

ELSTAT
Annual Report
2011

A. INTRODUCTION

In this annual report, ELSTAT accounts for its activities in 2011. Besides the activities concerning the statistical surveys and tasks outlined in the 2011 statistical work program, the chapters of this annual report also contain information on the major statistical events that took place in 2011.

The activities of ELSTAT in 2011 were based on the following main pillars:

- a) Enhancing the quality and reliability of statistics, by unswervingly observing the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice and by restructuring the processes and more generally the approach for the production of statistics.
- b) Focusing on good governance in the National Statistical Institute regarding its operation and management, by implementing a rules-based system, which enhances, inter alia, the effectiveness of statistical works.
- c) Closer cooperation with the users of statistics and response to their needs, as well as coordination and cooperation with other producers of statistical data with a view to improving the quality of statistics.
- d) Intensive cooperation with the European and the international statistical community and undertaking of actions in the abovementioned framework.

In 2011, ELSTAT took up a significant number of actions aiming at improving the quality of produced statistics. Many of these actions were taken in the framework of the Joint Overall Statistical Greek Action Plan (JOSGAP), which was agreed between the Greek Authorities and Eurostat and was put into force in 2010. As a result of these actions, there has been a strong recovery in the reliability and credibility of the statistics of Greece. In this context, significant progress has been achieved in regaining the confidence of Eurostat, the other National Statistical Institutes in the European Statistical System, the European Commission, the European Central Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other international partners, as well as of the international markets, with many international recognitions for this.

Included in the main statistical works of 2011 are three very important exhaustive surveys (the Agricultural – Livestock Census, the Buildings Census and the Population – Housing Census) and a wide Post Enumeration Survey for the 2011 Population – Housing Census.

Given the above, 2011 was a very busy year for ELSTAT as regards its statistical activities, but also –despite any difficulties– a year of considerable achievements. These achievements were accomplished in the conduct of ELSTAT’s statistical works and in the fundamental reengineering of its processes and its overall approach to the compilation of statistics, as well as in the overall operation of the National Statistical Institute, in compliance with the highest European standards.

B. IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND RELIABILITY OF STATISTICS

1. Joint Overall Statistical Greek Action Plan

The Joint Overall Statistical Greek Action Plan (JOSGAP), which was put into force in 2010, aims at the harmonization of the Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS) with the European one and encompasses actions allocated into three pillars, A, B and C.

In the framework of the actions provided for in pillar A, aiming at enhancing the institutional framework of the ELSS, the following actions took place in 2011:

- **Establishment of the Council of the Hellenic Statistical System**

In February 2011, the Council of the Hellenic Statistical System (SYELSS) was established by Decision of the Minister of Finance. The establishment of the SYELSS is provided for in the Statistical Law 3832/2010. ELSTAT performs its coordinating role within the ELSS through, inter alia, this Council, as stipulated in the aforementioned law. The Council is chaired by the President of ELSTAT and in the Council are represented, inter alia, the National Statistical Authorities, which are the ELSS agencies responsible for developing, producing and disseminating European statistics. The first meeting of the SYELSS was convened in June 2011. During that first meeting, the Council approved the Regulation on the Internal Organization and Operation of the SYELSS and provided its opinion on the draft Regulation on the Statistical Obligations of the ELSS Agencies and on the Hellenic Statistical Program 2011 – 2013, as part of the process of arriving at the final form of these two documents. Council members were also informed about the draft 2011 Annual Statistical Work Program of ELSTAT and expressed views, which were taken into consideration in finalizing that statistical work program.

- **Approval of the Regulation on the Statistical Obligations of the ELSS agencies, of the Hellenic Statistical Program for 2011 – 2013 and of the 2011 Statistical Work Program of ELSTAT**

In 2011, ELSTAT approved the Regulation on the Statistical Obligations of the ELSS Agencies. ELSTAT also approved the Hellenic Statistical Program 2011 – 2013, which was compiled for the first time, as well as the 2011 Statistical Work Program of ELSTAT, which was compiled using a new, user-oriented approach.

- **Draft Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT**

In 2011, a final draft for the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT was elaborated. A significant part of this Regulation focuses on the methodology and implementation of the certification procedure to be used by ELSTAT, for the certification of statistics produced by other ELSS agencies. The certification is stipulated both in the Statistical Law 3832/2010 and in JOSGAP.

