HELLENIC REPUBLIC
HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY

ELSTAT
Annual Report
2016

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A. INTRODUCTION

In this Annual Report, ELSTAT accounts for its activities in 2016. Besides the activities concerning the statistical surveys and tasks outlined in the 2016 Statistical Work Programme, the Chapters of this Annual Report also contain information about the major issues in the area of statistics in 2016.

As in previous years, ELSTAT continued its actions in 2016 to improve the completeness, quality and timeliness of its statistics through the continued faithful implementation of the Greek and European statistical legal framework in force and by adopting the higher European and international statistical standards.

The above actions include those undertaken to support the improvement of the quality of the statistics of the other agencies of the Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS), where necessary, by coordinating the statistical activities of the other ELSS agencies and assessing their statistics for their certification as "official".

A decisive factor for this improvement is the provision by the State to the ELSS agencies of the necessary human and financial resources for the production of statistics, as well as the ensuring of their access to administrative data sources as provided for in the Commitment on Confidence in Statistics signed by the Greek Government and the European Commission in 2012. Another important factor for this purpose is the recognition by the other ELSS agencies of the role of the statistical head and the support of his/her task.

ELSTAT maintained its active role in the European Statistical System (ESS) in 2016, through its close cooperation with the other members of the ESS, in the framework of Task Forces/Working Groups and Sector/Directors' Groups organised by Eurostat on various statistical issues, as well as through its participation in European decision-making centers on statistical issues.

Among the major events of 2016 for ELSTAT is the transmission to ELSTAT, in May 2016, of business tax data, from the General Secretariat for Public Revenue, for the updating of the Statistical Business Register, the production of Structural Business Statistics (SBS) and Short-Term Indices, and for the needs of the Country's National Accounts. The transmission of these data was made in the framework of the implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation signed in June 2014 between ELSTAT, the General Secretariat for Public Revenue, the General Secretariat for Information Systems and the Social Insurance Institute. In February 2016, the new President of ELSTAT was elected from a five-member Committee, following an international call of interest, in accordance with the relevant Article of the Statistical Law 3832/2010, as in force since its last amendment in 2015.

B. IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND RELIABILITY OF STATISTICS

1. Implementation of improvement actions in line with the recommendations of the Peer Review Report

In line with the recommendations of the Peer Review Report for Greece, ELSTAT undertook, in June 2015, to implement forty seven (47) improvement actions with a specific timetable for completion. These improvement actions have been incorporated by Eurostat, with ELSTAT's consent, to the actions of pillar A of the Joint Overall Statistical Greek Action Plan (JOSGAP), which aim at enhancing the institutional framework of the ELSS.

Of the above actions, sixteen (16) actions mostly related to amendments to the Greek Statistical Law 3832/2010 were completed in 2015. In 2016, eleven (11) of the remaining improvement actions were completed. Thus, a total of twenty-seven (27) out of the forty-seven (47) improvement actions had been completed by 31/12/2016. More specifically, in 2016:

– *Tax data for statistical purposes were transmitted by the Ministry of Finance to ELSTAT*. These

data were transmitted in May 2016, in the framework of the implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation signed in June 2014 between ELSTAT, the General Secretariat for Public Revenue (GSPR), the General Secretariat for Information Systems (GSIS) and the Social Insurance Institute (IKA), for the updating of the Statistical Business Register, the production of Structural Business Statistics and the needs of the National Accounts of Greece. On 8 June 2016, an agreement was signed between ELSTAT and the GSPR, which precisely defined the data of the 1st transmission and ensured their continued transmission in the future.

– *The amendment to the Regulation on the Statistical Obligations of the ELSS Agencies was completed*. This amendment took into account the latest amendments to Regulation 223/2009 on European statistics and to the Greek Statistical Law, as well as the relevant recommendations of the reviewers. The most important changes in the Regulation on the Statistical Obligations of the ELSS Agencies concern: a) the inclusion in the responsibilities of the ELSS agencies of the definition of the statistical head, with the characteristics and competencies stipulated in the European Statistics Code of Practice and b) the addition of a new Article on the establishment of the Coordination Committee of the ELSS (see below).

– *The Coordination Committee of the ELSS was established*. This Committee is chaired by the President of ELSTAT and its other members are the statistical heads of the ELSS agencies. The Committee provides an advisory opinion to ELSTAT on: a) the Regulation on the Statistical Obligations, b) the priorities of the ELSS on the basis of the developments at national and international level and on the measures aiming to reduce the administrative response burden of the ELSS agencies and c) several issues pertaining to the production of statistics within the ELSS.

– *The Advisory Committee of the ELSS was established*. The Committee was established pursuant to Article 3 of the Law 3832/2010, as amended and in force.

– All ELSS National Authorities producing European Statistics nominated a statistical head, with the exception of the Bank of Greece. The role of the Bank of Greece in the Hellenic Statistical System will be redefined.

– *An announcement on the procedures followed to provide access to microdata of statistical surveys was published on ELSTAT's website*. In the same announcement there was a reference to the link where the predefined by ELSTAT anonymisation criteria of microdata of eight (8) ELSTAT's statistical surveys are available.

– *The questionnaire of the User Satisfaction Survey was revised*. The purpose of the revision was to collect more feedback from users –and especially those who are provided with microdata of statistical surveys– about the quality of ELSTAT's statistics and the trust they have in them.

– *An expert of the European Statistical System provided expertise to ELSTAT to improve users' accessibility to microdata of statistical surveys*. The expert assessed the procedures followed by ELSTAT in this area and made recommendations for their improvement. A work schedule on the implementation of the recommendations was drawn up in cooperation with the expert.

– *Information was provided by ELSTAT on the planned changes in the provision of microdata of statistical surveys*. In the context of the 7th User Conference held on ELSTAT's premises on 21 December 2016, the participants were informed on the changes that ELSTAT plans in the provision of microdata of statistical surveys to implement the above recommendations of the expert.

In 2016, in addition to the eleven (11) improvement actions that were completed, progress was made in the implementation of other improvement actions. These actions pertain to the following:

– *Compilation of the new Organisation of ELSTAT*. This action has been redefined on a new basis. A Working Group was set up at ELSTAT with the mandate to prepare a draft of the new Organisation, after collecting the views of all ELSTAT's Units. The above views were gathered with a questionnaire prepared by the Working Group for this purpose, and then the replies in the com-

pleted questionnaires were processed.

