

# **Hellenic Statistical Program**

## **2014 – 2016**

## **A. INTRODUCTION**

Article 5 of the new Statistical Law No 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 program for the ELSS, entitled Hellenic Statistical Program (ELSP).

The Hellenic Statistical Program for 2014 – 2016, which was compiled and adopted by ELSTAT upon the recommendation of the Council of the Hellenic Statistical System, is the second three-year statistical program of the ELSS. The first ELSP had been compiled for the three-year period from 2011 to 2013.

The ELSP 2014 – 2016 contains the main fields and objectives 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 Program 2013 – 2017 served as a guide and reference point for the compilation of the ELSP 2014 – 2016. 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 2014 – 2016 is the basis on which the ELSS agencies compile their annual statistical programs for 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Section B of the ELSP contains information on the objectives of ELSTAT and the other ELSS agencies, 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 2014 – 2016, 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 2014 – 2016.

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

### **1. Objectives and means**

The objectives for the three-year period 2014 – 2016 are the consolidation of achievements pertaining to the quality of the statistics produced by the ELSS and the continuous improvement of their quality, by following the highest European and international statistical standards, unswervingly observing the existing rules and fulfilling the undertaken obligations.

The objective of ensuring and further improving the quality of ELSS statistics will be accomplished by fully implementing the Greek and EU Legal and Statutory Framework on statistics, which consists of the Greek Statistical Law (No 3832/2010, as amended and in force), the European Statistical Law (Regulation (EC) No 223/2009), the European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP), EU Regulations on statistics, the Regulation on the Statistical Obligations of the agencies of the ELSS and the memoranda of cooperation between the agencies of the ELSS. A crucial factor for the accomplishment of the objectives is the implementation of the Commitment on Confidence in Statistics, which was signed by the Greek Government and the European Commission in 2012.

Among the actions aimed at accomplishing the aforementioned objectives is the completion of 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 harmonizing the Hellenic Statistical System with the European one.

Besides the aforementioned actions, a series of other works is envisaged in several 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.

The Greek Statistical Law No 3832/2010 was amended in April 2012 by virtue of article 323 of Law No 4072/2012 (Government Gazette 86, issue A/11.4.2012) and in November 2012 (Ordinance dated 18.11.2012), in order to be fully into line with the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice, and in fulfillment of part of the Commitment on Confidence in Statistics signed by the Greek Government (Box 2). The amendment of the Greek Statistical Law specified or clarified, among others, issues pertaining to the development, production and dissemination of the ELSS statistics; the legal personality and financial management of ELSTAT; the establishment, composition and the role and competencies of the Good Practice Advisory Committee; and to the appointment and dismissal of the President of ELSTAT as well as to his competencies (Box 1).

**Box 1. Major points of the Greek Statistical Law, following its amendment in 2012**

When developing, producing and disseminating statistics, the ELSS agencies implement the European Statistics Code of Practice, as in force from time to time.

ELSTAT is an Independent Authority with a separate legal personality (Legal Entity under Public Law). The budget of ELSTAT includes all amounts, which are necessary to provide users with high quality statistics in accordance with all national and European obligations. The implementation of the budget is scrutinized by the Committee on the Financial Statement and the General Balance Sheet and the implementation of the State Budget, as specified in the Hellenic Parliament's bylaws. The accounts and annual report of ELSTAT are subject to both preventative and corrective audits by the Hellenic Court of Auditors. ELSTAT is exempted from the scope of article 25 of Law No 2362/1995, as in force.

An independent advisory committee is established (Good Practice Advisory Committee) for the ELSS. The five members of the Committee are appointed by the Hellenic Parliament, the European Statistical Office (Eurostat), the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB), the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC) and the Personal Data Protection Authority, respectively. The task of this committee is solely to prepare an advisory annual report on the implementation of principles 1 to 6 (institutional framework) of the European Statistics Code of Practice in the ELSS. The Committee submits its report to Parliament, after having informed the ESGAB accordingly. The agencies of the ELSS are obliged to provide the Committee with the information required to perform its task, following a request submitted to the senior administrative officer of the relevant agency.

The President of ELSTAT enjoys personal independence in the performance of his duties and is bound by the relevant provisions in force. The grounds for his removal may not place at risk his professional and scientific independence. The President of ELSTAT takes the decisions relating to statistical methods, standards and procedures, the content of statistical data and the timing of publication thereof, decisions pertaining to the transmission of official statistics from the ELSS to Eurostat and general decisions relating to the transmission, submission and notification of statistics in the context of European and international statistical cooperation. He is responsible for coordinating all the activities of other ELSS agencies concerning the development, production and dissemination of the official statistics of Greece, as well as the implementation of the national quality assurance framework for statistics.

On 29 February 2012, Greece's Commitment on Confidence in Statistics was adopted by the Hellenic Parliament and was signed, following authorization by Parliament, by the Prime Minister as well as by the competent EU Commissioner.

Greece became the first Member State of the EU to sign such a Commitment. The Commitment on the one hand highlights the progress that has been made in improving the quality and reliability of Greek statistics and on the other hand outlines the commitments of the Greek Government to take all necessary measures to ensure that ELSTAT is independent and the statistics are accurate, reliable and fully meet European and international quality standards.

### **Box 2. Commitment on Confidence in Statistics**

Among the measures that the Greek Government committed itself to take are the following:

1. Specific amendment of the Greek Statistical Law, bringing it into line with the European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP) (Box 1).
2. Provision to the agencies of the ELSS of the necessary financial and human resources in order to deliver high quality statistics to users, in accordance with all obligations both at national and European level.
3. Full and timely access to administrative data sources and delivery of them in accordance with the Greek Statistical Law.
4. Granting ELSTAT the right to have full and timely access, for statistical purposes, to the economic and financial accounts of all entities belonging to or controlled by General Government.
5. Implementation of the actions laid down in the Joint Overall Statistical Greek Action Plan (JOSGAP) in an effective manner and in accordance with deadlines specified.

Besides the aforementioned measures, the Greek Government made the following commitments:

- to fully respect international and European standards for statistical data quality, in particular the European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP),
- to guarantee and defend the professional independence of ELSTAT and promote it to the public through appropriate communication actions,
- to support ELSTAT in upholding public confidence in Greek statistics and to defend statistics against any efforts to undermine their credibility.

The European Commission will monitor the implementation of the Commitment and will continue to support ELSTAT through the Joint Overall Statistical Greek Action Plan.

## **2. Coordination between the agencies of the ELSS**

Pursuant to article 2 of the Greek Statistical Law No 3832/2010, as in force, ELSTAT coordinates all the activities of the other ELSS agencies, which concern the development, production and 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 cooperation:

- 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.
- ELSTAT collects, on an annual basis, information both on the statistical works that the other ELSS agencies plan for the coming year and on the statistical works that were implemented during the previous year.

- The Council of the Hellenic Statistical System (SYELSS)—where the agencies of the ELSS that develop, produce and disseminate European Statistics (i.e., the National Authorities) are represented—is convened, at least, twice a year for information, consultation or formal opinion purposes concerning issues, pertaining, *inter alia*, to the safeguarding of the required consistency during the production of statistics by ELSS agencies and the observance of the principles of the CoP by these agencies.

During the three-year period 2014 – 2016 the actions pertaining to the coordination of the activities of the ELSS agencies will be intensified and further actions will also be added.

The coordination of the ELSS agencies will also, necessarily, be reinforced in the framework of the certification as "official" of the statistics produced by the aforementioned agencies—an obligation that ELSTAT has to fulfill pursuant to the Statistical Law. In this context, ELSTAT will coordinate the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice in the ELSS and will provide guidance and assistance to the other ELSS agencies on the statistical methods, standards and classifications to be used for the production of harmonized European Statistics, as well as on other issues concerning the ELSS.

The coordination of the implementation of the CoP in the ELSS is also required due to the fact that peer reviews are planned to take place in the course of 2014 – 2015 in all EU Member States, aiming at evaluating their adherence to the principles of the CoP. The peer reviews are organized by Eurostat. The auditors in the peer review teams will come from the European Statistical System and the audited agencies will be the National Statistical Institutes, such as ELSTAT, and the other Statistical Authorities of the Member States, which are responsible for the development, production, and dissemination of European Statistics—i.e., the National Authorities in the case of Greece.

