

Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS v2.0)

(user oriented)

Country: Greece

Compiling agency: ELSTAT

Domain name: European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS) Core system

ELSTAT metadata
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1. Contact	Top
1.1 Contact organisation	Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT)
1.2 Contact organisation unit	Division of Social Statistics/ Health, Social Security and Protection Statistics Section
1.3 Contact name	Karvountzis Nikolaos, Antoniou Anna, Kerasidou Olga, Krasadakis Aggelos, Polychroniadou Maria.
1.4 Contact person function	Recording of revenue-expenditure of the social protection systems according to the methodology of the European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics-ESSPROS; monitoring of the implementation of the relevant methodology; compilation of the quality

	report; provision of clarifications requested by Eurostat following the data transmissions and monitoring the survey's improvement.
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2. Metadata update

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2.1 Metadata last certified	28/01/2019
2.2 Metadata last posted	28/01/2019
2.3 Metadata last update	28/01/2019

3. Statistical presentation

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3.1 Data description

The purpose of the survey is to record and present statistical data on social protection in Greece, in accordance with the methodology of the European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics-ESSPROS, so as the relevant data are comparable at international and European level. In Greece, data on the recording and presentation of social protection activities, in accordance with harmonized and internationally accepted rules, are available since 1990. In 2014 the data collection and classification methods were revised and this revision took effect from 2000 onwards.

Data refer to the revenue and expenditure of the Core system of social protection, which constitutes a basic part of the European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics and refer to all of the 8 functions of the social protection system, i.e., the purpose for which revenue and expenditure are realized.

1. Sickness / Health Care

2. Disability

3. Old age

4. Survivors

5. Family/Children

6. Unemployment

7. Housing

8. Social exclusion

The methodology for recording the above mentioned revenues and expenditures is described in the relevant manual of Eurostat, which is available at the following link:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3859598/7766647/KS-GQ-16-010-EN-N.pdf/3fe2216e-13b0-4ba1-b84f-a7d5b091235f>

Data on revenue-expenditure are posted on the website of ELSTAT, under the statistical domain *Population and Social Conditions* and more specifically at the following link:

<http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/SHE24/->

Expenditure data are presented in one abridged table and in 8 analytical Tables, by function. In each one of the 8 analytical tables, one per function, expenditures are further distinguished with respect to:

- income criterion of the beneficiary of the transfer (means tested) or universal benefit which is independent of the income (non means-tested)
- the nature of the benefit (if in cash or in kind)
- the type of payment of the financial aid (periodic or lump sum)

The abridged table contains the total expenditure for each function in the form of pecuniary amounts in millions of euro.

The revenues of ESSPROS system that finance the benefits derive from the social contribution of employers-employees, from the State contribution/funding or from other type of revenue.

Revenue data are presented in one table per revenue category - contribution of employers/employees, State contribution/funding or other.

The institutional entities that provide the benefits include public agencies (Ministries, Legal Entities of Public Law, Legal Entities of Private Law), non-governmental organisations, the Church, etc. The benefits are targeted to physical persons–social groups that are exposed to the risks covered by the above described functions and are eligible for the provision of a specific benefit.

The information on the recording and the monitoring of social protection revenue and expenditure is grouped into ESSPROS “schemes”. In Greece this information was organised into 11 schemes (non active) for the years 1990-1999 and after the revision for the years from 2000 onwards there are 19 schemes, as follows (numbering starts from 12):

12. Basic and supplementary pensions by Social Security Funds (SSF)
13. Lump sum pension benefits provided by Social Security Funds
14. Civil servants main pension benefits
15. Pensioners Social Solidarity Benefit (non-contributory pensions)
16. Benefits for accidents at work and professional diseases
17. Sickness, maternity and other benefits by Social Security Funds
18. Health care benefits
19. Unemployment benefits
20. Non- contributory Family benefits
21. Optional occupational insurance
22. Mandatory occupational insurance
23. Local Government
24. Housing benefits
25. Other Central Government social protection benefits
26. Social assistance benefits in kind (mainly accommodation)
27. Church and other non-Government organisations
28. Employers provided statutory benefits in the Private Sector
29. Employers (State) provided statutory benefits for the Civil Servants
30. Private insurance benefits provided by employers to employees through group policies

3.2 Classification system

Regulation (EC) No 10/2008 of the 8th January 2008 for the implementation of the Regulation (EC) No 458/2007 of the European Parliament and the Council regarding ESSPROS lays down the main concepts and classifications that are used in ESSPROS.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A32008R0010>

Detailed definitions and classifications can be found in the ESSPROS manual “ESSPROS Manual and user guidelines-2016 Edition”.