– *Amendment of the Regulation on the Operation and Management of ELSTAT*. According to the relevant recommendation of the reviewers, this Regulation should include the internal procedure for assessing the compliance of ELSTAT's Divisions with the European Statistics Code of Practice and the responsibilities of the Group for the Supervision and Management of Quality of statistical work of ELSTAT. The above additions were included, inter alia, in the Regulation, and a draft of the amended Regulation was compiled. Due to the forthcoming compilation of the new ELSTAT Organisation, the drafting of the final draft of the Regulation is pending.

– *Development of a system for assessing the response burden of the surveyed units*. A draft template was prepared for the collection from the Divisions of ELSTAT conducting statistical surveys of harmonised information on the time spent by the surveyed units to complete the relevant questionnaires, as well as on the actions, by statistical survey, undertaken by the Divisions to reduce the response burden of the surveyed units.

2. Coordination of statistical activities within and between the ELSS agencies

According to Article 2 of the Statistical Law 3832/2010, as in force, ELSTAT cooperates with the other ELSS agencies and coordinates all activities related to the development, production and dissemination of the official statistics of the Country, so that these statistics are developed, produced and disseminated in accordance with the CoP principles. In the framework of this coordination, memoranda of cooperation have been signed between ELSTAT and other ELSS agencies, which define the framework for cooperation between the above agencies in specific statistical areas. Furthermore, ELSTAT collects, on annual basis, information on the planned for the next year statistical work of the other ELSS agencies, as well as for the implementation of their statistical work of the previous year.

The nomination, in 2016, of a statistical head by almost all ELSS agencies, as foreseen in Principle 1 of the European Statistics Code of Practice, is a positive development in the direction of enhancing the coordination of statistical work within the ELSS. However, the successful fulfillment by the statistical head of his/her tasks requires the legal safeguarding of his/her responsibilities and the recognition of his/her role within the agency. To support the work of statistical heads, ELSTAT already provides and will continue to provide guidance to them in the framework of the implementation of the basic steps for the certification of the statistics of their agencies.

The operation of the Coordination Committee of ELSS, which was set up in April 2016, is expected to significantly contribute to the improvement of the coordination of statistical activities within and between the ELSS agencies.

The coordination between the ELSS agencies is expected to be further reinforced in the framework of the process for the certification as "official" of the statistics produced by these agencies, which progressed in 2016, but not to the expected extent (see below).

3. Certification as "official statistics" of statistics produced by the ELSS agencies

The certification by ELSTAT of statistics produced by the other ELSS agencies is an important factor and tool for improving the quality and reliability of the ELSS statistics.

Following the completion, in 2015, of the basic certification stage of the statistics of all ELSS National Authorities, on the basis of the document used the certification of ELSS statistics "Statement of Principles and Procedures for the Certification of ELSS Statistics", ELSTAT had set as an objective the completion, in 2016, of the basic certification stage of the statistics of the remaining ELSS agencies. This objective was partially achieved. More specifically, by the end of 2016, the basic certification stage had been completed for all ELSS agencies except for the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, due to a delayed response by the statistical head and to the non-nomination of a statistical head, respectively. The basic certification stage of the statistics of these two

agencies is expected to be conducted in 2017.

At the same time, most of the above ELSS agencies in which the basic certification stage of statistics was conducted have been informed by ELSTAT about the basic steps they have to take for the continuation of the certification process of their statistics. These steps concern horizontal actions to be undertaken by each agency as a whole, and more or less are common to all agencies. By the end of 2016, none of the above agencies had completed the basic steps for the continuation of the certification process of statistics by ELSTAT. This has an impact on the completion of certification of agencies' statistics.

4. Joint Overall Statistical Greek Action Plan

In 2016, ELSTAT continued the implementation of the actions of the Joint Overall Statistical Greek Action Plan (JOSGAP), aiming at the full harmonisation of the Hellenic Statistical System with the European Statistical System. During 2010 – 2012, new actions were added to the actions included in the initial version of JOSGAP, when it was first launched in 2010, in order to cover issues that had not been included in the initial version. In 2015, the actions of pillar A of JOSGAP, which aim at strengthening the institutional framework of the ELSS, were complemented by the improvement actions decided in the context of the implementation of the recommendations of the Peer Review Report.

A significant number of the above JOSGAP actions have been completed or are at the stage of completion. The greatest progress has been achieved in the implementation of the actions under pillar C of JOSGAP, which aim at enhancing the quality of Greek Government finance statistics. All actions within ELSTAT's competence have been completed, with the exception of two (2) actions concerning the classification of the Legal Entities under Private Law that are supervised by the Local Government and the publication on ELSTAT's website of all the procedures required for the conduct of statistical surveys. As regards the first of these actions, ELSTAT continued, in 2016, the collection and processing of data of Legal Entities under Private Law supervised by the Local Government, and, in December 2016, it published the updated Register of General Government Entities. The completion of this action depends on the provision of the necessary data to ELSTAT for the classification of the remaining entities.

Regarding the actions of pillar A that fall within ELSTAT's competence, as mentioned above, their implementation continued in 2016 and some of them were completed.

As regards the actions of pillar A related to the ongoing support of the operation of ELSTAT and are under the competence of the Government, ELSTAT will continue its efforts to ensure the necessary human and financial resources for the implementation of its statistical work programme.

With regard to the actions of JOSGAP pillar B, which aim at improving the processes and capacity for the production of statistics in Greece through a programme of short and medium-term technical assistance provided to ELSTAT by Eurostat, in 2016, for some of these actions, there was a continuation of the provision of technical advice to ELSTAT by experts of the European Statistical System. This concerns the actions pertaining to: upgrading the Sector National Accounts and improving the Price and Volume Measures. Moreover, during the same period, ELSTAT carried out two (2) training series on specialised statistical topics for the training of both its staff and the staff of the other ELSS agencies.

More specifically, in 2016, progress has been made with regard to the above actions under pillar B in the following:

- As regards the project for **improving the quality of Structural Business Statistics**, in 2016, there has been a significant development, with the transmission to ELSTAT, in May 2016, by the General Secretariat for Public Revenue, of business tax data for the updating of the Statistical Business Register, the production of Structural Business Statistics (SBS) and Short-Term Indices, and the needs of the Country's National Accounts, in the framework of the implementation of a

relevant Memorandum of Cooperation. The processing by ELSTAT of the above tax data for these statistical purposes started in 2016 and continues, by taking all the necessary data security and protection measures.

- With a view to **improving the quality and timeliness of the Statistical Farm Register**, ELSTAT's cooperation with OPEKEPE continued in 2016, in the framework of the signed Memorandum of Cooperation between the two agencies, in October 2015. The result of this cooperation was the inclusion, in the 2nd quarter of 2016, of 5,000 beneficiaries of OPEKEPE in the sample of the 2016 Farm Structure Survey.