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

The certification of the statistics produced by the ELSS agencies as "official statistics" is among the competencies of ELSTAT, stipulated in article 11 of the Statistical Law, as in force. This task for the certification of statistics is something new in Europe. Therefore, some kind of framework has been developed at European level, which is used for assessing relevance, quality and reliability of official statistics.

ELSTAT has already carried out preparatory works pertaining to the certification procedure:

- a) organization in ELSTAT, with the support of Eurostat and the UK Statistics Authority, of a workshop on the certification of official statistics;
- b) development of a general methodological framework for the certification;
- c) setting out the requirements and the outline of the certification procedure of official statistics in the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT (articles 4 and 5);
- d) elaboration of guidelines, models of reports and other forms and documents to be used during the evaluation and certification of statistics, etc.

ELSTAT intends to complete developing the methodology on the certification and elaborating the relevant printed material within the 1st semester 2013, with the aim to carry out two pilot certification exercises with ELSS agencies in the 2nd semester 2013. The first round of certification of the statistics produced by ELSS agencies is slated for the beginning of 2014 and is expected to be completed by the end of 2015. The order in which agencies are to be certified will take into account whether agencies are producers of European Statistics.

The main tools that ELSTAT is going to use for the certification are the CoP and the European Statistical

System Quality Assurance Framework (ESS QAF). ELSTAT will evaluate the statistics in order to certify them as "official statistics" on the basis of the annual reports and the quality reports of the agencies of the ELSS, as provided for in the Statistical Law and the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the ELSS agencies, as well as on the basis of ELSTAT's observations on the quality, coherence, timeliness and punctuality of the produced statistics.

The statistics will be evaluated by certification teams, which will consist of ELSTAT officials with relevant responsibilities. In the framework of the certification process, these teams will have meetings with the relevant employees in the ELSS agencies, seeking explanations and clarifications and offering guidance and assistance. The certification process is concluded with the compilation by the certification team of a Certification Report. A draft Report is presented to and discussed with the agency concerned before the decision of the President of ELSTAT regarding the certification. The final Certification Report is posted on ELSTAT's website. The Council of the ELSS is informed about the progress of the certification of official statistics and the Certification Reports.

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

The Joint Overall Statistical Greek Action Plan (JOSGAP) started being implemented in 2010 aiming at the harmonization of the Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS) with the European one. During 2010 – 2012 the JOSGAP was enriched with new actions intended to cover issues that had not been included in its initial edition. By the beginning of 2013, a significant number of actions within pillars A, B and C of the JOSGAP had either been completed or were at the stage of completion.

Until the beginning of 2013, significant progress had been made with the completion of the actions within pillar A and C, which aim at enhancing the institutional framework of the ELSS and improving the quality of Government Finance Statistics, respectively. Within 2013, it is expected that the remaining open actions of pillar C are going to be completed (the majority of these actions are under the competency of the Ministry of Finance/General Accounting Office). Among the actions of pillar A planned for 2013 are the elaboration of the new organization of ELSTAT and the certification by ELSTAT of statistics produced by other ELSS agencies (see previous chapter). The certification of statistics will continue to be among the major actions of ELSTAT during the period 2014 – 2016.

Until the beginning of 2013, significant progress had been made with the completion of actions within pillar B, which aim at improving the processes and capacity for the production of statistics in Greece, through a program of short and medium-term technical assistance provided by Eurostat to ELSTAT. Since the beginning of implementation of JOSGAP, and in order to advance the actions within its pillar B, many visits by foreign experts have taken place in ELSTAT for the provision of expertise in areas such as information technologies, personnel training, Statistical Business Register, Farm Register, National Accounts, and External Trade Statistics.

In the framework of pillar B of JOSGAP, and with the assistance of experts, three significant projects have also been developed:

- a) the project for redesigning the statistical business register, which is expected to be completed in 2013;
- b) the project for improving and upgrading the existing ICT infrastructure and the corresponding services provided, which is to be completed in 2015 (Box 3); and
- c) the project for the training of ELSTAT staff, which is planned to cover the period until 2015 (Box 4).

All these projects are going to be co-financed by the European Union, through the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) 2007 – 2013.

**Box 3. Project for upgrading the existing ICT infrastructure and the corresponding services provided by ELSTAT**

This project aims at reinforcing and upgrading the work of the Informatics Division of ELSTAT, so as to improve the quality of the services provided by ELSTAT to users of statistical data. The project consists of eight (8) complementary sub-projects:

1. Redesign and upgrade of the Integrated Information System
2. Upgrade of the portal services for the dissemination of statistics
3. Evaluation and implementation of security policies
4. Contingency planning
5. IT service management
6. Central management of e-mails
7. Central printing system
8. Human Resources Management System (HRMS)

The project has been approved to be financed by the Operational Program "Digital Convergence" in the framework of the NSRF.

**Box 4. Three-year project for the training of ELSTAT staff**

The consolidation of achievements concerning the quality of the statistics produced by the ELSS and the continuous improvement of their quality presuppose the updating of knowledge and the improvement of skills of ELSTAT employees and of the staff of the other ELSS agencies, in accordance with current best practices, technologies and the institutional and deontological framework in force for the production of statistics, in order for them to better perform the statistical works they undertake.

In this context, ELSTAT has already elaborated a three-year training program for its staff. This project encompasses all the educational series that were identified as necessary for the training of ELSTAT staff, on the basis of the results of the survey that was conducted in ELSTAT in order to identify the training needs of the personnel. ELSTAT is in close cooperation with the National Center for Public Administration and Local Government in order for the latter to cover part of the aforementioned training series. For the rest of the training series, which focus mostly on statistical issues, ELSTAT intends to use foreign experts and trainers with experience in a National Statistical Institute environment, with funding from the NSRF. Within 2013 ELSTAT is going to finalize which of the training courses are going to be covered by the National Center for Public Administration and Local Government and which of them are to be conducted with the assistance of specialized foreign experts-trainers. Following this stage and after having secured the necessary financing, the project is envisaged to begin within 2013 and its actions to be implemented during 2013 – 2015.

In the framework of the actions within pillar B of JOSGAP, ELSTAT intends to develop, at least, five more projects in order to be submitted for approval and funding through the NSRF in 2013 and to be implemented during 2014 – 2015. These projects pertain to the improvement of the Farm Register, the improvement of the Motor Vehicles Register, the compilation and updating of the Buildings Register, the enhancement of collection of environmental data and the production of environmental statistics and accounts, and the certification procedure of statistics produced by ELSS agencies.

Besides the aforementioned actions, and always in the framework of pillar B of JOSGAP, in the beginning of the programming period 2014 – 2016 ELSTAT will complete a group of actions, aiming at further en-

hancing the statistics produced in several statistical areas. A sub-group of these projects pertains to the upgrading of the Sector and Quarterly National Accounts (including the capacity to compile seasonally adjusted data), as well as improving the compilation of price and volume measures for National Accounts, taking into consideration the requirements of the implementation of the new European Regulation ESA 2010. These actions will create the appropriate conditions for the full implementation of Regulation ESA 2010 as soon as possible.

The second sub-group of actions, which is underway and envisaged to be completed in 2014 concerns the further improvement of External Trade Statistics through the adoption of the most up-to-date methodological approaches. This will result in further enhancing and upgrading the External Trade Statistics, which already from 2013 onwards are comparable, in terms of quality, with the corresponding statistics of other EU Member States.

Finally, the third sub-group pertains to the exploitation of data from administrative sources in order to upgrade the Structural Business Statistics, aiming at reducing both the burden on enterprises and the cost of the production of statistics, as well as enhancing the quality of produced statistics. At the same time, ELSTAT is exploring the possibility of creating a Single Entry Point in cooperation with some of the most important agencies in order to collect the relevant information from enterprises while avoiding overlapping of requests.

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

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).

Since the previous programming period 2011 – 2013, the efforts of ELSTAT have already focused on further utilizing data from the administrative data sources of Greece. During the previous programming period, all the necessary preparatory works were completed, thus creating an important basis for the implementation of the relevant actions. In this context, ELSTAT has signed memoranda of cooperation with ELSS agencies.

