

ROMANIA



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS

ACTIVITY

REPORT

FOR
2013



2013

ACTIVITY REPORT

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS

Coordinator of publication:

Tudorel ANDREI

Coordinators of edition:

Dan Ion GHERGHUȚ, Beátrix GERÉD, Elena Mihaela IAGĂR,
Gabriel Petrică JIFCU, Ilie DUMITRESCU, Săndica NEAGU, Gabriela POPA.

Elaboration of the chapters of NIS Activity Report:

Adriana CIUCHEA, Ion FLORESCU, Mariana PIETREANU,
Gheorghe Emanoil VAIDA-MUNTEAN, Daniela ȘTEFĂNESCU,
Vitty-Cristian CHIRAN, Maria RĂDULESCU, Nina ALEXEVICI,
Săndica NEAGU, Gabriela POPA, Silvia PISICĂ, Lucia Cecilia SINIGAGLIA,
Andreea CAMBIR, Georgeta Marinela ISTRATE, Lavinia BĂLTEANU,
Andoria IONIȚĂ, Mariana BREBULEȚ, Florentina Viorica GHEORGHE,
Teodor LICĂ, Viorica SĂLĂGEAN, Iuliana Mihaela GHEȚU, Florica CÎRSTEA,
Mihai Iulian GHEORGHE, Constantin MÂNDRICELU, Angel DUMA,
Alexandra MOLCUȚI, Cristina SACALĂ, Iulian Vladimir AEXANDRESCU.

Translation:

Lavinia POPESCU, Anca Flavia FILIMON, Andrei SĂNDOIU, Anca Maria GEORGESCU.

Pre-press and printing:

Coordinators :

Gheorghe VAIDA-MUNTEAN, Vitty-Cristian CHIRAN, Rodica-Elena SOLOVĂSTRU

Editing and make-up:

Mariana Bătrânu, Mihaela ȘTEFAN

Pre-press:

Laurențiu MUNTEANU

Photo:

Vitty-Cristian CHIRAN

Covers :

Alexandru POPESCU



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS



ACTIVITY REPORT 2012

Bucharest 2013

❖ **Mision^{*)}**

In its position of coordinating the National Statistical System, the National Institute of Statistics has the mission of meeting, to the highest extent, the information needs of all statistical data user categories, by collecting, producing and disseminating relevant, accurate, reliable and timely statistical data, necessary for substantiating the decisions on the economic and social development of the country and for the knowledge of Romanian society realities.

❖ **Vision^{*)}**

Romanian statistics is oriented towards achieving, during the next decade, methodological and technical performances, recognised at domestic and international level, comparable with the performances of the most advanced national statistical institutes of the European Union Member States.

❖ **Values^{*)}**

The National Institute of Statistics' staff promotes mutual trust and respect, both internally and in relation with its partners, professional integrity, through high quality and ethic standards, compliant with the fundamental principles of official statistics, with the European Code of Practice in Statistics and with the Statistician's Code of Ethics, the innovative thinking, through a permanent improvement of our products and services, as well as the communication and collaboration with the statistical data providers and users and with other statistical data producers, in an effective and transparent manner, in view to contribute to official statistics role awareness and understanding.

^{*)} Strategy on National Statistical System Development, horizon 2008-2013.

CONTENT

1. ABSTRACT	6
2. LEGAL, INSTITUTIONAL AND FUNCTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS	8
2.1. LEGAL FRAMEWORK	8
2.2. INSTITUTIONAL AND FUNCTIONAL FRAMEWORK	9
2.3. NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM COORDINATION	11
3. PRIORITIES OF 2012	15
3.1. GENERAL AGRICULTURAL CENSUS 2010 AND POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS 2011	15
3.1.1. General Agricultural Census	15
3.1.2. Population and Housing Census 2011	16
3.2. STATISTICAL PRODUCTION	18
3.3. NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM QUALITY	20
4. ACTIVITIES OF ANNUAL NATIONAL STATISTICAL PROGRAMME - 2012	21
4.1. STATISTICAL STANDARDISATION	21
4.1.1. Sampling frames	21
4.1.2. Databases	23
4.2. MACROECONOMIC STATISTICS AND SECTORAL ECONOMIC STATISTICS	26
4.2.1. National Accounts	26
4.2.2. Government finance statistics	27
4.2.3. International trade in goods statistics	27
4.2.4. Business structural statistics	29
4.2.5. Statistics on short term indicators	29
4.2.6. Tourism statistics	30
4.2.7. Science and technology statistics	31
4.2.8. Energy statistics	33
4.2.9. Price statistics	33
4.2.10. Agriculture, forestry and environment statistics	35
4.2.11. Social statistics	36
4.2.11.1. Demographic statistics	36
4.2.11.2. Labour market statistics	37
4.2.11.3. Living conditions statistics	41
4.2.11.4. Social services statistics	43
4.2.12. Territorial statistics	46
4.3. DISSEMINATION OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION	48
4.4. EDITING OF STATISTICAL PUBLICATIONS	52
4.5. RELATION WITH MASS-MEDIA	53

5. EUROPEAN AFFAIRS	54
5.1. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.....	54
5.2. REGIONAL COOPERATION	55
5.3. COOPERATION BETWEEN INS AND OECD STATISTICAL COMMITTEE	55
5.4. BILATERAL COOPERATION	56
5.5. PARTICIPATIONS OF INS IN SEMINARS, WORK GROUPS AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES	57
5.6. DRAW UP OF EXTERNAL NON-REFUNDABLE COMMUNITY FUNDS BY INS	57
5.7. INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS	57
6. CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES	58
6.1. HUMAN RESOURCES	58
6.2. BUDGETARY RESOURCES AND BUDGET EXECUTION	62
6.3. STATISTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	62
6.4. INTERNAL PUBLIC AUDIT ACTIVITY	65
6.5. INTERNAL MANAGEMENT AUDIT	67
6.6. INVESTMENT, SERVICES AND MODERNISATION	68
6.7. LEGAL ACTIVITY	68
7. ACTIVITY OF TERRITORIAL STATISTICAL DIVISIONS	70
8. ACTIVITY OF NATIONAL CENTRE FOR TRAINING IN STATISTICS	73
9. DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN 2012	76
10. PRIORITIES OF 2013	78
10.1. STATISTICAL GOVERNANCE	78
10.2. STATISTICAL PRODUCTION.....	78
10.3. TECHNOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENT	82
11. CONCLUSIONS	83
12. LIST OF ACRONYMS	84
13. ANNEXES	86

TABLES CONTENT

Table 1:	Number of statistical surveys by statistical domains and by data processing profiles, in 2012	46
Table 2:	The most requested statistical fields in the dissemination activity	48
Table 3:	Structure of data requests by user category	49
Table 4:	INS website monthly traffic, in 2012	50
Table 5:	INS website traffic, in 2012	50
Table 6:	TEMPO-on-line matrix ranking, by domains, in 2012 (free visualisations)	51
Table 7:	TEMPO-on-linematrix ranking, by domains, not free of charge, in 2012	51
Table 8:	Situation of positions in 2012	58
Table 9:	Structure of INS staff, by age group	59
Table 10:	Situation of employed staff who left INS in 2012	59
Table 11:	Structure of INS higher education staff by specialization	60
Table 12:	Structure of INS higher education staff by level of post license studies	60
Table 13:	Vocational training programmes	61
Table 14:	Courses	73
Table 15:	Status of projects carried out by the National Centre for Training in Statistics	74
Table 16:	Turnover (lei)	75
Table 17:	Income structure	75

ABSTRACT

The Activity Report on the National Institute of Statistics (INS) 2012 emphasizes the activities carried out in view to fulfil the final goal of its role consecrated to the production of quality, reliable and timely statistics meant to achieve to the highest level the requirements of all internal and external users.

The activities of National Institute of Statistics are, to a large extent, compliant with those at European level and, in 2012, were mainly directed towards the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice to which Romanian official statistics adhered at the same time with the other EU Member States.

The aim of activities carried out by INS was to ensure the development of mechanisms and tools adapted to priorities, to enhance the National Statistical System structure and functionality and to improve its capability of meeting statistical data and information user requests.

Several transversal issues with strategic importance for the evolution of official statistics were taken into account when setting up the priorities, such as: the way in which strategic goals contribute to European integration; cooperation with statistical data users and producers; statistical processes adaptability to the National Statistical System requirements and methodological tools adequacy. INS also took into account the cost-effectiveness of produced statistics, ensuring a coherent and rational conception of statistical priorities, in view to optimise the use of available resources and to reduce the respondents' burden.

The year 2012 stands out as a difficult year, with multiple tasks of high importance that involved sustained efforts on the side of all statisticians, under the conditions where the extremely complex and ambitious objectives and tasks were amplified due to INS involvement in activities of national importance, additional to the annual statistical programme. It is worth mentioning, in this context, the technical support assured by INS in conducting local and parliamentary elections, as well as in the referendum of 2012.

On the background of sharp lack of staff, INS endeavoured to fulfil the statistical tasks assumed in accordance with the European annual statistical programme, taking into consideration the national priorities as well.

The Institute activities preponderantly focused on finalising the two actions of high national importance, namely:

- finalising the General Agricultural Census and dissemination of final results at national level;
- observing the deadlines for the finalisation of PHC 2011, particularly in relation with uploading into the PHC database the individual data collected through questionnaires, disseminating the provisional and semi-final results and data processing meant to obtain the PHC 2011 final results.

Sustained efforts were also dedicated to the harmonisation of techniques and methods for macroeconomic indicators estimation, as well as to the compliance of these estimates with the EU standards and norms.

In view to harmonise national accounts with the European requirements and to improve their quality, a series of Eurostat missions took place in 2012 at INS headquarters, aiming at the achievement of an inventory of sources and methods for the compilation of gross national income and at conducting a direct verification exercise, resulting in the establishment of several, actions meant to achieve these objectives.

The INS concerns preponderantly focused on the improvement of statistical production in the following fields: agriculture, forestry and environment, business statistics, social statistics, by shifting to the on-line collection of statistical data via the web portal, so that, in 2012 on-line data collection was carried out for 62 statistical surveys.

Taking over new administrative sources in statistics production was another major concern of the institute. In this sense, 4 new collaboration agreements were concluded with central government institutions and the process

of updating 21 collaboration agreements and protocols were launched in view to facilitate the achievement of information necessary for completing the national fund of statistical data and the reduction of respondents' burden in relation with INS statistical surveys. However, despite the sustained efforts of INS, we still have to mention the rather toilsome collaboration with some ministries and central government institutions which hardly answer the institute requests aiming at accomplishing joint tasks.

In accomplishing its statistical tasks foreseen for 2012, INS faced a multitude of difficulties which have hampered smooth running of all statistical activities, but due to sustained efforts these were able to be overcome in order not to affect the quality of statistical products.