- With regard to **improving the completeness and timeliness of the ELSTAT Motor Vehicles Register**, which is used as a sampling frame for the conduct of statistical surveys in the transport sector, significant progress has been made in "cleaning" and correcting the relevant administrative data forwarded to ELSTAT by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport. This JOSGAP action has not been completed due to the continuing pending satisfaction of ELSTAT's request regarding the provision by the Independent Authority for Public Revenue of information concerning the circulating vehicles in Greece.

- The work on the **upgrading of non-financial accounts of institutional sectors** continued in 2016. An expert of the European Statistical System provided technical support to ELSTAT, during the months of April, June and September 2016, on issues pertaining to the accounts of the institutional sector of General Government. In addition, during the 1st and 3rd quarters of 2016, the compilation of the retrospective time series of the annual and quarterly non-financial accounts of institutional sectors for all the quarters of the years 1995 – 2005 was completed.

- For the implementation of the action on **improving the Price and Volume Measures** and their alignment with the requirements of ESA 2010, in 2016, ELSTAT continued the necessary works, in order for Eurostat to lift its reservations on the Gross National Income. In this framework, two expert missions on annual national accounts took place in the course of 2016, with the aim of providing technical assistance and performing quality control of works and results.

- In 2016, ELSTAT continued the actions aimed at further **improving the quality of the produced statistics in the area of International Trade in Goods**. In 2016, ELSTAT started cooperation with the Bank of Greece, in order to create and maintain a common Ship Register. At the same time, in order to better implement the concept of economic ownership as regards the trade in ships, the provision of relevant technical assistance to ELSTAT by an expert of the ESS was planned.

- With a view to **training both its staff and the staff of the other ELSS agencies**, ELSTAT carried out two (2) training series, in 2016, with the assistance of experts from the European Statistical System, on the following specialised statistical topics:

  – Seasonal Adjustment (19 – 23/9/2016)

  – National Accounts (5 – 9/12/2016).

The action of pillar B pertaining to the creation and updating of the Dwellings Register recorded no progress in 2016. The implementation of the sub-project 8, for the development of a Human Resource Management System in ELSTAT, of the project for upgrading the existing infrastructure and the services provided by ELSTAT in the area of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), remained pending, waiting the implementation of a corresponding unified human resource management system for the whole public sector.

5. Compliance with the requirements of the Union Statistical Legislation

In 2015, ELSTAT had not fully complied with eleven (11) European Regulations, as regards the transmission of some of the envisaged data within the set deadlines. By setting as a direct priority

the full compliance with the above Regulations, ELSTAT undertook, in 2016, the following actions per Regulation:

- *Regulation (EC) 2494/1995 on Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices*

  The non-compliance with the above Regulation concerns the compilation of Household Price Indices (HPI) and Owner Occupied Housing Price Index (OOHI). In January 2016, ELSTAT forwarded to Eurostat a paper on the estimation of the above indices for the period 1st quarter 2008 – 4th quarter 2014. This paper was assessed by Eurostat, in July 2016, as a cost approach that deviates from the requirements of Regulation 93/2013.

  From June 2016, ELSTAT participates in a Committee of the Ministry of Finance, whose mandate is to develop a database of real estate values and to identify the sources that will feed it for its updating (decision of the Minister of Finance with Ref. No 2/33337/0004/02.06.2016). In November 2016, ELSTAT forwarded to the Ministry of Finance the type of questionnaire with the variables that form the basis for the compilation of the HPI/OOHI indices, with the aim of creating and operating an application of the Ministry of Finance through which the notaries would register the transactions for the purchase and sale of housing properties. ELSTAT is to have access to this application, exploiting the relevant administrative data.

- *Regulation (EC) 450/2003 on the Labour Cost Index*

  The delay in compliance with the Regulation was due to the revision of the data for its full implementation. More precisely, in 2015, the data had to be revised due to the change of the base year (from 2008 to 2012). At the same time, it had been found out that the relevant European Regulation was not fully implemented. The chaining of the index was being conducted on a quarterly basis (with the previous quarter) and not on an annual one, as required by the Regulation. It was decided (in 2014), in consultation with Eurostat, the revision for the full implementation of the Regulation to take place in parallel with the revision of the base year. At the same time, the methodology for the annual weights of each branch of economic activity was revised using National Accounts data. The data for the 1st quarter of 2015 had to be transmitted to Eurostat in early June 2015 and were transmitted in August of the same year. The revision work was completed with the transmission of data for the 4th quarter of 2016. The work to further improve the Labour Cost Index data is ongoing in cooperation with Eurostat.

- *Regulation (EC) 1287/2003 on the harmonisation of Gross National Income at market prices*

  As regards the compliance with the Council Regulation 1287/2003 of 15 July 2003 on the harmonisation of Gross National Income at market prices (GNI Regulation), the GNI reservation No 6, which concerns the use of the balance of payments data for maritime transport and ships in the compilation of National Accounts, remains. Furthermore, the reservation on the Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured (FISIM) was converted into a specific reservation to be monitored under the verification cycle of the Gross National Income, according to Regulation (EU) 549/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European System of National and Regional Accounts of the European Union (ESA 2010), since in the case of Greece the following aspects have not been addressed:

  i. The sectoral information on loans and deposits and the corresponding accrued interest should be used in the calculation of FISIM by institutional sector.

  ii. The calculation of the internal and external reference rates should be aligned with the requirements of ESA 2010 (paragraphs 14.09 and 14.10) and point 1 (b) of Annex III of Regulation 448/1998.

- *Regulation (EC) 638/2004 on Community statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) 3330/91*

The pending refers to Article 2 concerning specific movements –Vessels and Aircraft– which are recorded in the international trade in goods on the basis of the principle of change of economic ownership. In this context, relevant actions are underway in cooperation with the Bank of Greece, in accordance with a detailed action plan drawn up by the two (2) agencies and forwarded to the European Commission.

- *Regulation (EC) 1445/2007 establishing common rules for the provision of basic information on Purchasing Power Parities and for their calculation and dissemination*

  The non-compliance with the Regulation concerns the delay in updating the inventory of sources and methods, from 2010, for the provision of detailed information on data sources, definitions and methods used for the purchasing power parities. In 2016, ELSTAT proceeded to the drafting of the inventory and informed Eurostat that the inventory would be sent by March 2017.