It is worth mentioning the memoranda of cooperation that have been signed during the previous programming period by ELSTAT and all Government Ministries, the Bank of Greece, and the General Accounting Office, aiming at supporting the compilation of reliable and timely Government Finance Statistics for Greece. During 2011 – 2013, the aforementioned memoranda were successfully implemented, something that was a major factor that contributed to the publication of the Government Finance Statistics of Greece by Eurostat without reservations. For 2014 – 2016 ELSTAT aims to continuously and successfully implement these memoranda of cooperation and to dully update them, when appropriate, in accordance with the requirements of the Government Finance Statistics of Greece.

Besides the use of administrative data sources for the compilation of the public sector statistics, it is essential for ELSTAT to have access to administrative sources for compilation of the private sector statistics. A particularly crucial memorandum on the access to such data of the private sector is the memorandum of cooperation signed in November 2011 by ELSTAT and the General Secretariat of Information Systems (Ministry of Finance) and the Social Insurance Institute (IKA). This memorandum provides for the systematic exchange of the necessary data between the signatory agencies, aiming at

better fulfilling national and European obligations concerning the production of business statistics. The prospective full implementation of this memorandum from 2013 onwards, will significantly reduce the burden on enterprises from responding to questionnaires during 2014 – 2016, and at the same time, it will enhance the timeliness of updates and the quality of the Statistical Business Register, of the Structural Business Statistics (SBS), and of the National Accounts of Greece.

In the same framework, in 2013 ELSTAT signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism on issues pertaining to tourism statistics and the exchange of data between the parties. The Working Group that has been set up in the context of this memorandum will, *inter alia*, explore the possibility of using data from administrative or other sources in the tourism sector, something that will result in a reduction of the burden and the cost of the relevant statistical surveys, as well as in an improvement in the quality and availability of tourism statistics during 2014 – 2016.

The aforementioned memoranda of cooperation ensure, beyond the exchange and utilization of the relevant statistical information, also the observance of the scientific deontology governing the production and dissemination of statistical results, in particular as regards the safeguarding and protection of statistical confidentiality.

In addition to all these, during 2014 – 2016, a series of targeted actions will be implemented, aiming at maximizing the use of administrative data sources for covering the needs of specific surveys. Indicatively, among the aforementioned actions are the following:

- Exploring the possibility of utilizing new administrative data sources for the Annual Farm Survey and intensifying the efforts for updating and further improving the Farm Register, aiming at enhancing quality and timeliness of the survey results.
- Exploring the possibility of cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change for the creation of a single-entry point and extracting from it environment data, aiming at enhancing the timeliness and quality of environmental statistics.
- Exploring the possibility of utilizing income data kept by the tax authorities of the Ministry of Finance, for the needs of the Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC).
- Exploring the possibility of utilizing the administrative sources and the data of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Health (National Center for Emergency Care – EKAV), the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Welfare (National Organization for Labour Force and Employment – OAED) in connection with the designing, compilation and production of statistics on education expenditure and on the Institutes of Vocational Training (IEK).
- Exploring the possibility of cooperation with the Ministry of Development, Competitiveness, Infrastructure, Transport and Networks (General Secretariat of Public Works/Division of road building projects) aiming at updating the National Roads Register of Greece for the needs of the Survey on Road Accidents.

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

ELSTAT, carrying on the efforts it has been making since the previous programming period, is planning to take full advantage of the possibilities offered by the new technologies for data collection, with the aim of improving the relevant procedures, especially with regard to saving time and resources.

ELSTAT has already acquired extensive know-how in the field of data collection through web applications, as it is already conducting a significant number of surveys by using such methods. Moreover, during the previous programming period, specialized alternative technologies for data collection were selected and used in certain projects, such as the use of electronic scanners and the use of Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing software (CATI) for the conduct of surveys via telephone. In addition, ELSTAT is exploring the possibility of using tablet computers in order to support specific surveys.

More specifically, during 2014 – 2016, ELSTAT intends to use the following technologies:

- *Web questionnaires for data collection through the internet.* More specifically, ELSTAT is planning to extend the use of electronic questionnaires for data collection, as well as to upgrade the operability and the content of the existing applications. Actions that have already been planned, indicatively, include the following:
  - Improvement of the web questionnaire and of the relevant application used for the Entities of the General Government, by incorporating the codes of the Greek General Chart of Accounts, with which there will be matching from now on.
  - Development of web questionnaires for the Survey on Aquaculture.
  - Development of a web application concerning data collection for the PRODCOM Survey.
  - Development of a web application concerning data collection for the Survey on the Production and Management of Waste.
  - Development of an application for the online collection of data for the Production Index and Employment Index in Construction, which is similar to the application used for the online collection of data for the Production Index in Industry and the Turnover Index in Industry.
  - Development of an online application for the collection of the necessary data for the compilation of the Turnover Index and Employment Index for trade and other services.
  - Replacement of all the paper questionnaires used for the surveys, which are conducted by the Education Statistics Section, by electronic questionnaires.
  - Development of web applications for the collection of data of the questionnaires used for the surveys on health statistics (Census Survey of Hospitals, Census Survey of Health Centers, Survey on Physicians and Dentists).
- *OCR readable questionnaires for data collection and data entry via scanners.* This technology has been extensively used during the previous years for data collection and data entry for the Agricultural and Livestock Census and for the General Censuses for Buildings and for Population – Housing, with very positive results.
- *CATI software to upgrade and take full advantage of ELSTAT's call center.* If the use of such an application ensures better results, ELSTAT will explore the possibility of conducting more surveys—which are currently conducted via personal interview—via the call center. In order to evaluate the effectiveness of this approach, ELSTAT is planning to conduct pilot telephone interviews for the Labour Force Survey.
- *Tablet computers to support Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing surveys (CAPI).* An indicative example of the use of tablets is the Survey on Information and Communication Technologies

and the Time Use Survey where, with the support of tablets, the paper questionnaires would be replaced by electronic ones and the data would be collected using CAPI software.

Special reference should be made to the electronic collection of data that derive from administrative sources. As already mentioned, extending the utilization of data from administrative sources is one of the strategic targets of ELSTAT. Therefore, ELSTAT is exploring the use of specialized 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:

- Feasibility study for the electronic collection of primary data of the domestic and international traffic of goods in the main ports of Greece (Directive 2009/42/EC), in order to accelerate and simplify the collection of primary data.
- Cooperation with the Division of Road Traffic Police of the Hellenic Police in the framework of the project: "Integrated information system for the collection and management of data on road traffic accidents via mobile devices and radars" aiming at developing an application for the collection, by ELSTAT, of the necessary data for the survey on road accidents.
- Cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights which is implementing actions pertaining to the electronic submission and monitoring of applications and documents used in legal proceedings, the electronic services of Detention Facilities, as well as to the upgrading of digital services through the creation of an Integrated Information System. As soon as the application for the electronic data recording is activated, the next stage will be the automation of data collection.
- 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 of obtaining electronically the data for the Survey on Building Activity from the competent administrative sources.

In addition, ELSTAT, alongside the actions developed within the national statistical institute itself and at national level, will participate in European actions aiming at improving the methods and systems for data collection such as:

- The European Program "Quality improvement action for JVS," which sets out the objective to improve, within 2014, the web submission of questionnaires of the Survey on Job Vacancies.

## **7. Implementation of co-financed projects through the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF)**

ELSTAT, taking into consideration the current financial environment, has already undertaken, since the previous programming period, a set of actions aimed at identifying and taking full advantage of the available European funds and financial resources in order to achieve its targets and to support its operation. A basic vehicle in this direction was and continues to be the utilization of the NSRF. More specifically, ELSTAT has developed infrastructure projects and projects for reinforcing its production of statistics, which have been approved, or are in the stage of being approved for funding by the Operational Programs of the NSRF.