Among the major difficulties encountered during 2012, with a high risk of disturbing the INS activities, the following could be noted:

- the number of days required by other specialised bodies of public administration for endorsing draft laws, which prevented and further hinder the approval procedure and therefore, the procedure for submitting them for adoption;
- the lack of financial resources has affected the implementation of the rehabilitation project for network cabling, while non-allocation of funds for the rehabilitation of existing IT network increases the risk of major failures in the INS statistical IT system;
- the cumbersome operation of web-portal and on-line validation of statistical data, which is below the expectations estimated due to lack of staff and poor facilities reporting unit small poor connection speed internet businesses, unsuitable statistical questionnaires this reporting system. All this leads to many operators to give up and more quickly fill in the questionnaire on paper, all leading ultimately to a poor response rate;

- high degree of charging employees on the background of lower number of staff (through retirements or departures by consent) and of the impossibility of employment vacancies;
- hardly obtaining, following numerous comebacks, access to administrative sources, in view to ensure statistical data completeness;
- lack of promotion of statistical culture among the general public, especially among media affects the quality of data collection (e.g. delay in the phase of disseminating the preliminary results of PHC from May, as originally envisaged, to August 2012 allowed the media to issue new suspicions related to the population and housing census, especially in the use for purposes other than purely statistical use of data collected).



LEGAL, INSTITUTIONAL AND FUNCTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS

2.1. Legal framework

In 2012, INS activities were conducted in accordance with the Law on the organization and functioning of official statistics in Romania, no. 226/2009, with further amendments, being entirely consistent with those carried out at European level, according to Regulation (EC) no. 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics and repealing Regulation (EC, Euratom) No. 1101/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the transmission of data subject to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European Communities, Council Regulation (EC) no. 322/97 on Community Statistics, and Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom establishing a Committee on the Statistical Programmes of the European Communities and the Law. 226/2009 on the organization and functioning of official statistics in Romania, with further amendments. Likewise, INS activities were conducted in accordance with the national strategy for statistics and multiannual and annual programs, respectively the Annual National Statistical Programme 2012 approved by Government Decision no. 1083/2012.

Both Regulation (EC) no. 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 and the Law on the organization and functioning of official statistics in Romania, no. 226/2009, with its further amendments, establish among other things, the operating principles of statistics in a democratic society.

➤ European Statistics Code of Practice

The European Statistics Code of Practice was revised in 2011 and in September 2011 it was adopted by the European Statistical System Committee.

The new Code of Practice attaches great importance to the principle of professional independence, which distinctly stipulates the way of appointment and dismissal of heads of statistical offices, regardless of the circumstances and the political framework.

The implementation of the new Code continues to be monitored by Eurostat, taking into account recent changes. INS as part of the European Statistical System strives to fully implement the new European Statistics Code of Practice.

In COMSTAT meeting of 5 September 2012 the newly reviewed Code of Practice was introduced, as well as the responsibilities of other producers of official statistics, such as: posting Code of Practice on the website of each institution producing official statistics; popularization of the Code to the staff of each institution; adopting national measures to implement the Code, in view to guarantee the quality of statistics produced.

Annually, based on a very detailed questionnaire, EUROSTAT carries out an evaluation of how the 15 principles of the Code are applied and enforced, these evaluations highlighting both the conditions and environment in which statistics is functioning and the ways these principles are translated into legislation and practice.



Such an assessment was also made during 2012, resulting in general a proper suitability of Romanian statistical practice to these principles; recommendations were also made to improve the working tools and procedures necessary for the compliance with the Code of Practice principles.

➤ Improvement of CE Regulation no. 223/2009

During 2012 concrete actions to improve the Regulation (EC) no. 223/2009 aiming at strengthening the role of statistics at European level and in the Member States continued.

Expected modifications developed in successive sessions of the working group, which includes Romania, are aimed at emphasizing the role of European and national statistics in reinforcing the statistical independence, management and use of administrative data sources, as well as trust in statistics, including the state authorities' commitment to ensure the independence of national statistics in terms of statistical methodology, techniques and norms applied and related to dissemination of statistics.

The adoption by the European Parliament and the Council of amendments to Regulation 223/2009 in accordance with the above implicitly supposes the appropriate modification of Romanian statistical law, a process that has already started since the year 2011 by documenting and identifying the provisions of law that require amendments.

2.2. Institutional and functional framework

Official statistics is one of the essential components in the knowledge on society and environment, while also revealing as one of the essential pillars of society good governance. It provides, based on quantitative assessments, the substantiation of decision making at the micro and macro economics level.

To meet the public interest criteria, statistics must be relevant, accurate, timely, so as to ensure the utmost satisfaction of the information needs of all users of statistical data.

The first condition for official statistics to meet its vocation and its role in society is providing institutional, functional and methodological framework for the National Institute of Statistics, the specialized body of the central government, vested with the powers and functions of Romanian official statistics coordinator.

The National Institute of Statistics operates under Law no. 226/2009 on the organization and functioning of official statistics in Romania, with further amendments. The law stated the creation of the National Statistical System that brings together in a unitary, coordinated and coherent body the major producers of official statistics, among which INS stands out, whose goal is identified entirely with operational statistical dedicated to surveying, through specific methods, economic and social processes and phenomena.

From a functional perspective, INS is organized according to GD No. 957/2005, with its further amendments.

The Institute is headed by a president, secretary of state, assisted by three vice-presidents acting as Sub-secretary of State, appointed by Prime Minister decision. The Secretary General of INS, high official, is subordinated to the President of the National Institute of Statistics. At central level, the INS organizational chart is composed of general departments, departments, and offices (Annex 1), including the two entities, the Central Technical Secretariat for the General Agricultural Census and the Central Technical Secretariat for the Population and Housing Census, approved by laws and decisions related to the

organization of the censuses mentioned, which are acting only on the duration of the two censuses (preparation, collection, processing and dissemination).

The following are functioning as subordinated to the Institute:

- **8 Regional Statistical Divisions** organised at county – centres of development regions level and **34 County Statistical Divisions at other counties level.**

Regional and county statistical divisions are organized and function as territorial units of INS, based on the Law of the organization and functioning of official statistics in Romania, no. 226/2009, with its further amendments.

Regional and county statistical divisions, public institutions with legal status fulfil at territorial level the duties, tasks and responsibilities of the National Institute of Statistics.

Regional and county statistical divisions, public institutions financed from the state budget, subordinated to INS, organize and maintain the territorial statistical information system, collaborating with local government institutions and decentralized departments of the central government.

- **National Centre for Training in Statistics (CNPS)**

CNPS is a public institution with legal status entirely financed from own revenues. Its goal is the continuous vocational training, through the education system, of official statistical services staff in the fields of statistics, demography, economics, econometrics, quantitative sociology and information technology, promoting statistical culture in central and local public administration system, in national companies, autonomous companies, commercial companies, legal persons, public or private, and professional training of junior civil servants from official statistical services.

- **Centre of Conferences**

The centre of conferences is a public institution with legal status entirely financed from own revenues, aiming the efficient use of the conference room and adjacent spaces existing in the headquarters of the National Institute of Statistics.

There are four working bodies created in view to unitary solve certain transversal issues of the statistical activity that are functioning within the INS:

- **Council Board of the National Institute of Statistics**

The Council Board of the National Institute of Statistics, advisory and decisional body that assist the INS leadership has the composition determined by order of the President of the National Institute of Statistics.

The Council Board debates issues of INS current activity and adopt recommendations by a vote of at least half of those present.

- **Methodological Endorsement Committee (MEC)**

The Methodological Endorsement Committee (MEC) is the professional authority of the National Institute of Statistics, responsible for the endorsement of draft methodologies on organizing and conducting statistical surveys, classifications and nomenclatures, the statistical tools and other works of statistical nature.

- **IT Solutions Endorsement Committee (ITSEC)**

The IT Solutions Endorsement Committee (ITSEC) is the technical authority, with advisory role, of the INS and is responsible for approving statistical information solutions.

The IT Solutions Endorsement Committee analyse current information processing activity, monitors the implementation of statistical informatics strategy and submits to INS leadership solutions for the development and modernization of IT activities within the National Statistical System.

➤ **Statistical Confidentiality Committee (SCC)**

The Statistical Confidentiality Committee is the advisory technical authority responsible for the elaboration and implementation of the Programme meant to ensure the confidentiality of individual data held and managed by the INS, alongside the entire flow of statistical data collection, processing, storage, archiving and dissemination.

2.3. National Statistical System Coordination

▪ **Advisory bodies**

In accordance with Law no. 226/2009, the National Institute of Statistics plays the role of National Statistical System coordinator as regards the statistical activities of public authorities and institutions included in the National Statistical System. In this respect, INS exercises supervisory powers, coordination and technical assistance to ensure the unitary character of methodologies, classifications, methods and techniques for collection, processing and dissemination of official statistics produced under the Annual National Statistical Program and the compliance with the requirements European Statistical System.

Within the National Statistical System the following are functioning as advisory bodies:

➤ **National Statistical Council (NSC)** - established under Art. 11 of the Law on the organization and functioning of official statistics in Romania no. 226/2009, with its further amendments, to reflect into the National Statistical System programmes the requirements of the all data users, in order to ensure the objective, transparent and scientific nature of the official statistical activity and to minimize data providers burden. Through its structure, NSC involves in the operation of the National Statistical System Statistical representatives of the main statistical data and information users' categories. NSC is the highest forum of promotion and action of official statistics at national level.

➤ **National Statistical System Committee (COMSTAT)** - established under Art. 7 of the Law on the organization and functioning of official statistics in Romania no. 226/2009, with its further amendments, for the organization and functioning of the National Statistical System and in order to achieve the implementation and monitoring of its strategy and national statistical programmes.

COMSTAT is composed of representatives of official statistics producers, its composition being established through an Order of the National Institute of Statistics President.

▪ **Inter-institutional cooperation**

The National Institute of Statistics has permanently expressed its openness to collaborating with all central and local government institutions in order to provide all available statistical information, necessary both for substantiating socio-economic and sectoral policies and to monitor their results and impact. The value of statistical data and information produced by its own efforts or in cooperation with other institutions is given, first of all, by the way they respond to user requirements. In 2012, this inter-institutional cooperation was directed to:

a) Preparation of strategic documents for accessing and implementing EU funds in 2014-2020;

b) Providing statistical expertise in defining the objectives of Europe 2020;

c) Further development of the National Statistical System.

a) Preparation of strategic documents for accessing and implementing EU funds in 2014-2020

In developing the Partnership Agreement and the Operational Programmes for the next programming period, the Romanian authorities should formulate a strategic vision for Romania's development on medium and long term, at least until 2020, that is to identify the objectives to be attained and the necessary means.

In this regard, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Annex 2 on the *Organization and operation of the partnership framework for EU funding programming intended for a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth 2014-2020* to the Memorandum on "Approval of actions and documents on the preparation and implementation of the EU funds 2014-2020", the **Inter-institutional Committee for the Partnership Agreement (CIAP)** was established at the national level, representing the institutional forum ensuring the coordination at national level of the partnership framework.

CIAP is made up of **advisory committees** that establish and prioritize interventions at sectoral and regional level and ensure their correlation from a territorial perspective, proposing to CIAP the elements agreed in view to include them in the Partnership Agreement and subsequent programs, based on documents drawn up within the **working groups** for each advisory committee.

INS is represented in CIAP by a Vice-President, 10 executives who are part of the advisory committees and over 30 specialists, members of working groups.

INS specialists have brought a significant contribution by providing and updating data required for the compilation of socio-economic analyses, analyses that will underpin the completion of the strategic vision and investment priorities for future operational programmes.

b) Providing statistical expertise in defining the objectives of Europe 2020

Another action involving specialists of the National Institute of Statistics has been linked to the development of the Europe 2020 strategy.