- *Regulation (EC) 177/2008 establishing a common framework for Business Registers for statistical purposes and repealing Regulation (EEC) 2186/93 – Regulation (EC) 295/2008 on Structural Business Statistics*

  The pending as regards the implementation of the above Regulations concerns the transmission of data of the Statistical Business Register and of business demography, respectively. The above data have not being transmitted to Eurostat for several years, namely from 2012, due to the non-transmission to ELSTAT of the relevant administrative data from the Ministry of Finance. Following the commencement of the transmission of these data to ELSTAT, in May 2016, their processing was initiated with a view to updating the Statistical Business Register for the reference years 2011 – 2015 by the end of June 2017. From the data of the updated Statistical Business Register for the above years the relevant business demography data will derive, which will be forwarded to Eurostat within the first 10 days of July 2017 at the latest.

- *Regulation (EC) 452/2008 on the production and development of statistics on education and life-long learning*

  In order to fully implement Regulation 452/2008 and its implementing Regulation 912/2013, which sets deadlines for submission/transmission of data to Eurostat and specifies the required variables for each domain, the Education Statistics Section proceeded to the amendment of the questionnaires of all surveys conducted in all levels of education for the school/academic year 2014/2015.

  In addition, in 2016, the above Section conducted, for the first time, statistical surveys for nurseries (ISCED 01) and post-secondary education (ISCED 4), in order to address coverage and completeness problems, as the transmitted data came from administrative sources.

  As far as transmission deadlines are concerned, full compliance with the deadlines provided for in Regulation 912/2013 has not yet been achieved. The 2014/2015 data were submitted in May 2016, without including the data on higher education, whose computer processing is at the stage of verification, due to:

  1. Problems encountered in the preparation of the electronic/OCR questionnaire for the conduct of the relevant survey and in the adaptation of the questionnaire to the requirements of the Regulation, which resulted in a delayed starting of the survey by seven (7) months.

  2. The long delay of response of the surveyed units, due to the complexity of the questionnaire.

  3. The need to modify the entire data processing process, due to the application of a new method of collecting primary data.

  4. The poor quality of questionnaires that are filled in by the Secretariats of the Departments of Educational Institutions.

- *Regulation (EC) 453/2008 concerning quarterly statistics on vacancies in the Community*

  Since the 3rd quarter of 2016, quarterly statistics on job vacancies are transmitted on time to Eurostat.

- *Regulation (EC) 1185/2009 on statistics on pesticides*

  In 2016, ELSTAT completed the checking and correction of the collected data from the platform for the electronic recording of retail sales of plant protection products, which was established in accordance with Article 36 (5) of Law 4036/2012 by the competent Ministry of Rural Development and Food. In agreement with the above Ministry regarding the final data, the data on plant protection products, with reference year 2014, were forwarded to Eurostat in August 2016, with a delay of eight (8) months from the deadline set for their submission (31/12/2015). The data on plant protection products, with reference year 2015, were forwarded on time to Eurostat on 21/12/2016. ELSTAT has now complied with the Regulation (EC) 1185/2009 as regards the transmission of the envisaged data within the specified deadlines.

- *Regulation (EU) 549/2013 on the European System of National and Regional Accounts in the European Union*

  i. As regards the Quarterly National Accounts, the data on the population variable were added in the T110 table for the quarters in which the relevant information was missing (from the 1st quarter of 2015). Since 1/3/2017, there is no time lag in the transmission of this variable.

  ii. As concerns the Quarterly Non-Financial Accounts of Institutional Sectors, the pending time series from the 1st quarter of 1999 until the 4th quarter of 2005 was completed and was forwarded to Eurostat in August 2016.

  iii. Regarding the Regional National Accounts, the time series for the period 2000 – 2005 that was missing for regional household accounts was prepared and transmitted to Eurostat in December 2016.

C. ENHANCED RESPONSIVENESS TO USER NEEDS AND CLOSER COOPERATION WITH PRODUCERS OF STATISTICAL DATA

One of ELSTAT's main concerns, since its establishment, has been the production of statistics adapted to the needs and requirements of users at national, European and international level. In this context, ELSTAT collects the comments and interventions made by the participants in the Annual User Conferences that it has established, as well as the results of the User Satisfaction Surveys it conducts, with the aim of improving its statistical products and services provided, as well as identifying new needs and requirements for the production of statistics.

- **Undertaking of actions, in 2016, responding to the conclusions of the Annual User Conferences held in the period 2010 – 2015**

  On the basis of the comments and suggestions made by users at the six (6) User Conferences held during the period 2010 – 2015, ELSTAT included, inter alia, in its Annual Work Programme for 2016, the following:

  – Conduct of an Adult Education Survey, in order to estimate the participation of adults in education and the impact of education on their employment status, as well as conduct of an ad hoc survey for estimating the participation of young people in the labour market and the transition from education to employment.

  – Production of statistics on education expenditure.

– Production of additional statistics on energy consumption.

– Compilation of statistics on nurses by gender, on the basis of the licenses issued for practising the nursing profession.

– Production of additional statistics on accidents at work.

– Addressing the discrepancies observed between similar statistics produced by different agencies and cooperation with several producers of statistics, within ELSTAT but also among the ELSS agencies with ELSTAT as coordinator, with the aim of ensuring comparability of statistics.

– Development of an action plan with the aim of improving accessibility to microdata of statistical surveys.

As regards the above works, the following progress was made in 2016:

– *Conduct of an Adult Education Survey, in order to estimate the participation of adults in education and the impact of education on their employment status, as well as conduct of an ad hoc survey for estimating the participation of young people in the labour market and the transition from education to employment*

  The conduct of the Adult Education Survey, with the reference year 2016, was completed and its data are being processed. The results of the survey are expected to be available in April 2018.

  The ad hoc survey for estimating the participation of young people in the labour market has been completed and the relevant Press Release has been scheduled to be published on 23/11/2017.

– *Production of statistics on education expenditure*

  The Education Statistics Section has completed the compilation of the part of the tables FIN1_SOURCE and FIN2_NATURE pertaining to the public education expenditure for 2012 and 2013 and is in the process of examining their consistency with the relevant data compiled by the General Government and Financial Accounts Section of the National Accounts Division. The data on public education expenditure, with reference year 2014, will be finalised once the validation by Eurostat has been completed. As regards the private education expenditure, a survey was conducted in private schools at different levels of education, where the response rate ranged between 55% and 65%. The data entry of these data into a database is being completed and depending on the degree of coverage of each level of education an extrapolation factor will be calculated to make provisional estimates. On the basis of the above provisional estimates, relevant tables will be compiled, which are expected to be available by mid-July 2017.

– *Production of additional statistics on energy consumption*

  Additional statistics on household energy consumption such as heating, cooking, hot water supply, energy saving interventions, etc. were derived from the Household Budget Survey (HBS) for 2015 and were transmitted to Eurostat on 29 November 2016.

