



HELLENIC REPUBLIC



HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY

ELSTAT
Dissemination Policy

PIRAEUS, SEPTEMBER 2016

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT, in the framework of its mission to safeguard and continuously improve the quality of the country's statistics, strives, inter alia, to produce statistics that are useful –relevant– for public policy, the economy, and more broadly the life of the people.

Statistics aim at informing the public and those who formulate policies and at promoting the public interest; therefore they constitute a public good. For that reason, ELSTAT provides its statistical product to all interested users (researchers, individuals, public and private organizations and entities, media, public administration, etc.). ELSTAT disseminates its statistics by observing the statistical principles of “professional independence”, “impartiality”, “objectivity”, “reliability”, “statistical confidentiality” and “cost-effectiveness”, as these principles are defined in the provisions of Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council, as amended by Regulation 2015/759 and are developed in the European Statistics Code of Practice.

This policy includes the rules and principles implemented by ELSTAT for the dissemination of its produced statistics. These rules and principles have been developed on the basis of the national and European legislation in force and the existing European and international principles on the dissemination of statistics.

1. DEFINITIONS

The term “*professional independence*” means that statistics must be developed, produced and disseminated in an independent manner, particularly as regards the selection of techniques, definitions, methodologies and sources to be used, and the timing and content of all forms of dissemination, and that the performance of those tasks is free from any pressures from political or interest groups or from Union or national authorities.

The term “*impartiality*” means that statistics must be developed, produced and disseminated in a neutral manner, and that all users must be given equal treatment.

The term “*objectivity*” means that statistics must be developed, produced and disseminated in a systematic, reliable and unbiased manner; it implies the use of professional and ethical standards, and that the policies and practices followed are transparent to users and survey respondents.

The term “*reliability*” means that statistics must measure as faithfully, accurately and consistently as possible the reality that they are designed to represent and implying that scientific criteria are used for the selection of sources, methods and procedures.

The term “*statistical confidentiality*” means the protection of confidential data related to single statistical units which are obtained directly for statistical purposes or indirectly from administrative or other sources and implying the prohibition of use for non-statistical purposes of the data obtained and of their unlawful disclosure.

The term “*cost effectiveness*” means that the costs of producing statistics must be in proportion to the importance of the results and the benefits sought, that resources must be optimally used and the response burden minimised. The information requested shall, where possible, be readily extractable from available records or sources.

By “*dissemination*” is meant the activity of making statistics accessible to users.

By “*anonymized microdata*” are meant microdata of ELSTAT’s surveys that have been anonymized in accordance with anonymization criteria, predefined or not by ELSTAT, so that the direct or indirect identification of surveyed units is not possible.

By “*confidential data for scientific purposes*” are meant anonymized data but which can theoretically allow indirect identification of the statistical units (surveyed units).

2. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

The Dissemination Policy of ELSTAT is based on:

- a) the provisions on dissemination of statistics of the Greek statistical law (Law 3832/2010, as amended and in force), as further specified in the Regulation on the Statistical Obligations of the Agencies of the Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS) and the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT,
- b) the provisions on dissemination of European statistics of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council, as amended by Regulation No 2015/759,
- c) the European Statistics Code of Practice, the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the Declaration of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) on Professional Ethics.

3. RULES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE DISSEMINATION POLICY OF ELSTAT

The dissemination policy of ELSTAT is defined through the following rules and principles:

- **ELSTAT provides equal and simultaneous access of all users to its produced statistics, by unswervingly observing the rules and principles that are included in its statistical confidentiality policy, which is published in its website.**
- **The main source of ELSTAT’s statistical information is its website, to which all users can have access without any restrictions. Statistical data that are not included in ELSTAT’s website are provided to interested users upon a relevant request, if they are not subject to statistical confidentiality. The procedure for the provision of the data is described in ELSTAT’s website.**
- **ELSTAT also grants access to anonymized microdata of statistical surveys it conducts, as well as to confidential data for scientific purposes. The procedures and conditions for granting access to the above data are described in ELSTAT’s website.**
- **ELSTAT sees to the continuous improvement of the procedures for the provision of statistical data and for granting access to anonymized microdata of statistical surveys and to confidential data for scientific purposes, by following best practices of the European Statistical System, so as to ensure the maximization of the degree of user satisfaction, while ensuring the quality of provided data and the protection of statistical confidentiality.**

