Change %
University	176	166	- 5.7	225	216	- 4.0	401	382	- 4.7
Technical	25	25	0.0	56	56	0.0	81	81	0.0
Secondary	95	88	- 7.4	249	231	- 7.2	344	319	- 7.3
Obligatory	5	5	0.0	4	4	0.0	9	9	0.0
Total	301	284	- 5.6	534	507	- 5.1	835	791	- 5.3

H. ELSTAT BUDGET EXECUTION

ELSTAT's expenses for 2013 are classified in the following categories:

- a) Labour cost (wages and salaries of ELSTAT permanent staff, including basic salary, allowances, social security contributions, additional and incidental benefits for the permanent staff, etc.).
- b) Expenses related to the staff's travel within Greece and abroad: travel and subsistence expenses for the permanent staff of ELSTAT travelling for the purpose of conducting statistical surveys in the field or participating in meetings, seminars, etc. abroad, as well as expenses related to the transfer or detachment of ELSTAT employees to other agencies in Greece or abroad.
- c) Other operating expenses, including expenses related to ELSTAT's buildings (Central and Regional Offices), such as rents, heating, communication, water supply, security, cleaning and maintenance costs, as well as expenses related to advertising and public relations, subscriptions, expenses for the provision of consumables (paper, stationery, medical and pharmaceutical supplies including materials for the maintenance and repair of premises and equipment), fuel, etc. In the same category are also included expenses for the provision of capital formation (furniture, PCs, printers, photocopiers and other office equipment).
- d) Expenses for the conduct of the Buildings, Population – Housing, and Agriculture – Livestock Censuses.
- e) Projects financed by Eurostat, including expenses in the context of the conduct of statistical works financed by Eurostat.

The following table presents the allocation of ELSTAT's expenses in 2013, by type of expenditure, as well as the comparison with the corresponding expenses in 2012 (final data):

Type of expenditure	Amount paid (in euro)	
	2012	2013
Labour cost	28,189,199.08	23,464,959.11
Expenses related to staff traveling within Greece and abroad	132,363.49	303,106.47
Other operating expenses and cost for capital formation	4,889,764.18	4,203,579.18
Expenses for the conduct of the Buildings, Population – Housing and Agricultural – Livestock Censuses	1,871,305.24	1,085,471.35
Projects financed by Eurostat	228,691.50	261,448.57
Total	35,311,323.49	29,318,564.68

The decrease observed in the expenses paid in 2013, in comparison with 2012, as regards the item "Labour cost", is due to the cuts in the salaries of the employees and to the decrease of ELSTAT personnel.

The increase recorded as regards the item "Expenses related to staff travelling within Greece and abroad" for 2013 is, mostly, on account of ELSTAT employees' travelling for the purpose of conducting the Farm Structure Survey in the field. Moreover, it is due to the travelling of the Presidency Team abroad, in the context of ELSTAT's preparations for the assumption of the Presidency of the Council Working Party on Statistics (CWPS) by ELSTAT in January 2014.

The decrease observed as regards the item "Other operating expenses and cost for capital formation" is the result of the efforts of ELSTAT to minimize the relevant expenditures in the context of their rationalization.

The decrease observed in the "Cost for the conduct of the Buildings, Population – Housing and Agricultural – Livestock Censuses" is on account of the fact that during the processing of the 2011 Censuses data, every possible effort was made by ELSTAT for the greatest possible automatization of the management of data by using the available modern technologies both for the purpose of avoiding human errors –that may arise from the non-automated management of data– and for the purpose of significantly decreasing the required cost, which is borne by ELSTAT's Budget.

Box 1. Annual Report of the Good Practice Advisory Committee

In the context of the fulfillment of the Commitment on Confidence in Statistics by Greece, in January 2013 and by Decision of the Minister of Finance, an independent Good Practice Advisory Committee (GPAC) was established, pursuant to the provisions of article 4 of the Greek Statistical Law No 3832/2010, as in force. The task of the Committee, as stipulated in the Law, is to compile an annual report on the implementation of Principles 1 to 6 of the European Statistics Code of Practice in the Hellenic Statistical System.

The Committee met on three occasions in 2013 with all members attending. The first meeting took place on 20 and 21 February, the second from 5 to 7 June inclusive, and the third on 16 September 2013. During the meeting in February 2013, the Committee decided to limit its first report to an examination of ELSTAT, while the other ELSS agencies and the functioning of the overall statistical system would be reviewed during its next report, in 2014. During the meeting in September 2013, the Committee adopted officially its first annual report.

In the above report the Committee notes the significant progress which has been achieved in terms of professional independence of ELSTAT, ensuring the quality of statistical data, implementation of measures for the observance of statistical confidentiality and production of statistics in an unbiased and objective manner. However, it points to, inter alia, the need for:

- a) addressing negative attitude issues and other factors in the wider external environment of ELSTAT,
- b) overcoming existing obstacles in achieving full and direct access of ELSTAT to administrative data sources for statistical purposes,
- c) reinforcing ELSTAT with the necessary human and financial resources, which are necessary for the materialization of its statistical works.

Reference regarding all matters is made to the report of the Committee, which is available at the following link:
http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/BUCKET/General/ELSTAT_report_adv_2013_EN.pdf