INS specialists were included in the inter-institutional working groups to define the objectives relating to: employment, research, development, innovation, reduction of greenhouse emissions, renewable energy, energy efficiency, education and social inclusion.

c) Further development of the National Statistical System

In 2012, the National Institute of Statistics has conducted a series of cooperative actions with other government authorities in view to achieve the information systems compatibility. Specifically, these actions were directed mainly to:

- creating registers and databases with common elements from administrative sources for the sole purpose of producing official statistics (e.g. cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development for the Agricultural Register, statistics on income and prices in agriculture, crop production statistics, etc.);
- promoting and achieving the collection, processing and dissemination of statistical data according to specific European legal provisions (e.g. cooperation between the National Agency for Environmental Protection and the National Institute of Statistics regarding the collection, processing and providing environmental information, cooperation between the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and the National Institute of Statistics on the collection, processing and providing information on water statistics, etc.);
- ensuring the coordination of statistical reporting to international bodies, by consulting and sharing information on the reporting requirements in areas relevant to the activity of government institutions and of the National Institute of Statistics (e.g. cooperation with the Ministry of Finance for the drawing up and transmission of deficit and government debt notification);
- sharing, on a portal, the spatial information existing within the central public institutions and other organizations (cooperation with the National Agency for Cadastre and Real Estate);

- setting up the conditions for measuring external migration in accordance with EU regulations (cooperation with the General Inspectorate for Immigration, Directorate for Personal Records and Database Administration).
- **Taking over administrative sources into the statistical production**

As consequence of the trend existing at European level to reduce the administrative burden, respectively to enhance the collection of data from administrative sources, INS is permanently concerned about using to an increasing extent data existing in the databases or records of other ministries or central public institutions.

Reducing the burden on respondents to statistical surveys and expansion of statistics production can be obtained through a better use of administrative data sources. This overall objective is in accordance with the statistical law no. 226/2009 of the organization and functioning of official statistics in Romania, with further amendments, which explicitly states in Article 28 that *"in order to complete the necessary volume of data and reduce the burden on data providers, the National Institute of Statistics and its territorial divisions have the right of accessing data from the records of public authorities and institutions, including individual identification data"* and regulates the access to electronic files, protection of confidentiality and statistical purposes of their use.

Expanding the use of administrative data sources materialised in the development of activities related to the setting up of an integrated system, allowing for the use of administrative sources for statistical purposes in an efficient way by implementing IT applications for downloading administrative data from selected sources.

In the framework of turning into account the administrative data sources, actions meant to strengthen and deepen the cooperation with various ministries and institutions were carried out in 2012, as follows:

- with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to obtain data on slaughtering of animals and birds, cultivated areas and crop production and economic accounts for agriculture;
- for trade with countries not belonging to the European Union statistics were compiled by INS mainly based on the export and import customs declarations collected and reported on monthly basis to the INS by the National Customs Authority;
- for trade with EU Member States, data from VAT returns and VIES summary statements, monthly transmitted by MFP to INS, are used to complete the volume of Romania's intra-Community trade, by estimating data related to intra-Community operators below the Intrastat threshold and in view to identify Community operators non-responders or partial respondents;
- with the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly Persons, the Ministry of Public Finances, the National Agency of Civil Servants for retrieving information from the National Public Pension Office, the Labour Inspectorate and the National Agency for Fiscal Administration in order to complete and develop the national fund of statistical data on the labour market;
- in view to compile justice statistics, data were collected from administrative sources provided by: National Penitentiary Administration from the Ministry of Justice, the Superior Council of Magistrates, Police General Inspectorate from the Ministry of Internal Affairs;
- taking over the information from the annual financial statements supplied by the Ministry of Public Finances entailed *the reduced burden on respondents for structural business statistics*. Thus, in 2012, for about a third of the total number of enterprises in the sample questionnaires were no more printed and data were imputed from these administrative sources;

- information from administrative sources were used for the calculation of indicators on *transport statistics*, respectively statistics on rail, road, inland waterways accidents, new registrations of road vehicles and also for setting up the sampling frame for statistical surveys on road transport of goods and passengers.

The exchange of data and information provided in the Annual National Statistical Programme is completed by the conclusion of agreements and protocols on cooperation between INS and institutions of central and local government.

In the year 2012 there were a total of 70 conventions and cooperation agreements signed with partner institutions for the exchange of statistical information, out of which a number of 61 are signed with ministries and central government institutions, while 9 are concluded with professional associations and foundations.

During this year 4 other new conventions and collaboration protocols were signed (with the National Bank of Romania Post Privatisation Foundation, Titu Maiorescu University and a cooperation protocol with the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly Persons, Ministry of Public Finances and National Agency of Civil Servants) and the upgrade process for a total of 20 agreements and cooperation protocols was launched.

Based on the collaboration agreements between the INS and various other public institutions, information that contributes to completing and developing the national fund of statistical data, updating and management of statistical registers, harmonization of methodologies, standardization of mutual exchanges of information, completion and development of information and decision capacity are regularly requested.



PRIORITIES OF 2012

3.1 General Agricultural Census 2010 and Population and Housing Census 2011

3.1.1. General Agricultural Census

The General Agricultural Census - 2010 was carried out in Romania for the second time, as statistical operation of national importance. Preparatory work has been started even since 2008 with the European legal framework provided by Regulation (EC) no. 1166/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) no. 571/88 of the Council and Regulation (EC) no. 1200/2009 of 30 November 2009 implementing Regulation no. 1166/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods, as regards livestock unit coefficients and definitions of characteristics. The national legal framework was provided by Law no. 153/2008 on carrying out the general agricultural census of Romania and the Government Decision no. 1370/2009 on the organization and carrying out the general agricultural census in Romania, with further amendments.

It should be noted that the General Agricultural Census 2010 benefitted of financial support from the European Commission in the amount of 4 million Euros. To this amount should be added the *national contribution* of lei 95.6 million for the years 2010, 2011, 2012, amounts included in the budget of INS (approximately 27%) in the budget of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (about 66%) and the Ministry of Administration and Interior (about 7%).

Beyond condition assumed by Romania as a member state of the European Union to respect the European legislation on agricultural statistics, the General Agricultural Census in Romania, completed in 2012, ensured:

- obtaining internationally comparable statistics, an indispensable part of Romania's participation in the Common Agricultural Policy;
- substantiation of measures for drawing up the National Development Plan and other programs aiming primarily agriculture and rural development;
- strengthening the agricultural statistical system by obtaining new data and information on agricultural holdings and their structural characteristics;
- updating the Statistical Register of Agricultural Holdings (REXA) sampling basis required to achieve statistical sample surveys of agriculture;;
- providing data and information necessary for the development of the Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN);
- information on the structure of agricultural holdings, at national level, as well as at the level of macroregions, development regions and counties;
- establishing the typology and size of agricultural holdings.



3.1.2. Population and Housing Census 2011

In 2012 the Population and Housing Census activities towards continued ensuring optimal conditions for processing and presentation of provisional and preliminary results.

The Central Commission for Population and Housing Census and the main responsible institutions, INS and the Ministry of Administration and Interior conducted a series of activities which have resulted in:

- processing and validating the provisional and preliminary results of PHC 2011 (collected in the summary tables filled in by the enumerators in the period immediately subsequent to data collection);
- dissemination of provisional and preliminary results of PHC 2011 (press releases issued by the Central Commission for Population and Housing Census of 2 February and 20 August 2012);
- processing the data of the control survey of PHC 2011;
- taking over input data from individual forms;
- designing the first series of tables presenting the final results of PHC 2011.

Data collection, as a starting point particularly important for the processing and validation of data, has been marked by some inherent limitations and obstacles (problems of sectorization planning, short duration, the reluctance of some people to be enumerated, the need to attract and replace a significant number of enumerators who have given up part of the action, the inadequate training of enumerators) that influenced subsequent activities.

The main effect of these obstacles was the fact that a small share of dwellings and population remained non-enumerated, which required the Technical Secretariat of the Central Committee of PHC to find solutions for overcoming this problem. During 2012 INS made arrangements to obtain access, in view to use exclusively for

statistical purposes, to a number of administrative sources allowing, in 2013, for making the recovery of missing information in PHC database and, therefore, ensuring the completeness of the population and housing census from 2011.

Beyond the specific traditional topics of the Population and Housing Census, the current round has been enriched by addressing new issues derived directly from the government programme and the central and local government concerns, such as temporary and permanent emigration, continuous vocational training of population, unemployment, social aspects of life - education, health, starting with the individual up to the ambient environment of the household and human collectivities, in various structures and profiles, from the geographic and administrative territorial classifications of occupations standpoint and others.

The processing of the census results envisaged the compliance with European legislation, in particular ensuring conditions for compliance with Regulation (EC) no. 519/2010 of 16 June 2010 adopting the programme of statistical data and metadata on the Population and Housing Census stipulated by Regulation (EC) no. 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the building up of hyper-cubes (standard format for the dissemination of population and housing censuses results in round 2010 - 2011 for all EU Member States).

Likewise, the dissemination of provisional results, as well as of the final results has taken and will take account of the topics and issues detailed in Regulation (EC) no. 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 on the Population and Housing Census.

Census results provide a knowledge base, of exceptional value, to the Government, central and local administration and to other bodies involved in formulating population related scenarios, strategies and public policies.

They provide a sound basis for measures to be taken: reducing population decline and restoring population growth and recovering the population age structure, enhancing the educational level of population and, not least, reducing the impact of the major risk phenomenon related to the size and dynamics of external migration process.

In terms of statistics and of organizing an integrated, coherent system for recording vital statistics and migration of population, the 2011 Population and Housing Census, particularly important due to its objectives, is also a source of information and a useful tool for some future actions such as:

- ❖ development of indicators calculated based on data included in the statistical registers, which will reduce the burden on respondents;
- ❖ complete estimation of external migration in the next inter-censuses period;
- ❖ development of the geospatial database;
- ❖ estimation of certain social indicators at locality level, not possible in case of sample surveys because of the sample volumes on which these rely;
- ❖ building up the INS master sample necessary for taking over the samples for carrying out households sample surveys.



3.2. Statistical production

Through its activities conducted in 2012, the National Institute of Statistics envisaged the coverage of national and Community policies regarding: economic and social recovery, implicitly the developments meant to overcome the economic crisis, climate changes and actions towards ensuring a sustainable Europe and the achievement of objectives set out in Europe 2020 strategy; forefront positioning of European citizens; better regulation and transparency of activities and objectives set out in the European Union programme; reducing the burden on data and primary information providers.

Among the 2012 priorities the following are to be highlighted:

IT technological infrastructure:

- implementation in the National Statistical System of a larger number of statistical surveys where reporting is to be done on-line via the "web portal for statistical data online registration";
- rehabilitation of structured data / voice cabling, reconfigurable both hard and soft;
- development of metadata description structure to ensure their standardization and harmonization with those existing at European level and improving the content of reference metadata base;
- further actions to improve and enrich the information in the TEMPO database;
- harmonization, through a gradual approach in line with the flow of activities and their frequency, the national reference metadata (towards the ESMS standard) by using NRME (National Reference Metadata Editor) application.

National Accounts and Government Finance Statistics:

- compiling the annual national and regional accounts for 2010;
- compiling quarterly accounts for 2012;

- reviewing annual, quarterly and regional accounts according to NACE rev.2 for the period 1995-2007;
- reviewing annual, quarterly and regional accounts in view to ensure their consistency with Public Administrations accounts for the period 1995-2007;
- applying the 50% test for 2012 for all the public companies;
- extending the public administrations expenditure compilation by COFOG functions, level 2;
- launching the activities envisaging underground economy estimation.