In 2011, significant progress was achieved concerning the actions under pillar B of JOSGAP, which aim at improving the processes and capacity for the production of statistics in Greece, mostly through a program of medium-term technical assistance provided to ELSTAT by Eurostat. More specifically, these actions are:

- **Revision of annual National Accounts**

In the framework of a special project, and with the cooperation and assistance of Eurostat, the revision of the annual National Accounts was completed with the compilation and publication of a revised series of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and other macroeco-

conomic aggregates for the period 2005 – 2010; publication of the Inventory of methods and sources for the GDP revision; and release, on the website of ELSTAT, of tables containing Gross Value Added (GVA) data of 64 branches of economic activity, for the years 2000 – 2010.

- **Implementation of projects for enhancing the Regional and Quarterly National Accounts**

With the cooperation and assistance of Eurostat, ELSTAT initiated the implementation of projects aiming at enhancing the Regional and Quarterly National Accounts. The project for enhancing the Regional Accounts was completed in December 2011, by transmitting on time these accounts to Eurostat.

- **Elaboration and implementation of an action plan for improving the quality of Foreign Trade Statistics**

Considerable progress was achieved as regards the improvement of the quality of Foreign Trade Statistics, by elaborating, in cooperation with Eurostat, a relevant action plan involving the further modernization of the data collection and data processing system and cooperation with other agencies. The action plan was put into force in September 2011 and is expected to be completed in one year.

- **Development of a project for upgrading the existing ICT infrastructure and corresponding services of ELSTAT**

The actions for upgrading ELSTAT's existing infrastructure and services provided in the Information and Communications Sector (ICT) were initiated, with the provision, by an expert, of recommendations for the development of a relevant project.

- **Development of a project for redesigning and upgrading the Statistical Business Register of ELSTAT**

ELSTAT initiated the redesigning and upgrading of its Statistical Business Register. This Register is the sampling framework for all the sample surveys, which ELSTAT conducts on enterprises, as well as an important source of information for data users in Greece and abroad. In November 2011, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between ELSTAT and the main providers of data for this Register, i.e., the General Secretariat of Information Systems (Ministry of Finance) and IKA (Social Insurance Institute). In December 2011, a corresponding project was developed, with the assistance of experts, which can be funded by the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) for the period 2007 – 2013. This project is expected to be completed in September 2013.

- **Exploration of the possibility of creating a single entry point for the submission of data by enterprises**

With a view to improving the quality of Structural Business Statistics (SBS) and reducing the administrative burden of enterprises, ELSTAT has begun to explore the possibility of creating a single entry point for the submission of data by enterprises. In this context, in 2011 ELSTAT had several meetings with the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV) in order to promote and advance this project.

As regards the actions in pillar C of JOSGAP, which focus on improving the quality of the Government Finance Statistics of Greece, ELSTAT gave priority to these actions because of the role that Government Finance Statistics had played in the lack of credibility of the statistics of Greece, but also because of the imperative need for reliable fiscal statistics for the planning and

implementation of Greece's economic adjustment program. By the end of 2010, a large number of critical actions under pillar C of JOSGAP had been completed. As regards the remaining actions of pillar C, in 2011 the following progress was achieved, in chronological order:

- **Organization of seminars for training the Statistical Correspondents of the General Government Entities and of the Ministries on the rules of the Excessive Deficit Procedure**

In 2011, ELSTAT organized a series of seminars for training the statistical correspondents of the General Government Entities and of the Ministries on the rules of the Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP), as well as on the obligations of these agencies as stipulated in the Statistical Law 3832/2010.

- **Activation of web applications for the online collection of data from General Government Entities, Social Security Funds and Public Hospitals**

Since January 2011 ELSTAT has put into operation a web application for the online collection of data from the General Government Entities, using an improved questionnaire, in the framework of the quarterly and annual survey of General Government Entities.

This web application enables the online collection of fiscal data from the General Government Entities, which include the Social Security Funds, the Public Hospitals and the Public Entities under Public and Private Law supervised by the General Government. All these actions led to an increase in the response rate of these entities to the surveys, as well as to an improvement in the quality of collected data.