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/KS-GQ-16-010>

3.3 Sector coverage

The Social Protection schemes.

3.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

The European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics-ESSPROS is a tool for statistical recording and monitoring, enabling comparisons between national data on social protection among the EU Member States. The conventional definition of social protection is as follows:

“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 neither a simultaneous reciprocal arrangement nor an individual arrangement is involved. The list of risks or needs that may give rise to social protection is, by convention, as follows: sickness and/or health care; disability; old age; survivorship; family/children; unemployment; housing; and social exclusion not elsewhere classified”.

In other words, ESSPROS is a common frame providing the 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 includes additional statistical information on specific aspects of social protection and are the following:

1. Module on Pension Beneficiaries
2. Module on Net Social Benefits.

The Core System of the social protection encompasses all of the 8 risks or needs, briefly described in 3.1, which are classified as functions and are described analytically as follows:

1. **Sickness/medical care** a) benefits in cash that counterbalance in part or in total the income loss which is due to the temporary inability of a person to work which is due to sickness or injury b) health care that is provided in the context of social protection in order to maintain, restore or improve the health of the protected persons,
2. **Disability:** a) benefits that ensure income to individuals which have not yet reach retirement age stipulated by law and which do not have the ability to provide employed labour due to a physical or mental damage b) benefits that provide for rehabilitation services required by the very nature of the specific disability c) benefits that provide goods and services besides medical coverage to persons with disabilities.
3. **Old age:** a) benefits that ensure income provision to the insured persons that leave the labour market due to age b) benefits that ensure the provision of a specific level of income to insured persons that have reached a specified age limit c) benefits that provide goods and services required by the personal or social conditions of the elderly.
4. **Survivors:** a) benefits that ensure a temporary or permanent income to individuals that have not yet reached the legal limit of retirement but have lost a husband or some other close relative that provided the financial means for them b) benefits that remunerate survivors for funeral expenses and for any adverse situation they find themselves into because of a death incident of a member of their family c) benefits that provide goods and services to survivors that have establish a claim towards these benefits
5. **Family/children:** a) benefits that provide financial support to households for children's nutritional needs b) benefits that provide financial support to individuals that maintain relatives excluding children c) benefits that provide for social services aiming especially to the support and protection of family and especially of children
6. **Unemployment:** a) benefits that replace in part or in total the income lost of an employed person because of the loss of his remunerated employment b) benefits that ensure subsistence

income to persons that are introduced for the first or additional time to the labour market c) benefits that counterbalance the income loss due to partial unemployment d) benefits that replace in part or in total the income loss of an older employed person who is retired from remunerated employment before the completion of the legal retirement age due to redundancies to employment positions for economic reasons e) benefits that contribute to educational expenses or to the supplementary education of persons that seek employment f) benefits that provide support to unemployed persons in the coverage of travel expenses or to their relocation in order to find employment g) benefits for the provision of proper goods and services.

7. **Housing:** the specific function consists of Government interventions aiming at supporting households in order to cope their housing needs. .
8. **Social exclusion:** refers to 'socially excluded' or to those who face the risk of social exclusion and includes actions that are not covered by any other function. Since this definition is wide enough, target groups are mainly the homeless, immigrants, refugees, drug-addicts or alcoholics, victims of criminal acts etc.

The above mentioned expenditures regarding the 8 functions are further distinguished with regard to the nature, the kind and the type of benefits as follows :

Mean tested benefit: yes or no

Kind of benefit (in cash or in kind)

Type of payment of the financial (periodical or lump sum).

