

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS
European Affairs and International Cooperation in
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Newsletter No. 3



Guidelines

In the area of European Affairs and International Cooperation, the intention of the NIS is to create permanent and efficient information setting for the international activity of the NIS and to maintain the alignment of the Romanian statistics to the European standards and rules in the field, strictly observing the European Code of Practice in Statistics.

The main assumed mission is that to bring the information on European statistics closer to the needs and interest of the users of statistics and to continuously monitor the assimilation of the Community *acquis* in the Romanian statistics.

The World Statistics Day

The year 2010 marked a special event, the celebration of **The World Statistics Day** for the

first time in the history of official statistics, an event that underlines the importance of the science and practice of statistics in a democratic society. According to the **UNO Resolution 64/267, October 20, 2010 has been designated as the World Statistics Day**, the Statistics Division/UNO proposing as general topic of the event **“The Evolution Registered in Official Statistics”**.

The Romanian statisticians celebrated the event by organising several activities:

- **In front of the Parliament of Romania**, the President of the Sub-commission for the Population and Development gave a speech on the event, considering it to be a confirmation of the importance the UNO gives to the population censuses – the 2010 round;
- **The press release** of the NIS, **“The European Statistics: a source of information for everyone”**, highlighted, together with comments on the role and importance of statistics, the major priorities of the institute till the end of 2010;
- **The articles published in the Economic Tribune and in the Romanian magazine of Statistics** paid homage to the event that **“will be known in time as a homage for the history of our becoming, the statisticians, as a scientific community, as a profession and as human destiny”**;

- The ample promotion of the poster specially dedicated to the event;



- The scientific seminar “Octav Onicescu” organised a **special session** dedicated to the World Statistics Day;

The NIS – Granter of technical assistance



Within the NIS, the “National Centre for Training in Statistics” (CNPS) operates and has as main goals the delivery of training programmes and professional specialization and statistical expertise known at national and international level.

In 2010, the CNPS continued with the ongoing assistance projects in the field of statistics:

- “The improvement of the methodology and the organisation of statistics” in Ukraine.
- “The improvement of the structural capacity of the Statistics Office in Serbia in view of the approaching the requirements of the European Statistical System”.

- “The reform of the official statistics in Uzbekistan – Statistics 10 Europe Aid/124116/C/SER/UZ ».
- “The implementation of grants” for the NIS/Serbia and Macedonia.
- Technical assistance for Macedonia on the education statistics.
- The issue of the direct foreign investment statistics for the ASEAN countries.
- In the period 1-3 September 2010, the lecture “The European Statistical System” was organised by the ADETEF, in collaboration with the INE/Spain, under the aegis of the Training Program in European Statistics.

Bilateral Cooperation

The cooperation agreements and exchanges between the NIS Romania and other institutions of the Member States and of non-member states of the EU continued to be signed having as base a solid know-how of the inter-states cooperation in the field of statistics.

- On the **2nd of March 2010**, the **Memorandum of the Agreement between the NIS and the Statistics Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan, on the cooperation in the field of statistics**, was signed. The objective of the Memorandum is to shape the general setting of the development of the bilateral cooperation in the field of official statistics

- During **3-5 March 2010**, Mrs. Lucia Spoială, Director General of the **National Statistics Office of the Republic of Moldova**, was on official mission on the NIS premises. The main objective was to discuss current cooperation issues, identifying those statistical domains that could be included in a future cooperation Memorandum between the two institutes of official statistics. Aside from the general cooperation context, the following topics were particularly discussed: *the survey of the reconciliation of the professional life with the family life, the survey of the short term economic indicators (UNICA), the issue of the information technology in statistics, the education and the statistical training.*



She said that „she was impressed by the work and efforts of the Romanian statisticians”. At the same time, Mrs. Kotzeva expressed her wish for extending the cooperation between the two states. It is worth mentioning the fact that the NIS/Romania and the NIS/Bulgaria have been designated co-presidents of a European project that aims to shape recommendations so that statistics become “digestible” for pupils, students and other categories of users.

High level international conferences

- **In the period 23-26 February 2010**, the President of the NIS attended the 41st session of the Statistics Commission of the United Nations Organization, together with delegations from over 140 countries.

- **On the 7th of June 2010**, the NIS took part, as permanent observer, at the 7th meeting of the Statistical Committee of the OECD (CSTAT) in Paris. At the meeting, the following topics were discussed: the program on the measurement of the society evolution, the statistical indicators of the strategy *The Green Growth*, financial statistics, the OECD strategy on innovation, entrepreneurship and business statistics and the data base of OECD on immigrants.



- During **18 - 20 November 2010**, the NIS received the official visit of Mr. Oleg Cara, Vice-director General within the **National Statistics Office of the Republic of Moldova**. The main discussion topics were the UNICA survey and the CAEN implementation.

- During **18-19 March 2010**, the NIS housed an official mission from the **NIS/Bulgaria** headed by the President, Mrs. Mariana Kotzeva.

- **In the period 8-10 June 2010**, the NIS representatives attended the 58th plenary session of the Conference of the European Statisticians (CES) organised in Paris. At the meeting, the Romanian delegation presented a paper that was of interest to the audience due to the fresh topic: „*In the spotlight of the Romanian official statistics: The financial and economic crisis*”.