- **Dissemination, through ELSTAT's website, of the EDP Consolidated Inventory of sources and methods**

In April 2011, ELSTAT posted on its website a methodological note describing the methodology applied in the compilation of EDP data.

- **Development and use of web applications for the online collection of data from the agencies supervised by Local Government Organizations**

In June 2011, ELSTAT, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and the Hellenic Agency for Local Development and Local Government, completed the development of the web application for the online collection of data from the agencies that are supervised by Local Government Organizations.

- **Signing of Memoranda of Cooperation with all Ministries**

In 2011, the process of signing Memoranda of Cooperation with all Government Ministries for the compilation of government finance statistics was completed. These Memoranda aim at ensuring transparency, timeliness and accuracy in the compilation of government finance statistics.

- **Compilation and update of the Register of General Government Entities**

ELSTAT made significant progress towards the compilation and update of the Register of General Government Entities. By the end-2011, ELSTAT had completed the examination of the entities that pre-existed in the Register of General Government Entities (and was used until 2010), as regards the correctness of their classification. In addition, in 2011 a large number of smaller entities was re-examined as regards their classification by institutional sector of the economy. The update of the Register regarding a number of entities will continue in 2012.

The result of the implementation of these actions under pillar C was the stabilization of the technical conditions for the production of quality and reliable Government Finance Statistics. This led to the release **without any reservations** by Eurostat an additional two consecutive times –after the release of November 2010– in April 2011 and in October 2011, of the annual Government Finance Statistics (for the years 2007 – 2010) and to the building of the particularly important track record regarding the reliability of the fiscal data of Greece.

In order to advance the JOSGAP actions, which are included in the above pillars, 24 short visits by experts took place in 2011 in ELSTAT –not including Eurostat missions– for the provision of expertise in areas such as Government Finance Statistics, National Accounts, Statistical Business Register, Foreign Trade Statistics and Population Censuses.

2. Other Actions

Besides the actions stipulated in the JOSGAP, in 2011 ELSTAT carried out the following significant actions aiming at enhancing the quality and reliability of produced statistics and fulfilling its European and national obligations in a timely manner and with increased accuracy:

- **Conduct of a Post Enumeration Survey of the 2011 Population – Housing Census**

Following the end of the 2011 Population – Housing Census, ELSTAT conducted a Post Enumeration Survey (PES) during 14 – 30 June 2011, with a view to assessing the completeness and accuracy of the Census results as regards the basic demographic characteristics of the population, as well as the overcounts or undercounts of the population. The processing of this survey is envisaged to be completed and its results to be produced within 2012, in contrast to the corresponding PES for the 2001 Census, which was not completed. In addition, for the first time the sample used for the PES was so large, as the sample size of surveyed households was nearly five times the sample size of previous Post Enumeration Surveys. More specifically, the PES of the 2011 Population – Housing Census was conducted on a large and representative sample of 20,000 households from throughout Greece, enabling ELSTAT to assess the completeness and accuracy of the results of the 2011 Population – Housing Census down to the level of Municipality (as defined by Kallikratis Plan).

- **Development of a new system for programming and monitoring the progress of statistical surveys**

With a view to completing the statistical surveys/works within the deadlines stipulated in the national and Community statistical legal framework, ELSTAT proceeded to the amendment and significant upgrade of the system used for programming and monitoring the progress of its statistical surveys/works.

The new system aims to identify any delays (deviations from the schedule) in the various stages of the surveys/works –from the stage of survey design to the stage of dissemination of final results– and to find solutions that address in a timely manner delays so that the results are made available within the defined time schedule.

- **Use for the first time of optical character readers and automated checks for the processing of the 2009 Agricultural – Livestock Census data**

C. GOOD GOVERNANCE BY IMPLEMENTING A RULES-BASED SYSTEM

In 2011, ELSTAT continued the efforts, on which it had embarked in 2010, to upgrade the procedures for the production of statistics, focusing mainly on transparency and saving resources.

- **Confirmation of ELSTAT's Managerial Adequacy**

A notable fact in 2011 was the issuing, by the Ministry of Interior, of the confirmation of ELSTAT's Managerial Adequacy, by means of which ELSTAT became eligible to absorb funds from the European Social Fund (ESF) for funding projects.

