

Hellenic Statistical Program

2011 – 2013

A. INTRODUCTION

Article 4 of the new statistical law 3832/2010 "*Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS) Establishment of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) as an independent authority*" provides for the compilation, every three years, of a three-year statistical work program for the ELSS, entitled the Hellenic Statistical Program (ELSP).

The ELSP contains the main fields and targets of planned statistical actions of ELSS agencies for a three-year period. These statistical actions can be either planned regular actions or ad hoc actions aimed at dealing with emergency needs. The ELSP also sets out the work priorities of the ELSS—ELSTAT and the other ELSS agencies—so that the statistical system of the country can meet European Union and international obligations regarding the required statistics for compilation. These priorities are determined taking also into consideration the required human and financial resources as well as the administrative burden, which the compilation of the relevant statistics entails. The ELSP is the basis on which the ELSS agencies compile their annual statistical programs.

Section B of the ELSP contains information on the objectives of ELSTAT and the other ELSS agencies as regards the improvement of the quality of produced statistics. In this context, the ELSP provides information pertaining to the framework and envisaged actions for aligning the Hellenic Statistical System with the European one, including actions for improving the quality of the statistics of Greece in major areas of statistics and building the necessary capacity within the ELSS; improving access of users to statistical data; modernizing data collection methods; and reducing the burden on respondents. An important event discussed is the organization by ELSTAT, in cooperation with Eurostat, in May 2012, of the European Conference on Quality in Official Statistics (Q2012).

Section C of the ELSP contains information on actions that concern both the production of new statistics and the revision of existing statistics in 2011 – 2013, according to national and international obligations and taking into account users' needs. In this context, the ELSP also presents the major statistical endeavor in this three-year period—the conduct of the 2011 General Population and Housing Census.

Section D outlines the objectives, initiatives and new statistical products of the ELSS agencies, besides ELSTAT, for the period 2011 – 2013.

B. PLANS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ELSS STATISTICS

1. Goals and means

The primary objective for the three-year period 2011 – 2013 is the improvement of the quality of produced statistics with a view to reestablishing confidence in the statistics of Greece.

The main means by which the above goals will be achieved are the implementation of the new Statistical Law that came into force in March 2010 and the implementation of the multidimensional Joint Overall Statistical Greek Action Plan agreed with Eurostat in April 2010 for the harmonization of the Hellenic Statistical System with the European one. Other

means include a series of efforts in areas such as training and development of staff, regular meetings with data users, using technology and administrative data sources for data collection, improving the accessibility of statistics, and contributing more to the European and the international statistical community.

2. The new Statistical Law

The new statistical law establishes the Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS) and the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT), providing for the independence of ELSTAT and its determining role within the ELSS⁽¹⁾. By decision of ELSTAT, published in the Government Gazette, the ELSS agencies having the responsibility or obligation to collect statistical data were designated in 2010. The ELSS agencies comprise, besides ELSTAT, the Bank of Greece and sixteen Government Ministries. According to the statistical law, the activities of the ELSS agencies concerning the development, production and dissemination of statistics must be governed by the statistical principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice regarding "professional independence", "impartiality", "objectivity", "reliability", "statistical confidentiality" and "cost-effectiveness".

In order to ensure the quality of official statistics, ELSS agencies have a number of obligations, which are stipulated both in the statistical law enacted in 2010 and in the *Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the Agencies of the ELSS*, which is to be enacted in 2011. Thus, ELSS agencies are obliged to develop, produce and disseminate their statistics on the basis of uniform standards and harmonized methods, by applying the quality assessment criteria of "relevance", "accuracy", "timeliness", "punctuality", "accessibility", "clarity", "comparability" and "coherence".

According to the new Statistical Law, ELSS agencies shall submit reports to ELSTAT on the quality of their data. The statistics produced by these agencies are considered "Official Statistics", provided they have been certified by ELSTAT. The methodology followed by ELSTAT for the certification is outlined in the *Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT*, which is to be enacted in 2011. The certification of statistics will be gradually implemented from 2011 onwards, after the enactment of the two Regulations noted above.

3. Joint Overall Statistical Greek Action Plan

In order to address weaknesses in the government finance statistics of Greece, and to reestablish confidence in the statistics of the country more broadly, the European Commission was asked to take all necessary measures for the harmonization of the Hellenic Statistical System with the European Statistical System. To this end, the Commission and the Greek Authorities put in place in 2010 the Joint Overall Statistical Greek Action Plan (JOSGAP). JOSGAP consists of a significant number of actions allocated to three pillars (A, B and C).