3.5 Statistical unit

The main unit in the ESSPROS system is the "scheme of social protection". The scheme (or system) is a set of specific rules which is supported by one or more institutional units and which govern the provision and the funding of social protection benefits. In Greece there are 19 social protection schemes which are analyzed as follows:

- 12. Basic and supplementary pensions by Social Security Funds:** it includes all the basic and supplementary pensions paid by the Social Security Funds.
- 13. Lump sum pension benefits provided by Social Security Funds:** it includes the lump sum amounts paid by the SSF to civil servants and other employees of the private sector when they retire.
- 14. Civil servants main pension benefits:** it includes the main pensions of the civil servants.
- 15. Pensioners Social Solidarity Benefit (non-contributory pensions):** it includes the expenditure of social security benefits paid to pensioners of the private and public sector, which are funded by the state in accordance with specific eligibility criteria.
- 16. Benefits for accidents at work and professional diseases:** it includes benefits and pensions paid by the SSF to beneficiaries of the public sector in case of work accident or work related disease.
- 17. Sickness, maternity and other benefits by Social Security Funds:** it includes sickness benefits provided by the SSF or the Manpower Organisation, death/burial benefits and other family benefits paid to beneficiaries of the private or public sector and benefits in kind (children summer camps, nursery schools, social tourism, etc.) granted to beneficiaries of the private sector.
- 18. Health care benefits** it includes health expenditure mostly on in-patient and out-patient health care, medicine expenditure from the general government.
- 19. Unemployment benefits** it includes unemployment benefits.
- 20. Non- contributory Family benefits** it includes lump sum family benefits granted by the State to families with children.
- 21. Optional occupational insurance** it includes lump sum benefits and hospital of death allowances provided by the optional occupational insurance funds.

22. Mandatory occupational insurance it includes pensions provided by the mandatory occupational insurance funds.

23. Local Government it includes welfare benefits and support for reconciling family with work life (nursery schools, kindergartens, etc.)

24. Housing benefits it includes benefits pertaining to housing (loans, interest-rate subsidies, etc.) in accordance with specific eligibility criteria

25. Other Central Government social protection benefits: it includes social benefits by the State, e.g. war pensions, heating subsidies, support to earthquake or flood victims, etc.

26. Social assistance benefits in kind (mainly accommodation) it includes support in kind granted by the Social Welfare Centres and other Legal Entities of Public Law supervised, mainly, by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

27. Church and other non-Government organisations it includes social welfare benefits provided by entities outside general government.

28. Employers provided statutory benefits in the Private Sector it includes obligatory benefits paid by the employers to the employees of the private sector (without any contribution by the employees), funded by the companies themselves.

29. Employers (State) provided statutory benefits for the Civil Servants it includes obligatory benefits paid by the State as an employer to its employees - without any contribution by the employees.

30. Private insurance benefits provided by employers to employees through group policies

3.6 Statistical population

Social Protection system in Greece.

3.7 Reference area

Greece total.

3.8 Time coverage

The survey on the recording of revenue and expenditure of Social Protection includes results since 1990 on an annual basis. The system for the recording of social protection benefits applied for the years 1990-1999 used a different classification system (schemes 1-11) and it differs from the system used from 2000 onwards (schemes 12-30).

3.9 Base period

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4. Unit of measure

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All variables are expressed in million euro.

5. Reference period

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The results for every reference year (N) are produced at N+18.

The latest available data refer the year 2016.

6. Institutional mandate

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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 and in force
- **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 is detailed in the following link:

<http://www.statistics.gr/en/legal-framework>

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) is an Independent Authority supervised by the Hellenic Parliament and is responsible for the compilation and dissemination of official statistics. Data recording is fully harmonized with EU legislation.

The main legislative act is Regulation (EC) 458/2007 of the European Parliament and the Council of 25 April 2007, which lays down the methodology based on common standards, definitions, classifications and accounting rules.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32007R0458&from=EN>

Furthermore, Commission Regulation (EC) 10/2008 of the Commission (08/01/2008) for the implementation of the Regulation (EC) 458/2007 regarding ESSPROS S) 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://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32008R0010&from=EN>

Finally, 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://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EL/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32007R1322&from=EN>

6.2 Data sharing

Pursuant to Regulation 458/2007 ELSTAT transmits the results to Eurostat on a yearly basis and Eurostat disseminates detailed data on expenditures and revenues by scheme to users (e.g., national agencies collecting ESSPROS data, Commission units and international organizations, etc.). These users can publish groups of schemes.