Statistics of short term indicators:

- preparatory actions required for changing the base year (2010) and the weighting system for short-term statistics;
- recalculation of data series based on the new base year 2010;
- improving the existing data sources necessary for experimentally compiling the Tourism Satellite Account;
- expanding the e-SOP project for online collection of statistical data on the production of meat, milk and dairy products and metallurgical sector;
- redesigning the questionnaires for data collection in the field of R & D statistics;
- redesigning the way of extracting the enterprises sample for the performance of the business environment;
- redesigning the questionnaires for collecting data from dwellings statistics;
- finalising the Grant "Improving statistics on innovation and R & D in the context of Europe 2020 Strategy";
- exploring the possibility of taking over information collected by MRDT from tourist accommodation structures through the Integrated System of Tourists Records (SIET) in view to reduce the burden on respondents.

Agricultural statistics:

- finalising the General Agricultural Census and the Survey on Agricultural Production Methods 2010 and national dissemination of the final results, through press releases and publications, as well as the results transmission to Eurostat through the file "Eurofarm";
- preparing the organizational and methodological framework for carrying out the farm structure survey 2013;
- drawing up the quality report on the economic accounts in agriculture;
- finalising the EUROSTAT grants "Support for building up the set of territorial indicators for monitoring sustainable development strategy" and "Environmental accounts - Environmental taxes".

Foreign trade statistics:

- methodological development of international trade statistics: participation beside Eurostat and the other EU member states in the implementation of Intrastat and Extrastat legislation and in defining medium and long term measures for the simplification of Intrastat statistical system;
- continuing to monitor the changes in customs policy and electronic customs systems for Extrastat data collection to ensure the coverage of non-EU goods trade data along with the implementation of the Modernised Customs Code of the Customs Authority provisions;
- collaborating with the National Bank of Romania in carrying out the pilot statistical survey for international trade in services, INS functions being specified in the Annual National Statistical Program for 2012;
- preparation and transmission to EUROSTAT the first statistical data on extra-community trade in goods by invoicing currencies, in accordance with in force community statistical regulations;
- preparation and submission to Eurostat, according to the statistical regulations in force, the Annual Report on the Assessment of international trade statistics quality for the reference year 2011.

Social statistics:

Population and Housing Census:

- observing the deadlines set out in the schedule of 2011 PHC works, especially in terms of uploading the PHC database with individual data collected through questionnaires;
- ensuring the quality of resulting indicators;
- dissemination of provisional and preliminary results;
- ensuring data processing in view to obtain the final results of PHC 2011 etc.

Other works in social statistics field:

- development of an econometric model to estimate the external migration based on PHC 2011 results, both for the period 2002-2010 and for the next inter-censuses period;
- implementation of recommendations made by the working group on improving the Household Labour Force Survey;
- designing new master sample EMZOT;
- extending the results of AEDA survey;



- concluding a cooperation protocol between public institutions (INS, NAFA, IM, NACS, CNPP) to achieve the organizational and methodological framework for the transfer of available information from administrative sources with the statistical ones;
- completion of the processing and analysis of data from Structure of Earnings Survey 2010;
- production and dissemination of statistics on vocational training in enterprises in 2010;
- qualitative assessment of the organization and results of the statistical survey on vocational training in enterprises.

3.3. National Statistical System quality

Improving the quality of official statistics is a permanent concern of the National Institute of Statistics, this objective resulting from the organizational and functional framework of the National Statistical System. The implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice principles and the observance of quality components in the statistical activity are established and regulated in the EU, representing the "last word" that also guides Romanian statistics for further harmonization of Romanian statistics with the European standards and norms.

During 2012, the actions of implementing Total Quality Management (TQM) in the Romanian official statistics continued.

By joining Total Quality Management, INS has assumed as its primary mission, meeting the needs and desires of all statistical data users. User orientation is, nevertheless, not a sufficient condition of quality management. A statistical institute needs good strategies in place to meet the mentioned requirements.

In order to improve the quality at all stages of the statistical production process, INS conducted a series of actions, including: extending electronic questionnaires for a range of statistical surveys, performing verification and validation operations of logical controls at the county level, checking micro-data files, continuing regular consultation of statistical data users in order to ensure relevant information. Standard quality reports for statistical surveys on social field, living conditions, social services, from business surveys in agriculture and international trade in goods were issued in 2012.

Activities subject to the implementation of Total Quality Management envisaged:

- finalising the drawing up of quality reports for users of statistical data for a total of 17 statistical surveys for which standard quality reports required by EUROSTAT are not developed;
- carrying out the survey on statistical data users satisfaction based on data collected in 2011. Knowing the users' choices on official statistics will lead to the improvement of the statistical system in accordance with their requirements and of the Institute activity. Among the recommendations of statistical data users, able to entail an improved National Statistical System, we can mention:
 - structuring the INS website for higher accessibility so that information could be more easily retrieved;
 - disseminating on the INS website as many statistical information as possible, by disaggregation levels, without charges;
 - narrowing the dissemination delays and increasing the detail levels;
 - widening the information at region, county and locality level;
 - promoting the statistical culture.

ACTIVITIES OF THE ANNUAL NATIONAL STATISTICAL PROGRAMME - 2012

In a comprehensive vision, the statistical production process includes the design, research and methodology development, the proper production and dissemination of statistical data and statistical services.

The production of statistical data and information continued to represent in 2012 the nodal set of the National Institute of Statistics activities, covering various production processes, which have involved the vast majority of available human, material and financial resources.

The statistical production was mainly driven by the demand for statistical data. The coverage of information requirements resulted from a long process of consultation between producers and users of official statistics and the results of these consultations was recorded in the Annual National Statistical Programme (PSNA) 2012, which provided the legal basis of requests addressed to data providers - enterprises, households and individuals, public or private organizations. The Annual National Statistical Programme represented the support of resource allocation, particularly in terms of financing statistical activities.

The Annual National Statistical Programme for 2012 pointed out the statistical surveys, works, studies and publications by statistical areas and other operations necessary to effectively produce quality statistical data, such as: development of classifications and nomenclatures of overall utility, development and management of statistical registers, management of sampling bases, databases and metadata, etc.

The activities included in the Annual National Statistical Programme (PSNA) 2012 were accomplished under quality conditions and in accordance with Government Decision no. 1083 / November 6, 2012 (published in Official Gazette no. 772/15 November 2012).

4.1. Statistical standardisation

The statistical infrastructure broadly represents all the tools and knowledge that contributes to reliable statistical data. Statistical standardisation tools are one of the main components of statistical infrastructure, among which we can mention: statistical classifications and registers, special sampling frames used for taking over the samples for statistical surveys, meta-information system.

4.1.1. Sampling frames

Statistical registers represent the tool for a systematic and updated recording, in electronic form, of the various categories of statistical entities subject to statistical surveys. They serve for building up the sampling frames required for the extraction of representative samples, as well as a source for specialized statistics. The National Institute of Statistics maintains and develops the Statistical Business Register (REGIS) and the Register of Agricultural Holdings (REXA).

➤ **Statistical Business Register (REGIS)**

The Statistical Business Register provides the necessary infrastructure for all business statistical surveys and the main objective was to timely update, based on administrative sources, all information underlying the relevant, quality statistics, harmonized with the European Union statistical norms and standards.

In 2012 the Statistical Business Register was established as a source for new statistical information:

- European Register of groups of companies: update based on the transmission to Eurostat of microdata related to Romanian enterprises, as part of the European Business groups;
- Web Portal - taking on-line statistical data from observation units – by ensuring the infrastructure: providing lists of reporting units, uploading classifications and nomenclatures.

➤ **Statistical Register of Agricultural Holdings (REXA)**

The Statistical Register of Agricultural Holdings (REXA) is used for building up the samples for selective statistical surveys in agriculture.

After the completion of the General Agricultural Census 2010 REXA was completely redesigned and updated so as to take into account both new types of agricultural holdings and their geo-referenced location, in terms of latitude and longitude, according to Eurostat methodology.

➤ **The Master Sample – EMZOT**

In 2012, the activities focused on the management of Master Sample of Territorial Areas (EMZOT), extracting samples for household surveys, calculating expansion coefficients and calculation of indicators for quality reports.

The management of this Master Sample in social field involved the EMZOT dwellings update with data from carried out surveys, preparing the base to extract samples for household surveys and compilation of statistics based on the information from the sampling base.

The extraction of samples for household surveys involved the design and implementation of procedures for dwellings selection and preparing the dwellings nomenclatures for each survey and their transmission to the territorial statistical divisions.

EMZOT represented the basis for carrying out certain statistical activities, such as:

- calculation of expansion coefficients: the design and implementation of procedures to calculate basic weights, implementation of procedures for adjusting the total non-response, the design and implementation of procedures for the recovery of the sample and the calculation of final weights, determining the transversal weights for living standard survey - ACAV for 2011 and the longitudinal weights for ACAV 2007-2010;
- calculation of indicators for quality reports:
 - calculation of sampling errors (standard deviation, variance, coefficient of variation), overall non-response rate and by causes, errors due to the sampling frame, for the quality assessment of the household labour force survey data (LFS-2011 and quarterly LFS-2012);
 - calculation of sampling errors (standard deviation, variance, coefficient of variation), overall non-response rate and by causes, for the quality assessment of ad hoc module to LFS 2011 and of the Survey on household access to information technology and communication - ICT 2012.
- calculation of sampling errors (standard deviation), the rate of non-response and the errors due to the sampling frame for data quality assessment of statistical research ACAV 2011 and longitudinal ACAV 2007-2010;
- calculation of statistical social indicators: indicators of social inclusion from Household Budget Survey (HBS) for 2011; indicators compiled in accordance with the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) from the 2011 ACAV survey.

New activities carried out in 2012:

- *development of IT procedures and sample extraction for TUS survey, the third and fourth waves, and the preparation and transmission of dwellings nomenclature to the statistical territorial divisions;*
- *calculation of expansion coefficients for Adult Education Survey (AEDA) 2011;*
- *calculation of sampling errors and completion of quality report for AEDA 2011;*
- *designing the new master sample EMZOT based on the centralizers of PHC 2011; EMZOT sizing; defining layers; defining primary units by area; setting up the minimum size of a primary unit.*

4.1.2. Databases

The central databases of INS, the main source of statistical indicators and metadata of official nature, are used both to disseminate statistical information and for setting up the national fund of statistical data.

The management of databases focuses on permanent update, quality, innovation and improved accessibility. Data and metadata management, resolving data requests, are facilitated by using specific computer software and applications, constantly updated and adapted to meet the needs of beneficiaries. Quality, completeness of the information provided and timeliness are essential in resolving all claims.

The central databases managed by INS during 2012 are:

- **Central Database with time series TEMPO**

The online TEMPO database includes time series covering 23 years, since 1990. It is the most comprehensive database available to the general public: it contains statistical indicators covering all the economic and social areas, relevant to the characterization of Romania's specific phenomena. The information has monthly, quarterly, annual or variable periodicity. The data sets stored in TEMPO are characterized by continuity and comparability over time, in scope, methodology and representativeness. Information is available both in Romanian and English.