- **Creation of an electronic Register of External Survey Workers and a system for the assignment of surveys to them**

In July 2011, ELSTAT completed the creation of an electronic Register for all External Survey Workers who are utilized by ELSTAT for the collection of statistical data in the numerous statistical surveys conducted every year. In addition, it has completed the elaboration of a ranking system for these Survey Workers, based on rules, transparent procedures, impartiality and meritocratic criteria.

In contrast with the past, the selection of External Survey Workers and the assignment of surveys to them is carried out in compliance with a fully automated and pre-defined ranking, evaluation and rules-based system, which does not allow any external interventions in its implementation. Thus, meritocracy and impartiality, as well as the effectiveness of ELSTAT's surveys, are ensured.

- **Rationalization of the remuneration of External Survey Workers of ELSTAT**

The remuneration of External Survey Workers for every survey questionnaire, for which they are paid, was recalculated by ELSTAT on the basis of the average time needed for collecting a correctly filled in questionnaire.

- **Creation of a special web page on ELSTAT's website for External Survey Workers**

With a view to ensuring transparency and information, ELSTAT created a special web page on its website providing information to External Survey Workers and the public on the selection procedures for Survey Workers, the required qualifications for someone to be utilized as a survey worker in the household and business surveys, the electronic application form for registration in the Register of External Survey Workers, the ranking lists of Survey Workers, and the Administrative Decisions for their Nomination as Survey Workers.

- **Selection of Enumerators and Chiefs of Census Sectors for the conduct of the 2011 Buildings and Population – Housing Censuses through transparent procedures and according to meritocratic criteria**

After a public invitation launched through the mass media, ELSTAT selected 61,000 Enumerators and Chiefs of Census Sectors for the conduct of the 2011 Buildings and Population – Housing Censuses in compliance with a pre-defined system of rules. The applicants filled in and submitted their applications online and were ranked (by Census Supervision Areas) through a computerized system, on the basis of clear and objective criteria (e.g. availability/employment, previous experience in statistical works, level of education, etc.). The applicants were selected on the basis of the ranking lists. The ranking and selection systems used and the relevant results were posted on ELSTAT's website.

D. CLOSER COOPERATION WITH PRODUCERS AND USERS OF STATISTICAL DATA

One of ELSTAT's main responsibilities is the cooperation with national agencies that collect and produce statistical data and the coordination of their activities with a view to enhancing statistical production within the Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS). In this context, in 2011 ELSTAT carried out a number of significant actions, which included, inter alia, the establishment and operation of the Council of the Hellenic Statistical System (SYELSS) and the compilation of the three-year Hellenic Statistical Program (2011 – 2013) laying out the statistical activities of the ELSS (see Chapter B).

An equally important responsibility of ELSTAT is the production of statistics adapted to the needs and requirements of users, at national, European and international level. In this framework are included the compilation of statistical programs, according to user-oriented standards (see Chapter B), the organization of annual Users Conferences, as well as activities of ELSTAT aiming to improve various aspects of the layout and content of ELSTAT's portal, as well as enhance the other dissemination modes for statistics, by following the developing international standards, in order to fulfill, to the maximum extent possible, users' needs for timely and reliable information, both at national and international level.

• Undertaking of actions responding to the conclusions of the 1st Users Conference

During the annual Users Conferences organized by ELSTAT, users have the opportunity to make comments and suggestions on the statistical product and the services provided. The comments and suggestions of users are taken into consideration by ELSTAT for the elaboration of its annual statistical work programs.

Taking into consideration the comments and suggestions made during the 1st Users Conference, held in October 2010, ELSTAT included in its 2011 Annual Statistical Work Program the conduct of a Time Use Survey, in cooperation with the General Secretariat for Gender Equality, and the development of a System of Health Accounts (SHA) at national level, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity and the University of Athens. As regards the aforementioned actions, the following progress was achieved in 2011:

– Conduct of a Time Use Survey

The preparations for the conduct of the Time Use Survey started in September 2011, with a view to disseminating the survey results in December 2014.