(1) Law 3832/2010, as amended by the Laws 3842/2010 and 3899/2010.

Actions within Pillar A of the JOSGAP aim at strengthening the institutional framework of the ELSS, and include *inter alia* the following:

- designation of ELSS agencies,
- designation of ELSS national authorities,
- preparation of the *Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the Agencies of the ELSS* and of the *Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT*,
- compilation of the 2011 statistical work program of ELSTAT and of the 2011 – 2013 Hellenic Statistical Program.

Most of the actions in Pillar A of the JOSGAP were either completed in early 2011 or are at the stage of finalization and are expected to be completed by mid-2011.

Actions in Pillar B of the JOSGAP aim at improving the processes and capacity for the production of statistics in Greece, through a program of short and medium term technical assistance from Eurostat to ELSTAT. The actions in Pillar B comprise, *inter alia*, the following: improving the quality of the existing statistical business register and of the register of agricultural holdings; setting up and updating a population register and a buildings register; improving the quality of structural business statistics through the use of administrative data sources; and reorganizing the production of environmental statistics. Also included within Pillar B are actions aimed at improving ICT services within ELSTAT, such as updating the Integrated Information System of ELSTAT, upgrading the portal of ELSTAT, and improving technical support in the area of ICT to ELSTAT Divisions, as well as actions concerning the development and implementation of a training program for the staff of ELSTAT. In addition, Pillar B includes a series of actions aimed at strengthening National Accounts and other statistics, including the revision of the Annual National Accounts slated for 2011, the compilation of Quarterly and Regional National Accounts, the compilation of Trade Statistics, etc. Many of the actions in this pillar are under way and, according to the timetable in the JOSGAP, most of these actions are envisaged to be completed by the end of 2012.

Finally, the actions in Pillar C focus on improving the quality of the Greek Government Finance Statistics. The first results from carrying out these actions already became visible in late 2010, when the Greek Government Finance Statistics for the period 2006 – 2009, which had been submitted to Eurostat in the context of the October 2010 notification for the Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP), were published by the latter without reservations. Most of the actions within Pillar C of the JOSGAP were completed in early 2011 and remaining work in this area will continue to be implemented rigorously in 2011 with a view to completing the necessary improvements in Government Finance Statistics.

Improvements in the reliability of Greece's Government Finance Statistics have benefited from the collaboration and technical assistance of Eurostat, as well as from the enhanced cooperation of ELSTAT with Government Ministries, the General Accounting Office, and the Bank of Greece, which has been enshrined in Memoranda of Understanding. Among the many notable actions are the following:

- Initiation of the revision of the Register of the General Government entities, which until mid-2010 was used to compile Government Finance Statistics, with priority to

address the quality problems of the debt and deficit statistics of Greece. One of the sources of these problems was the erroneous classification outside General Government of a number of large entities, which had the capacity to incur debt. The revised Register was made public on ELSTAT's website. An important action in 2011 will be the completion of the screening and revision of the Register and the implementation of a system for its regular update.

- Recalculation of Quarterly Government Finance Statistics for 2009 onwards using mainly direct sources and the updated classification of public entities within General Government.
- Upgrade of ELSTAT's quarterly and annual questionnaires for collecting data from General Government entities and development of web applications for online transmission to ELSTAT of quarterly and annual data of other General Government entities, such as Social Security Funds, Public Hospitals, Government Enterprises and Extra-Budgetary Funds. ELSTAT also collaborated with the Ministry of Interior for the development of a new questionnaire and web application for the collection of economic data from Local Authorities. ELSTAT trained statistical correspondents of General Government entities in the proper provision of the necessary primary data through the newly available questionnaires and ICT collection modalities. Moreover, ELSTAT cooperated with the General Accounting Office on the compilation of a monthly questionnaire to be used by both institutions for collecting data from various General Government entities.
- Significant strengthening of the National Accounts Division of ELSTAT is well under way so as to carry out the necessary actions envisaged in Pillars B and C of the JOSGAP.

4. Program of staff training and development

ELSTAT intends to increase the knowledge and skills of its staff through a program of continuous training and development. This program will provide the employees of ELSTAT with the possibility to be trained on new statistical methods and tools, as well as on technological developments with applications in the work of a Statistical Institute.

In this context, an exercise was conducted in 2010 to record the training needs of ELSTAT employees. In addition, an expert on staff training visited ELSTAT and produced an assessment of current training needs and made suggestions for future steps concerning the development of a training program. This report will form the basis for the compilation, in the period 2011 – 2012, of the program of continuous training and development of the staff.