Up to the present time, the following projects have been approved for funding and are included in the NSRF's Operational Programs for 2007 – 2013:

- Project for redesigning the Statistical Business Register of ELSTAT (operational program "Admin-

istrative Reform"), which aims at enhancing completeness and timeliness of the updating of the Statistical Business Register of ELSTAT. The project has already begun to be implemented and it is expected to be completed by September 2013. The successful completion of the project will significantly impact on the statistical production of ELSTAT during the programming period 2014 – 2016.

- Project for upgrading the existing ICT infrastructure and the corresponding services provided by ELSTAT (operational program "Digital convergence") (Box 3, above). The project will start being implemented in 2013 and it is expected to be completed in 2015.
- Conduct of the Time Use Survey (operational program "Administrative Reform"). The survey is conducted by ELSTAT in cooperation with the General Secretariat for Gender Equality. The project is aimed at collecting data concerning the use of time by household members in combination with other variables, such as education attainment, employment, income, etc. The results of the survey will contribute to drawing conclusions for policy-making mostly on gender equality issues concerning reconciliation of work life with family life and distribution of time spend on paid and unpaid work. Moreover, the survey results will be used to complete the available data on satellite accounts concerning own-account produced goods and for the calculation of the work time at home. The survey has already started being conducted and is planned to be completed in December 2014.

In addition to projects that have already been approved for funding by the NSRF, ELSTAT intends to submit more projects for funding by the NSRF (Chapter 4).

#### **8. Establishing regular meetings with users of statistical data**

During 2014 – 2016 ELSTAT will continue to improve the various aspects of the layout and content of its portal, as well as enhance the other dissemination modes for its statistics, with a view to fulfilling users' needs both at national and international level, by following the developing international standards.

An important factor contributing to the accomplishment of this target is the project for upgrading the existing ICT infrastructure and the corresponding services provided by ELSTAT, a project that will significantly upgrade the portal of ELSTAT, thus incorporating new tools and technologies.

Besides the general targets set out for the period 2014 – 2016, ELSTAT has already proceeded with the development of targeted actions intended to improve the accessibility of statistics. Some of these actions are outlined as follows:

- ELSTAT will develop all the necessary mechanisms enabling data users to produce, from the database of the Statistical Business Register, as well as from other databases, tailor-made tables covering their needs, ensuring at the same time the full protection of statistical confidentiality. In addition, the appropriate tools will be developed that will enable users to create alternative visualizations of statistical data according to their needs (graphs, histograms, etc).
- In the framework of the memorandum of cooperation signed in August 2012 between ELSTAT and the National Centre for Social Research (EKKE), new electronic applications are to be developed providing for the immediate access to, management, correlation and geographical mapping of the data compiled during the 1991, 2001 and 2011 Population Censuses. Moreover, the existing applications are to be upgraded. The aforementioned memorandum aims at facilitating free dissemination of geospatial data and at the greatest possible access and utilization of the census data by the

most demanding and specialized users, but also by the general public, while at the same time, fully ensuring the confidentiality of the personal data of those enumerated during the census.

- Creation on the portal of ELSTAT of a special statistical information bulletin for each Municipality, containing census data from the 2011 Population – Housing Census (population, housing, other socio-economic variables, maps, etc.).
- ELSTAT has already planned its participation in Eurostat’s Census Hub project, which will serve as a major reference point for the dissemination of Census results from all EU Member States. This project is underway and is expected to be completed by 2015. ELSTAT intends to take advantage of the experience it will gain from the above project in technologies and cutting edge standards (such as SDMX), in order to extend their use in other statistical areas besides population censuses, thus creating central access points—“hubs”—and points providing links to all the statistical information sources of the ELSS.
- Aiming at providing users with immediate access to the cartographic material of ELSTAT, thus enabling a complete geographical correlation of statistical data, during 2014 – 2016 ELSTAT is planning to digitize its historical cartographic archive, from 1961 onwards, and post it on its website. Digitization will include topographic diagrams (scale 1:5000) by settlement (“oikismos”) of the General Population Censuses of the years 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, as well as maps (scale 1:200.000) by Department (“nomos”) for the years 1963, 1972, and 1983.
- ELSTAT has started developing an advanced GIS web tool for geographical display, correlation and dissemination of statistical information. This tool will offer to the visitors of ELSTAT’s portal interactive maps depicting the available statistical data. The project envisages the development of web services for the production and display of thematic maps, supported by geospatial databases. The existing geospatial database would be enriched with the already available statistical information and users, by using a simple web browser, would project statistical data on thematic maps that offer a very flexible mapping interface, as users can customize their query, choosing the level of breakdown, the type of presentation of data, etc.
- ELSTAT will create on its portal a special webpage providing information and access to the main statistical products of the ELSS. For each agency, there will be information on its statistical production, as well as a link to its website.

## **9. 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, has established the organization 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 multi-annual and annual statistical programs.

Aiming at familiarizing users with statistical data and promoting the rational and sound use of data by them, ELSTAT intends to organize, during the three-year period 2014 – 2016, one-day conferences for targeted categories of users.

## C. NEW AND REVISED STATISTICS DURING 2014 – 2016

The production of new statistics of the ELSS in the period 2014-2016 is based, to a large extent, on the priorities of the European Statistical Program 2013 – 2017 as these are outlined in that program and will be further analyzed in the annual statistical programs of the European Statistical System for the years 2013 to 2017. 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 2014 – 2016 is driven, to a large extent, by the need to fulfill its obligations towards Eurostat and other European and international organizations. 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):

#### 2014

- NATIONAL ACCOUNTS
  - *National Accounts data, implementing the new European System of Accounts ESA 2010.* The statistics produced by virtue of the new Regulation pertain to the total of macroeconomic aggregates (Regulation to be voted).
  - *Debt data, through the survey of the Entities of General Government.* These data pertain to the recording of long-term loans of the Entities of General Government, the currency of the denomination, as well as the residence of the creditor. These statistics are produced in the framework of the compilation of the relevant debt tables included in "Public Sector Statistics" (International Monetary Fund, OECD, World Bank).
  - *Compilation of tables for SDDS-Plus* (International Monetary Fund).
- EDUCATION
  - *Data on education expenditure, with reference period the financial year 2010* (Regulation No 88/2011 implementing Regulation No 452/2008)
- POPULATION
  - *Population statistics concerning demographic, social and economic characteristics of the population on the basis of the results of the 2011 Population and Housing Census* (Regulations No 763/2008, 1201/2009, 519/2010 and 1151/2010).
  - *Statistics on the mother's country of birth and on the deceased person's country of birth, by adding a relevant question in the Birth and Death Questionnaires* (draft regulation implementing the Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council to be voted on Europeans Statistics on demography).
- INCOME AND LIVING CONDITIONS
  - *Statistics on income and living conditions of the households, in the framework of new adhoc modules in the EU-SILC for 2013.* Statistics pertaining to the well-being of the population (overall life satisfaction, job satisfaction, satisfaction with financial situation, recreation facilities, etc., psychological condition, trust in institutions, etc.), as well as additional statistics on material deprivation of children and other household members aged 16+ (Regulation No 62/2012 implementing Regulation No 1177/2003).

- INFORMATION SOCIETY

- *Statistics on cloud computing services* (saving data—documents, images, music, etc.—on a web data center, online services for e-mail, online word processing, online creation of presentations, etc.) (Regulation to be voted implementing Regulation No 808/2004).

- TRANSPORT

- *Statistics on the road network of Greece* on the basis of a feasibility study exploring the sources and availability of relevant data. On the basis of the feasibility study, ELSTAT is going to compile these statistics in the framework of updating the relevant European database.

- *Statistics concerning road transport by buses, coaches and transport via pipelines of natural gas*, on the basis of a feasibility study and a pilot survey to be conducted in 2014. These statistics are compiled in the framework of the update of the relevant European database.

- *Passenger mobility statistics*, on the basis of a feasibility study and a pilot survey.

- *Statistics on road traffic for the compilation of vehicle-kilometers (VKM)*, on the basis of feasibility study, exploring the possibility of collecting the necessary relevant data.

- PRICES

- *Turnover Indices in the services sector*: Release of revised time series of indices with new base year, 2010 = 100,0 (Regulation No 1165/1998).

