

Euro-SDMX Metadata Structure (ESMS)

Country: Greece

Compiling agency: ELSTAT

Domain name: European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS) – Pension Beneficiaries Module

| ELSTAT metadata | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Reference metadata | |
| 1. | Contact |
| 2. | Metadata update |
| 3. | Statistical presentation |
| 4. | Unit of measure |
| 5. | Reference period |
| 6. | Institutional mandate |
| 7. | Confidentiality |
| 8. | Release policy |
| 9. | Frequency of dissemination |
| 10. | Dissemination format, Accessibility and clarity |
| 11. | Accessibility of documentation |
| 12. | Quality management |
| 13. | Relevance |
| 14. | Accuracy and reliability |
| 15. | Timeliness and punctuality |
| 16. | Comparability |
| 17. | Coherence |
| 18. | Cost and burden |
| 19. | Data revision |
| 20. | Statistical processing |
| 21. | Comment |

| 1. Contact Top | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1.1 Contact organisation | Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) |
| 1.2 Contact organisation unit | Division of Social Statistics, Department of Health Statistics and Social Security and Protection, code 010104Γ6 |
| 1.3 Contact name | Polychroniadou Maria |
| 1.4 Contact person function | Employee of the Department. Responsible for conducting the relevant survey, management and processing of data, compilation of tables and their transmission to Eurostat, monitoring the implementation of relevant methodology, production of the relevant quality report, answering the clarification of Eurostat following data transmissions |

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| | and implementation of necessary improvements. |
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| 2. Metadata update Top | |
| 3.1 Metadata last certified | |
| 3.2 Metadata last posted | |
| 3.3 Metadata last update | 06/09/2014 |

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|--|--|
| 3. Statistical presentation Top | |
| 3.1 Data description | |
| <p>Data include the number of pension beneficiaries, on 31 December of each year, of one or more periodic cash benefits under a social protection scheme falling within seven pension categories grouped into four basic functions. Data refer to the total population of the country and are broken down by gender.</p> <p>http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/PAGE-themes?p_param=A2104</p> <p>Pension Beneficiaries is a module added to the Core System of ESSPROS.</p> <p>Pension Benefits in money are grouped in 7 categories which cover 4 functions administered by 5 schemes for social protection.</p> <p>The <i>seven categories</i> of pensions in this module are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability pension; • Early retirement benefit due to reduced capacity to work; • Old-age pension; • Anticipated old-age pension; • Partial pension; • Survivor's pension; • Early retirement benefit due to labour market reasons. <p>The <i>four functions</i> of the module are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability (grouping the first two categories of pensions above); • Old age (grouping the next three); • Survivors (the sixth category); • Unemployment (the last category). <p>Furthermore, each pension category is broken down to beneficiaries receiving a pension depending</p> | |

on their incomes (means tested) and those receiving a pension not depending on their income (non-means tested).

Any person who receives more than one pension is counted only once (number of beneficiaries without double counting).

The data, available by gender at all schemes level, are expressed in "units".

3.2 Classification system

Commission Regulation (EC) No 10/2008 of 8 January 2008 implementing Regulation (EC) No 458/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European system of ESSPROS sets out the definitions, detailed classifications and any updates of the rules for the dissemination of data for the ESSPROS core system and the module on pension beneficiaries

<http://old.eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32008R0010:EL:NOT>

Detailed definitions and classifications can be found in "ESSPROS Manual and user guidelines. The European System of integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS)". It is the reference document in the four Commission Regulations implementing the European Parliament and the Council ESSPROS Regulation. The present manual replaces the previous Manual of ESSPROS 1996, it is in force from the reference year 2007 onwards, and contains mainly adaptations of definitions and classifications.

<http://old.eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32007R0458:EL:NOT>

3.3 Sector coverage

The Social Protection Schemes.

3.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

ESSPROS, the integrated system of social protection statistics, provides a coherent platform for comparisons among European countries as regards social benefits to households and their financing. The conventional definition used for the scope of the definition of social protection is the following:

Social protection encompasses all interventions from public or private bodies intended to relieve households and individuals of the burden of a defined set of risks or needs, provided that there is neither a simultaneous reciprocal nor an individual arrangement involved. The list of risks or needs that may give rise to social protection is, by convention, as follows: Sickness/Health care, disability, old age, survivors, family/children, unemployment, housing, social exclusion not elsewhere classified.