5. Using technology to upgrade data collection

In 2011, ELSTAT intends to extend the use of electronic questionnaires for the collection of data and the conduct of surveys via computer/web applications.

The use of electronic questionnaires and the conduct of surveys via computer/web applications have two significant advantages: they substantially reduce both the time and the cost of surveys.

In this context, ELSTAT will gradually replace the printed questionnaires, especially those that are used for the collection of data from administrative sources, by electronic ones, so that the majority of those questionnaires are available in electronic form by the end of 2013. In parallel, within the period 2011 – 2013, ELSTAT will maximize the use of the internet for the collection of data, through the development of web applications.

In addition, and whenever this provides for better results, ELSTAT will explore the possibility of conducting more of its surveys—which are currently conducted through face-to-face interviews—through ELSTAT's call center, which will be upgraded.

6. Enhancing the use of administrative data sources

In the context of the general effort to reduce public expenditure, and with a view to reducing the burden on respondents, ELSTAT plans to move towards a reduction in the number of its surveys by making better use of administrative data sources.

In this context, during 29 – 30 November 2010, ELSTAT organized on its premises a workshop on the improvement of the quality of business statistics through the use of administrative data. Experts from EU Member States making extensive use of administrative data sources participated in the workshop alongside representatives of the Greek public and private sectors. The basic conclusion of the workshop is that the creation of a "single entry point" for the submission of business data could contribute to the drastic reduction of human and financial resources which are required for the production of business statistics, on both the side of the enterprises and the side of ELSTAT and other authorized data users. Authorized users and ELSTAT will have the capacity to extract the data they are interested in from the common database. ELSTAT is investigating the feasibility of creating the "single entry point", by taking into account all the requirements of the task (legislative arrangements, compatibility of applications and uses, time of completion, cost, etc.).

7. Improving accessibility of statistics

The statistical product is a public good and therefore all users must have equal and easy access to it. To this end, ELSTAT will strive during 2011 – 2013 for the continuous upgrade of both its website and the various press releases and publications, with a view to adapting them and satisfying the changing needs of users.

In this context, one of the main objectives of ELSTAT for this three-year period is to enrich and upgrade its website with the metadata of all the statistical surveys and statistical works it conducts, adapted to the European Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (EURO – SDMX) system.

In addition, ELSTAT intends to develop all the necessary mechanisms that will allow data users to produce, from the database of the statistical business register as well as from other databases, tables adapted to their needs, thus ensuring that statistical confidentiality is fully protected.

During 2011 – 2013, ELSTAT also intends to improve various aspects of the form and content of its website and other dissemination modalities, enrich their content in order to meet the needs of data users both in Greece and abroad according to the highest international standards and ensure that the content of the website and publications is updated in a timely manner with the most recent statistical information.

ELSTAT is planning to include on its website links to other statistical data producers, through which researchers and users will be referred to additional data sources, from where they could collect the data they need. It also intends to create a special section on its website, where the users can have access to the most updated data on the major economic aggregates of the Greek economy.

8. Establishing regular meetings with users of statistical data

Following to the first "Users Conference", held on ELSTAT's premises on 20 October 2010, on the occasion of the celebration of World Statistics Day, and which had made a very positive impression on all the participants, ELSTAT intends to hold regular meetings, on an annual basis, with both users and producers of statistical data. International experience has shown that the conclusions of such meetings form a useful basis for the compilation of multi-annual statistical programs and constitute a guide in any effort towards the renewal and improvement of statistical output.

9. Organization of the 2012 European Conference on "Quality in Official Statistics"

In 2010, ELSTAT applied for and was selected by Eurostat to organize the international conference on "Quality in Official Statistics" in May 2012.

This conference has been taking place approximately every two years, starting in 2000, each time in a different Member State of the European Union. The need for continuous quality improvement of European statistics led to the establishment of the above conference. The Quality Conference has become a top-level scientific meeting, with the participation of notable members of the international statistical community. It has now been established as the traditional meeting of statisticians, academics, and representatives of national and international bodies and organizations whose work focuses on quality in statistics. More specifically, the Conference aims at:

- a) bringing together representatives of National Statistical Institutes, Ministries, Organizations, Universities, research centers and users groups from all over the world,
- b) providing an opportunity to the participants to exchange experiences and expertise in the areas of quality and methodology of statistics, enhancing their knowledge,
- c) developing and improving the skills of the participants as regards the assessment of the quality of statistics,
- d) proposing ideas and solutions for dealing with statistical challenges and problems related to the quality of statistics,
- e) promoting the development and dissemination of new statistical methodologies.

