

Piraeus, 20 July 2021

ANNOUNCEMENT

The further strengthening of bilateral relations and cooperation between the Statistical Institutes of Greece and the Republic of Albania was consolidated by their Heads and senior officials in the framework of a series of actions developed recently by the two institutes.

With a view to exchanging know-how and developing cooperation on human resources management (HR), a training seminar and relevant lectures were organised by the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) in Athens and Piraeus from 30 June to 2 July 2021, for the staff of the Institute of Statistics of Albania (INSTAT). The study visit was intended for a five-member delegation from INSTAT, which was informed on issues such as human resources management and evaluation, development of personnel training and skills enhancement programmes and collection and processing of personal data under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). INSTAT members were also informed on the importance, structure and functioning of the Hellenic and European Statistical Systems. On the occasion of the study visit, ELSTAT compiled a special information brochure entitled "Greece – Albania in figures" in the Greek and Albanian languages, with statistics depicting the relations between the two countries.

In turn, an official two-day visit was paid by a six-member delegation of ELSTAT, led by its President, Mr Athanasios C. Thanopoulos, to the Institute of Statistics of Albania in Tirana, on 14 and 15 July 2021. The visit focused on issues pertaining to the design, organisation, methodology, legislation and communication strategy governing the buildings and population-housing censuses, at national level. On the margins of the visit, the representatives of both institutes discussed the current challenges in the production, development, and dissemination of official statistics.

The visit to Tirana was attended by Mr Apostolos Kasapis, Director of the President's Office, Ms Vasiliki Benaki, Head of the Directorate-General for Statistics, Ms Christina Karamichalakou, Head of the Business Statistics Division, Ms Nektaria Tsiligkaki, Head of the International Cooperation and Public Relations Section and Ms Stamatia Fragkiadaki, Press officer at ELSTAT.