– *Compilation of statistics on nurses by gender, on the basis of the licenses issued for practising the nursing profession*

  Data on nurses, without any distinction of gender, are collected from the Hospital Census and the Health Centers Census that are conducted by ELSTAT. These data concern only the professionals working in these units and not all nurses. Data for the total number of nurses, with

distinction of gender, have been collected, for the years 2013 and 2014, by the Hellenic Regulatory Body of Nurses, where, according to Law 3252/2004, graduate nurses are required to be enrolled, in order to obtain a profession license, however the completeness of the data is investigated.

– *Production of additional statistics on accidents at work*

Additional statistics on accidents at work were derived from the Survey on Accidents at Work for 2014, for the variables: a) workstation; b) contact – mode of injury; and c) material agent of the contact – mode of injury. These statistics are included in the relevant Press Release of the survey, published in October 2016.

– *Addressing the discrepancies observed between similar statistics that are produced by different agencies and refer to the same variable*

Addressing the discrepancies between similar statistics produced by various agencies is a constant concern of ELSTAT. An important development in this area is expected to take place, in the framework of the process of certification by ELSTAT of the statistics of ELSS agencies and of the collaboration between ELSTAT and the various producers of statistics, which continued in 2016. At the same time, in 2016, the self-evaluations of methodologies of basic ELSTAT's statistics continued. In this context, work on revising the Labour Cost Index methodology continued in 2016, in cooperation with Eurostat, with a view to the full implementation by ELSTAT of the relevant European Regulation (Regulation (EC) 450/2003).

– *Development of an action plan with the aim of improving accessibility to microdata of statistical surveys*

In November 2016, an expert of the European Statistical System provided expertise to ELSTAT on issues concerning the accessibility to microdata of statistical surveys. In cooperation with the expert, an action plan to improve this accessibility was developed, with time horizon of completion in 2019. The action plan includes the following:

a) Posting on ELSTAT's website of public use files, i.e. files of anonymised microdata of ELSTAT's statistical surveys that have been anonymised with predefined by ELSTAT anonymisation criteria, so that the direct or indirect identification of surveyed units is not possible. So far, access to these files is granted upon a relevant request by users.

b) Production of standardised scientific use files, i.e. files containing confidential data for scientific purposes, from which it is theoretically possible the indirect identification of surveyed units. These files include confidential data for scientific purposes, on which statistical disclosure control methods have been applied in order to reduce to a certain degree the risk of identifying the surveyed unit. A prerequisite for providing the above files is the submission by the researchers of a research proposal, on the basis of a specific template, and the signing of a contract with ELSTAT for ensuring the data confidentiality.

c) Creation, after a relevant investigation, of safe centers, where authorised researchers can have access to confidential data for scientific purposes, on which no statistical disclosure control method has been applied.

In addition, the following progress was made in 2016, with regard to previous users' requests:

– *Improvement of quality and reduction of the time of producing statistical results across various areas*

The utilisation of tax data transmitted to ELSTAT, since May 2016, is expected to contribute to the improvement of the quality and the reduction of the production time of Structural Business Statistics. At the same time, ELSTAT has made use of new technologies, in 2016, aiming

at improving the quality and reducing the production time of statistical results in a number of areas, such as in the areas of education and health statistics.

– *Compilation of new statistics on transport through natural gas pipelines*

In September 2016, ELSTAT announced for the first time, through a Press Release, statistics on transport through natural gas pipelines in the Greek Territory, for 2015, in the framework of cooperation with the Hellenic Gas Transmission System Operator (DESFA). These data were also used for filling in relevant questions of the UNECE/ITF/Eurostat Joint Questionnaire.

– *Production of statistics at a level lower than the Whole Country*

In 2016, ELSTAT continued to gradually increase the sample size of the Survey on Income and Living Conditions of Households, with a view to enhancing the reliability of results at a level lower than the Whole Country, and at the same time to further increase the accuracy of results at Country level (reduction of the statistical error). The total increase of the sample, which will be completed in 2018, will be such that reliable results at Region level are produced.

- **Compilation of the Hellenic Statistical Programme 2017 – 2019, of the 2017 Annual Statistical Work Programme and of the 2015 Annual Report**

  In the 1st quarter of 2016, ELSTAT compiled the Hellenic Statistical Programme 2017 – 2019, which contains the main fields and targets of the planned statistical actions of ELSS agencies for the aforementioned three-year period. It also completed the compilation of its Annual Statistical Work Programme for 2017 and of the Annual Evaluation Report of its Statistical Work Programme for 2015.

- **Digitisation of the historic cartographic archive**

  In 2016, ELSTAT completed the digitisation of the historic cartographic archive (scale 1: 5,000), for the settlements of Greece, on the basis of the 1991 Population – Housing Census.

- **Digitisation of new settlements for the 2021 Population – Housing Census**

  In the context of the forthcoming 2021 Population – Housing Census, the Cartographic Works Section proceeded, in 2016, to the digitisation of 292 settlements, which in the 2011 Population – Housing Census had a population of more than 700 inhabitants and had not been digitised. By this process the corresponding analogue maps will be produced and the users will have the opportunity to link statistical data to the corresponding geospatial entities of the building blocks. The digitisation took place at the level of: a) building blocks with their numbering, b) road axes with their nomenclature where possible, c) characteristic point and linear entities (churches, stadiums, streams, railways, etc.) of geographic interest.

- **Application for printing cartographic maps**

  In 2016, the work for the creation of a printing application for the cartographic maps of the 2011 Population – Housing Census, as well as for the cartographic maps to be used in the conduct of the 2021 Population – Housing Census, was completed. The application was developed through the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

- **Cooperation actions of the Library of ELSTAT concerning the dissemination of statistics**

  The cooperation of the Library of ELSTAT with the National Documentation Centre continued in 2016, in the context of ELSTAT's participation in the Greek digital libraries search engine "openarchives" of the National Documentation Centre. In the framework of the above cooperation, proposals for corrections and improvement of the "openarchives" portal were sent.

- **Organisation of the 7th Annual User Conference**

In the framework of implementing its 2016 Annual Statistical Work Programme, ELSTAT convened, on 21 December 2016, the 7th Annual User Conference at its premises in Piraeus. At this conference, presentations were held in the following order, on:

1. the redesign of the European system of intra-EU trade (Redesign of Intrastat) and to the SIMSTAT pilot project of the European Union (EU), which is part of the ESS Vision 2020 portfolio of projects and aims at reducing the administrative burden on enterprises arising from Intrastat reporting obligations, while maintaining the quality of intra-Community trade statistics,

2. the actions of ELSTAT as regards the processing of business tax data transmitted to ELSTAT by the Ministry of Finance in May 2016, for the updating of the Statistical Business Register and the production of Structural Business Statistics,

3. the planned changes as regards the access of users to survey microdata, aimed at improving users' accessibility to the above microdata, while enhancing the usefulness of these data for users,

4. the results of the 2015 User Satisfaction Survey.