- *Indices: a) Producer Price Index in Industry, b) Import Price Index in Industry, c) Price Indices of Works Categories and Cost Indices in the Construction of new Residential Buildings, d) Material Cost Indices in the Construction of new Residential Buildings, e) Input and Output Indices in Agriculture – Livestock, f) Cost Index for the Factors of Agricultural – Livestock Production, g) Producer Price Indices in the services sector*. Release of revised time series of indices with new base year, 2010 = 100,0 (Regulation No 1165/1998, for a), b), c), d), g) and "gentlemen's agreement" between EU Member States and Eurostat for e) and f)).

- *Indices: a) Turnover Indices and Volume Indices in Retail Trade, b) Turnover Indices in Wholesale Trade, c) Turnover Indices in Motor Trades, d) Index of Persons Employed in Retail Trade*. Release of revised time series with new base year, 2010 = 100,0 (Regulation No 1165/1998).

- *Indices: a) Industrial Production Index, b) Turnover Index in Industry, c) Production Index in Construction*. Release of revised time series of indices with new base year, 2010 = 100,0 (Regulation No 1165/1998).

## 2015

- EDUCATION

- *Statistics on Institutes of Vocational Training (IEK)* with reference period the school year 2013/14 (Regulation No 88/2011 implementing Regulation No 452/2008).

- INCOME AND LIVING CONDITIONS

- *Statistics on living conditions of households*, in the framework of new ad hoc modules to be added in the 2014 EU-SILC. It concerns material deprivation of population (basic needs, economic dif-

facilities, recreation and social activities, durable goods, access to public transport, education and recreation expenditure, children's needs, etc.) (Regulation to be voted implementing Regulation No 1177/2003).

- HEALTH

- *Health statistics (health status, use of health services, health determinants, preventive health services, health care, social support, etc.)* (Regulation to be voted).

## 2016

- ENVIRONMENT

- *Water statistics* ("gentlemen's agreement" and possible compilation of a new Regulation).

- *Statistics on expenditure for the protection of the environment and energy accounts* (Regulation to be voted).

- *Statistics on the production of environment goods and services* (Regulation to be voted).

- *Statistics on energy consumption*, additional to the existing statistics compiled by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, such as alternative sources of energy – requirements set by the Center for Recyclable Energy Sources (CRES), energy consumption in the tertiary sector (Regulation to be voted).

- HEALTH

- *Statistics on accidents at work, with 2014 as reference year*. These statistics pertain to the causes and conditions of accidents at work, days of absence from work and data on the accidents at work for all insured employees (Regulation No 349/2011 implementing Regulation No 1338/2008).

## 2. New statistics of ELSTAT for meeting users' needs

ELSTAT collects the comments and observations made by the participants in its Annual Users 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 (Box 5).

### **Box 5. Users' needs**

The recorded needs of users cover a wide range of statistical themes. In light of these needs, which have already been analyzed and processed by ELSTAT, the requirements that are identified pertain, indicatively, to the following:

- Provision of statistics at a lower level of administrative division of the Country.
- Development of Regional Accounts for several branches of production.
- Compilation of long time series for National Accounts.
- Production of seasonally adjusted data for Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and of quarterly data for the Labour Force Survey and the National Accounts.
- Addressing the issue and filling of gaps in times series of statistical data.
- Possibility of access to analytical primary data (microdata).
- Enriching statistical data with the spatial dimension (geospatial data).
- Adding more variables in several surveys in order to cover specific needs (e.g., the variable of "gender" in all household surveys, the variable of "citizenship," etc.).
- Compilation of environmental indices and of analytical data on suicide.
- Improving the quality and reducing the time needed for the production of some statistics, such as health and education statistics.

One of the priorities that ELSTAT has set for the three-year period 2014 – 2016 is to meet the needs of users (including public policy makers) that have already been identified and recorded. 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 more extensive and improved utilization 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 health and education statistics.

At the same time, ELSTAT is exploring the possibility of redesigning the samples of its sample surveys, so that 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 also results 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.

As regards the important issue of providing researchers with microdata of its surveys, ELSTAT is studying the conditions under which the researchers could have access to the data they need for their research, while at the same time ensuring the protection of statistical confidentiality and the observance of statistical deontology.

In the framework of the implementation of ESA 2010 in 2014 it will become possible to compile relatively long time series (from 1995) for National Accounts. In addition, it is expected that it will be possible to produce seasonally adjusted data for Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

ELSTAT is planning to compile new health statistics, pertaining to mental health, social support of vulnerable groups and provision of informal care to them. These statistics are going to be compiled on the basis of the Health Survey, which will be conducted during the last quarter of 2014 on a sample of 7,000 households, and will be made available by the end of 2015. Furthermore, in the framework of the survey on the number of physicians and dentists, which is already being conducted, data will also be compiled on nurses, by sex, on the basis of the licenses issued for practicing the nursing profession.

ELSTAT has also planned the production of Time Use Statistics, which will cover variables such as average time spent by main and secondary activity, average time spent on participating in activities, main activities of the population during an ordinary day in relation to their main occupation, education, health status, etc. These statistics are going to be compiled on the basis of the Time Use Survey, which is conducted in cooperation with the General Secretariat for Gender Equality on a sample of approximately 3,500 households of Greece, and will be published in 2015.

In the sector of tourism statistics, ELSTAT will explore the possibility of redesigning the survey on arrivals by charter flights as well as the survey on yachts.

Interaction between ELSTAT—and more generally ELSS agencies—and users of statistical information is an exceptionally useful tool for recording the requirements and determining the priorities of ELSS as a whole. For the next programming period of 2014 – 2016, ELSTAT, in cooperation with ELSS agencies, will carry on considering and researching ways and methods to improve its capacity to cover users' needs, through the coordination of the statistical actions of the ELSS agencies, the development of new statistical methodologies and surveys, and the incorporation of innovative technologies and solutions in statistical production.

### **3. 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 2014 – 2016, with some modifications (e.g., reducing the frequency of production) or even discontinuation of the production of certain statistical products, especially those characterized as low-demand products. Such modifications or discontinuations would have to be consistent with any obligations of ELSTAT towards Eurostat or other international organizations. The so-called "negative priorities" determined within the annual programs 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 programs. At present, the only already specified negative priority pertains to the following statistical theme:

- PRICES
  - From 2014 onwards, discontinuation of the compilation of the New Orders Index in Industry, by virtue of Commission Regulation (EU) No 461/2012 on the abolition of these variables.

In the context of the certification of the ELSS agencies by ELSTAT, there will be close cooperation with these agencies in order to address the issue of overlap between the statistics produced by ELSTAT and those produced by other ELSS agencies. In the context of this cooperation, modifications may occur in the statistics produced by the ELSS agencies.

### **4. Conditions for the implementation of ELSP for 2014 – 2016**

The implementation of the three-year statistical program 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 undertaken a budgeting exercise for the expenditures that are required for the implementation of the statistical works included in the 2014 – 2016 Hellenic Statistical Program. This budgeting exercise took place in the context of the compilation of the Medium - Term Fiscal Adjustment Program of Greece. The budgeted expenses and revenues figure in the following table. The estimated expenses include the gross salaries for 47 new employees, whose recruitment process begun in 2012 and is expected to be completed in 2013, along with the cost of the recruitment, through transfer from other public sector agencies, of another 50 staff in 2013. For 2014, ELSTAT has also estimated the expenditure for gross salaries of approximately 18 additional staff, at which point the basic needs of ELSTAT will have been covered so that it can implement the 2014 – 2016 program. The staff that will be recruited in 2015 and 2016 will have to cover any gaps generated in those years from the retirement of employees.