Participants in the conference usually number in the hundreds and scientific work presented in the conference usually becomes a reference point for the improvement of the quality of statistics.

ELSTAT's application to undertake the organization of the 2012 Quality Conference demonstrates the importance ELSTAT attaches to the quality of statistics and its commitment to it.

Box 1. Cooperation with Users

The 2010 Users Conference

ELSTAT convened the first Users Conference on 20 October 2010, on the occasion of World Statistics Day. This conference provided an important opportunity for ELSTAT to receive comments and suggestions from users in a number of areas: dissemination of statistical information, gaps and weaknesses in produced statistics, access to statistical data and future steps for strengthening ELSTAT's cooperation with users.

Users pointed out, *inter alia*, the need for:

- a) compilation of additional statistics in the areas of health and education (mainly economic data),
- b) compilation of statistics on the use of time,
- c) compilation of statistics on wealth and capital,
- d) development of a System of Health Accounts,
- e) compilation of additional statistics at the level of municipality.

The 2010 Conference on Poverty and Social Exclusion

ELSTAT also convened the first conference on Statistics on Poverty and Social Exclusion, on 9 December 2010. Participants included users of statistics in this area. The main conclusion of the conference was the need to expand the array of statistics compiled in this area so as to capture the multiple aspects of the phenomena of poverty and social exclusion.

ELSTAT has studied the comments and suggestions made at the two conferences with a view to taking appropriate actions within the existing and envisaged constraints on its budget.

C. NEW AND REVISED STATISTICS DURING 2011 – 2013

1. General Censuses for Buildings and for Population – Housing

In 2011, ELSTAT is to conduct a Buildings Census and a Population and Housing Census. The conduct of the Population and Housing Census is a common obligation of all EU Member States. The Buildings Census is a response to national needs and it is the seventh such census since 1940. The aim of the General Censuses, which are conducted every ten years,

is the collection of data regarding the demographic, economic and social characteristics of the population, the composition of households and their housing conditions, and the country's wealth in buildings.

More specifically:

a) The Buildings Census aims at:

- recording the number of buildings in the country as a whole and by region,
- collecting data on buildings concerning their use, type of ownership, period of construction, size, construction materials, etc.

b) The Housing Census aims at:

- recording the number of dwellings by type,
- collecting data concerning the main characteristics of dwellings and their facilities,
- recording the number of dwellings in relation to their tenure status by the households.

c) The Population Census aims at:

- recording the country's *resident* population, namely the inhabitants who permanently reside in every level of administrative division of Greece (Decentralized Administration, Region, Municipality, etc.),
- recording the country's *de facto* population, i.e., the persons who were present on the reference date of the census, in every level of administrative division of Greece (Decentralized Administration, Region, Municipality, etc.),
- recording the country's *de jure* (registered) population, i.e., the number of citizens registered in every Municipality,
- collecting data on the composition of households,
- collecting data concerning the demographic, social, educational, and economic characteristics of the population.

The 2011 Population and Housing Census differs from previous censuses conducted in Greece in one important aspect: the enumeration of households is to be carried out over a period of fifteen days instead of only one day. More specifically, the starting date of the Buildings Census is the 1st of February 2011, with reference date the 15th of January 2011, while the Population and Housing Census is to be conducted from 10 May 2011 until 24 May 2011, with reference date the 9th of May 2011.

After the end of the Population and Housing Census, a Post-Enumeration Survey on the coverage of the census will be conducted for: a) assessing undercounts and overcounts of dwellings and households in the census, and b) conducting a quality check of the data collected in the census regarding the basic demographic characteristics of the surveyed individuals.

The processing of the data collected during the censuses will be carried out during 2011 and 2012. ELSTAT intends to begin the publication of the first census results starting in late 2012.

2. New statistics of ELSTAT for meeting European and international obligations

The planned production of new statistics by ELSTAT in the period 2011 – 2013 is driven, to a large extent, by the need to fulfill its obligations towards Eurostat and other European and international Organizations. These involve implementing new EU Regulations, ensuring compliance with existing Regulations, filling in of questionnaires, updating of databases, etc. The new statistics that are planned to be produced in the three-year period for such purposes are the following (by theme):

2011

- **INDUSTRY – TRADE – SERVICES**

- *Statistics on the access to finance of enterprises*, with reference year 2010 (Regulation 295/2008 and its implementing Regulation 97/2009). These enterprises belong to the following sectors: industry, construction, trade and other services (financial services are excluded).

