

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS
European Affairs and International Co-operation
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Guiding principles

In the area of European Affairs and International Co-operation, the vision of the NIS is to create a permanent and efficient information framework for the international activity of the NIS and to keep Romanian statistics aligned to the European norms and standards in the field, in full compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice.

The main mission undertaken is to bring the information on European statistics closer to the needs and interests of the users of statistics and to permanently monitor the absorption of the Community acquis in Romanian statistics.

**150 years of official statistics and
Statistician's Day**

2009 was particularly important for Romanian statistics, which celebrated 150 years of

existence, a significant moment marked by the following events:

- NIS Romania was awarded the “Industrial and Commercial Merit” Order in the rank of “Grand Officer” by the President of Romania, Mr. Traian Băsescu;
- the Scientific Seminar “Octav Onicescu”, the special session “150 years of the birth of Romanian statistics”;
- “Doors Open Day”;
- an extended meeting of the NIS Council with the participation, among others, of Academician Mugur Isărescu, President of the National Bank of Romania (NBR), the President of the National Forecast Commission, Government representatives and other personalities from various central institutions, as well as the Director-General of Eurostat, Mr. Walter Radermacher;
- the launch of reference books among which “History of Romanian Statistics – Events, People, Facts. 1859 – 2009, 150 years”;
- the issuance of a celebration coin by the NBR; only 500 such coins (of numismatic value) were available.



Fifth meeting of the representatives of national statistical societies

The NIS and the Romanian Statistical Society organised the fifth meeting of the national statistical societies on July 15, 2009. The meeting focused on a topical issue, namely “How does official statistics deal with the challenges generated by the crisis”. Representatives of the statistical societies of Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia attended.

NIS – Donor of technical assistance



The National Centre for Training in Statistics (NCTS) operates within the NIS. The main task of the centre is the provision of statistical expertise and professional training and specialisation programmes that are acknowledged at the national and international level.

In 2009, the NCTS continued to carry out statistical assistance projects:

- “Improvement of the methodology and of the organisation of statistics” in Ukraine (4 NIS experts involved);
- “Improvement of the structural capacity of the Statistical Office of the Republic of

Serbia with a view to meeting the requirements of the European Statistical System” for Serbia (3 NIS experts involved);

- 1 expert was involved in the provision of technical assistance for Uzbekistan under the project “Reform of Uzbekistan’s official statistics – Statistics 10 Europe Aid/124116/C/SER/UZ”.

Bilateral co-operation

Co-operation agreements continued to be reached and exchanges of experience continued to take place between the Romanian NIS and other institutions of EU member and non-member states, based on a sound know-how of interstate co-operation in the field of statistics.

- On **June 25, 2009**, an additional agreement was reached between the Romanian NIS and the **Bulgarian NIS** with regard to the provision of *data on the transit transport by inland waterways*.
- On **April 28, 2009**, the Timiș Regional Directorate of Statistics and the Hungarian Central Statistical Office signed a protocol with the objective of mutually exchanging statistical information with a view to drawing up joint publications and carrying out joint projects.
- The NIS assisted the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova (NBS) by organising missions and study visits related to the UNICA survey (sampling, methodologies for the calculation of indicators, dissemination).



High level international conferences

- **During the period 8-10 June 2009**, the NIS representatives participated in the 57th Plenary Session of the Conference of European Statistics (CES) which took place in Geneva. The conference reiterated support for continued good co-operation between the UNECE, Eurostat, the OECD and other international organisations that operate in the field in statistics in this region, while emphasising the importance of a periodic revision of the technical co-operation activities in statistics. In the future, the focus will be on the statistical issue of sustainable development and the related statistics.

- **In June 2009**, the NIS participated for the first time as an ad-hoc observer in the 6th meeting of the OECD Statistical Committee (CSTAT) in Geneva. The following subjects were debated at the meeting: How can policies be supported during a crisis? The role of statistics; measuring economic performance and social progress; environmental statistics; measuring the progress of societies; the development of a global integrated information statistical system; the statistical measurement of child welfare.

- **The theme of the 95th DGINS Conference organised in Malta during the period 30 September – 1 October 2009 was “Migration – a main topic of official statistics”.**

The conference was honoured by the presence of Malta’s Prime Minister, who gave the opening speech referring to the main issues related to the development of common European policies on migration, while also emphasising the need for these policies to be based on relevant statistics.

- **During the period 16-22 August**, Durban, South Africa, hosted the 57th Session of the International Statistical Institute, under the theme “*Statistics: our past, present and future*”. At this meeting, the members of the Romanian delegation presented two communications which proved to be of interest to the audience: “*The reason for using composite indicators in international comparisons*” and “*Structural analysis of the foreign trade activity*”.



- **During the period 8-9 October 2009**, a meeting of the **Policy Group for Statistical Co-operation** took place in **Budva, Montenegro**.

Romania's involvement in the decision-making process at the European level



- The NIS representatives participated in all the four meetings of the **European Statistical System Committee (ESSC)** organised in 2009 (February, May, October, November).

- **44** meetings were organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the European Affairs Department (meetings in which the NIS took part) with a view to preparing Romania's positions within the COREPER.

- **5** meetings of the EU Council Working Group on Statistics took place. The topics debated were: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning statistics on plant protection products and Guideline of the European Central Bank for a Regulation of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 2533/98 concerning the collection of statistical information by the European Central Bank.

NIS participations in seminars, working groups, international conferences

In 2009, more than **250 people** took part in **230 actions**, of which **195 actions** were financed from Multi-beneficiary Phare funds and **35 actions** were covered from NIS funds, and underwent **18 traineeships at Eurostat**.

Grants in the field of statistics in 2009

- **19 Community grants** were finalised.
- **28 Community grants** were implemented.
- The NIS received non-reimbursable external financing for **27 distinct statistical surveys**.



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