In 2012, new functionalities were added to the database that provides highly detailed information stored and offer more suggestive and easier possibilities of data processing and presentation: the list of most recent matrix undergoing updates / changes, data export in CSV format required for generating graphics by the user himself. The interconnection of online TEMPO database and methodological metadata database on the website of INS was achieved, thus obtaining very detailed information on the

statistical survey as origin of data extracted from TEMPO. The improvements made during 2012 (TEMPO database migration to a new virtualized server) have reduced the query response time.

At the end of 2012, 1178 matrixes were stored in TEMPO, 41 more as compared to 2011, which correspond to about 21 million non-zero values uploaded, with nearly 3 million values more than in the previous year. 14 new matrixes were created for the labour force field, as result of salaries survey in October. GDP data are stored in the structure of CANE Rev. 2 in 16 new matrixes, the culture field was completed by another 9 matrixes with data detailed by counties and municipalities. Other areas with completed information during 2012 are: education, industrial products prices and research and development.

TEMPO was a handy source of information for Internet users, but also for custom data requests for ministries, government agencies, domestic and international projects.

- **Metadata database**

The metadata database available for users of statistics on the INS website requires a permanent work of uploading information on new statistical surveys and of updating the descriptive elements of the activities included in the Annual National Statistical Program. All information is available both in Romanian and English. The nomenclatures attached to statistical activities are permanently updated, the changes in PSNA structure being immediately reflected in the content of the metadata database.

At the end of 2012, descriptions of 163 statistical activities and 1907 definitions for statistical indicators and terms were available in the metadata database. As new pieces of information, descriptive elements of the statistical survey on environmental goods and services and salary survey in October were uploaded. The INS website visitors can also access in the metadata database the history of statistical activities included in PSNA.

- ***Territorial units database (BDL)***

The database at administrative territorial unit level contains time series of statistical indicators of annual periodicity. Stored information comes from statistical surveys or administrative sources, all with the observation unit the locality – as administrative territorial unit (city, town and village).

The areas covered are: territory, population, labour force, education, health, culture, agriculture, housing, construction, public utility and tourism, comparability being ensured for all indicators. At the end of 2012, the database stored over 320 thousand new values for 2011 for the 3,181 localities in Romania, the number of managed indicators amounting to 332, 31 more than in 2010. Any change in the nomenclature of territorial administrative units SIRUTA is reflected in the content of the database. The time series are stored starting with the year 1990, covering a period of 23 years and exceeding 5.5 million nonzero values.

The education field was completed with 9 new indicators on graduates by level of education.

Also available are 15 new indicators related to health care facilities by ownership and the number of beds for them. In another 6 new indicators are found information about staff in cultural institutions and the number of volumes issued by libraries.

BDL is a valuable data source for various large scale projects (Urban Audit, Rural Development), all extracted indicators being presented electronically in files easily manipulated by beneficiaries. The data required by EUROSTAT for LAU (Local Administrative Units) are also obtained from this database.

- ***Database at county level (BDJ)***

The completeness of coverage and ease of data extraction is an advantage of the database at county level - BDJ. Stored information is updated annually and because of different moments of statistical surveys completion, the management

of the database is permanent. The indicators existence in the database is conditioned by ensuring the content comparability over time. As a result, this database together with BDL are the main sources for solving large-volume data requirements and for longer periods of time.

The annual amount of data loaded into BDJ is significant because the scope covers all areas of economic and social life. Thus, the database contains over 4,700 indicators and only in 2012 were charged more than 110 thousand of non-zero values.

Annually, the database is enriched in content and since 6 new indicators are available for the culture field.

BDJ is a data source for the territorial statistical divisions, used when drawing up statistical yearbooks used of counties and regions.

- ***Population database and „Demographic sheet“***

In the population database were loaded appropriate information on 2011 permanent resident / legal population of Romania (series starts in 1995) by locality, sex and generation (on 1 January and 1 July). After the completion of the population and housing census results, population data will be recalculated for the previous intercensuses period (2003-2011).

The Demographic sheet - includes data series since 1966 on population migration and vital statistics, at locality and county level, being updated with information for the year 2011. There were designed, updated or redesigned programs and applications required for loading, updating, managing databases and data processing applications.

Information extracted according to extremely varied criteria, necessary to meet more than 100 requests, as well as those necessary for Eurostat Regional Yearbook were extracted from both databases.

- **Database with annual financial statements and half-annual accounting reports**

The databases with annual financial statements and half-annual accounting reports, together with the database of active economic operators, are valuable sources of information used to correlate the statistical indicators of economic and the economic-financial indicators from annual and half-annual financial statements of economic operators. The database contains information on economic operators, credit and insurance institutions, non-profit legal persons, capital markets execution of other budgetary funds. The latest information refers to the year 2011 and the first half of 2012.

The year 2012 also represented a new approach of data acquisition and processing, since the unadjusted data are available in the Oracle database. There have been designed and implemented specific procedures for import and transposition in VisualFoxPro and Excel format and for information processing to facilitate further processing by various users.

A new source of data used to develop the "Excessive deficit procedure – Fiscal notification" is the S1001 report, which contains economic and financial statistical indicators related to economic operators reclassified in the government sector. Since 2012, according to Order no. 2443/2011, Oracle database is received quarterly and annually from the Ministry of Public Finances. In view to facilitate further processing of information necessary to compile national accounts, procedures for import and transposition in VisualFoxPro and Excel format and for information processing.

- **Foreign trade database**

The foreign trade database, administered and managed by INS is the most comprehensive and complete database in this field, both in terms of content and the period covered (1986-2012). It contains annual / monthly data on foreign trade, detailed in terms of quantity and value by commodity, at the 8-digit level of Combined

Nomenclature, by country of origin / destination and dispatch and on modes of transport and customs regimes. It gathers information collected in the Intrastat system and import / export data monthly taken over by INS from the National Customs Authority.

The information in the database is the source for drawing up specific publications, for solving many data requests, as well as for various research projects, analysis / synthesis papers or grants.

During 2012, approximately 4,200 data requests were solved, representing requests for more than 40 thousand CN codes existing in foreign trade databases and more than 1,000 applications for foreign trade information, aggregate data or in structures related to freight, regarding the trade with different countries or regional / economic groupings of states.

- **Industrial physical production database (PFIND)**

PFIND software application uses the monthly updated industrial physical production database, allowing for the retrieval and presentation of data by status (confidential or non-confidential) and is intended for the use of INS dissemination departments - headquarters and territorial divisions. It contains information - expressed in volume and value – on the production, deliveries, productive domestic consumption and the stock at the beginning and end of the period, as well as the total value of deliveries, by main products surveyed, in accordance with PRODRUM nomenclatures and the blank series.

- **Consumer price indices database (IPC)**

The database contains monthly data series of consumer price indices from October 1990 to date, and annual series since 1990. Due to the increasing amount of information stored in the database at the request of dissemination departments, the standardized software application has been updated to reflect changes occurred in the course of 2012.

4.2. Macroeconomic statistics and sectoral economic statistics

4.2.1. National Accounts

The regulation that guides all macroeconomic indicators in national accounts system is EC Regulation no. 2223/1996, which will be replaced by Regulation on the European system of national and regional accounts in the EU, during 2014.

The whole range of macroeconomic indicators in national accounts system, as fundamental indicators of the economy, was placed at the centre of the National Institute of Statistics concerns, oriented towards the harmonisation of techniques and methods used indicators estimation and the connection of these results to EU standards and norms.

As outstanding achievements in the field, the following are to be pointed out:

- the introduction of the third estimate of GDP called "provisional data (2)" in order to ensure the consistency of aggregates underlying quarterly GDP estimate with aggregates of quarterly accounts of the institutional sectors, particularly in the sector "government";
- improvement of data quality in quarterly accounts of the institutional sectors;
- development of the inventory of sources and methods on the annual accounts of the institutional sectors;
- implementation, for the reference year 2010, of a set of enhancements on GNI exhaustiveness according to the requirements highlighted as result of direct verification exercise carried out by EUROSTAT experts;
- development of input-output tables by class Rev.2;
- mixed income estimation for the year 2010, while the mixed income for the series in the past are to be estimated within the overhaul process for 2007-2009;
- using the new coefficient CIF - FOB in the input-output tables;
- improving the treatment of R & D expenditure in the national accounts as an important step in preparing the implementation of the new European System of Accounts 2010 version.

In the field of regional statistics, the following took place in 2012:

- development of regional national accounts, by activities, for 2010, according to CANE rev.2 (calculating GDP at NUTS III level, the compensation of employees at NUTS II level, gross fixed capital formation at NUTS II level, the employment - thousand persons at NUTS III level and employment - hours worked at NUTS II level);
- developing regional accounts of households sector (Allocation of primary income account and Secondary distribution of income account) for the year 2010;
- development of regional tables 10, 12 and 13 according to ESA95 transmission program.

In order to align national accounts to European requirements and to improve their quality, a series of EUROSTAT missions took place in 2012 at INS headquarters, which envisaged:

- an inventory of sources and methods for calculating GNI and conducting a direct verification exercise, resulting in certain activities which were established to achieve these objectives, as well as the deadlines of their gradual implementation until September 2014;
- an analysis of derogations requested by Member States (including Romania) in the negotiation rounds related to the new ESA transmission program proposed by the European Commission;
- improvement of regional accounts quality, requiring actions to be finalized by December 2013.

4.2.2. Government finance statistics

In the area of public finance statistics, the following took place during 2012:

- two reports of deficit / public debt according to ESA95, for the period 2008-2011, in the context of the excessive deficit procedure;
- development of the sequence of non-financial government sector accounts for 2011;
- drawing up the tables of public finances in 2011 under the ESA95 transmission program (Table 2 - Main aggregates of general government; Table 9 - Breakdown by types of taxes and contributions received by subsectors; national tax list; Table 11 - General government expenditure by COFOG functions and subsectors);
- developing the sequence of non-financial quarterly accounts of general government sector for Q4 2011 Q1-Q3 2012;
- drawing up Table 25 - Quarterly non-financial accounts of government (expenditure and income) according to ESA95 transmission program - Q4 2011 and Q1-Q3 for 2012;
- calculation of the final consumption of general government sector for 2011;
- calculation of fixed capital consumption of the government sector for 2011.

The activity in macroeconomic statistics also included the participation in community projects that were aimed at improving the quality of national accounts.

There were finalized the activities on two projects funded by the EU, aiming at improving the quality of national accounts and national accounts methodology improvement through:

- calculating and providing a series of indicators necessary to the European project EU KLEMS - Improved measurement of economic growth, productivity, employment, capital formation and technological change;

- launching the actions aiming at estimating illegal activities (drugs consumption and trafficking, prostitution, smuggling of alcohol and tobacco).

4.2.3. International trade in goods statistics

International trade statistics produced by the National Institute of Statistics assess the value and quantity of goods exchanges between Romania and the EU Member States (intra-EU trade) and the exchange of goods between Romania and third countries (non-EU trade).



In view to compile intra-Community trade in goods statistics, in the context of Intrastat statistical survey, in 2012 were collected monthly, exclusively electronically, statistical data from over 20,000 economic operators carrying out intra-Community trade of goods, above the Intrastat thresholds. In addition, information on VAT returns and VIES summary declarations provided monthly by the Ministry of Public Finances were used for the completion of the entire volume of goods in intra-Community operators by estimating the data on intra-Community operators below the Intrastat thresholds and for identifying non-respondents or partial responders.