The objectives of ESSPROS are to provide a comprehensive and coherent description of social protection in the Member States:

- covering social benefits and their financing;
- geared to international comparability;
- harmonising with other statistics, particularly the national accounts, in its main concepts.

ESSPROS consists of the Core System and two Modules. The Modules including supplementary statistical information on particular aspects of social protection are:

1. Number of Pension Beneficiaries
2. Net Social Benefits.

The first Module: **Pension Beneficiaries** was introduced in 2008 and relevant data for 2006-2011 are available on ELSTAT's website, as well as on Eurostat's data base on ESSPROS domain. According to the EP and Council Regulation 458/2007 (Annex II), *pension beneficiaries* are defined as recipients of one or more of the periodic cash benefits of a social protection scheme falling within seven pension categories as presented below:

1. **disability pension**; periodic payments intended to maintain or support the income of someone below the legal/standard retirement age as established in the reference scheme who suffers from a disability which impairs his or her ability to work or earn beyond a minimum level laid down by legislation.
2. **early retirement benefit due to reduced capacity to work**; periodic payments to older workers who retire before reaching the legal/standard retirement age as established in the reference scheme

as a result of reduced ability to work. These payments normally cease when the beneficiary becomes entitled to an old age pension.

3. **old-age pension;** periodic payments intended to i) maintain the income of the beneficiary after retirement from gainful employment at the legal/standard age or ii) support the income of elderly persons (excluding support of limited duration).
4. **anticipated old-age pension;** periodic payments intended to maintain the income of beneficiaries who retire before the legal/standard age as established in the relevant scheme. This may occur with or without a reduction of the normal pension.
5. **partial pension;** periodic payment of a portion of the full retirement pension to older workers who continue to work but reduce their working hours or whose income from a professional activity is below a set ceiling. The partial pension is converted into a full pension and recorded under the item *old age pension* when the beneficiary retires completely or when he or she ceases to earn professional income above the defined level.
6. **survivors' pension;** periodic payments to people whose entitlement derives from their relationship with a deceased person protected by the scheme (widows, widowers, orphans and similar).
7. **early retirement benefit due to labour market reasons;** periodic payments to older workers who retire before reaching the legal/standard retirement age due to unemployment or to job reduction caused by economic measures such as the restructuring of an industrial sector or of a business. These payments normally cease when the beneficiary becomes entitled to an old age pension.

The five schemes from which data is collected, are presented below:

- Social Security Funds (scheme 1)
- Social Security of public servants (scheme 2)
- Occupational collective pensions (scheme 7)
- Employers obligatory contributions to employees (scheme 8)
- Other governmental actions of social protection (scheme 9)

The legal retirement age for old-age benefits means the age at which old-age benefits become payable, if laid down by legislation or by contract. This age can vary both between countries and within Member States, depending on the sector of activity, occupation, gender and so on. When no legal retirement age exists, a standard retirement age is to be used which means the retirement age offered by the scheme that paid the pension to the beneficiary.

The aim of the module on pension beneficiaries is to calculate the total number of beneficiaries within:

- Each of the previously mentioned seven categories of pensions;
- Each of the four functions grouping these categories (disability, old-age, survivors' and unemployment);
- and, at total level, for the aggregation of the four functions.

3.5 Statistical unit

The statistical unit in the ESSPROS is called social protection scheme. A social protection scheme is a distinct body of rules, supported by one or more institutional units, governing the provision of social protection benefits and their financing. Social Protection in Greece consists of 10 schemes, with regard to Pension Beneficiaries though only five of them are relevant.

1. **Social security funds:** this scheme includes the total of social security funds for health and pension protection (main pension, supplementary pension, and one-off payments) regardless of the supervising agency.
2. **Social security of civil servants:** this scheme includes all of the actions of the state as the employer of civil servants, which are financed through the state budget (usually through the General Accounting Office). In this scheme pensions of civil and military employees are included as well as those employed in local government and the Greek Railways Organization. Also health care

expenditures of the civil servants are included.

3. **Professional collective pensions:** includes collective professional pensions that are disbursed to the employees and which is funded outside the scope of the system of social security funds(by the private insurance companies or other non obligatory-Occupational Insurance funds).
4. **Obligatory employers' contributions to the employees:** it includes actions which are obligatory for the employers without the employees' contribution and are funded by the enterprises themselves.
5. **Other governmental actions of social protection:** it includes actions funded through the State Budget directly by the Ministries. It includes the disbursement of social benefits, as well as the various subsidies that are not directly included in any other scheme.