7. Confidentiality

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7.1 Confidentiality - policy

The issues concerning the observance of statistical confidentiality by the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) are governed by articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Law 3832/2010 as in force, by Articles 8, 10 and 11(2) of the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the agencies of the Hellenic Statistical System and by Articles 10 and 15 of the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT.

More specifically:

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.

<http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistical-confidentiality>

7.2 Confidentiality - data treatment

➤ 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 defence 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

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8.1 Release calendar

From 2017 onwards (reference year 2014) ELSTAT compiles a Press Release and the publication date of the press release is included in the Press Releases Calendar (the data are posted on the website of ELSTAT).

Regulation (EC) 458/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council on ESSPROS lays down the deadline for the transmission of ESSPROS data by Eurostat, i.e. until the 31st of October of the year N+2 (Annex of the Regulation, Sections 1.3 and 2.3) at "all schemes" level for the calendar reference year N.

8.2 Release calendar access

Users can have access to the press releases calendar at the following link:

<http://www.statistics.gr/en/calendar>

8.3 User access

In accordance with the EU legal framework of the "European Statistics Code of Practice" Eurostat/ ELSTAT announce all the national statistical data on its website (see section 1.1.) fully respecting professional independence, in an objective, professional and transparent manner in which all users are treated equally.

All details are defined by Eurostat protocol on objective access of users to Eurostat data.

The dissemination policy of ELSTAT is described at the following link:

http://www.statistics.gr/documents/20181/1609796/Dissemination_Policy_of_ELSTAT_en.pdf/8c399d64-9611-4d55-b514-56ea51ac1ecf

Users have no kind of access to the data prior to their announcement.

9. Frequency of dissemination

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The survey data are disseminated on a yearly basis. ELSTAT publishes the data in accordance with the Press Releases Calendar. Eurostat publishes data on "all schemes" level of all the Member States until the 31st October of the year N+2, on the basis of the data that refer to the calendar year N.

10. Accessibility and clarity	Top
10.1 News release	
ELSTAT compiles an annual Press Release (in Greek and in English) and publishes analytical tables on its website, http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/SHE24/	
10.2 Publications	
Data on the percentage distribution of social protection expenditure are included in the publication of ELSTAT "Greece in figures" http://www.statistics.gr/el/greece-in-figures	
10.3 On-line database	
Not available.	
<u>10.3.1 Data tables - consultations</u>	
Total access to the website as regards the above survey for the year 2016 amounts to 1781 hits. There is not the possibility to distinguish between consultations of data and consultations of metadata.	
10.4 Micro-data access	
Micro-data can be supplied, upon request and following the relevant approval, by: Hellenic Statistical Authority Division of Statistical Information and Publications 46 Pireos and Eponiton St. PO 80847 185 10 Piraeus (tel. +20 2131352022, fax +302131352312, e-mail: datadissem@statistics.gr) Data confidentiality is always ensured (Section 7).	
10.5 Other	
Users can be informed on the survey data on ELSTAT's web page, at the following electronic address to which all the interested parties have access. http://dlib.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/	
Moreover, Eurostat published the relevant data at the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database	
<u>10.5.1 Metadata – consultations</u>	
See section 10.3.1 above	
10.6 Documentation on methodology	
Data collection until the year 2007 was conducted on the basis of on the methodology described in the ESSPROS Manual 1996. During the data collection for the year 2008, the last version of the methodology was renamed to ESSPROS Manual 2008 Edition– The European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS), implementing the decisions of the European Commission and the European Parliament on ESSPROS Regulation (see Section 6.1 above). Finally, from 2016 onwards the current methodology is in accordance with the latest version of the ESSPROS Manual 2016 Edition - The European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS), which is available on the official webpage of Eurostat http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3859598/7766647/KS-GQ-16-010-EN-N.pdf/3fe2216e-13b0-4ba1-b84f-a7d5b091235f	

10.6.1 Metadata completeness – rate

Metadata completeness rate amounts to 100%.

10.7 Quality documentation

Quality is documented through the process of data validation, which is conducted by Eurostat (Validation Report – not available to the users) and the Member State's obligation to transmit an annual quality report (Quality Report Core System) to Eurostat.

The quality report for the reference year N must be transmitted to Eurostat until the end of September of the year N+2. On this basis, Eurostat compiles and disseminates (along the national quality reports) a consolidated quality report until the end of November of N+2.