For the trade with countries not belonging to the European Union, statistics were compiled by INS mainly based on the export and import customs declarations collected and reported monthly to the INS by the National Customs Authority.

During recent years, at the European Union level, several evaluations were conducted on the administrative burden on economic operators. On average, the estimates suggest that Intrastat statistical survey imposes more than 50% of the entire administrative burden on businesses generated by official statistics.

In this context, Eurostat acted in launching the Package for international trade reform and in presenting the SIMSTAT project program within the European Statistical System Committee meeting on 23 May 2012.

SIMSTAT primarily envisages the simplification of collecting data on intra-Community trade in goods, in particular, in view to reduce the reporting burden of enterprises, but also contains components related to the system Extrastat and international trade in services.

In fact, SIMSTAT program includes 4 projects:

- SIMSTAT project on the methodology for international trade in goods statistics;
- SIMSTAT project on the development of international trade in services statistics;
- SIMSTAT project on the exchange of microdata related to intra-Community trade in goods;
- SIMSTAT project on the legal framework that will replace the current regulations in the field of international trade in goods and services statistics.

The National Institute of Statistics actively participates in EUROSTAT activities related to the implementation of SIMSTAT, its experts being as part of a series of working groups and committees carrying out SIMSTAT related activities, which included in 2012:

- the SIMSTAT Project Working Group on the exchange of microdata related to intra-Community trade in goods;

- the group on Methods and Quality of international trade statistics - support group for the SIMSTAT project on the methodology for international trade in goods;
- Intrastat-Extrastat Committee which oversees and approves SIMSTAT program results, with all component projects.

During 2012, INS obtained external grant funding for two additional projects in the MEETS program, projects that will run from January to December 2013:

- *Harmonising the methods to improve the quality of intra-Community trade in goods statistics - exercises of reconciliation* - the main objective is reconciliation of the biggest differences between intra-Community trade statistics of Romania and those of the partner Member States, for the reference year 2012;
- *Improving the use of customs data* - the main objective is to improve the availability, completeness and quality of customs data used for international trade in goods statistics.

Regarding the *quality of the statistical data* of international trade in goods and in particular the statistics of intra-Community trade, in 2012 continued the activities aiming at the reduction of asymmetries between intra-Community trade statistics of Romania and those of the main partner Member States.

Thus, in March 2012, under the Eurostat MEETS program, the project "Reducing asymmetries in Intrastat" for the reference year 2011 was launched. Data analysis had as primary support the COMEXT database of EUROSTAT and aimed at identifying, measuring and reducing asymmetries between Romania and the partner Member States for each trade flow – intra-Community arrivals, respectively dispatches of goods. Where possible, analyzes were performed on longer data series in view to assess whether asymmetries identified were caused by the impact of Romania's accession to the European Union in 2007.

Likewise, in March 2012 was launched the project “Improving the use of administrative data in Intrastat” in view to reduce the reporting burden on data providers within Intrastat statistical system and to improve estimates quality in order to reduce the gap between the first detailed data and the final data for a reference year. Within this project, a statistical survey meant to assess the administrative burden on economic operators completing Intrastat declaration was conducted.

4.2.4. Structural business statistics

Structural business statistics provides the most complex information in the economic field and the main objectives of 2012 were oriented towards meeting internal and external users’ requests, by ensuring the continuity of the statistical indicators series and data quality.

One of the priorities in 2012 was to reduce the burden on enterprises; thus, for structural business statistics were used administrative sources, the annual financial statements, for about one-third of businesses in the statistical survey sample.



In order to reduce the burden on business, short term survey questionnaires were restructured and simplified.

In 2012 the elaboration and transmission to EUROSTAT of quality reports for all Annexes to Regulation (EC) no. 295/2008 concerning structural business statistics continued.

INS participated, along with a small group of Member States, in the implementation of a new ESSnet type project aiming at the development of a methodology for globalization indicators and implemented the statistical survey on international outsourcing and global value chain.

Regarding information society statistics, INS participated in the ESSnet project - Impact of information and communication technologies (ICT) in enterprises, to the development and implementation of linkages between micro-data, in view to obtain indicators of impact at national and EU level.

In 2012, electronic collection via the web portal was extended in view to cover the annual statistical surveys on private pension funds, public passenger transport, public roads length and telephone activity and means.

4.2.5. Statistics on short-term indicators

Short-term indicators statistics covers various and complex fields of the national economy, such as: short-term economic indicators, energy, industrial production, construction, tourism and research-development and innovation statistics.

The main purpose was to timely satisfy users’ requests, users who had been made available relevant and quality statistical data, harmonized with the European Union’s standards and statistical guidelines.

Another important objective was to implement the e-SOP project for the on-line collection of statistical data for the annual statistical survey on the activity of the metallurgical sector, for the monthly and annual statistical surveys on the production of meat from animals and poultry in slaughter houses as well as the production of milk and milk products in dairies.

Likewise, the recalculation of the indices in the field of industry, construction, trade and services in accordance to the new base year, respectively to the new weighting system (2010), represented another important aim in harmonizing Romanian statistics with European statistics.

In order to harmonize statistical surveys in the economic field, the on-line data collection approach was adopted for the following statistical surveys: "The activity of the metallurgical sector"; "The production of meat from animals and poultry in slaughter houses"; "The production of milk and milk products in dairies".



4.2.6. Tourism statistics

The legal act governing tourism statistics is *Regulation (EU) No 692/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning European statistics on tourism and repealing Council Directive 95/57/EC*.

The news brought by this Regulation refers to:

- microdata reporting for travels by residents in country and abroad (national tourism);
- the fact that for assuring the continuity of quarterly data series, EUROSTAT requested the member states the voluntary transmission of 13 quarterly tourism indicators on tourism demand (through Directive No 95/57/EC, the data on tourism demand were also reported on a quarterly basis). INS honoured EUROSTAT's request;
- the submission of quality reports from member states to EUROSTAT within 9 days from the end of the reference period;

- the submission to EUROSTAT of monthly data on attendance at the establishments of touristic reception, while annual statistical data on the existent touristic accommodation capacity, the attendance at the establishments of touristic accommodation, the number of nights spent in non-rented accommodation (optional) and the data on national tourism will be reported in 2013.

Concerning the achievement of the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA), the member states may conduct pilot studies based on a program established by the Commission.

In order to satisfy as well as possible the users' needs for statistical data, INS is permanently preoccupied to provide them with new statistical data. Thus, the necessary data sources were identified and a pilot exercise was lead for 7 TSA tables with 2010 data in order to achieve the Tourism Satellite Account. Further analyzing the potential of the existent data sources and the possibility to improve them, eventually to obtain new ones, it was considered necessary to make a new annual statistical survey on the measurement of official travel costs.

In order to modernize statistical surveys, the data collection continued to take place through the web portal for the following surveys in the field of tourism: "Attendance at the establishments of touristic accommodation"; Touristic accommodation capacity existing on July 31"; "Touristic activities organized in travel agencies".



4.2.7. Science and technology statistics

Progress was made at European level in the **field of science and technology** to prepare a framework regulation integrating business statistics (FRIBS) for the compilation, submission and dissemination of statistical data. Therewith, for accomplishing one of the key objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy, progress was made in developing a methodology for a new indicator able to measure the share of economically fast growing innovative enterprises. The aim of this indicator is to inform on the ability of an economy to create and maintain high-quality jobs in future promising economic sectors, in terms of innovation, growth and number of employees.

In the legislative field, the European Commission proposed a legislative review of the European Statistical System with an emphasis on the finalization of an integrated regulation framework for business statistics. In this respect, considering EUROSTAT's request, final proposals to simplify the European legislation in the field of science and technology and to realize a common regulation were sent for the field of research-development and innovation statistics. Consequently, in October 2012 the Commission Regulation No 995/2012 concerning the production and development of Community statistics on science and technology came into force.

In order to implement the measures in the European legislation, INS conducted a pilot integrated statistical survey on research-development and innovation which led, on the one hand, to reduce the response burden of the respondents and, on the other hand, to increase the respondents' responsibility when filling in statistical data.

Concerning the *international cooperation*, INS participated with its representatives delegated to the working groups organized by EUROSTAT in order to prepare the legal framework for the FRIBS Regulation, the methodological frame and the CIS community innovation survey in 2012.

Likewise, the INS representatives participated in meetings organized in Brussels by the European Commission concerning the development of an integrated indicator that allows a better monitoring of the progress in innovation.

The National Statistical Institute permanently cooperated with the European Commission and responded to the requests for statistical data in the field of science and technology.

In the field of **research-development** statistics, data were collected for the new indicators that refer to loans granted from the state budget for the research-development activity and to academic grades of the staff involved in the survey.

In the field of **innovation statistics**, based on the data collection for the CIS 2010 questionnaire, new indicators were obtained regarding innovation novelty, innovative design activity and also indicators concerning the creativity and competences of the employees in the innovative enterprises.

At EUROSTAT's request, a set of innovation aggregated data was provided in order to establish and provide an OECD methodology for establishing a hierarchy of economic activities by the degree of innovation in the CIS 2008 statistical survey.

To establish links between statistical areas of interest, microdata were compiled for the field of innovation (CIS) and of information technology and communications (IT&C) and were sent to EUROSTAT.

Competitiveness regional indicators for SMEs were calculated for the European Commission publication "Regional Innovation Scoreboard".

Regarding the *inter-institutional cooperation*, INS representatives in the field of science and technology were chosen to participate in working groups' meetings with other ministries and institutions in order to establish common strategies to develop the science and technology area at national level.

Thus, the participation in the working group within the following institutions:

- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to analyze the current situation in the field of innovation-professional training;
- Ministry of Economy to develop socio-economic analysis in working groups built at the level of the Competitiveness Advisory Thematic Committee;
- The National Authority for Scientific Research for the organization and functioning of the partnership framework for European funds programming aimed to an intelligent, sustainable and inclusive development for the period 2014-2020 of the Memorandum with the theme "Approval of actions and documents concerning the access and implementation of European funds in the period 2014-2020".

Data on the loans from the state budget for research-development were requested from all budget appropriations ordering institutions in order to *reduce the administrative burden*.

Regarding the modernization of the statistical surveys, statistical questionnaires were restructured and modernized in the field of research-development statistics, resulting thus 4 separate questionnaires for data collection, based on the performance sectors of the economy: government, higher education, non-profit and business environment.

To simplify the manner of collecting data, to optimally utilize the available resources and to obtain coherent statistics, INS conducted a pilot project and combined two statistical questionnaires on the research-development and innovation activity and obtained a single integrated questionnaire to collect enterprise data from the business environment.

Concerning the *quality of the National Statistical System*, the use of online questionnaires for data collection in the field of science and technology through the web portal led to a higher data quality, due to a better understanding of the questionnaire and of the correlations of the statistical indicators.

Likewise, an assessment of the data quality in innovation statistics was highlighted in the quality report for the period 2008-2010, based on the data filled in the CIS 2010 community innovation survey.

In May 2011, at the European Commission proposal, a grant project was launched for science and technology named "*Improvement of research-development and innovation statistics in the context of the 2020 Strategy*", for a period of 18 months.