3.6 Statistical population

The **number of beneficiaries**, expressed exclusively in units, must be provided by social protection scheme ("scheme" level) and for the total of schemes ("all schemes" level). At "all schemes" level, information must be broken down by gender while this breakdown is optional at "scheme" level. In general, the number of pensions received by pensioners differs from the number of pensioners as many pensioners might receive more than one pension. The total number of beneficiaries is, so, defined as the number of persons receiving at least one pension (i.e. a person who receives more than one pension is counted only once).

3.7 Reference area

Greece, total.

3.8 Time coverage

The Pension Beneficiaries module, introduced in 2008, provides data with reference year 2006.

3.9 Base period

2006.

4. Unit of measure

[Top](#)

The number of pension beneficiaries.

5. Reference period

[Top](#)

The collection of stock data for the reference year N refers to the number of pension beneficiaries at the end of the calendar year (31 December of each year).

6. Institutional mandate

[Top](#)

6.1 Legal acts and other agreements

The legal framework concerning the organization and operation of ELSTAT is as follows:

- Law 3832/2010 (Government Gazette No 38, Issue A): "*Hellenic Statistical System Establishment of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) as an Independent Authority*", as amended by article 90 paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Law 3842/2010 (Government Gazette No 58, Issue A): "*Restoration of fiscal justice, confrontation of tax evasion and other provisions*", by article 10 of the Law 3899/2010 (Government Gazette No "*Urgent measures for the implementation of the assistance program of the Greek Economy*", by article 45 of the Law 3943/2011 (Government Gazette No 66, Issue A): "*Combating tax evasion, staffing of auditing services and other provisions falling within the competence of the Ministry of Finance*", by article 22 paragraph 1 of the Law 3965/2011 (Government Gazette No 113, Issue A): "*Operations Reform of the Consignment and Loan Fund, Public Debt Management*

Agency, Public Enterprises and Government bodies, the establishment of the General Secretary of Public Property and other provisions", by article first of the Law 4047/2012 (Government Gazette No 31, Issue A): "Ratification of the Act of Legislative Content "Very urgent measures for the implementation of the Medium-term Fiscal Strategy 2012-2015 and of the State Budget for 2011" and of the Act of Legislative Content "Regulation of very urgent issues for the implementation of law 4024/2011 "Pension provisions, uniform pay scale - grading system, labour reserve and other provisions for the implementation of the Medium-term Fiscal Strategy Framework 2012-1015" and of issues falling within the competence of the Ministries of Administrative Reform and E-Governance, Interior, Finance, Environment, Energy and Climate Change, and of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs and related to the implementation of the Medium-term Fiscal Strategy Framework 2012-2015" and other provisions", by article 323 of the Law 4072/2012 (Government Gazette No 86, Issue A): "Improvement of the business environment New corporate form - Trade Marks - Realtors - Regulating maritime, port and fishing matters and other provisions" and by article 7 paragraph 1 of the Act of Legislative Content dated 18/11/2012 (Government Gazette No 228, Issue A): "Financial rules and other provisions", by Article 93 of the Law 4182/2013 (Government Gazette No 185, Issue A): "Code of charitable estate, inheritances in abeyance and other provisions", by Article 6 paragraph 8 of the Law 4244/2014 (Government Gazette 60, Issue A): "Integration in Greek law of the Council Directive 2013/1/EU of 20 December 2012 amending Directive 93/109/EC as regards certain detailed arrangements for the exercise of the right to vote and stand as a candidate in elections to the European Parliament for citizens of the Union residing in a Member State of which they are not nationals and amendment of law 2196/1994 (A' 41) and other provisions", by Article first subparagraph C.3 of the Law 4254/2014 (Government Gazette No 85, Issue A): "Measures for the support and development of the Greek economy, in the context of the implementation of Law 4046/2012, and other provisions of law" and by Article 33, paragraphs 5a and 5b of the Law 4258/2014 (Government Gazette No 94, Issue A): "Demarcation process and arrangements of matters for streams - arrangements of Urban Planning legislation and other provisions".