**TABLE 1. ESTIMATED EXPENSES OF ELSTAT FOR 2013 AND  
BUDGETED EXPENSES IN 2014, 2015 AND 2016,  
BY TYPE OF EXPENDITURE (IN EURO)**

Type of expenditure	2016	2015	2014	2013
Labour cost	26,199,480.38	25,940,130.12	24,940,742.87	26,226,908.00
Expenses related to staff traveling within Greece and abroad	505,324.07	507,315.94	574,200.00	998,419.00
Other operating expenses	3,009,860.56	2,978,835.36	2,983,939.00	2,865,928.00
Expenses for the provision of goods and capital formation, subscriptions	1,037,431.07	1,027,555.51	1,188,470.80	1,502,518.61
Expenses for the collection and processing of the data of the Buildings, Population – Housing and Agriculture Censuses	6,239,565.78	6,013,960.93	5,588,285.08	11,161,645.39
Projects financed by Eurostat	1,653,000.00	153,000.00	1,451,898.58	1,220,093.61
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,644,661.86</b>	<b>36,620,797.86</b>	<b>36,727,536.33</b>	<b>43,975,512.61</b>
Payments for investments by the Public Investment Program (NSRF)	—	—	—	447,470.00
Payments mirrored by revenues (amounts subject to withholding)	11,593,300.00	10,986,000.00	11,018,000.00	13,153,721.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>50,237,961.86</b>	<b>47,606,797.86</b>	<b>47,745,536.33</b>	<b>57,576,703.61</b>

**TABLE 2. ESTIMATED REVENUE OF ELSTAT FOR 2013 AND  
BUDGETED SUBSIDIES IN 2014, 2015 AND 2016  
(IN EURO)**

Revenue	2016	2015	2014	2013
Subsidies for wages and salaries	26,199,480.38	25,940,130.12	24,940,742.87	26,226,908.00
Subsidies for operating expenditure	12,350,000.00	10,590,000.00	11,700,000.00	16,460,090.00
Other revenue	95,181.48	90,667.74	86,793.46	1,288,514.61
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,644,661.86</b>	<b>36,620,797.86</b>	<b>36,727,536.33</b>	<b>43,975,512.61</b>
Revenue from investments financed by the Public Investment Program (NSRF)	—	—	—	447,470.00
Revenue from mirrored expenses (amounts subject to withholding)	11,593,300.00	10,986,000.00	11,018,000.00	13,153,721.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>50,237,961.86</b>	<b>47,606,797.86</b>	<b>47,745,536.33</b>	<b>57,576,703.61</b>

**Notes:**

1. The expenses for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 have been determined on the basis of the Medium-Term Fiscal Adjustment Program of Greece for 2013-2016.
2. The expenses for 2013 are listed on the basis of the adopted budget of ELSTAT for that year.
3. The revenues for 2013 are listed on the basis of the adopted budget of ELSTAT (and the authorized subsidies).
4. The revenues for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 are determined to correspond to the expenses.

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

The development and enhancement of statistics of Greece will 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 2014 – 2016. 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 materialize in the three-year period 2014 – 2016).
- Enhancing the accessibility of statistics.
- Meetings with users of statistical data.
- Production of new and revised statistics (in order to meet national and Community/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 2014 – 2016 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 Bank of Greece (BoG) has set multiple objectives for 2014 – 2016, which cover all the aforementioned themes and are analytically listed as follows:

- *Personnel training and development of skills on statistical issues*

The Personnel Training Section of the Human Resources and Organization Department of the BoG, taking into consideration the needs of the Bank as well as its personnel, organizes at regular intervals training seminars on several statistical tools (such as, Eviews, SPSS), foreign languages, etc.

- *Developing, upgrading and extending the use of technologies for the collection and processing of data for the production of statistics*

Up to the present time, the main source for recording the flows of the Balance of Payments were the data that the Greek Credit Institutions released both for themselves and for their customers. Pursuant to a Directive of the European Central Bank (ECB), in the near future, credit institutions will release such data only for their account, while the data for their customers will be collected through the Direct Reporting method. Within 2014 – 2016 the new system for data collection will

be set up and there will be a pilot period (2014 – 2016) where both systems are going to operate, with the aim of finalizing the transition to the new system by 2016.

In addition, within 2014 the Information Systems Department will prepare the IRIS platform through which the competent agencies will be able to enter their data and post them directly on the webpage of the BoG, instead of sending them via encrypted mails or electronic means, which was the method applied until now for transmitting their data.

As regards data processing, the BoG is continuously improving its systems in terms of technical means and quality.

- *Planned projects or projects which are underway in the framework of NSRF pertaining to the collection, production and dissemination of statistics*

The BoG is not financed by the NSRF.

- *Enhancing the accessibility of statistics*

The BoG participates in the Statistics Accessibility and Presentation (STAP) group of the ECB, which aims at enhancing accessibility of statistics, modernizing the means for their dissemination and visualization, as well as at reinforcing the confidence of the public in the statistics of the European System of Central Banks.

- *Meetings with users of statistical data*

In the framework of the STAP group, with the participation of a representative of the BoG, one of the working groups will conduct a survey on the needs of the different categories of users of statistical data. The results of this survey will be announced and utilized by the rest of the European Central Banks.

The Statistics Department of the BoG is in close cooperation with the Research Institute for Tourism (ITEP), the agency "Invest in Greece" and with other organizations.

- *Production of new and revised statistics (in order to meet national and Community/international obligations)*

In 2014 – 2016, the trade balance data will be revised, as the corresponding data produced by ELSTAT will be adopted.

In the light of the relevant Directive of the ECB, in the framework of Securities Holdings Statistics (SHS), in 2014 the first transmissions of security-by-security data will start and will concern data such as those on Greek or foreign securities held by Greek Credit Institutions.

During the coming three-year period, there will be the transition to the Balance of Payments Manual – 6th Edition (BPM6) of the IMF.

There will be an adjustment to all the produced statistical data whose collection method has been modified (e.g., direct reporting), while trying to keep consistency within the relevant time series.

- *Negative priorities*

The negative priorities of the BoG are set according to the corresponding negative priorities laid down in the directives of the ECB.

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

The principal objective of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food for 2014 – 2016 is to improve the collection and processing of the statistical data that the Ministry compiles. Furthermore, in light of the new programming period of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), from 1 January 2014 onwards the statistical activities of the Ministry will be fully adjusted to the new requirements laid down in the forthcoming revision of the CAP.

In the framework of the certification of the statistics produced by the ELSS agencies by ELSTAT, the Ministry of Rural Development and Food will seek, in cooperation with ELSTAT, to improve the reliability, timeliness and quality of its statistic in compliance with the CoP.

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

The Ministry of Development, Competitiveness, Infrastructure, Transport and Networks is already implementing a significant number of statistical actions, which will continue to be implemented and which will be improved within the new programming period. The objectives, by theme, will be set and specified accordingly during the compilation of the annual statistical programs of the Ministry.

### **Ministry of Public Order and Citizen's Protection**

The following objectives are included in the "Statistical Yearbook of the Hellenic Police", which encompasses statistics produced under the responsibility of the Informatics Division of the Hellenic Police (the Informatics Division is the competent division for compiling statistics for the Ministry of Public Order and Citizen's Protection):

- Reviewing the existing official statistics and, in cooperation with the relevant agencies, updating the produced statistics on the basis of the current needs and the relevant legal – regulatory framework.
- Automation of the procedure for compiling official statistics using and exploiting the existing databases, thus avoiding, in many cases, multiple recording of the same statistical data and accelerating the procedure for compiling the statistical results.
- Upgrading the information system for data collection and production of official statistics by using up-to-date technologies with the development of web applications.

### **Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Welfare**

The principal objectives set by the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Welfare and its supervised agencies pertain to the development of new information systems and systems for the collection, processing and production of statistical data. In addition, such systems will provide for the compilation of new statistics in order to meet national and European obligations. More specifically:

- The Department of Finance of the central offices of the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Welfare has set the following objectives:

- Improve the quality of the Commitments Register which contains information on arrears, outstanding commitments, unpaid liabilities and overdue debts.
- Enhance the checking of the data deriving from the local Services of the Labour Inspectorate (SEPE).
- Connect its database with the database of the General Accounting Office.

The actions for the first and second objective are planned to begin in January 2014 and to be completed in December 2014. The actions within the third objective are expected to begin in January 2014 and to be completed in December 2015.