The grant project included three parts named by EUROSTAT "packs" which were carried on as follows:

- Pack 1: named *Innovation statistics* and it includes collection activities for new indicators on innovation novelty, share of employees having higher education involved in innovation, creativity and competences of employees in innovative enterprises, having as reference period 2008-2010;
- Pack 2: named *Research-development statistics* tested the possibility of collecting research-development data for the performance sector "business environment" and data for the innovation of enterprises oriented towards the market, in an integrated statistical survey, in order to reduce the response burden of the respondents;
- Pack 3: referred to the study of the behaviour of innovative enterprises with big growth potential, conducted in collaboration with the Direction of the Statistical Business Register.

Based on the requirements laid down by EUROSTAT, activities regarding National Accounts were carried out to provide necessary information for the calculation of the satellite account for research-development.

Based on the data obtained from the finished surveys, 5 quality reports were completed for the research-development activity, corresponding to the 4 performance sectors and a supplement one for the budget appropriations allocated to the research-development activity.

In order to complete the OECD/EUROSTAT joint questionnaire, data are requested to provide information on the budget appropriations allocated to the research-development activity in different institutions.

At the request of EUROSTAT, information was provided and the questionnaire were filled in, for: cognitive testing for innovation statistics, proposals for new indicators in patent statistics, proposals and modifications of RDI regulations, assessment of science and technology statistics in EUROSTAT and the possibility of introducing new indicators for statistics on "Women in science".

4.2.8. Energy statistics

In **the field of energy statistics**, measures have been taken for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1099/2008 on energy statistics, as amended, in the Romanian legislation. For this purpose, the already existent methodological norms in the field of annual energy have been updated, completed and modified.



4.2.9. Price statistics

The objective of price statistics is to produce relevant indicators in the price field for the consumer price, industrial production, services, dwellings, agricultural products and inputs, using sound methodologies and in accordance with the international standards and to provide these indicators to decision makers and to the general public.

At the same time, the purpose is to develop a price system comparable at European level and able to meet the requirements established in the European Comparison Programme.

The main achievements in the field of price statistics can be summarized as follows:

In the consumer price field, minimum standards on the quality of the weighting system were implemented, according to the Commission Regulation No 1114/2010. This regulation represented a big and important step in harmonizing the production methods for the consumer price statistics, aiming at improving the comparability and reliability of the consumer price indices. The Regulation established the rules needed to select the data sources and the frequency of the revisions of the weights that are to be applied at European level. These rules show the use of national accounts as primary data source for the construction of the weighting system and the annual revision of the weights. The impact of this methodological updating was carefully monitored by EUROSTAT, based on the data that were calculated and submitted by the INS.

Regarding the **housing prices**, a regulation was developed and agreed upon at European level on price indices for owner-occupied housing (OOH regulation). To this extent, a statistical survey has been developed based on a collaboration protocol with the National Union of Notaries Public from Romania and the National Bank of Romania, to collect prices for sold/purchased houses and also relevant characteristics traded houses.

These data represent the main data source for analyzing and testing calculation methods proposed in the OOH regulation and for the calculation of the residential buildings price index, published and submitted to EUROSTAT on a quarterly basis.

The main priority in the field of **production prices** – industrial production (IPPI), services production (IPPS) and agricultural products and inputs – was to update the weighting system used to compute price indices.

It is known that the production price indices computed in Romania are fixed base indices, the updating of the weights taking place once in five years, using the years that end in 0 or 5. Starting

with January 2013, the time series for the 4 types of production price indices are computed and published using 2010 as base year.

In 2012 the basis of a system for collecting and processing information on **agricultural land prices** and **agricultural rent** was set up. A statistical survey regarding the annual collection of data on agricultural land prices and rent was conducted. Data for the year 2011, together with an interim report on the activities carried out within the EU grant for this matter were submitted to EUROSTAT.

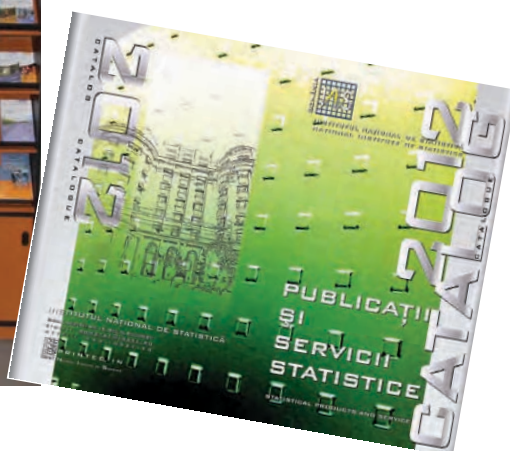
Concerning the **consumer price multifunctional statistics**, INS continued the implementation activities of a multifunctional statistical system in the consumer price field. Starting with 2012 a monthly survey is carried on, aiming to collect prices for a sample of products and services, in accordance to definitions and rules that could lead to the possibility of estimating an average national price. The data set collected in June 2011 was analyzed, validated and used to compute average prices and the results were submitted to EUROSTAT in March 2012.

Regarding the **purchasing power parity**, within the European Comparison Programme (ECP), surveys were conducted for the groups "Food, beverages and tobacco", "Wearing apparel, footwear and other goods for the personal hygiene" and "Construction objectives", for which Romania submitted to EUROSTAT the average prices needed for the calculation of the price level indices, volume indices and purchasing power parity.

Together with the other member states, Romania met the ECP requirements by providing data on GDP expenditure, HICP, salaries for some jobs and rent level. Likewise, INS participated in elaborating and updating the inventory of sources and methods used for the calculation of the statistical indicators developed in the European Comparison Programme and validated the results on the purchasing power parity, volume indices and comparative level price indices.

EUROSTAT paid a compliance visit on the inventory of sources and methods used for the calculation of average prices and other data used for elaborating result indicators within ECP. EUROSTAT stated that the methodology applied by Romania is in accordance with the PPP Regulation No 1445/2007.

The monthly dissemination of statistical indicators in the field of price statistics has been accomplished, according to deadlines, both through the calendar of press releases and through the publications calendar.



4.2.10. Agriculture, forestry and environment statistics

In the field of **agricultural statistics**, statistical data on crop production, animal production and economic accounts have been collected, processed and made available to users, along with carrying on activities specific to the General Agricultural Census.

Providing quality information on statistics on crop and animal production consisted of: relevance, correctness, functionality, accessibility and clarity, compatibility and coherence.

In 2012, the statistical survey “Pesticides placed on the market in 2011” was conducted in accordance with the European Parliament and Council Regulation No 1185/2009 and European Parliament and Council Regulation No 1337/2011 concerning statistics on permanent crops was implemented by carrying out the statistical survey “Productive potential of tree plantations and vineyards for the production of table grapes”.

Likewise, measures from the European legislation on the reduction of the response burden for the respondents in the field of crop and animal production were implemented.

The quality report on the economic accounts for agriculture (EAA) has been realized and submitted to EUROSTAT using the program “National Reference Metadata Editor”.

INS representatives participated, in 2012, in working groups within the Advisory Committee on “Rural development, agriculture and fishing”, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

In the field of **forestry and forest exploitation**, measures were taken to consolidate the data collection necessary to obtain synthetic indicators for the forestry sector, both at national level and for the Commission for international comparisons and monitoring activities for the European Action Plan in the field of forestry and the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE).

Therewith, INS has been involved, through “Gentlemen’s Agreement” procedures, in the



collection process of economical data for forestry and forest exploitation and their submission to the European Commission through the “Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting for Forests” questionnaire.

In the field of **environmental accounting statistics**, the activities have been extended for the implementation of the measures in the European legislation, respectively European Parliament and Council Regulation No 691/2011 on European environmental economic accounts, taking into account the reporting conditions requested by it. Thus, with the help of the “Environmental accounts” EUROSTAT grant, the IT application for data processing and standard table development has been created, regarding environmental taxes by economic activity, in accordance to the following characteristics: energy taxes, transport taxes, taxes on pollution and taxes on resources.

The activity in the area of producing new indicators was noted by finalizing the EUROSTAT grant “Support for development the set of territorial indicators for monitoring the sustainable development strategy” and by uploading on the INS website a database which integrates these indicators by ten themes. These follow the target objectives and the means of action on the horizon of 2013, 2020 and 2030 established by the National Sustainable Development Strategy and they were built based on the information available in the INS, in the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and in the institutions under its supervision or control and on the methodologies which are harmonized with those of the European Union.

4.2.11. Social statistics

4.2.11.1. Demographic statistics

The system of demographic statistics is based on exhaustive surveys, ensuring the collection and processing of information from institutions that manage the administrative sources for data on the population database and demographic events.

In 2012, individual records with information on vital statistics, marriages, divorces and internal and external migration were processed (using administrative sources).

Information on demographic statistics were made available to users through monthly press releases regarding demographic phenomena and through 12 synthetic annual works concerning the dynamics of demographic phenomena, at national level and in territorial profile (development regions, counties, localities). Demographic data were transferred in the INS databases (BDJ, BDL and TEMPO) and in EUROSTAT's (DEMO, REGIO and MIGRAT).

The dissemination of publications containing the number and structure of the usual resident population of Romania during 2012 has been delayed until the recalculation of the data series in order to include some complete estimations of the external migration.

The specific objectives of **demographic studies and projections** consisted in the extending and deepening demographic studies, retrospective analysis of the demographic behaviour of the population in regional profile, approaching new statistical domains for characterizing actual phenomena in the population area and highlighting changes in the structure by age of the projected population. In 2012, according to the Annual National Statistical Programme, the synthesis "Women and men – living and working partnership" was elaborated and also 7 analyses of demographic statistics data, of which: 4 annual works (2 of them being unique publications) and 3 quarterly works (the statistical bulletin from the series Population with operative statistical data for 3 months, 6 months and, respectively, 9 months). In addition to 2011, a unique statistical publication called "The evolution of birth and fertility in Romania" was elaborated. Within this work, an

analysis of the birth rate and of the fertility in the last 50 years has been conducted, both at country level and at territorial profile.

As a result of the *collaboration between INS and other institutions*, activities of providing demographic data and analyses to the European Council and to EUROSTAT have been carried out – submission of short analyses regarding the demographic situation of Romania in 2011 as well as the provision of demographic data and projections to third parties (central and local public administration, research institutes, individuals and legal persons, mass-media).

In 2012 as well, migration statistics are based on information existent in administrative data sources that are available at the General Inspectorate for Immigration.

According to the activity plan realized by INS, in order to surmount problems concerning the complete estimation of the migration phenomenon in Romania, works that are necessary for the development of an econometric model for migration estimation have been carried out, starting from the final results of the Population and Housing Census in 2011, allowing thus the recalculation of the data series on migration for the period 2002-2011 and the annual estimation of the migration for the next inter-censuses period.

During 2012, through EUROSTAT, an agreement has been made between INS, ISTAT Italy and INE Spain regarding a periodic provision of Romanian citizen flows who establish their usual residence in these two countries, data that will be used in the improvement process of estimations produced by the econometric model for external migration estimation.



4.2.11.2. Labour market statistics

Regarding the **employment statistics**, the system of labour market statistics developed by implementing new statistical surveys, by redesigning some of the already existent statistical surveys, by adapting them to the newest European regulations and by developing new methodologies, for a better harmonization of the methods and practices used to build indicators in this domain.

In terms of *European legislation*, the Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS), as well as ad-hoc modules attached to it, are realized in accordance with the European Union regulations in this field. Thus, the comparability of the indicators in this statistical field is ensured at international level.

The content of many press releases has been improved with *new statistical data*, the disseminated statistical indicators being accompanied by comments on their size and evolution, as well as by significant metadata, for a better understanding of the economic events produced in the labour market.