Subsequently, users commented on the statistical output and the services provided by ELSTAT in relation to the satisfaction of their needs. The users pointed out, inter alia, the need for ELSTAT to:

i. collect qualitative characteristics of imported and exported products, such as the quality and packaging of the product, the professionalism of the counter-parties, etc., in order to study the factors that attract the traders in selecting a product;

ii. make available an updated Statistical Business Register in mid-2017, as well as business statistics at the level of Region and of manufactured product;

iii. accelerate the procedures for the access of regular users to microdata of ELSTAT's statistical surveys;

iv. provide assistance so that the competent services of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food have unhindered access to the data collected by the Directorates of Rural Economy and Veterinary;

v. make available, for the needs of the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF), more up-to-date statistical data at the level of Region, as well as data at a level below the Department;

vi. elaborate a study on the impact on GDP of the reduction of the administrative burden of exporters;

vii. take care of the particular needs of very small exporters, which have a disproportionately greater administrative reporting burden under the SIMSTAT programme;

viii. define in the administrative forms the fields that are necessary for statistical purposes and preserving them on the forms;

ix. conduct an analysis, by combining data on tax debt with data on the debt to social security funds;

x. set up social indicators for the inputs and outputs of the educational system in Greece;

xi. capture the educational indicators in relation to GDP, at the level of Regional Unity;

xii. develop a platform for health statistics integrating macroeconomic and microeconomic data;

xiii. obtain access to the electronic system for data collection from health units, "ESY-net", and combine these data with mortality and productivity indices;

xiv. utilise its experienced regular users on issues pertaining to data collection and production of statistics;

xv. organise one-day conferences for targeted user groups;

xvi. develop cooperation with the Harokopio University of Athens, in the framework of the designing of the next Population – Housing Census, given the very good cooperation that has been in the context of the development of the application "PANORAMA of Greek Census data, 1991 – 2011";

xvii. provide a pre-approval from the Statistical Confidentiality Committee for users who are "certified" and stable.

Material from the 7th User Conference is available on ELSTAT's website at the following link: http://www.statistics.gr/en/user-conference-2016

On the basis of the comments and remarks made by users in the 7th User Conference, as well as in the six (6) previous User Conferences, ELSTAT recorded and processed the needs of users. The satisfaction of these identified and recorded user needs is already, to a large extent, reflected in ELSTAT's priorities for the three-year period 2017 – 2019, as they have been integrated into the Hellenic Statistical Programme 2017 – 2019. ELSTAT has prioritised the aforementioned needs on the basis of their importance to users and their criticality for the statistical product, and has begun to explore the possibility of satisfying these needs, taking into account its available resources and its national and international obligations.

- **Upgrading the portal of ELSTAT**

ELSTAT aims at continuously improving the various aspects of the layout and content of its portal and of the other dissemination modes of its statistics, with a view to adapting them to users' needs, both at national and international level.

An important role in the achievement of the above objective has played the project for upgrading the existing infrastructure and services provided by ELSTAT in the area of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and, in particular, the completion of sub-project 2 "Upgrading of the portal services for the dissemination of statistics". The new ELSTAT portal was put into operation in October 2015 and has incorporated new open source tools and technologies, offering functional compatibility to all browsers.

The main webpage receives a large number of visitors on a daily basis. In 2016, the main webpage of ELSTAT had 433,029 unique users' visits(1). In comparison with 2015, the number of unique users' visits recorded an increase of 19.2%. The total number of connection periods, i.e., the time period during which a user is actively connected to the webpage, amounted to 823,813 in 2016. In comparison with 2015, the number of connection periods recorded an increase of 22.5%. Also, in 2016, ELSTAT's twitter received 2,713 tweets(2), while the number of those tweets from other twitter users of ELSTAT amounted to 372,900. Since August 2016, ELSTAT has also a Linkedin account:
https://www.linkedin.com/company/hellenic-statistical-authority-elstat-

(1) It refers to the number of unique computers that visited the webpage.
(2) Short messages (up to 140 characters).

It is noted that the Statistical Data Dissemination Section served 6,450 users' requests in 2016, which, in comparison with 2015, recorded an increase of 18%. These requests include:

a) 117 requests that were satisfied after the signing of a contract between the users (researchers) and ELSTAT, for the provision of confidential data for scientific purposes, which increased by 160% compared to 2015,

b) 120 users' requests for access to anonymised microdata of ELSTAT's statistical surveys with predefined anonymisation criteria, which increased by 33% compared to 2015,

c) 1,500 users' requests for the provision of tailor made statistics, which increased by 15% compared to 2015.

Also, in 2016, the reform of the new User Satisfaction Questionnaire (with additional questions) was completed in Greek and in English, and its posting on ELSTAT's website is imminent.

In 2016, the following actions were carried out for enriching the website of ELSTAT (both the Greek and English version of the website):

– Posting ELSTAT's Statistical Confidentiality Policy and ELSTAT's Dissemination Policy after completion of their compilation in March and September 2016, respectively.

– Continuing the work of updating the tables and covering the gaps in the time series of data on ELSTAT's website, as well as enriching the website with the metadata and quality reports of all statistical surveys and works in line with the established in the ESS Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS). The website of ELSTAT has been enriched with analytical quality reports, user-oriented quality reports and metadata of ELSTAT's statistical surveys/works.

– Continuing the posting on ELSTAT's website of tables on various statistical themes and for a number of years for which there was a lack of information.

– Enriching the website with new Press Releases, which include statistics published by ELSTAT, so as to provide users with an increasing share of the results of ELSTAT's statistical work and, in general, broader and more comprehensive statistical information. Forty-one (41) new Press Releases were posted in 2016.

- **Fostering statistical education**

In the context of the project of ELSTAT "Fostering Statistical Education", in 2016, thirteen (13) guided tours of educational institutions (of primary, secondary and tertiary education) took place on ELSTAT's premises. Five hundred and ninety-one (591) students, accompanied by thirty-seven (37) teachers visited the premises and the Library of ELSTAT and were informed on the tasks and the work of ELSTAT, the statistical material they can retrieve from the portal of ELSTAT, as well as on the services provided to users by the specialised library of ELSTAT (the Library's electronic catalogue, Digital Library, European Statistical Data Support Centre – ESDS).