- IKA – ETAM (Social Insurance Institute – Division of Actuarial Studies and Statistics) intends to conduct a research project on the possible exploitation of new data on pensions from the Single Pensions Payment Authority, in order to cover new needs for statistical information, in the context of fulfilling European and international obligations.
- The Labour Inspectorate (SEPE) intends to put into operation the Integrated Information System (OPS – SEPE) by the end of 2015. All the agencies of SEPE will record in this OPS – SEPE all the information on the statistical actions of SEPE for the three-year period 2014 – 2016. The operation of the OPS will significantly improve the analysis of statistical data, both in terms of quantity and quality.
- The National Institute for Labour and Human Resources (EIEAD) has set as a major objective to revise from 2010 onwards the Labour Market Policies Database, which contains statistical data on labour market policies (active and passive labour market policies). In this context, EIEAD will set up a working group whose task will be to update the database. This working group will consist of participants coming from all the involved agencies and competent Ministries; Eurostat will provide the working group with the necessary training.

### **Ministry of Interior**

The Ministry of Interior has set the following objectives:

- Collection and processing, from 2014 onwards, of statistical data on obtaining and losing the Greek citizenship, according to the Greek Citizenship Code in force and pursuant to EU Regulation No 862/2007. Data will be collected on a yearly basis with reference year the year preceding data collection. Such data are registered electronically in a single database by the competent Sections of the Decentralized Administrations of Greece, under the supervision of the Citizenship Division of the Ministry of Interior. These data, after having been checked by the Ministry of Interior, are transmitted to ELSTAT.
- In addition, by virtue of article 6 of the aforementioned EU Regulation, in 2014, 2015 and 2016 data will be collected and transmitted regarding residence permits issued to third country nationals, valid on 31 December of each preceding year (2014, 2015 and 2016).
- Collection and processing of data pertaining to the transportation of pupils in primary and secondary education, aiming at elaborating, automating and decentralizing the system for calculating the transportation cost for the pupils in primary and secondary education.

- Collection and processing of data pertaining to vehicles and machinery of Municipalities and Regions, aiming at supporting policy-making as regards the rational use, maintenance and renewal of machinery equipment, and at informing the other Ministries and public agencies on the available equipment (e.g., General Secretariat for Civil Protection).

In order to accomplish the first and second objectives, a project co-financed by the NSRF is underway, aiming at the development of an information system, which will offer upgraded services for the processing and production of statistics. This project will contribute, *inter alia*, to the enhancement of the accessibility of statistics. In addition, this project will require, but also will result in new needs and requirements as regards personnel training and skills development on statistical issues, which will be satisfied within 2014 – 2016.

The last two objectives aim at the production of new and revised statistical data, as well as enhancing accessibility of statistics.

### **Ministry of Shipping, Maritime Affairs and the Aegean**

The Ministry of Shipping, Maritime Affairs and the Aegean and its supervised agencies have set as major objectives for the three-year period 2014 – 2016 to record, collect and produce new statistics, enhancing at the same time the existing information systems for data collection and processing. More specifically:

- The Hellenic Coast Guard has set the objective of updating the existing means for better monitoring and analyzing the data it collects.
- The Division for the Control of Mercantile Marine Vessels has set the following objectives:
  - Record on a monthly basis the traffic of passengers and vehicles in Greek ports;
  - Record on a monthly basis the complaints of passengers in vessels of coastal shipping broken down by shipping company against which the complaint is submitted.
- The Division of Support for Social Security Organizations (DYASO) has set the objective to incorporate and harmonize its statistical data with the existing National Statistical System as regards accidents at work and occupational diseases covering all categories of employees.
- The Division of Marine Employment (DNER) has set the following objectives:
  - Monitor issues pertaining to the balance between offer and demand concerning marine employment;
  - Monitor unemployment data of the Greek marine labour force.
- The Marine Employment Opportunities Office (GENE) has set the following objectives:
  - Upgrade its computer and information system;
  - Establish an online connection with local Port Authorities for updating the relevant statistical questionnaires.
- The Greek Healthcare-Scheme for seamen (Seamen’s Home) has set the following objectives for the year 2014:

- Upgrade the existing software of its Integrated Information System, as regards the updating of the Register of persons insured and the payment of benefits by category;
- Collect financial data and data on expenditure on a quarterly basis;
- Upgrade the Commitments Register in order to compile analytical statistics;
- Develop operability among all the relevant agencies (Ministry of Shipping, Maritime Affairs and the Aegean, Seamen's Pension Fund NAT, the Electronic Governance for Social Security SA – IDIKA, the National Organization for the Provision of Healthcare Services – EOPYY, etc.), which will enable Seamen's Home to compile more accurate and reliable statistics;
- Upgrade and complete the connection of local services with the Central Offices of Seamen's Home, aiming at compiling integrated statistical data for Seamen's Home as a whole.

### **Ministry of Finance**

The objectives set by the General Accounting Office (GAO) for the three-year period 2014 – 2016 mostly concern the completion of the existing actions, which are underway, aiming at achieving full implementation and operation. These actions pertain, mainly, to the development of new information systems and technologies for data collection and processing in the production of statistics, as well as to the compilation of new and revised data for fulfilling national and European obligations of Greece. More specifically, the objectives set by the General Accounting Office are as follows:

- Enhance the quality of monthly financial data of the General Government Entities, which are collected by the GAO. Such an enhancement will be the outcome of the completion and full operation of the Information System for the "Collection and Integration of Financial Reports of the General Government Entities, in compliance with the European System of Accounts ESA 95 and the Government Finance Statistics Manual – GFSM 2001".
- Enhance the quality of estimates for the financial data of the General Government Entities, in the framework of the Medium-Term Fiscal Strategy for Greece (MTFS), by establishing a network through which the entities will estimate and record their estimates for revenues and expenditures at 2-digit level codes. This action will enable the GAO to produce reliable estimates as specified in the MTFS.
- Enhance the quality of data collection for "accounts payables and arrears" at the level of General Government Entities, through the upgrade of the e-portal of the Commitments Register, so that data are collected on an automated basis.
- Finally, the GAO will proceed with the elaboration of a unified chart of accounts for all of General Government. This action will be financed through the NSRF and the relevant works have already begun. At a first stage, within 2013 the appropriate study will be elaborated, and will be completed in 2014. At a second stage, the project will start being implemented and is expected to be completed by 2017.

### **Ministry of Education, Religious affairs, Culture and Sports**

The objectives set by the Ministry of Education, Religious affairs, Culture and Sports for the programming period 2014 – 2016 focus on the following topics:

- Regular collection of statistical data on foreign pupils and students in all educational levels (primary, secondary, tertiary) and for all kind of studies.
- Collection of data on pupils with special learning difficulties and on pupils with disabilities in ordinary schools and in special education schools. In addition, collection of data on teaching and auxiliary staff and its characteristics.
- Development of a system for collecting and analyzing data and for providing information on Early School Leaving at national, regional and local level at all levels of education.
- Setting up of a training program on official statistics in cooperation with the Statistical Departments of Universities, as well as with the project "European Master in Official Statistics" (EMOS).
- Organizing training seminars on several statistical areas and their applications (4 topics per year, each one of these being an independent module, leading to a Certificate on the specific topic).
- Setting up of e-learning courses in the framework of continuous training on several topics, leading to certification.
- Statistical analysis of data collected by the administrative departments of Greek Universities and Technical Educational Institutes.
- Conduct of a survey on the graduates of the various Schools and Faculties of Greek Universities and Technical Educational Institutes and their integration in the labour market.
- Creation of an Integrated Information System for Primary and Secondary Education. This system will cover all actions concerning school units, pupils and teaching staff, such as movement and secondment of teachers, teachers' payroll, teacher's fiche, pupil's fiche and fiche for the school unit.
- Production and certification of official statistics, and release of such statistics through the website of the Ministry as well as the portal of ELSTAT.
- Compilation of indices on learning achievement, distribution of pupils, school units and teaching staff.

### **Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change**

For the three-year period, the Directorate General for Energy of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change has set objectives covering almost the entire range of statistical themes.

More specifically, the Ministry is planning actions concerning staff training and skills development on statistical issues, through the continuous training on relevant topics as well as through the study and implementation of new methodologies for the production of energy statistics and their quality control. At the same time, the Ministry has set the target to safeguard statistical confidentiality through several ac-

tions, e.g., through the commitment of officials and of the personnel or by signing confidentiality agreements with several agencies.

