

Minutes of the 5th User Conference

On Wednesday 10 December 2014, the Hellenic Statistical Authority held, on its premises in Piraeus, the 5th Annual User Conference in accordance with its Annual Statistical Work Programme.

Thirty-eight (38) representatives of the public and private sector participated in the Conference, together with representatives from embassies and educational and research institutes. ELSTAT was represented by its President and the heads of the two General Directorates, as well as the heads of the competent Divisions and Sections of ELSTAT, in order to record users' comments and requests and to provide, if necessary, answers to questions made by users on the production of statistics.

The president of ELSTAT, Mr. Andreas Georgiou, welcomed the participants and presented the main achievements of ELSTAT, from its establishment until today, in each of the main axes of its operation.

Subsequently, the Head of the Division of Organisation, Methodology and International Relations, Mr. Ioannis Moschakis, presented the actions of ELSTAT in response to users' requests made during the four previous user conferences, as regards both the completed actions and those undertaken or planned.

After the presentation of these actions, the President of ELSTAT asked the participants to submit their comments. The comments and requests which were made are outlined below by participating agency and representative.¹

- **Embassy of the Czech Republic in Athens**

(Mrs. Jitka Gadzursova)

- The representative of the Embassy of the Czech Republic highlighted the need to compile interactive tables with external trade data broken down by product and country, in accordance with the standards of Eurostat's database.

¹ Please note that the comments of the representatives do not represent, in all cases, the positions of their agencies.

- **Ministry of Finance**

(Mr. Georgios Manolas)

- Mr. Manolas acknowledged the considerable progress achieved by ELSTAT and the utility of user conferences.
- He stressed the need to produce seasonally adjusted short-term indices (Industrial Production Index, Retail Sales Index, etc.).
- He also highlighted the lack of time series for national accounts, for the years before 1995.

- **National Centre for Social Research (EKKE)**

(Mrs. Natalia Spyropoulou)

- The representative of EKKE stressed the importance of the planned increase in the sample size of the Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) for the production of results at the level of the Region (NUTS 2).

- **University of Patras**

(Mr. Stavros Chatzimarinkis)

- Mr. Chatzimarinkis highlighted the importance of the availability of statistics on tourism expenditure (structure) at a lower geographical level (e.g., Municipality).
- He also asked for a more timely dissemination of survey results to users and dissemination of inter-regional data.

- **Research Institute for Tourism (ITEP)**

(Mr. Georgios Soklis)

- ELSTAT was asked to investigate the discrepancy observed between the results of the survey on tourist arrivals and overnight stays conducted by ELSTAT and the results of the Border Statistical Survey conducted by the Bank of Greece.

- ELSTAT was also requested to provide on its portal input-output tables of the Greek economy, tables on merchandise trade and margins as well as fixed capital.

(Mrs. Sofia Panousi)

- Mrs. Panousi stressed the need for a utilitarian database in ELSTAT, supported by any browser, from which users will be able to produce the desired time series.

- **Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (KEELPNO)**

(Mr. Michalis Katsaros)

- ELSTAT was requested to provide data on mortality by cause of death, in accordance with the International Classification of Diseases - ICD 10.

- **Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Athens**

(Mr. Peter Michalko)

- Mr. Michalko highlighted the active role of ELSTAT within the European and international statistical community and congratulated ELSTAT on its successful presidency of the Council Working Party on Statistics (CWPS).
- ELSTAT was asked to provide its expertise on issues concerning the Presidency of the Council Working Party on Statistics, in light of the assumption of the presidency of the above working party by Slovakia in 2016.

- **Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving (CRES)**

(Mr. Markos Kapisiris)

- Mr. Kapisiris noted the discrepancies observed between the statistics produced by different agencies (e.g., data on energy consumption) and the need to address this issue.
- ELSTAT was asked to provide information on the time schedule of actions, pursuant to European Regulations, aimed at the production of statistics on energy and consumption and at their quality assurance.