- **TRADE**

- *Statistics on the surface area of retail trade establishments*. This concerns a new variable to be collected in the context of the Structural Business Survey in trade, sales and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, and retail sale of fuels, with reference year 2009 (Regulation 295/2008).

- *Statistics on commercial transactions by business characteristics*. This concerns a new demand for statistics on trade with EU Member States, with reference year 2009 (Regulation 638/2004 and its implementing Regulation 96/2010).

- *Statistics on commercial transactions by business characteristics*, with first reference year 2010 (Regulation 113/2010), concerning external trade statistics with third countries.

- *Statistics on commercial transactions by accounting unit*, with first reference year 2010 (Regulation 113/2010).

- *Statistics on research and development (R&D) of foreign affiliates*, with reference year 2009 (Regulation 747/2008).

- **POPULATION**

- *Statistics concerning the registered partnership*. Compilation of relevant tables.

- *Migration statistics—Emigrant and Immigrant nationals* (Regulation 862/2007).

- **PRICES**

- *Producer price indices in the services sector*. Compilation of new indices (Regulations 1165/98, 1158/2005, 1893/2006 and 451/2008).

2012

- EDUCATION
 - *Statistics on the education of adults*, through the conduct of the Adults' Education Survey (Regulation 823/2010).
- TRADE
 - *Statistics concerning the distribution of turnover by type of product (according to the EU classification CPA), for retail and wholesale trade and the repair of vehicles and motorcycles*. This concerns a new variable to be collected in the context of the Structural Business Survey in Trade, Sales and Repairs of Cars and Bicycles, and Retail Sales of Fuels, with reference year 2010 (Regulation 295/2008).
- POPULATION
 - *Statistics concerning the education level of the deceased*. Compilation of relevant tables.
- PRICES
 - *Price indices for owner-occupied housing (purchase of dwellings)*. Completion of the compilation of the index, in the context of the Harmonized Indices of Consumer Prices (HICP) (Regulation to be issued in 2011).
 - *Producer price indices in the services sector*. Completion of the compilation of new indices (Regulations 1165/98, 1158/2005, 1893/2006 and 451/2008).
- TOURISM
 - *Statistics on arrivals and overnight stays of guests in auxiliary accommodation units (rooms for rent and furnished apartments)*.

2013

- EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR COST AND EARNINGS
 - *Short-term indices on employment, working hours and earnings, for the branches of retail trade, repairs and services* (Regulation 1158/2005, as amended by Regulation 329/2009).
- JUSTICE
 - *Statistics on the security of citizens/victimization*, with reference year 2013 (EU Regulation to be voted).
- EDUCATION
 - *Economic data for all education levels* (Regulation 452/2008).
 - *Statistics for the post-secondary, non-tertiary education (level 4 of the international classification ISCED)* (Regulation 452/2008).
- TRANSPORT
 - *Statistics for the road network of Greece* (feasibility study), on the basis of data provided by the Ministry of Infrastructure, Transports and Networks. The above statistics are to be compiled for the update of international databases.

- *Statistics concerning the road transports of buses, coaches and the transports via pipelines of natural gas* (feasibility study). This concerns statistics to be compiled from a pilot survey.
- *Passenger Mobility Statistics*. This concerns statistics to be compiled from a pilot survey.
- *Statistics on road traffic for the compilation of vehicle-kilometers (VKM)* (feasibility study). This concerns statistics to be compiled from a pilot survey.
- **HEALTH**
 - *Statistics on accidents at work*. Compilation of additional statistics (Regulation 1338/2008 and its implementing Regulations to be voted).
 - *Expenditures and receipts of the agencies providing health care services* (Regulation 1338/2008 and its implementing Regulations to be voted).

Box 2. Implementation of the new European System of Accounts, ESA 2010

During 2012 – 2013, ELSTAT will take all the necessary actions for the implementation of the new European System of Accounts (ESA 2010), which must be completed with the submission of the new results in September 2014. Special surveys and studies are to be conducted so as the new methodology that will be followed for the implementation of the new system fully meets its requirements.