- Regulation on the Operation and Administration of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT), 2012, (Government Gazette No 2390, Issue B, 28-8-2012)
- Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council, on the European statistics (Official Journal of the European Union L 87/164).
- Article 14 of the Law 3470/2006 (Government Gazette No 132, Issue A): "National Export Council, tax regulations and other provisions".
- Article 3, paragraph 1c, of the Law 3448/2006 (Government Gazette No 57, Issue A): "For the further use of information coming from the public sector and the settlement of matters falling within the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization".
- European Statistics Code of Practice, adopted by the Statistical Programme Committee on 24 February 2005 and promulgated in the Commission Recommendation of 25 May 2005 on the independence, integrity and accountability of the national and Community statistical Authorities, after its revision, which was adopted on 28 September 2011 by the European Statistical System Committee.
- Presidential Decree 226/2000 (Government Gazette No 195, Issue A): "Organization of the General Secretariat of the National Statistical Service of Greece".
- Articles 4, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 of the Law 2392/1996 (Government Gazette No 60, Issue A): "Access of the General Secretariat of the National Statistical Service of Greece to administrative sources and administrative files, Statistical Confidentiality Committee, settlement of matters concerning the conduct of censuses and statistical works, as well as of matters of the General Secretariat of the National Statistical Service of Greece".

The legal framework concerning the module of Pension Beneficiaries is presented below:

- REGULATION (EC) No 458/2007 of the European Parliament and the Council of 25 April 2007 on the European system of integrated social protection statistics (ESSPROS).

<http://old.eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32007R0458:EL:NOT>

- COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1322/2007 of 12 November 2007 implementing Regulation (EC) No 458/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of the European system of

integrated social protection statistics (ESSPROS) as regards the appropriate formats for transmission, results to be transmitted and criteria for measuring quality for the ESSPROS core system and the module on pension beneficiaries

<http://old.eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32007R1322:EL:NOT>

- COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 10/2008 of 8 January 2008 implementing Regulation (EC) No 458/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European system of integrated social protection statistics (ESSPROS) as regards the definitions, detailed classifications and updating of the rules for dissemination for the ESSPROS core system and the module on pension beneficiaries.

<http://old.eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32008R0010:EL:NOT>

6.2 Data sharing

The Commission (Eurostat) disseminates detailed data by scheme to specific users (national institutions compiling ESSPROS data, Commission departments and international institutions). These specific are allowed to publish data on groups of schemes.

7. Confidentiality

[Top](#)

7.1 Confidentiality policy

The issues concerning the observance of statistical confidentiality by the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) are arranged by articles 6, 7 and 8 of the Law 3832/2010, as amended by article 90 paragraph 8 of Law 3842/2010 and by article 10 of Law 3899/2010, as well as by article 8 of Law 2392/1996, which was brought back into force, in accordance with article 90 paragraph 8 of Law 3842/2010.

Furthermore, ELSTAT disseminates the statistics in compliance with the statistical principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice and in particular with the principle of statistical confidentiality.

Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics (recital 24 and Article 20(4)) of 11 March 2009 (OJ L 87, p. 164), stipulates the need to establish common principles and guidelines ensuring the confidentiality of data used for the production of European statistics and the access to those confidential data with due account for technical developments and the requirements of users in a democratic society.

7.2 Confidentiality – data treatment

- ELSTAT disseminates the statistics in compliance with the statistical principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice and in particular with the principle of statistical confidentiality.
- ELSTAT protects and does not disseminate data it has obtained or it has access to, which enable the direct or indirect identification of the statistical units that have provided them by the disclosure of individual information directly received for statistical purposes or indirectly supplied from administrative or other sources. ELSTAT takes all appropriate preventive measures so as to render impossible the identification of individual statistical units by technical or other means that might reasonably be used by a third party. Statistical data that could potentially enable the identification of the statistical unit are disseminated by ELSTAT if and only if:
 - a) these data have been treated, as it is specifically set out in the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the agencies of the Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS), in such a way that their dissemination does not prejudice statistical confidentiality or
 - b) the statistical unit has given its consent, without any reservations, for the disclosure of data.