Moreover, Eurostat requires that the quantitative data of ESSPROS are accompanied by Qualitative Information, which describes the legal framework on the basis of which the social protection benefits are provided.

11. Quality management

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11.1 Quality assurance

Regulation 1322/2007 lays down the rules for the formats for the transmission of data to Eurostat, the quality criteria and the deadlines for submission of the national quality reports of the data on the Core System and the Module for Pension Beneficiaries.

In accordance with EU Regulations and as laid down in the European Statistical System –ESS, the ESSPROS data adhere to the following quality criteria: relevance, accuracy and reliability, timeliness and punctuality, coherence and comparability.

In general, ELSTAT applies a Quality Policy, which is posted on its website at the following link:

<http://www.statistics.gr/documents/20181/2571f853-1e37-46da-9387-595bbe2a162b>

11.2 Quality assessment

The statistical data of ESSPROS are characterised by a satisfactory level of quality. The majority of the data are on census-level and are collected from Social Security Funds, the General Secretariat of Information Systems, the National Accounts Division, private insurance companies, the General Accounting Office and the Ministry of Labour, etc. The data on employers' benefits in the public and private sector and of Welfare institutions are based on estimations.

The primary data used in the ESSPROS statistics derive from various data sources (administrative sources, surveys, etc) and therefore accuracy depends of the data sources and the estimation methods used.

The standardization of the statistical product is achieved through the definition of the form, as well as through the time schedule of data transmission as stipulated by the Regulation. The statistical product undergo, through Eurostat's validation process, to coherence and integrity checks, in order to ensure quality. Furthermore, data are accompanied by quality reports, where accuracy, coherence and comparability are analysed and which are transmitted to Eurostat within 3 months from the data transmission (until 30/09 of each year).

For a more detailed analysis of the quality of ESSPROS data, users can consult the 'Consolidated Quality Report for the Core System of ESSPROS', which refers to 2015 data and which is available on Eurostat's webpage under the section 'Social Protection' / Quality Report for the Core System.

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/728032/2989739/CQRCS_2015.pdf/30b7f0b4-c083-44f0-8db0-77789e5c25b5

12. Relevance Top
12.1 User needs The main data user is Eurostat. Among other users are Ministries, Embassies, Universities, and other agencies or individual users that are involved with Social Protection and specifically with Social Security System for professional, educational and research purposes.
12.2 User satisfaction Data on users' profile, users' satisfaction and other relevant information are provided on the basis of the Users Satisfaction Survey which is conducted semi-annually by the Statistical Data Dissemination Section of ELSTAT, available at the following link: http://www.statistics.gr/en/user-satisfaction-survey
12.3 Data completeness Not assessed.

13. Accuracy and reliability Top
13.1 Overall accuracy Overall accuracy of the survey is considered satisfactory since the biggest part of the survey is on census-level. The accuracy of ESSPROS data is directly connected with the accuracy of the data received by the relevant data sources, (Social Security Funds, General Accounting Office, Banks, etc). Any accuracy issues are mostly related mainly with the schemes, whose data are based on estimations (employers' statutory benefits of the private and public sector, Welfare institutions).
13.2 Sampling error The survey is mostly a census survey. In the few cases, where there is sampling the relevant errors have not been estimated.
13.3 Non-sampling error A big part of ESSPROS data are collected from specific agencies on the basis of a questionnaire (Social Security Funds, Ministry of Labour, General Secretariat of Information Systems, Private Insurance Companies, Banks, General Government Agencies). Any non-sampling errors may be on account either of non-response of the above-mentioned agencies or of errors during data entry or data processing, or even of some deficiencies in the structure of ESSPROS questionnaires. <u>a. Unit non – response</u> Not available <u>b. Item non - response</u> Not available <u>13.3.1 Coverage error</u> Not applicable <u>13.3.1.1 Over-coverage – rate</u> No <u>13.3.1.2 Common units – proportion</u>

Not applicable

13.3.2 Measurement error

Not available

13.3.3 Processing error

Not available

13.3.4 Model assumption error

Not applicable

14. Timeliness and punctuality

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14.1 Timeliness

In compliance with Regulation 458/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the time lag between the reference year of the ESSPROS survey and the date of their transmission to Eurostat is 18 months. The data of the year N must be transmitted to Eurostat not later than the 30th of June of year N+2, along with any revisions for the previous years. After the data validation by Eurostat, the data are published approximately 22 months after the end of the reference period. The latest available data are those of the year 2016.