- **Organisation of a Workshop on "Statistics and Big Data"**

On 9 December 2016, ELSTAT organised a workshop on "Statistics and Big Data", aiming at the exchange of views and experiences of representatives of agencies using Big Data on the role and utilisation of Big Data in the production of statistics. The use of Big Data as an additional source for producing statistics, by integrating them into the data from surveys and administrative sources, becomes imperative for the National Statistical Institutes (NSIs). However, the access, confidentiality, validity and reliability of Big Data are important challenges, which need to be addressed in the context of their integration into official statistics. In the above workshop interesting presentations were made. The material of the workshop is available on ELSTAT's website, at the following link: http://www.statistics.gr/el/workshop-bigdata

- **Issuing an informative leaflet entitled "Greece – Russia in figures"**

  The year 2016 was designated as the "Year of Greece in Russia" and, respectively, "Year of Russia in Greece", with an agreement formalised in a Joint Declaration, which was signed by both countries in October 2013.

  The above designated year aimed to build useful partnerships of mutual benefit with substantial economic results, expanding Greek accessibility to broader strata of Russian society, opening up new areas of scientific, academic and business synergy, and seeking new markets for tourism, Greek products and Greek innovative productivity.

  The Hellenic Statistical Authority, in order to celebrate the "Year of Greece in Russia", issued an informative leaflet, which contains statistics on two areas where the two countries cooperate very closely: tourism and trade. The leaflet is available on ELSTAT's website, at the following link:
  http://www.statistics.gr/documents/20181/2071418/elstat_greece_russia.pdf/87cb2557-c534-47e3-8ce8-86bfc61b6c9d

- **Participation of ELSTAT in the 81st Thessaloniki International Fair**

  In the framework of its annual presence at the Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF) for the last fifty-six (56) years, the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) participated in the 81st TIF (10 – 18 September 2016) with its own stand.

  Information material and data covering a wide range of statistical surveys conducted by ELSTAT were available at ELSTAT's stand for the visitors. Most of the above material, as well as the infographics that decorated the stand of ELSTAT, are available in a special section that was created on ELSTAT's website for the 81st TIF, at the following link:
  http://www.statistics.gr/el/elstat-81-tif

  During the 81st TIF, ELSTAT organised on its stand, for a third consecutive year, a variety of recreational and educational activities for children aged 3 to 12 years. Through these activities, children had the opportunity to gain an insight into the importance of statistical science. These events are part of the actions undertaken by ELSTAT aiming at fostering statistical education in Greece and are included in ELSTAT's Annual Statistical Work Programmes.

  At the same time, the Hellenic Statistical Authority, in full respect of the Principles of the European Statistics Code Practice and the UN Fundamental Principles for Official Statistics, and in particular the principle of equal access to statistical information, cooperated with the Center for Education and Rehabilitation for the Blind (CERB) and the Center for Greek Guide Dogs for a series of events. The events hosted at the stand of ELSTAT included the presentation of a children's book as well as the training of guide dogs for visually impaired people.

- **Exploiting administrative data sources for the production of statistics**

  With the aim of improving the quality and timeliness of produced statistics, while saving human and financial resources and reducing the burden on respondents, the European and international statistical community have focused in recent years on the exploitation of administrative data sources and, relatively recently, of Big Data. The amendment of Regulation 223/2009 on European statistics by Regulation 2015/759 reinforces the right of the National Statistical Institutes to have access to all administrative records and to use them for the production of European statistics. It also provides the right to the NSIs to be consulted and involved in the initial design and subsequent development of administrative records, with the view to making them more suitable for their use in the production of statistics.

  ELSTAT, since its establishment, has given special emphasis on further utilising data available in the administrative data sources of Greece. In this framework, it has signed memoranda of cooperation with ELSS agencies and has developed close cooperation with administrative data sources.

The actions of ELSTAT related to the exploitation of administrative data that took place in 2016, are listed below:

a) Signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between ELSTAT and the Computer Technology Institute and Press "DIOPHANTUS" for the compilation of education statistics in pre-primary, primary, secondary and post-secondary education.

b) Signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between ELSTAT and the Greek Universities Network (GUnet) for the compilation of statistics in the field of tertiary education.

c) Signing a Memorandum of Cooperation between ELSTAT and the Center for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving (CRES) on the exchange of statistical information for the compilation of energy consumption statistics for the domestic sector.

d) Signing a Memorandum of Cooperation between ELSTAT and the Hellenic Labour Inspectorate (SEPE) for the compilation of statistics on accidents at work in Greece, according to the "European Statistics on Accidents at Work (ESAW)" methodology of Eurostat.

e) Continuation of the cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights pertaining to:

   i. the availability of administrative data, for the production of Civil Justice statistics;

   ii. the availability of data from the Integrated System for the Management of Judicial Cases of Administrative Justice, for the production of statistics on the decisions of the Administrative Courts;

   iii. the access to anonymised data of the National Penal Register, where final, irrevocable convictions are registered, for the production of Penal Justice statistics (convicts). The use of the above data is expected to contribute to the reduction of the administrative burden of the courts for filling in the individual statistical forms for convicts and to the elimination of the problems of the survey by the use of questionnaires (low response rate of courts and lack of data).

f) Continuation of the cooperation with the Division of Road Traffic Police of the Hellenic Police for the development of a web application, through which the required data on road traffic accidents will be collected. This application is expected to contribute to the automation of the data collection, through the interconnection of ELSTAT with the application of the project "Integrated Information System for the collection and management of data on road traffic accidents and imposition of sanctions on road traffic issues". Once the application has been fully operational and the required adjustments in the Road Traffic Accidents Form (DOTA) have been completed, the application will be able to support the electronic DOTA.

D. INTENSIFYING COOPERATION AND UNDERTAKING OF ACTION IN THE EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL COMMUNITY

ELSTAT, with the objective to be established as an active member of the European Statistical System, continued, in 2016, to put special emphasis on the cooperation with Eurostat and the other agencies of the European Commission, as well as with the National Statistical Institutes of the other EU Member States. In this context, in 2016, the staff of ELSTAT continued to participate in Eurostat Working Groups and in the Council Working Party on Statistics (CWPS). In addition, in the context of pursuing the cooperation of ELSTAT in the international statistical fora, there was continuation of the active participation by ELSTAT in the meetings and workings of international statistical agencies, such as the Conference of European Statisticians, the UN Statistical Commission, and the International Statistical Institute.