- **ELSTAT sees to the continuous improvement of the layout and content of its portal and of the other dissemination modes of its statistics, with a view to fulfilling user needs both at national and international level, by following the developing international standards. With a view to ensuring that its statistics are disseminated in a manner satisfying user requirements, ELSTAT takes into consideration the relevant comments and remarks of users in the user conferences it organizes, as well as the relevant input that arises from the results of the user satisfaction survey it conducts.**
- **With a view to fulfilling the needs of national and international users, ELSTAT sees to the updating and availability, on a continuous basis, of the content of its website and of its statistical publications in both the Greek and the English language.**
- **Every year, by the 31st of May, ELSTAT compiles and publishes a Statistical Work Program, which contains its planned statistical surveys/works for the next year. In that Statistical Work Program ELSTAT pre-announces for each planned statistical survey/work the quarter or quarters of publication of its results.**
- **ELSTAT publishes Press Releases for all its conducted statistical surveys and works from which statistics are produced. The Press Releases are strictly published the 12th noon, after the approval of the President of ELSTAT, in specified dates, which are included within the quarters of publication of the relevant statistics that are mentioned each time in the Statistical Work Programs of ELSTAT. The publication dates of the Press Releases are pre-announced in a special Release Calendar, which is posted on ELSTAT' website within the first week of September of the year preceding the publication year. The Release Calendar is strictly observed. In the case where exceptional reasons impose the postponement of publication or the change of the specified date of publication of a Press Release, this fact, as well as the reasons imposing it, are announced by ELSTAT the 12th noon of the day preceding the publication day, at the latest. The new date of publication of this specific Press Release is announced by ELSTAT. ELSTAT may publish ad hoc Press Releases concerning ad hoc statistical surveys and works, whose conduct was not known at the time of publication of the Release Calendar. The publication of these Press Releases is announced in ELSTAT's website five (5) working days before the publication date, at the latest.**
- **ELSTAT publishes in its website the sources and methods used for the production of its statistics, as well as the metadata and the quality reports of its statistical surveys and works, from which those statistics are produced. ELSTAT does not interpret the results of its statistical surveys and works, but it presents them in a clear and comprehensible manner that facilitates their proper interpretation and use both by specialists in the specific subjects and the general public.**
- **The statistical publications of ELSTAT are objective and clearly distinguished from political statements. ELSTAT retains the right to comment publicly the criticism made on its statistics, as well as their misuse or misinterpretation, as far as considered suitable. With a view to preventing misuse or misinterpretation of**

its statistics, ELSTAT conducts, where it considers necessary, one-day conferences on relevant issues for specific categories of users.

- For the revisions of its statistics ELSTAT unswervingly observes the rules and principles that are included in its revision policy, which is published in its website. Ten working (10) days before the end of each year, at the latest, ELSTAT uploads on its website a list of scheduled revisions of its statistics for the next year. This list contains for each revised statistics, a brief description of the revision task, the type of the scheduled revision (regular or ad hoc) and the release date of the revised statistics. The users are promptly informed on significant errors identified in published statistics, leading to non-scheduled revisions. The revised results are released without any delay in an open and transparent manner. The reasons of carrying out the non-scheduled revisions are also released.
- ELSTAT provides the statistical information it produces, generally, free of charge. The printed statistical publications, maps and cartographic data of ELSTAT are generally offered against payment that covers the printing costs. The selling prices of the printed statistical publications and of maps of ELSTAT figure in a relevant pricelist, which is determined pursuant to a decision issued by the President of ELSTAT, following the advisory opinion of the Statistical Information and Publications Division. The selling prices of the cartographic data of ELSTAT figure in a relevant pricelist, which is posted on its website and determined pursuant to a decision issued by the President of ELSTAT, following the advisory opinion of the Statistical Information and Publications Division.
- ELSTAT may provide, against payment, special data processing or other statistical services, as well as the use of informatics systems it possesses, and relevant special services pertaining to the conduct of statistical surveys. The pricing by ELSTAT of special data processing or of other statistical services, as well as of the use of informatics systems that ELSTAT possesses and of relevant special services for the purposes of statistical surveys is determined on a case by case basis by decision of the President of ELSTAT, following the advisory opinion of the competent ELSTAT Divisions that is based on ELSTAT's pricing policy, which is posted on its website. By decision of the President of ELSTAT, the provision of the above data and services may be free of charge in special cases.
- ELSTAT encourages the free reuse of its data, both for non-commercial and commercial purposes. The content of web pages, the statistical data, the metadata and the statistical publications and other documents published on ELSTAT's website can be reused without any payment or written licence, with some exceptions and under the conditions that are mentioned in the Copyright and Reuse of Data Policy of ELSTAT, which is posted on its website.