- **Centre for the development of educational policy (KANEP) of the Greek General Confederation of Labour (GSEE)**

(Mr. Nikolaos Paizis)

- The representative of KANEP acknowledged the great progress achieved by ELSTAT during the last years.
- He also stressed the need to develop specific and detailed national statistics in the field of education, at a lower geographical level than Greece as a whole and the Region.
- ELSTAT was requested to create a “hub” on education statistics within the Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS), including both national and European statistics.
- He also stressed the lack of data on post-secondary non-tertiary education for the years after 2008.
- ELSTAT was asked to compile and post on its website data on consumption expenditure and living expenditure of students residing in another city than the place of their usual residence.
- ELSTAT was requested to provide accounting expenditure data on education, analytically for all the geographical levels, such as expenditure data on training, research, etc.
- The representative of KANEP stressed the need for cooperation between the producers of statistics within ELSTAT as well as among ELSS agencies, where ELSTAT will have the coordinating role, in order to ensure comparability of statistics, as well as the importance of concluding Memoranda of Cooperation between the ELSS agencies for the production of statistics.
- He also stressed the need to ensure the availability of resources (financial and human) that are necessary for the materialization of the statistical works of ELSTAT.

- **KLIMAKA — Centre for the prevention of suicide**

(Mr. Aristeidis Violatzis)

- Mr. Violatzis thanked ELSTAT for the prompt response to their requests for data.
- ELSTAT was requested to record, officially, suicidality in Greece and to explore the possibility to retrieve information concerning any pre-existing disease of the deceased from the death certificate.
- ELSTAT was asked to record data on suicide attempts as well.
- ELSTAT was asked to compile estimates on the direct and indirect economic cost of suicides in Greece.

- **University of Athens**

(Mr. Kleon Tsimpos)

- Mr. Tsimpos expressed full satisfaction for the services provided by ELSTAT.
- ELSTAT was asked to start issuing again the publications “Vital Statistics of Greece” and “Monthly Statistical Bulletin» which have been discontinued.

- **Bank of Greece**

(Mrs. Pinelopi Zioutou)

- ELSTAT was requested to produce statistical data on the number of employed persons by branch of economic activity, on the basis of quarterly national accounts.
- ELSTAT was asked to compile data on permanent employees (civil servants) in the public sector.

- **Ministry of Development and Competitiveness**

(Mr. Ioannis Vintzilaos)

- Mr. Vintzilaos acknowledged the progress achieved as regards the posting of metadata for each statistical survey/work on the portal of ELSTAT.

- ELSTAT was requested to upgrade the database on its portal, in terms of presentation of the results by statistical survey/work, according to Eurostat standards.

- **Agricultural University of Athens**

(Mr. Stavros Zografakis)

- ELSTAT was asked to provide information on the degree of participation of immigrants in the 2011 Population and Housing Census and, more generally, in the surveys of ELSTAT.

- **Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV)**

(Mr. Athanasios Prinsipas)

- Mr. Prinsipas highlighted the necessity to provide updated statistical data on enterprises.
- ELSTAT was asked to provide a timetable for the release of the results of the survey on innovation in Greek enterprises (2010-2012), which was conducted by the National Documentation Centre in co-operation with ELSTAT.

- **Presentation of the application “Panorama of Greek Census Data, 1991-2011”**

(Mr. Thomas Maloutas)

- Presentation of the web application “Panorama of Greek Census Data, 1991-2011”, which is the product of cooperation of the National Centre for Social Research (EKKE) and ELSTAT. This application is intended to take full advantage of the vast quantity of statistical information available from the three Population and Housing Censuses conducted in 1991, 2001 and 2011. The possibilities and services offered by this application were presented and demonstrated in practice regarding the correlation of variables, their tabulation, the mapping of the selected variables or of any spatial data. The application is expected to be completed by the beginning of 2015 and will be made available to users via the portal of ELSTAT and the website of EKKE.

ELSTAT requested clarifications, where necessary, on users' requests and provided explanations and information on how ELSTAT is considering the relevant statistical issues and particularly on how and when ELSTAT intends to respond to the specific users' requests.