In 2016, ELSTAT participated in the following projects of the European Statistical System, which are included in the project portfolio of the ESS Vision 2020:

a) Redesign of Intrastat, which aims at reducing the burden on enterprises for providing data on intra-Community trade;

b) BIG DATA, whose main purpose is the integration of Big Data into the production of official statistics, through pilot projects exploring selected Big Data sources for the development of relevant applications. The project consists of ten (10) sub-projects. ELSTAT participates in the following two (2) sub-projects of the project:

   - *Sub-project 1 (WP1): Web scraping Job-Vacancies*: The purpose of this sub-project is to identify the most appropriate techniques and methodologies for the production of job vacancy statistics and the conditions under which these techniques can be used by the European Statistical System. Various sources of Big Data are being explored, including job search sites, advertisements on the website of companies and job vacancy data from third sources. In the framework of the project, web scraping was conducted on two Greek job search websites and the data collected were examined. The aim of this work is to understand coverage issues and, in particular, to identify the areas of activity covered by the above data in the Greek labour market. For this purpose, the companies mentioned in the advertisements are matched with the enterprises of the sample of the Job Vacancy Survey and the Statistical Business Register.

   - *Sub-project 4 (WP4): AIS-data*: The purpose of this sub-project is to investigate the Automatic Identification System (AIS) data, in order to use them both to improve the quality and comparability of existing relevant statistics and to create new statistics of the European Statistical System. In the framework of the sub-project, European AIS data for a six-month period, which are provided by a Dutch company, are used. At the same time, ELSTAT also processes national AIS data of the same time period, to which it obtained access from the Hellenic Coast Guard.

   The results of the project ESSnet BIG DATA are disseminated through the following link:
   https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/essnetbigdata/index.php/ESSnet_Big_Data

c) DIGICOM, which aims to exploit digital tools for the creation of innovative products for the presentation and dissemination of statistics. Sub-actions of the project concern:

   - categorisation and analysis of the needs of users, aiming at creating products and services covering their specialised needs,

   - development of communication tools (visualisation tools, animation, interactive tools and applications), in the context of upgrading dissemination,

   - further development of the infrastructure for access to open data and microdata of statistical surveys in a machine-readable format, and availability of the tailor-made statistics, on the condition of ensuring the statistical confidentiality of data.

In addition to the aforementioned projects of ESS Vision 2020, ELSTAT continued, in 2016, to actively and effectively participate in the supporting framework QUAL, which refers to the quality issues of the portfolio projects.

E. HUMAN RESOURCES OF ELSTAT

1. ELSTAT personnel

In 2016, the reduction in the size of ELSTAT's human resources continued, as compared to 2015, due to the retirement – resignation of employees. More specifically, on 31 December 2016, the total number of ELSTAT staff amounted to 730 employees: the permanent staff numbered 689 employees (251 men and 438 women) and the staff working under Private Contract of Unlimited Duration numbered 41 employees (14 men and 27 women). The total number of ELSTAT staff, on 31 December 2015, was 743 employees: the permanent staff numbered 704 employees (256 men and 448 women) and the staff working under Private Contract of Unlimited Duration numbered 39 employees (13 men and 26 women). In 2016, 18 employees retired and 5 employees were hired. Thus, the total number of ELSTAT staff decreased by 1.7% in 2016, in comparison with 2015.

In comparison with 2009 (31 December), when ELSTAT staff numbered 1,007 employees, a net decrease by 277 employees had been recorded in the number of ELSTAT staff by the end of 2016. This drastic decrease in the number of ELSTAT staff has created particularly difficult conditions for the timely implementation of the actions that have been planned in the framework of the annual and three-year statistical work programmes of ELSTAT. The need to provide adequate and stable resources to ELSTAT is also mentioned in a recommendation of the Peer Review Report.

On 31 December 2016, out of the 730 employees of ELSTAT, 538 worked in the Central Office and 192 in the Regional Statistical Offices.

The following table depicts the allocation of ELSTAT staff, by gender and education level, in 2015 and 2016 (31 December):

Table 1. ELSTAT staff, by gender and education level: 2015 and 2016

Education level	Men			Women			Total		
	2015	2016	Change %	2015	2016	Change %	2015	2016	Change %
University	169	170	0.6	217	216	- 0.5	386	386	0.0
Technical	26	26	0.0	55	55	0.0	81	81	0.0
Secondary	70	66	- 5.7	198	190	- 4.0	268	256	- 4.5
Obligatory	4	3	- 25.0	4	4	0.0	8	7	- 12.5
Total	**269**	**265**	**- 1.5**	**474**	**465**	**- 1.9**	**743**	**730**	**- 1.7**

F. ELSTAT BUDGET EXECUTION

ELSTAT's expenses, for 2016, are classified in the following categories:

a) Labour costs (salaries of ELSTAT staff, including basic salary, allowances (family allowance, position allowance, etc.), social security contributions, overtime pay, etc.).

b) Expenses related to the staff's travelling within Greece and abroad, i.e., travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses for the employees of ELSTAT travelling:

– in Greece, away of the headquarters or out of the office, for the purpose of conducting statistical surveys in the field,

– abroad for participating in meetings, seminars, etc. organised by Eurostat or other international organisations.

This category includes also expenses related to the transfer or detachment of ELSTAT 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, electricity, communication, water supply, security and building maintenance costs, expenses related to advertising and public relations, subscriptions, expenses for the provision of consumables (paper, stationery, medical and pharmaceutical supplies, materials for the maintenance and repair of premises and equipment), fuel, etc. In the same category are also included expenses for the provision of capital formation (furniture, PCs, printers, photocopiers and other office equipment), as well as the expenses for the remuneration of external survey workers, who are used by ELSTAT for the collection of data of conducted statistical surveys.

d) Expenses for projects financed by Eurostat (for the conduct of surveys, studies and other statistical works).

The following table presents the allocation of ELSTAT's expenses in 2016, by type of expenditure, as well as the comparison with the corresponding debriefing expenses in 2015:

Table 2. ELSTAT expenses paid in 2016, in comparison with 2015

Type of expenditure	Amount paid (in euro)	
	2015	2016
Labour cost	21,741,857.98	20,909,838.43
Expenses related to staff travelling within Greece and abroad	313,585.32	498,903.07
Other operating expenses and cost for capital formation	7,586,636.93	6,967,342.89
Projects financed by Eurostat	272,898.15	164,823.95
Investments through the Public Investment Programme	1,460,246.31	...
Total	**31,375,224.69**	**28,540,908.34**

The decrease observed in the expenses paid in 2016, in comparison with 2015, as regards the item "Labour cost", is due to the decrease of ELSTAT personnel on account of retirements and of the non-completion of procedures for the necessary hiring of personnel.

The increase recorded as regards the item "Expenses related to staff travelling within Greece and abroad" for 2016 is, mostly, on account of ELSTAT employees' travelling, during the last two months of 2016, for the purpose of conducting the Farm Structure Survey in the field throughout the Country.