Furthermore, new applications are developed for data collection and data processing and the existing applications are enhanced. Indicatively, the following tools for data collection can be stated:

- Improving the information system for the (online) collection of data on fuels (fuelstat);
- Setting up an information system for recording online energy data from energy distributors, managers of distribution networks and enterprises or retail sale energy enterprises;
- Upgrading the processes and statistical tools aiming at the continuous collection, processing and quality control of accounting energy data of Greece (new electronic questionnaires for data collection, etc.).

In addition to all these, the Ministry is planning to set up a Geothermal Applications Register, which is a new project to be financed by the NSRF.

The efforts for improving the access to statistical information are focused on completing the designing of the website on which energy statistics are going to be posted, and on achieving compliance with deadlines concerning periodicity and schedules for data dissemination. In addition, there is a close cooperation with the users of the relevant statistical data (international organizations, research centers, universities, other agencies, enterprises, individual users, etc.).

As concerns the production of new statistics, there is a continuously growing need for accounting data. More specifically, the following works are to be undertaken:

- Extending the coverage for data collection and data processing of energy statistics (final consumption, by branch of economic activity, etc.) for meeting needs arising from amendments in European Regulations and international requirements on energy statistics.
- Satisfying the existing requirements for the three-year period 2014 – 2016 (biannual data on the prices of natural gas, new methodology for the estimation of oil reserves, etc.).
- Preparing infrastructure for monitoring the measures aimed at improving energy performance.
- Ad hoc data processing of energy data for the production of data, which are required by users.

As regards the Division of Oil Policy of the Ministry, its main objective is to develop a new methodology for the estimation of oil reserves.

In addition, the Special Secretariat for Forests has set the following objectives:

- Create and continuously update (through the Forest Services of the Decentralized Administrations) a geospatial database on forest management studies.
- Process and transmit data on the conduct of reviews by the forest and plant health auditors concerning quarantine pathogens in the framework of SANCO: EUROPHYT – CIRCA Working Group, concerning the exchange of data on plant health issues.

- Collect and process data on illegal logging and post these data on the website of the Ministry, in the framework of the general planning of the Special Secretariat for Forests aiming at addressing the problem of illegal logging (Circular Order No 179509/5077/21.12.2012).

The Special Secretariat for Water has set the following objectives:

- Assess the ecological, chemical and quantitative status of water resources of Greece. The relevant actions have started being implemented since 2009 and they are expected to be completed in 2015.
- Elaborate annual reports on the assessment and classification of bathing waters of Greece and transmit data on relevant measurements to the European Union on a annual basis.
- Collect data on nitrates and phosphates concentrations in surface waters and in the groundwater of Greece, as well as data on chlorophyll concentrations in the surface waters of Greece. The relevant actions have started being implemented since 2012 and they are expected to be completed in 2014.
- Record the number of flood events in a database whose elaboration is underway. The relevant actions have started being implemented since 2012 and they are expected to be completed in 2019.
- Collect, check and evaluate data on the operation of waste treatment plants in Greece.
- Collect, on a yearly basis, statistical data on the quality of lakes, rivers, transitional, coastal waters and seawaters, on the biological status of transitional and coastal waters, on the quality of groundwater, the quantity of surface waters and groundwater in Greece.

### **Ministry of Health**

The main objectives of the central services of the Ministry of Health mostly focus on actions, which are aimed at the production of new and revised statistics for fulfilling the national and international obligations of the Ministry. In order to achieve these objectives, it is necessary to undertake actions aiming at fostering statistical education (through relevant seminars and training courses), at upgrading and further developing the existing information systems and data collection systems, enhancing, at the same time, accessibility of statistics.

In this context, the Ministry of Health intends to carry on the operation of "ESY.net" (a web application for the collection and management of economic and financial data of the Health Units of the National Healthcare System – ESY), the operation of the web application for entrepreneurial intelligence of the National Healthcare System (ESY), and to upgrade the Management and Entrepreneurial Intelligence System of ESY (ESY.net – BI). Moreover, special emphasis will be placed on the compilation of "Key Performance Indicators" for monitoring economic and financial data in the health sector, on the operation of the "Health Map" and on full implementation of the international classification ICD – 10. The actions that will be undertaken aim at the following targets:

- Enhance operational capacity of the central services of the ministry and supporting the management of Healthcare Units and the Health Regions in terms of policy making, elaborating operational plans, documenting and monitoring the implementation of these plans, assessing the results in comparison with the targets set and reviewing the plans, where appropriate. In order to accomplish this target, specific actions are planned concerning training and development of new applications or/and further development of existing applications, which will result in the compilation of new statistical products and the improvement of their accessibility.
- Implement the System of Health Accounts in Greece, following the operation of a system for recording and transmitting health expenditure data to Greek, European and international organizations. This action will result in the production of new statistical products.
- Develop a mechanism for monitoring economic and financial data in the framework of ensuring sustainability of the National Healthcare System (ESY). This action will result in the production of new statistics and information.
- Activate and raise awareness among people and agencies as regards data collection in a systematic and homogenous manner, updating of data and using statistics in order to improve daily routine operations and decision making. In order to accomplish this target, specific actions are planned concerning training and development of new applications or/and further development of existing applications, which will result in the compilation of new statistical products.
- Seek mechanisms for evaluating, improving and continuously updating the methodology for data collection.
- Develop and reinforce cooperation with the aim of creating a favourable framework for research, use and exploitation of health data. In order to achieve this target, it is necessary to promote close cooperation with the users of such data through the organization of regular meetings with them.

Finally, further applications and systems are planned to be developed, such as the System for assessing the performance of ESY, the Cancer Registry, the Cardio-vascular Diseases Registry, the Alzheimer and Parkinson diseases Registry. These actions will add significantly to the statistics already produced for the corresponding statistical themes.

Besides the Ministry of Health itself, many other agencies supervised by the Ministry have also set relevant objectives. The majority of these objectives pertain to the production of new and revised statistics and to the development or/and further development of new technologies and systems for the collection, processing and production of statistical data. In addition, special emphasis will be put on making statistics more outward looking and on enhancing their dissemination.

- The Hellenic Center for Disease Control and Prevention (HCDCP), an agency supervised by the Ministry of Health, has set the following objectives:

- Redesign the System of Mandatory Notification of diseases (resetting surveillance priorities, re-defining the surveillance data to be collected data and dully modifying the e-database of mandatorily notified diseases);
  - Redesign the Sentinel surveillance system in primary health care by creating model programs for analyzing the collected data;
  - Develop a web application for the collection of laboratory surveillance data and expanding the surveillance network;
  - Update the database of mandatorily notified diseases and develop model programs for analysis, incorporating the use of GIS systems;
  - Develop epidemiological surveillance networks for tuberculosis (clinical and laboratory branch);
  - Collect data on cancer incidence in Greece, in the framework of the National Registry of Neoplasm. The data will refer to all types of cancer, all age groups and the statistical results will be provided with reference to population statistics of the country.
  - Collect data on selected rare diseases for the creation of a relevant registry for Greece, with the aim to record the incidence of these diseases;
  - Collect data for recording the health status of the Greek population, as well as health care services in the private and public sector.
- The Institute for Children's Health, an agency supervised by the Ministry of Health, has set the following objectives:
- Compile reliable statistical data, which will improve the health care services provided to children in the areas of rare diseases, developmental paediatrics and children's mental health;
  - Establish and put into operation a Laboratory Information System (LIS), which will allow for the better statistical analysis for the National Program for Newborn Screening;
  - Computerize the management and integrate the files of all the Departments of the Institute through the development of an appropriate platform;
  - Increase the number of scientific papers published in recognized scientific journals.
- The Hellenic Organisation against Drugs (OKANA), an agency supervised by the Ministry of Health, has set the following objectives with the aim to:
- Enhance the system of data collection and enrich statistical data, as well as to reduce the time for the production of statistics by implementing targeted actions;

- Conduct a follow-up survey on general population on the prevalence of use of legal and illegal substances and alcoholic beverages;
- Conduct an epidemiological survey on school population, in the framework of the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs (ESPAD), with the participation of 40 countries. This survey is being conducted since 1998 every four years.