- The confidential data that are transmitted by ELSS agencies to ELSTAT are used exclusively for statistical purposes and the only persons who have the right to have access to these data are the personnel engaged in this task and appointed by an act of the President of ELSTAT.
- ELSTAT may grant researchers conducting statistical analyses for scientific purposes access to data that enable the indirect identification of the statistical units concerned. The access is granted provided the following conditions are satisfied:
 - a) an appropriate request together with a detailed research proposal in conformity with current scientific standards have been submitted;
 - b) the research proposal indicates in sufficient detail the set of data to be accessed, the methods of analyzing them, and the time needed for the research;
 - c) a contract specifying the conditions for access, the obligations of the researchers, the measures for respecting the confidentiality of statistical data and the sanctions in case of breach of these obligations has been signed by the individual researcher, by his/her institution, or by the organization commissioning the research, as the case may be, and by ELSTAT.
- Issues referring to the observance of statistical confidentiality are examined by the Statistical Confidentiality Committee (SCC) operating in ELSTAT. The responsibilities of this Committee are to make recommendations to the President of ELSTAT on:
 - the level of detail at which statistical data can be disseminated, so as the identification, either directly or indirectly, of the surveyed statistical unit is not possible;
 - the anonymization criteria for the microdata provided to users;
 - the granting to researchers access to confidential data for scientific purposes.
- The staff of ELSTAT, under any employment status, as well as the temporary survey workers who are employed for the collection of statistical data in statistical surveys conducted by ELSTAT, who acquire access by any means to confidential data, are bound by the principle of confidentiality and must use these data exclusively for the statistical purposes of ELSTAT. After the termination of their term of office, they are not allowed to use these data for any purpose.
- Violation of data confidentiality and/or statistical confidentiality by any civil servant or employee of ELSTAT constitutes the disciplinary offence of violation of duty and may be punished with the penalty of final dismissal.
- ELSTAT, by its decision, may impose a penalty amounting from ten thousand (10,000) up to two hundred thousand (200,000) euros to anyone who violates the confidentiality of data and/or statistical confidentiality. The penalty is always imposed after the hearing of the defense of the person liable for the breach, depending on the gravity and the repercussions of the violation. Any relapse constitutes an aggravating factor for the assessment of the administrative sanction.

8. Release policy

[Top](#)

8.1 Release calendar

No News Release is compiled for ESSPROS data. The release date of the relevant data is not included in the releases calendar.

The European Parliament and Council Regulation No 458/2007 on the European system of integrated social protection statistics (ESSPROS) lays down the deadline for the dissemination of ESSPROS data: by 31

October of year N+2, Eurostat publishes (Annex I, points 1.3 and 2.3) data on social protection expenditure at total schemes level, as well as the total number of beneficiaries of each of the seven categories for the year N. (These data are also available on ELSTAT's webpage).

8.2 Release calendar access

Not applicable.

8.3 User access

In line with the Community legal framework and the European Statistics Code of Practice Eurostat disseminates European statistics on Eurostat's website (see item 10 - 'Dissemination format') respecting professional independence and in an objective, professional and transparent manner in which all users are treated equitably.

No access of any kind to data is granted to users prior to their publication.

9. Frequency of dissemination

[Top](#)

The frequency of dissemination is annual. The Commission (Eurostat) publishes data for all schemes for the year N by 31 October of the year N + 2.

Updates in case of revisions are envisaged.

10. Dissemination format

[Top](#)

10.1 News release

Not compiled.

10.2 Publications

Not compiled.

10.3 On-line database

No

10.4 Micro-data access

Micro-data are not disseminated.

10.5 Other

Users can be informed concerning the survey through the website of ELSTAT, at the following address which is accessible to all interested parties.

http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/PAGE-themes?p_param=A2104

11. Accessibility of documentation

[Top](#)

11.1 Documentation on methodology

The methodology of the survey is laid down by ELSTAT, taking into account the guidelines, instructions and standards of Eurostat.

The manual adopted by Eurostat is the "Esspros Manual and User Guidelines"-Final version 2012- Appendix 3: Methodology of the module on pension beneficiaries.

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/product_details/publication?p_product_code=KS-RA-12-014

11.2 Quality documentation

The quality is documented through data validation by Eurostat and the Member States' obligation to send an annual quality report on pension beneficiaries.

The quality reports on the module on **pension beneficiaries** are annual. The report for the year N must be transmitted to Eurostat by the end of August of the year N+2. On this basis, Eurostat will produce and disseminate a consolidated version of these reports by the end of November of the year N+2.