– Implementation of a System of Health Accounts (SHA)

The implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation signed in 2010 between ELSTAT, the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity and the University of Athens for the implementation of a System of Health Accounts (SHA) at national level started in September 2011. In 2011, ELSTAT staff was informed about the SHA by the University of Athens, as well as by an external expert. The Joint OECD – Eurostat – World Health Organization Data Questionnaire on SHA was translated into Greek. Furthermore, a report was produced outlining the need for aligning the national objectives for recording health expenditure with the SHA objectives and describing the availability of primary data.

- **Organization of the 2nd Users Conference**

In the framework of its 2011 Annual Statistical Work Program, on 29 December 2011 ELSTAT convened the 2nd Users Conference on its premises in Piraeus. During the conference ELSTAT presented the work accomplished since the 1st Users Conference and users had the opportunity to make their comments and express their needs with regard to statistical products and services provided by ELSTAT. Users pointed out, inter alia, the need for:

- a) compilation and dissemination of tourism, transport and retail trade statistics at lower geographical level, enhancing policy-making at the level of Region,
- b) compilation of long time series for national accounts, based on a harmonized methodology,
- c) compilation of statistics on abortions performed in public hospitals and private clinics of Greece,
- d) compilation of statistics on suicide and suicide attempts in Greece,
- e) compilation of geospatial data and creation of electronic maps and atlases,
- f) compilation of data on household expenditure on health, social solidarity and education at the level of Region,
- g) compilation of European Community Health Indicators and Monitoring (ECHIM) for monitoring citizens' health and operation of health systems,
- h) compilation of agriculture statistics at a lower geographical level and with more detailed analysis,
- i) compilation of statistics on "tourist consumption expenditure", with a view to identifying the types of expenditures of tourists (Greek and foreign) in Greece and correlating the aforementioned expenditure with consumption expenditure on local products,
- j) development of a navigation mechanism (navigation aid) for the website of ELSTAT.

The 2nd Users Conference helped ELSTAT to renew and update its information on how the users assess the statistical products and the services provided, and to draw useful conclusions on the areas in which the aforementioned products and services can be improved, with a view to better satisfying the changing needs of users. Some of these suggestions have already been taken into consideration in the elaboration of the 2012 Annual Statistical Work Program of ELSTAT.

- **Upgrading the portal of ELSTAT**

In 2011, the following actions were taken, in order to enrich ELSTAT's website (both the Greek and English versions of the website):

- Posting for the first time on the website of the Mission Statement of ELSTAT, as well as the updated legal framework governing all operations and activities of ELSTAT and the institutional framework governing statistical confidentiality.
- Posting on a special web page of the website, every second Friday, of the publication "The Greek Economy", which provides the latest key economic information for Greece and other countries.
- Creation of a special web page containing the Statistical Work Programs of ELSS and of ELSTAT, respectively, as well as the Annual Reports of ELSTAT.

- Creation of a special web page containing, inter alia, the European Statistics Code of Practice, the list of the Agencies and the National Authorities of the ELSS, the Regulation on the Statistical Obligations of the ELSS Agencies, as well as the Memoranda of Understanding signed by ELSTAT with Government Ministries, the General Accounting Office, the Bank of Greece and other agencies (available only in Greek).
- Creation of a special web page containing all the information related to the conferences organized by ELSTAT (e.g., invitations, programs, lists of participants, minutes, press releases, etc.), such as the Users Conferences, the High Level Conference "The European Statistics Code of Practice: enhancing the Credibility of Official Statistics", etc.
- Creation of a special web page containing a big part of the information material presented by ELSTAT in the Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF).
- Creation of an official website for the 2011 General Censuses, providing information on the Censuses, where the key information was available in Greek and 8 foreign languages.
- Creation of an official website containing all the necessary information regarding the European Conference on Quality in Official Statistics (Q2012), to be organized by ELSTAT and Eurostat (see Chapter E).

Moreover, in 2011, ELSTAT initiated the work of updating the tables and covering the gaps in the time series data posted on its website, as well as for enriching the website with the metadata for all the statistical surveys and works after having adjusted them to the European Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange System (ESMS). Given the significant loss of human resources by ELSTAT in 2011 (see Chapter G), as well as other higher priorities (such as the conduct and data processing of the General Censuses) ELSTAT is expecting to complete the aforementioned work in 2012.