3. New statistics of ELSTAT for meeting users' needs

ELSTAT, in an effort not only to meet but also to anticipate the needs of users (including public policy makers) at national and European level, plans to implement the following steps in the period 2011 – 2013:

- i) Enhance the production of statistics on poverty and social exclusion. Such statistical products could include separate recording of farmers from other self-employed persons, recording of disabled and socially excluded by inference persons, and conduct of ad hoc surveys focused on the homeless and the financial position of the population. Moreover, the production of an annual thematic publication on poverty and social exclusion is envisaged.
- ii) Conduct a Time Use Survey in cooperation with the General Secretariat for Gender Equality. The preparatory work for the survey will be carried out in 2011 with the initiation of data collection planned to take place in 2012.
- iii) Implement a System of Health Accounts at national level, setting the basis for it in 2011 – 2012. To carry this action forward, a memorandum of cooperation between ELSTAT, the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity and the University of Athens was signed on 29 December 2010. Health expenditures by type of service provision, provider and financing source, personal expenses by illness, sex and age, as well as

relevant price indices and employment data will be recorded by this system. The data will be collected from public and private hospitals, Social Security Funds, private medical practices, insurance companies, households and, in general, from whoever provides, buys and/or finances goods and services related to health care.

- iv) Redesign and conduct of sample surveys for the production of reliable estimations at levels below country-level, i.e., at the level of Decentralized Administration, Region, Municipality (where it is possible, and to the extent allowed by the constraints on ELSTAT's budget). This concerns surveys that have traditionally been designed with a view to providing reliable estimations at country-level, e.g., the Post-Enumeration Survey for the 2011 Population and Housing Census, the EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions of Households (EU – SILC), the Household Budget Survey (HBS), the Survey on the Use of Information and Communication Technologies by Households (ICT).
- v) Enhance the production of environmental statistics, as well as statistics on energy consumption and the use of renewable energy sources. To this end, the following are envisaged *inter alia*: in order for ELSTAT to compile environmental accounts, a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change and the General Accounting Office is to be prepared, thus enabling the collection of the necessary data. The set-up of two Working Groups is also planned, with the participation of competent employees from ELSTAT, the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change and the Ministry of Rural Development and Food, as well as representatives from the Hellenic Society for Local Development and Local Government, which will consider matters concerning the statistics on the production and treatment of waste and water statistics. On the basis of the conclusions drawn by the above Working Groups, a Memorandum of Understanding between all the agencies involved is to be compiled, which will ensure the regular flow of information to ELSTAT, for the production of relevant statistics. An overall plan for enhancing the production of the environmental statistics of ELSTAT is to be developed in the period 2011 – 2012, in cooperation with Eurostat.
- vi) Redesign and further develop tourism statistics—given the great importance of this sector for the country's economy—with a view to meeting the needs of users. To this end, ELSTAT intends to explore new data sources, where necessary, and to discontinue some surveys in order to avoid overlapping statistics produced by other statistical producers. In this context, a new survey is planned to be conducted by ELSTAT in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism for the collection of data concerning the arrivals and overnight stays of guests in auxiliary accommodation units (rooms for rent, furnished apartments). Moreover, ELSTAT is exploring the possibility of re-designing and conducting the survey on arrivals by charter flights, as well as the yachts survey. In order to promote the improvement and further development of tourism statistics, a Working Group will be created, with the participation of ELSTAT, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Bank of Greece and the Association of Greek Tourism Enterprises.
- vii) Produce statistics on people with disabilities, by incorporating relevant questions in the questionnaires of conducted surveys.

4. Modifying or discontinuing certain statistical products

The increase in statistical production in certain areas as outlined above, in combination with greater budgetary constraints, will necessitate some modifications (e.g., reduction of the frequency of production) or even discontinuation of the production of certain statistical products, especially those characterized as low-demand products. Such modifications or discontinuations would have to be consistent with any obligations of ELSTAT towards Eurostat or other international Organizations. The so-called "negative priorities" determined within the annual programs of Eurostat for the European Statistical System will constitute potential areas where such modifications or discontinuations of statistics could be explored, while taking, of course, always into consideration national needs. Areas of statistics subject to either modification or discontinuation would be identified in the context of annual programs.

In the context of addressing the problem of overlap between the statistics produced by ELSTAT and those produced by other ELSS agencies, ELSTAT will be in close cooperation with the competent agencies with a view to reducing the agencies' cost and the burden on respondents. This cooperation will be developed in the framework of the certification of the ELSS agencies by ELSTAT, provided for in the new statistical law.

5. Conditions for the implementation of ELSP for 2011 – 2013

The implementation of the three-year statistical program of the ELSS, as well as the completion of JOSGAP actions presupposes the appropriation of the necessary credits from the State Budget and Eurostat, as well as the reinforcement of ELSTAT with the required and appropriate human resources.