12. Quality management

[Top](#)

12.1 Quality assurance

Until 2007, the collection of ESSPROS was based on a gentlemen's agreement.

Since then new pieces of legislation were introduced (European Parliament and Council Regulation No 458/2007; Commission Regulation No 1322/2007; Commission Regulation No 10/2008).

Commission Regulation No 1322/2007 lays down the rules for the appropriate formats for transmission and results to be delivered to Eurostat, the criteria to be followed in order to measure quality and the time limits of national quality reports for core system and pension beneficiaries' data.

On the basis of the regulations and as defined by the European Statistical System (ESS), the following quality criteria are applied to the ESSPROS data: relevance, accessibility and clarity, timeliness and punctuality, coherence, comparability and accuracy.

12.2 Quality assessment

ESSPROS statistics have a good level of quality.

The concepts and definitions of the variables and the methodology of the survey are in line with European and international standards and guidelines adapted to the Greek pension system.

The data are stock data and they are collected by the relevant bodies for each system. Administrative sources provide estimates for the number of pensioners which are double counted. The quality of the survey could have been improved if a computer system had been established in order to identify double counting of pension beneficiaries in all Social Security Funds based on AMKA (unique number for insured persons and thus pensioners too).

In addition, data are accompanied with quality reports analysing the accuracy, coherence and comparability of the data, which are transmitted to Eurostat within 3 months from the date of transmission of the relevant data (until 31/08 of each year).

For a more detailed analysis of the quality components of the ESSPROS data please see the "Consolidated Quality Report for the ESSPROS pension beneficiaries" referring to 2011 data, available in the dedicated page on Social protection, under the "Consolidated quality report" section.

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/social_protection/quality/consolidated_quality_reports

13. Relevance

[Top](#)

13.1 User needs

The main user of the data is Eurostat. Other users are ministries, embassies, universities, and other entities or persons for business, educational and research purposes related to social protection and in particular to the Social Security System.

The statistics produced reflect adequately users' needs.

13.2 User satisfaction

Information on users' profile, the degree of satisfaction and other relevant information are provided by relevant survey on Users' Satisfaction conducted by the Statistical Data Dissemination Section.

13.3 Completeness

The completeness of the survey is considered very satisfactory, on the basis of users' needs.

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| 14. Accuracy and reliability | Top |
| 14.1 Overall accuracy | |
| <p>The overall accuracy of the research is satisfactory, since it is a census survey for the two basic systems 'social security funds' and 'Social security of civil servants'. Any problems in accuracy are on account of: a) the incomplete coverage of the schemes 'Collective occupational pensions' and 'Compulsory employers' benefits to employees », which do not affect the final calculations at all schemes level and b) possible errors in assessment of double counting, as there is still no ability to detect the actual number of pensioners without double counting, using for example the unique number of each insured person (AMKA).</p> | |
| 14.2 Sampling error | |
| No sampling errors: this survey is a census survey.,. | |
| 14.3 Non-sampling error | |
| <p>As described above, at point 14.1 errors are detected mainly in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coverage errors. Coverage errors are detected in schemes 'Occupational collective pensions-scheme 7' and 'Employers' obligatory contributions to employees-scheme 8'. The response rate concerning scheme 7 is satisfactory, but there is not full coverage. Concerning scheme 8 there is not a public authority to gather information for all entities covered by this scheme. The effort to collect all the necessary data is based on searching the possible entities on the internet, but there is no certainty on the completeness of this schemes' coverage. • Measurement and processing errors. There are no data available in order to calculate the double counting at each stage of the calculating procedure for the number of pension beneficiaries. Furthermore until 2012, it has not been developed a computer system in order to identify the double counting of pension beneficiaries in all Social Security Funds based on AMKA (unique number for insured persons and thus pensioners too). Therefore, estimates are used in order to calculate the number of pension beneficiaries without double counting at all schemes level. | |
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| 15. Timeliness and punctuality | Top |
| 15.1 Timeliness | |
| <p>According to regulation (EC) No 458/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 April 2007 on the European system of integrated social protection statistics (ESSPROS) the time lag between the reference date (31st of December of reference year) and the moment in which data are transmitted to Eurostat is 17months. According to Regulation, data for the year N should be transmitted in 31 May of year N + 2 along with any possible revisions. The Framework Regulation (Annex 2, point 3) sets the deadline for the Commission to disseminate the ESSPROS pension beneficiaries' data for year N at 'all schemes' level at 31 October of the year N+2. The most recent available data refer to 2011.</p> | |
| 15.2 Punctuality | |
| <p>With regard to data collection with reference year 2011, both quantitative data and pensioners "at all schemes level" data, which are normally collected in recent years, they were published by the Commission in the form of time series with a delay of 21 days with respect to the Regulation deadline.</p> | |