14.2 Punctuality

Data are produced and disseminated in the predetermined date in accordance with Regulation 458/2007 and the Commission implementing Regulation 10/2008. In compliance with this Regulation the data for the reference year N must be transmitted to Eurostat not later than the 30th June of the year N+2, along with any revisions for the previous years. As stipulated in Commission Regulation 10/2008, data by scheme can also be published, without any predetermined deadline.

15. Coherence and comparability

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15.1 Comparability - geographical

Common definitions and common methods for the production of ESSPROS data are used in all the regions of Greece and in all EU Member States.

More specifically, in order to achieve geographical comparability within the EU, the Member States must provide Eurostat with the following information:

- i. Coverage rate in terms of schemes
- ii. Coverage rate in terms of beneficiaries
- iii. Cases of non-application of ESSPROS methodology in the form of a comprehensive list

15.1.1 Assymetry for mirror flows statistics – coefficient

Not applicable.

15.2 Comparability over time

There is no problem as regards the comparability of data over time, for the period 2000-2016, since common definitions and common compilation methods are implemented.

15.3 Coherence cross-domain

ELSTAT does not conduct any other survey covering the total of social protection. Part of the data on revenue and benefits of SSFs can be compared with the results of the Survey on General Government Agencies, conducted by National Accounts.

15.3.1 Coherence – sub annual and annual statistics

Not applicable.

15.3.2 Coherence – National Accounts

The data on revenue and benefits of SSFs are not fully comparable with the relevant data of the Survey on General Government Entities since there are revenues and expenditures which are not included in the concept of “social protection” on the basis of ESSPROS definitions. In addition, the data of SSFs, for the purposes of ESSPROS, are collected one year after the Survey on General Government Agencies, conducted by National Accounts.

15.4 Coherence - internal

Internal coherence is observed for:

1. Data of the survey on pension beneficiaries and the data from the survey on social protection expenditure (total functions) conducted in the context of the European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS)
2. Social Protection Schemes, since common definitions are used for specific variables, e.g. pensions, contributions, etc.
3. A big part of the data is collected with the use of a specific questionnaire, ensuring consistency in the recording and classification of data to ESSPROS codes, etc.

16. Cost and burden

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Not estimated.

17. Data revision

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17.1 Revision policy

The Revision policy implemented for all the surveys is posted on the website of ELSTAT at the following link:

http://www.statistics.gr/documents/20181/1195539/ELSTAT_Revisions_Policy_25_10_2018_EN.pdf/604b51dd-5dc2-4c7c-8b74-2766bda16e5e

17.2 Revision practice

The revised edition of ESSPROS methodology was first used for all Member-States from 2010 onwards for the data of 2008.

Additionally, ELSTAT revised the data collection and the classification methods of the Greek data and this revision took effect from 2000 onwards

18. Statistical processing

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18.1 Source data

Primary data derive from administrative data sources and data collected through surveys. Data are collected with the use of questionnaires transmitted to Social Security Funds, insurance companies, public agencies,

etc. Moreover, there are administrative data from the General Accounting Office, the General Secretariat of Information Systems and other agencies.

18.2 Frequency of data collection

Data are collected on a yearly basis and are transmitted to Eurostat on 30 June of every year in accordance with Regulation No 458/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

18.3 Data collection

Data are mainly collected through the filling in of questionnaires which are sent by post or electronically. Moreover, some data derive from the State budget/budget outturn, once such data are published by the General Accounting Office. Some of the data derive from competent Sections of ELSTAT. Finally, data are also collected from private insurance companies via a relevant survey.

18.4 Data validation

Before the publication of the data, validation checks are conducted by Eurostat. The validation process is based on the evolution of the time series, on the quality reports and on the relevant notifications concerning amendments in national legislation on social protection.

18.5 Data compilation

The data are collected from administrative sources (SSF, General Accounting Office, General Secretariat of Information Systems, etc) and after the completion of logical checks and checks based on Eurostat's methodology, they are tabulated.

18.5.1 Imputation – rate

No.

18.6 Adjustment

No.

18.6.1 Seasonal adjustment

Not applicable

19. Comment

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