- **Attend the 96th DGINS Conference organised in Sofia on the 30th of September 2010, with the topic “The measurement of the evolution, the welfare and the sustainable development”**. The conference was honoured with the presence of the Prime Minister of Bulgaria, of the Director General of Eurostat and of the Director General of INSEE/France.

The sixth meeting of the national societies of statistics in Central Europe

In the period **18-19 October 2010**, representatives of the NIS and of the Romanian Society of Statistics took part, together with delegates of the statistics societies of Slovenia, Hungary, Czech Republic and Austria, to the 6th meeting of the statistics societies in Central Europe, organised in **Vienna**. Debates focused on:

- Approaches for the organisation of a common session of presentation at the ISI International Conference in 2011, the Romanian delegation reaffirming the intention to participate with two papers;

- Possible options for drafting a common magazine of the statistics national societies.

The International Conference on Applied Statistics

In the period **19-20 November 2010**, the **5th International Conference on Applied Statistics** took place in Bucharest, organised by the NIS and the Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest.

The conference had a structure of five sections within which over **70 papers** have been presented, papers elaborated by researchers of the academic and applied statistics of **Romania, Algeria, Bulgaria, France, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Spain, Turkey and Hungary**.

On the occasion of the conference, a round table on the topic “*Sustainable Development and Human Capital*” was also organised with the support of the Francophone University Agency, where there were approached topics on the most recent concerns of the international scientific world in the field of human development, of the interconnection between the economic evolution and the social progress, of the support statistics can offer through its data and information to finding solutions to the crisis that most states of the world faced and still face.

Romania in the active decision-making process at European level



- The NIS representatives actively took part to all the four meetings of the **Committee of the European Statistical System (CESS)** organised in 2010 (February, May, October, and November).

- **43** meetings have been organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Department for European Affairs (which the NIS attended) in order to prepare Romania's position within COREPER.

- The Romanian statisticians have attended **10** meetings of the "Statistics" Working Group of the European Union Council, on various proposals for regulations with the following topic: the quality of statistical data in the context of the Excessive Deficit Procedure, the statistical reports regarding the maritime transport of goods and passengers, the European statistics on tourism, the European environment economic accounts, the European statistics on standing crops and the statistical reports on road transport of goods.

The NIS participation to seminars, working groups and international conferences

In 2010, over **230 persons** participated at **212 activities** such as seminars, working groups, conferences, training courses, etc., out of which **179 activities** were supported by Phare Multi-Beneficiary funds and **33 activities** by NIS funds.

Completion of Phare Programs



The year 2010 represents the end of the non-refundable financial assistance for pre-accession through Phare programs.

- Along the years, the NIS has developed several **Phare National** programs in total value of **32.5 million euro**, creating the premises for the modernization of the statistical processes such as:
 - **1992: „Modernization of the IT Infrastructure of the National Institute of Statistics”;**
 - **1994: „Modernization of the IT Infrastructure of the National Institute of Statistics and of the 42 statistical County offices”;**
 - **1997: „Statistics”;**

- **2000: „Harmonization of the agricultural and regional statistics to the European Statistical System”;**
- **2001: „Harmonization of the Romanian statistics to the European Statistical System”;**
- **2003: „Sustainable Development of the Romanian Statistical System”;**
- **2004: „Design and implement the Intrastat system”;**
- **2005: „Strengthen the Romanian Statistical System”;**
- **2006: „Adopt the measures of the new community acquis in statistics”;**
- **Transition Facility: "Harmonising agricultural and environmental statistics with EU norms and standards".**



➤ As to the **Phare Multi-Beneficiary** programs, the year 2010 represented the end of the absorption of the last program of this type (Phare Multi-Beneficiary 2006), after the implementation in the Romanian official statistics of **six programs of horizontal assistance** over the years.

During the year 2010:

- **28 community grants** have been completed;
- Besides the completed ones, other **16 community grants** have been implemented and still continue;

- The NIS got non-refundable external financing for **16 signed contracts**.

➤ A reason of satisfaction as to the activity of the NIS is the fact that it is among the institutions that benefited, within the community post-accession facilities and funds, of important sources, showing an absorption capacity of over 90% of the funds allotted in a global sum over a three-year period, 2008-2010 (estimated up to the end of 2010) of **over 17 million euro**, representing the value of those **over 80 community grants**, of the statistical projects within the Phare National and Phare Multi-Beneficiary programs. At this value, around **5 million euro** are added, drawn with the help of the European Fund for Regional Development, in the Sector Operational Program “**The growth of the economic competitiveness for the creation of a web portal for taking on-line statistical data**, that was completed at the end of 2010.

➤ During 2010, the NIS applied within the structural funds for **two other new projects: The implementation of an integrated solution of e-Education** and **The improvement of the capacity of the public administration to measure the performances through data bases, methodologies and other instruments specific to the statistic activity**, respectively, both in value of **over 9 million euro**.

➤ During 2004-2010, **81 experts** of the NIS participated at long term stages for professional

training at EU standards in various fields of statistics.

Thus, **51 experts** accomplished their stage at **Eurostat** and **25 experts in the EU Member States** (Denmark, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Estonia, The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Germany).



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