D. OBJECTIVES, INITIATIVES AND NEW STATISTICAL PRODUCTS OF ELSS AGENCIES

The development and enhancement of statistics of Greece will rely on—besides the actions to be undertaken directly by ELSTAT—the actions of all the agencies that comprise the ELSS. In this context, the ELSS agencies have set the following objectives for the period 2011 – 2013:

1. Bank of Greece

The Bank of Greece sets three objectives:

- Development of an application aiming at improving data provision from credit institutions concerning the means and systems of payment. This obligation arises from the Regulation of the European Central Bank (ECB). The actions for achieving this objective are expected to be completed in 2012.
- Development and implementation of a new system for the collection of balance of payments data. The actions of this objective are expected to be completed within the two-year period 2012 – 2013.
- Collection of analytical data from Mutual Funds. This objective is expected to be accomplished within 2011.

Ministry of Rural Development and Food

- Close cooperation between ELSTAT and the Ministry of Rural Development and Food, either in the context of setting-up a Steering Committee for agricultural statistics or in the context of signing of a respective Memorandum of Understanding, which will address the problems concerning the overlapping of produced statistics in a coordinated and decisive manner. The Division of Agricultural Policy and Documentation of the Ministry will vigorously seek to achieve the above objective, by setting 2011 as the year for initiating the actions and 2013 as the year of their completion.
- The Payments and Control Agency for Community Aid for Guidance and Guarantees (OPEKEPE), which is among the supervised agencies of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food, is proceeding in 2011 to the creation of a Data and Registers Administration Section, with the following main responsibilities:
 - computerized administration of all the databases of OPEKEPE and support of any database switch-back,
 - production or compilation of all kinds of statistical data from the OPEKEPE databases, according to the needs or requirements of its various Divisions and in compliance with Community and national legislation.

OPEKEPE aims to produce useful data for policy-making in the agricultural sector by taking advantage of its database, which will constitute the core for the Farmers and Agricultural Holdings Register (MAAE).

Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights

The new Organization Chart of the Ministry (which is to be drawn up) will provide for the creation of a special Statistics Section charged with the production and dissemination of statistical data on Justice.

Among the objectives of the Ministry are the following:

- conduct of actions concerning the Digital Convergence and Public Administration Reform of the Ministry, which will allow any statistical processing. The planned starting year for the actions is 2011 and the completion year is 2013,
- conduct of the task "e-Dikstat" (e-statistics on Justice), which will upgrade the collection of statistical data on Justice, from handwritten to electronic. The planned starting year for the actions is 2011 and the completion year is 2011/2012.

Ministry of Labour and Social Security

- The objectives set by the Division of Finance of the General Directorate of Administrative Support of the Ministry include the improvement of the data quality of the Arrears Register, which contains information on arrears, outstanding commitments, unpaid liabilities and overdue debts, as well as enhanced checking of data coming from

the local Services of the Labour Inspectorate (SEPE). The planned starting period of the actions is June 2011. The actions are expected to be completed in December 2011.

- The objective set by the Consumer Protection Division of the General Secretariat for Consumers is the implementation of a statistical program pertaining to the registration and improvement of the administration of the complaints addressed to the call centre 1520. The actions for achieving this objective will start on 1 June 2011 and will be completed on 30 November 2011.

Ministry of Interior, Decentralisation and e-Government

The objectives set by the General Secretariat of Public Administration and e-Government are the following:

- a) improvement and expansion of the online registration of public sector data, with June 2011 envisaged as the starting date of the actions and December 2011 as the completion date,
- b) exploitation-enlargement of the register of public sector employees. The actions for achieving this objective started in January 2011 and are expected to be completed at the end of 2011.

Ministry of Finance

The objective set by the General Directorate of Treasury and Budget of the General Accounting Office is the collection of statistical data on accounts payable, pending commitments and arrears of the General Government entities from arrears registers, which all the entities are obliged to keep. An additional objective set by the above-mentioned General Directorate is the electronic collection (via internet) of data concerning State Budget execution, using a special portal.

Ministry of Education, Life-long Learning and Religious Affairs

The objective of the Ministry is the full automation of data collection from the Universities through the Operational Programme "Digital Convergence" and 38 approved tasks. All the Universities and Technical Education Institutions will upgrade their systems (37 tasks) with modern interoperating applications, which will be connected to the central information system of the Ministry, which is also to be further developed in the context of the same task. The data will be automatically collected without any human intervention. The methodology, the data, the produced results and their analysis will constitute some of the main objects of the tasks. The relevant actions have started and are expected to be completed at the end of 2013.

Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change

The objective of the Division of Raw Materials Policy of the Ministry is putting into use the portal LATOMET, through which the responsible employees of quarries and mines will

be able to submit online Activity Reports providing annual data for production, sales, salaries, accidents, casualties, etc. This objective will substantially contribute to the reduction of the burden of data collection and of the time needed for the dissemination of statistical results.

Ministry of Regional Development and Competitiveness

The objectives set by the General Secretariat for Commerce (Prices and Price Collections Observatory Division) of the Ministry are the following:

- upgrading of the software used by the Fuel Prices Observatory, with financing through the National Strategic Reference Framework (ESPA) Program (Administrative Reform),
- development of software applications for regional price collection, through the "Kallikratis" Program,
- increase in the number of price collection points for retail products.

The actions of the first objective are expected to be completed in 2012, while those of the other two objectives are expected to be completed in 2013.

Ministry of Culture and Tourism

– The objective set for the three-year period 2011 – 2013 by the Directorate of Cinema and Audiovisual Media of the General Directorate of Modern Culture of the Ministry is the creation of a database for conducting statistical studies on cinematography. This database will include:

- Number, at the level of Region, of winter cinemas with one or two halls, open air cinemas, multiplex cinemas and municipal cinemas,
- Number of film distribution Offices,
- Films released, by nationality (Greek, European, American and of other countries), on a monthly basis,
- Number of tickets by film category, on a monthly basis,
- Greek films released, sessions time and number of tickets by hall,
- Data on the Greek films produced every year (feature films, fiction films, documentaries, cartoon films, short films),
- Data on the Cinema and Television technicians who hold a practice license, by specialty.

– The Thessaloniki Film Festival—supervised body of the Ministry—has set ten objectives. These objectives concern the compilation of new statistics as regards:

- The films, spectators and tickets of the 52nd, 53rd and 54th Thessaloniki Film Festival, to be held within the three-year period 2011 – 2013,
 - The films/draft films and professionals who will participate in the film markets—co-production fora during the above festivals,
 - The films, spectators and tickets of the 14th and 15th Thessaloniki Documentary Film Festival, to be held within the two-year period 2012 – 2013,
 - The films/draft films and professionals who will participate in the documentary film markets during the above-mentioned festivals.
- The objectives of the National Book Centre (EKEVI)—supervised body of the Ministry—are the correct registration of the primary expenses of the regular state budget concerning the book and the improvement of the methodology for the periodical surveys it conducts, and which pertain to the reading and consumer behavior of the public, the production of books, public expenditure for books, the imports-exports of books, etc.

Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity

The National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA)—supervised body of the Ministry—has the following objectives:

- a) Creation and maintenance of a digital file for the beneficiaries of EKKA. The actions started in 2009 and are expected to be completed in December 2011.
- b) Implementation of the project "e-pronoia for the citizen" (e-welfare for the citizen) in the context of the National Strategic Reference Framework (ESPA). The overall aim of this project is the provision of better services to citizens needing social care, through the support of the functional operation (electronic government) of the sector of Social Solidarity of the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity and of the Regional Health Authorities. Moreover, it aims at enhancing the operation and quality of the services provided by the Units of Social Care of the Welfare Entities of Public Law and more generally at coordinating, monitoring and evaluating the actions and agencies related to the provision of services of social care, social solidarity and social protection in Greece.

This project mainly has three axes of applications:

- i Electronic Platform for Interconnection and Interaction of the Welfare Services,
- ii Welfare Portal for the provision of welfare services to citizens,
- iii System for Electronic Reporting, Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation of Social Care and Solidarity Actions and for keeping National Registers of beneficiaries of welfare allowances and benefits, giving priority to infant protection and people with disabilities.

The completion of this project will result in the production of a series of statistical data on vulnerable population groups. These data will be made available to any responsible-authorized agency for policy-making. The objective is envisaged to be accomplished in December 2012.

- c) Creation of the National Register of Foster Parents. It consists of a list of persons who submitted an application in order to be adoptive parents and were approved. This National Register will provide with statistical data any responsible-authorized agency for policy-making.
- d) Creation of a National List of Requests for Finding a Family. It concerns the recording of requests submitted to the Services of Social Care concerning the finding of foster parents. The combination of this List with the above-mentioned Register will help addressing the issue of finding foster parents more effectively. This National List will provide with statistical data any responsible-authorized agency for policy-making.