- **Upgrading the Press Releases**

In 2011, ELSTAT proceeded with the upgrading of the content of its Press Releases, in order to improve their informational value. In addition, ELSTAT redesigned the system and technology for publishing its Press Releases, with a view to ensuring the simultaneous, equal and timely access of all users to statistical data.

- **Participation of ELSTAT in the 76th Thessaloniki International Fair**

ELSTAT participated in the 76th TIF with its own stand, as it did in 2010. Information material for the statistical programs, as well as a number of data publications covering a large part of the statistical surveys conducted by ELSTAT were available in ELSTAT's stand for the visitors. The provisional results of the 2011 Population – Housing Census concerning the Resident Population were also available to the visitors through a touch screen. The opening ceremony of ELSTAT's stand took place on 11 September 2011, in the presence of the President of ELSTAT, Mr. Andreas V. Georgiou. In addition, a special web page was created on the website of ELSTAT, containing a large part of the information material presented by ELSTAT in the 76th TIF.

E. INTENSIVE COOPERATION WITH THE EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL COMMUNITY

With a view to upgrading itself so that it becomes an active member of the European Statistical System, by substantially contributing in the system's workings and evolution, ELSTAT put a

lot of emphasis on full cooperation with Eurostat and the National Statistical Institutes of the other EU Member States. In this context, ELSTAT carried out the following actions in 2011:

- **Joint organization with the National Statistical Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies of France (INSEE) of the conference: "The European Statistics Code of Practice: enhancing the credibility of official statistics"**

In June 2011, ELSTAT and the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies of France (INSEE) jointly organized the conference "The European Statistics Code of Practice: enhancing the credibility of official statistics". Among the participants at the conference were senior officials of Eurostat and of European National Statistical Institutes, members of the Greek government and senior officials of the public administration, representatives of the social partners, members of the Council of the Hellenic Statistical System, as well as executives and senior officials of ELSTAT.

- **Preparations for the European Conference on Quality in Official Statistics – Q2012**

Since 2010, when ELSTAT was appointed as the Conference organizer, it took up the necessary preparations aiming at organizing a successful event. In August 2011, ELSTAT sent out all the invitations for the Conference and created a special website providing all information on the Conference (www.Q2012.gr). In September 2011, there was a "call for papers" to the international and the Greek statistical communities for the submission of proposals, in the form of abstracts, as regards the presentation of scientific papers in the Conference. In November 2011, the Organizing Committee gathered all the abstracts of the proposed scientific papers. In December 2011, the Program Committee had a meeting in ELSTAT, selected the abstracts to be presented and dully informed the authors of the papers. At the same time, the Program Committee elaborated a draft timetable for the conference sessions.

F. ASPECTS OF STATISTICAL PRODUCTION

Among the major statistical activities of ELSTAT, in 2011, were the works conducted regarding three significant census surveys (the Agricultural – Livestock Census, the Buildings Census and the Population – Housing Census) and the release of the Revised Consumer Price Index, with 2009 as new base year.

- **2011 General Censuses for Buildings and for Population – Housing**

In the framework of its national and international obligations, in 2011 ELSTAT conducted the General Censuses for Buildings and for Population – Housing. The Buildings Census was conducted from 1 to 28 February 2011, with reference date the 15th of January 2011, and the Population – Housing Census was conducted from 10 to 24 May 2011⁽¹⁾, with reference date the 9th of May 2011.

The aforementioned Censuses were designed according to a decentralized system. Greece was divided in 94 Supervision Areas; each Supervision Area was divided into Enumeration Sectors; and each Enumeration Sector was divided in Census Sections. The staff who participated in the preparatory, census and postcensus works comprise: 7 Senior Supervisors (one for each Decentralized Administration), 94 Census Supervisors, 550 Assistant Su-

(1) Permanent residents who were not counted by an Enumerator were given the option to be enumerated in Special Local Census Offices from 25 to 27 May 2011.

pervisors, 55 Coordinating Working Groups in the Prefectures of Greece, 12,000 Chiefs of Census Sectors, 49,000 Enumerators and 780 Assistants – Interpreters. The data were collected through personal interviews with the use of specially designed questionnaires, which were filled in by the Chiefs of Census Sectors and the Enumerators who had been trained by ELSTAT's officials.