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|---|---------------------|
| 16. Comparability | Top |
| 16.1 Comparability – geographical | |
| <p>Common definitions of variables and common methods of production of data are used for all the geographic regions of Greece and for all the EU countries apply.</p> <p>In particular, in order to achieve geographic comparability within the European zone, Member States should provide Eurostat with information on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Degree of coverage in terms of schemes, - Degree of coverage in terms of beneficiaries; - Cases of non-application of ESSPROS methodology in the form of a comprehensive list | |
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|---|---------------------|
| 17. Coherence | Top |
| 17.1 Coherence cross-domain | |
| No information is available. | |
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| 17.2 Coherence - internal | |
| <p>There is coherence between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The data on Pension Beneficiaries Module and the data on social protection expenditure (quantitative) within the European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS), as well as qualitative information as part of ESSPROS core system in relation with the above mentioned surveys. • There is also coherence among the schemes of social protection. <p>Coherence is confirmed during the validation of data by Eurostat.</p> | |

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|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 18. Cost and burden | Top |
| Not estimated. | |

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| 19. Data revision | Top |
| 19.1 Revision policy | |
| <p>The revision policy of ELSTAT implemented for all the surveys is posted at the following link (on ELSTAT's website):</p> <p>http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ver-1/ESYE/BUCKET/General/ELSTAT_Revisions_Policy_22_5_2013_EN.pdf</p> | |
| 19.2 Revision practice | |
| The revised version of ESSPROS' methodology was introduced in 2010 with reference year the year 2008.. | |

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|---|---------------------|
| 20. Statistical processing | Top |
| 20.1 Source data | |
| The primary data of the survey on the scheme 'social security funds' and 'Social security of civil servants' are based on administrative sources provided by the Ministry of Labour and | |

the GSIS. Data on the scheme 'Other governmental actions of social protection' are collected from the GSIS as well. For the schemes ' Collective occupational pensions ' and ' Obligatory employers' contributions to the employees » surveys are conducted. Data from each entity are collected at an aggregated level and not individually (i.e. number of pensioners of each social security fund).

20.2 Frequency of data collection

Data are collected annually and are transmitted to Eurostat by 31 of May each year as it is required by the Regulation 458/2007 of the European Parliament and Council.

20.3 Data collection

A census survey is conducted in order to collect data from administrative sources. Based on Eurostat's questionnaire, a questionnaire adjusted to the Greek pension system has been developed. The ESSPROS data are collected annually, mainly from administrative sources. The statistical unit is the "social protection scheme". A social protection scheme is defined (see Framework Regulation) as a distinct body of rules, supported by one or more institutional units, governing the provision of social protection benefits and their financing.

The number of beneficiaries, expressed exclusively in units, must be provided by social protection scheme ("scheme" level) and for the total of schemes ("all schemes" level). Each of the 7 pension categories in the definition is further split into two subcategories, non means-tested and means-tested pensions, so that the total number of elementary (they are not obtained by aggregation of other items in the questionnaire but rather directly from data sources) items for which data are to be provided is 14.

Data providers supply data to Eurostat via the Single Entry Point (SEP) with eDamis, in specific questionnaires in EXCEL, with rows corresponding to the detailed classification of receipts, expenditure and benefits (please refer to appendix 1 of the ESSPROS Manual) and columns corresponding to the statistical units (one column per scheme plus one column for the total of schemes).

20.4 Data validation

Before publishing the data, consistent validation checks are carried out by Eurostat. The process of validation is based on the evolution of times series and on the update concerning any amendments in the legislation in the field of social protection.

20.5 Data compilation

Data are collected from each one of the five above mentioned schemes. Then data are subject to logical checks, they are checked for compliance with Eurostat methodology of Eurostat and finally they are tabulated.

20.6 Adjustment

No adjustments are made.

21. Comment

[Top](#)