The overall coordination of the various stages of the 2011 General Censuses was carried out by the Census Task Force, which consisted of ELSTAT officials. An external expert on population censuses provided technical support to Census works. The Census Task Force was headed by the Head of the General Directorate of Statistical Surveys of ELSTAT, who was assisted by the Director of the Division of ELSTAT with responsibilities on matters of Population Statistics. The Census Task Force was reporting to the President of ELSTAT.

To ensure that the public is informed about the 2011 Population – Housing Census, ELSTAT:

- established a special Census Press Office;
- launched a website dedicated to the Census;
- gave many TV and radio interviews;
- organized a Press Conference a few days before the Census;
- produced TV and radio advertising spots, which were distributed to all TV channels and radio stations;
- printed and put up information posters addressed to Greek and foreign nationals;
- printed a complete information leaflet, which was distributed by the Hellenic Post to every household in Greece;
- cooperated with the relevant organizations, agencies and associations, in order to inform them on the Census, thus ensuring the enumeration of special population groups (immigrants, homeless, etc.).

The 2011 Population – Housing Census was conducted in compliance with Regulation (EC) 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council, as well as with the methodological and organizational principles stipulated in the Recommendations of the Conference of European Statisticians for the 2010 Round of Population – Housing Censuses, which are the outcome of the cooperation between UNECE and Eurostat. The 2011 Population – Housing Census differs from previous ones in the following aspects:

- It focused on recording the Resident Population of Greece unlike previous Censuses, which aimed at recording the de facto Population.
- It was conducted in the course of 15 days, while previous Censuses were conducted in one day.
- Besides the main topics provided for in Regulation 763/2008, the survey questionnaires also covered contemporary social and environmental issues (internet access, recycling of household waste, energy sources used by households, etc.).
- It was conducted while fully meeting all requirements for personal data protection.
- The Chiefs of Census Sectors and the Enumerators were selected using transparent procedures on the basis of meritocratic criteria.

- The survey questionnaires were designed in a manner enabling their reading by a system of Optical Character Reading (OCR).
- A large Post Enumeration Survey for the 2011 Population – Housing Census was conducted on a large and representative sample of households, in order to assess the exhaustiveness and quality of the Census data, even at the level of municipality (Kallikratis Plan).

Due to the differences between the methodology used in the 2011 Population – Housing Census and that of previous Censuses, the 2011 Census results are not fully comparable with those of earlier Censuses.

- **Agricultural – Livestock Census**

The data processing of the 2009 Agricultural – Livestock Census began in 2011. As already mentioned, a significant development in data processing was the use of Optical Character Readers (OCR) and automated checks aiming to accelerate the procedures and minimize errors.

It should be noted that the 2009 Agricultural – Livestock Census was not conducted by the former National Statistical Service of Greece (NSSG) in 2009, as scheduled, but was conducted in the third quarter of 2010 by the newly established ELSTAT. As a consequence of this one-year delay, the data processing of the Agricultural – Livestock Census was significantly slowed down due to the need to prepare and conduct the 2011 General Censuses for Buildings and Population – Housing as well as the need to complete urgent post-population-census works (e.g., the Post Enumeration Survey for the 2011 Population – Housing Census, the processing of the payments of the Enumerators and Chiefs of Census Sectors, etc.). As a result, the processing of the data of the 2009 Agricultural – Livestock Census was not completed by 31 December 2011, which was the deadline set by Eurostat. To avoid significant sanctions against Greece, the processing of the data of the Agricultural – Livestock Census became a priority in the second semester of 2011 and is envisaged to be completed by early 2012.

- **Initiating dissemination of the revised Consumer Price Index, with 2009 as the new base year**

In January 2011, ELSTAT started to disseminate the revised Consumer Price Index, with 2009 as a new base year (2009=100.0).

G. HUMAN RESOURCES OF ELSTAT

1. ELSTAT's personnel

In 2011, the number of ELSTAT's staff recorded a significant decrease, compared with 2010, due to the retirement of employees, while at the same time there were restrictions on the recruitment of new employees. More specifically, on 31 December 2010, ELSTAT's staff amounted to 966 employees: the permanent staff numbered 944 employees (326 men and 618 women) and the staff working under Private Contract of Unlimited Duration numbered 22 employees (6 men and 16 women). The total number of ELSTAT's staff, on 31 December 2011, was 866: the permanent staff numbered 845 (302 men and 543 women) and the staff working under Private Contract of Unlimited Duration numbered 21 (5 men and 16 women). In 2011, 102 employees retired and only 2 new employees were recruited. Thus, in 2011, the total num-

ber of ELSTAT staff decreased by 10.4%.

On 31 December 2011, out of the 866 employees of ELSTAT, 609 worked in the Central Office and 257 employees worked in the Regional Offices.

The following table depicts the allocation of ELSTAT's staff, by sex and education level, in 2010 and 2011 (31 December), respectively:

Education level	Men			Women			Total		
	2010	2011	Change (%)	2010	2011	Change (%)	2010	2011	Change (%)
University	177	174	-1.7	255	234	-8.2	432	408	-5.6
Technical	28	24	-14.3	57	57	0.0	85	81	-4.7
Secondary	122	104	-14.8	317	264	-16.7	439	368	-16.2
Obligatory	5	5	0.0	5	4	-20.0	10	9	-10.0
Total	332	307	-7.5	634	559	-11.8	966	866	-10.4

2. Training of ELSTAT's staff

In December 2011, the Human Resources Section of ELSTAT conducted a survey, in order to record the training needs of ELSTAT's staff. A relevant questionnaire was distributed to all the Heads of Sections and the Heads of Regional Offices, with a view to recording the training needs of their personnel for the effective performance of their official duties. The results of this survey will be the basis for elaborating the training program for ELSTAT's staff, for the three-year period 2012 – 2014.

H. ELSTAT BUDGET EXECUTION

ELSTAT's expenses in 2011 are classified in the following categories:

- a) Labour cost (wages and salaries of ELSTAT's permanent staff, including basic salary, allowances, social security contributions, additional and incidental benefits for the permanent staff, private insurance of the staff, etc.).
- b) Expenses related to the staff's travel within Greece and abroad: travel and subsistence expenses for the permanent staff of ELSTAT traveling for the purpose of conducting statistical surveys in the field or participating in meetings, seminars, etc. abroad, as well as expenses related to the transfer or detachment of ELSTAT's employees to other Agencies in Greece or abroad.
- c) Other operating expenses, including expenses related to ELSTAT's buildings (Central and Regional Offices), such as rents, heating, communication, water supply, security, cleaning

and maintenance costs, as well as expenses related to advertising and public relations, temporary staff remuneration, etc.

- d) Expenses for the provision of goods, capital formation and subscriptions, including expenses for the provision of consumables (materials for the maintenance and repair of premises and equipment, paper, stationery, medical and pharmaceutical supplies), fuel, furniture, PCs, printers, photocopiers and other office equipment.
- e) Expenses for the conduct of the Buildings, Population – Housing and Agriculture – Livestock Censuses.
- f) Projects financed by Eurostat, including expenses in the context of the conduct of statistical works financed by Eurostat.

The allocation of ELSTAT's expenses in 2011, by type of expenditure, as well as the comparison of these expenses with the corresponding expenses in 2010 are presented in the following table:

TABLE 2: ELSTAT'S EXPENSES, BY TYPE OF EXPENDITURE: 2010 AND 2011		
Type of expenditure	Amount paid (in euro)	
	2010	2011
Labour cost	37,297,124.04	35,948,427.68
Expenses related to staff traveling within Greece and abroad	158,714.32	160,123.38
Other operating expenses	5,243,071.84	5,099,271.05
Expenses for the provision of goods and capital formation, subscriptions	241,902.42	259,136.59
Expenses for the conduct of the Buildings, Population – Housing and Agriculture – Livestock Censuses	7,560,994.11	47,368,881.58
Projects financed by Eurostat	4,059,717.15	289,292.89
Total	54,561,523.88	89,125,133.17

The largest changes are observed in the two last types of expenditures. The large increase in the item "Expenses for the conduct of Censuses" is due to the conduct of the General Censuses for Buildings and for Population – Housing in 2011. The decrease observed in the item "Projects financed by Eurostat" is due to the fact that in 2011, unlike 2010, ELSTAT did not undertake many projects financed by Eurostat, since a big part of its staff was engaged in the conduct of the above General Censuses.