The necessary information for the assessment of the phenomena in the labour market, the measurement of the economically active population – employed and unemployed – and of the non-economically active population are obtained through the *Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS)*. In order to organize and conduct this survey, the following activities have been accomplished: the introduction of new variables in the survey questionnaires; the collection, processing and validation of the data and the analysis of the results; the development of quarterly publications (in Romanian and English) and of an annual publication for 2011 (in Romanian); the provision and validation of EUROSTAT microdata. As notable results for 2012, the development of the methodology for the calculation of additional unemployment rate indicators and the publication of the results in a press release coordinated by EUROSTAT must be mentioned.

In the first part of the year, the activities on the “*Employment of disabled people*” survey (ad-hoc module attached to the Household Labour Force Survey in 2011) were completed by issuing a final report and by submitting the microdata files to EUROSTAT.

During the year, the survey “*Transition from work into retirement*” has been conducted, ad-hoc module attached to the Household Labour Force Survey in 2012. The results of the survey were published in December 2012.

Regarding the participation in community projects, grant projects were contracted in 2012 for the following topics:

- quality improvement for the household labour force survey;
- pilot studies for the household labour force survey;
- ad-hoc module attached to the household labour force survey - Accidents at work and work-related health problems.

Assessment activities for organizational implications generated by the change of the data collection method (transition from paper support collection – PAPI, to computer-assisted collection – CAPI) and reconciliation activities for the estimations having as source the Household labour force survey with the estimations coming from the System of National Accounts were started.

The results of the statistical activity in the field of employment and unemployment statistics were published in quarterly press releases (for quarterly results), monthly (monthly ILO employment) and annual (for the 2011 results) and in the press release for the results of the “*Transition from work into retirement*” survey.



- underemployed persons;
- non-economically active persons that are looking for a job, but are not available to begin work;
- non-economically active persons that are not looking for a job, but are available to start work.

Regarding the **salary statistics**, the necessary information for the assessment of the dimension, structure and trend in earnings and labour costs is provided by the results of the profile statistical surveys. The infra-annual statistical surveys – *Monthly survey on earnings*, respectively the *Job vacancy survey*, provide the information necessary to monitor the short-term trends for the indicators on earnings and job applications. The annual statistical surveys – the *Survey on salaries in October*, the *Labour cost survey*, as well as the *Structure of earnings survey* conducted once in four years, provide the statistical production necessary for the assessment of medium and long term trends in the field of earnings and labour cost.

In terms of *European legislation*, the statistical surveys in the field of earnings, labour cost and job vacancy statistics are realized in accordance with the provisions of the European Union regulations in this field and the "Survey on salaries in October" is realized in accordance with the provisions of the International Labour Office. Thus, the comparability of the indicators in this field is ensured, both at the European Union level and at international level.

During 2012, the following activities took place in the processing flow of the results from the *Structure of earnings survey in 2010*: data analysis per level of employed, extension of the results, analysis and correlation of the final results with the ones obtained from other surveys (for similar indicators) and with the ones dating 4 years ago, validation and analysis of the results according to the criteria transmitted by EUROSTAT, drafting summarizing tables for the results of the survey taking into account different characteristics, microdata implementation in the standard submission format and the data dissemination at national and European Union level.

In 2012, all the infra-annual and annual statistical surveys in the field of salary statistics were developed using the e-SOP system, thus the instrumentation and the working flows for these surveys have been redesigned in order to allow adaptation to the new system. As a consequence of the development of specific methodologies and based on the results from specified surveys, the production of *additional statistics* continued as follows:



- *indices of real earnings* – as ratio between net earnings and consumer price indices (monthly and annual);
- *templates for short term indicators* (STS) – monthly;
- *structural indicators requested by the OECD*: tax burden on labour cost, unemployment trap, minimum payment trap, gender pay gap, net earnings for 13 particular cases;
- *indicators requested by EUROSTAT according to Gentlemen's Agreement*: annual gross earnings by activity and sex and number of employees according to earnings, labour cost and its structure by components, minimum wage, ratio between the minimum wage and the average gross earnings in industry and services.

The results of the statistical activity in the field of earnings statistics, labour costs and job vacancy were published in 23 infra-annual and annual press releases.

The statistics obtained through statistical survey in this field have been disseminated to the statistical users in:

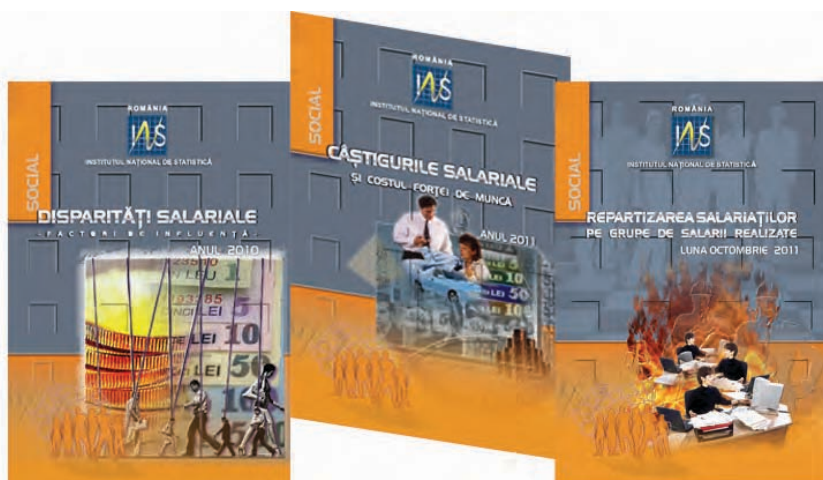
- 3 publications: *Breakdown of employees by salary groups in October 2011*, *Earnings and labour cost in 2011*, *Wage disparities: influence factors in 2010*;

- 4 papers (result notebooks): *Breakdown of employees by salary and occupation groups in October 2011*, *Employees in 2011*, *Average number of employees, gross payments and monthly average earnings in 2011*, *Labour cost in 2011*.

Likewise, the indicators in the field of earnings statistics, labour cost and job vacancy statistics can be found in the INS synthesis publications and data bases.

The quality of the statistics in the field of earnings statistics, labour cost and job vacancy statistics has been assessed through quality reports realized in accordance with the European Union regulations. In 2012, 3 quality reports were realized for: *Job vacancies in 2011*, *Labour cost quarterly indices in 2011* and for the *Structure of earnings survey in 2010*.

In the field of salary statistics, based on the inter-institutional collaboration protocol on the correlation and reconciliation of the statistical data with the administrative sources for the indicator “number of employees; activities meant to investigate the administrative sources were carried on, in order to build algorithms that allow the transformation of the respective information in data that can be used in statistical purposes such as, in the future, the response burden of the enterprises to selective statistical surveys can be reduced.



The **social protection statistics** built based on administrative data represent important data sources that are necessary to elaborate national politics in this field.

The main indicators in the field of social protection statistics refer to the number of pensioners, registered unemployed and income and expenditure of social protection. The information was taken from administrative sources, respectively from the records of the institutions with responsibilities in the field:

- National Public Pension Office (CNPP), Lawyers Insurance Office, Ministry of Culture Pension Offices, Ministry of National Defence, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Romanian Intelligence Office – *for the number of pensioners and monthly pension;*
- Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly – *for the statistics on social protection according to the ESSPROS European methodology;*
- National Agency for Employment – *for the number of registered unemployed, unemployment rate, policy statistics for the labour market.*

The information on the average number of pensioners and the monthly average pension according to the retirement system and by pension categories was provided by collecting, processing and validating data, by analyzing results and by elaborating papers with quarterly and annual data, producing thus statistics necessary for the development of national politics in the field of social insurances. For 2012, the instrumentation used for data collection was redesigned.

The assessment of the labour resources and of the proportion in which they are used in different branches and sectors of socio-economic activity was realized through the synthesis paper on the *Labour force balance on January 1 2012* based on the data from statistical and administrative sources. The balance provides statistical indicators regarding civil employment and registered unemployment, comparable in time, at national and territorial level (macroregions, development regions and counties).

In order to ensure the statistical information on annual income and expenditure of social protection practiced in the national system, according to the regulations and recommendations of the European Union provided in the ESSPROS methodology, data on income and expenditure of social protection were produced, and the 2010 statistical questionnaire for income and expenditure of social protection was filled in and submitted to EUROSTAT. Also in accordance with the ESSPROS methodology, data were produced on the number of pension beneficiaries and the database-type statistical questionnaire was completed and submitted to EUROSTAT according to the statistics for labour market policies.

According to the European Union regulations and recommendations included in the LMP methodology, statistical information on annual expenditure and on the number of participants to measures that represent public interventions on the labour market by collecting data from administrative sources on policies that act on the labour market was ensured. The database for 2011 was completed and submitted to EUROSTAT in standard format.

The results of the statistical surveys and papers were materialized in the following quarterly and annual publications: *Number of pensioners and the monthly average pension; Number of pensioners and the monthly average pension for 2011; Implementation of labour market policies – year 2011; Social protection statistics according to ESSPROS, in 2010; Labour force balance on January 1 2012.*

During 2012, the processing activities for the data collected for the statistical survey on the *vocational training in enterprises* in 2010 (FORPRO) were carried on. For this statistical survey, the data collection activity has been accomplished through the online data collection system (e-SOP), which led to additional efforts regarding the redesign manner of the instrumentation and the planning of the workflows, mainly with the respondents and with the territorial statistical units.

As against the previous rounds, the 2010 statistical survey was redesigned in such a manner to allow the dissemination of information on the necessary skills and competences of the employees in enterprises, the quality, results and difficulties faced by enterprises in providing *continuous vocational training*.

Statistics on social protection and the one son vocational training in enterprises were conducted based on the *European regulations*, ensuring data comparability at European level.

The international cooperation was realized through active participation in EUROSTAT dedicated working groups: working meetings on labour market statistics (LAMAS), annual meeting on social protection statistics according to ESSPROS.

4.2.11.3. Living conditions statistics

The actions taken in the field of living conditions statistics were oriented towards implementing calculation methodologies for some comparable indicators in areas of great interest in Europe, redesigning some of the already existent statistical surveys and adapting them to the most recent European regulations, but also the harmonization with the national legislation.

A very important statistical survey for the National Statistical System is the Family Budget Survey – selective statistical survey and the main data source for the assessment of income, consumption and expenditure of population, for underlining social protection programs, impact analysis for the implementation of different programs in the social domain, analysis of the economical effects of transition, generally of the socio-economical situation of the population. The survey was carried out after the monthly data collection from 3.120 households, achieving an annual volume of the sample of 37.440 households.

The questionnaires for this survey are annually discussed with the main user of the results, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly. In 2012, at the request at the ministry, I order to refine the eligibility criteria and to identify the features that are used to estimate informal incomes, especially agricultural incomes, the processing of additional

information was necessary. In this respect, a program for introducing data from the household Journal regarding the products obtained by slaughtering and feeding animals and livestock was developed. Thus, the completeness of the information on agricultural activities income was ensured, but also a modernization of the data collection system.

Based on the obtained information, 4 quarterly “Population income and consumption” publications and one annual publication “Coordinates of the standard of living in Romania” were produced and disseminated. Likewise, the data were published in three press releases.



Starting with 2012, the *Quality of life survey* – ACAV was realized from the INS budget (until 2012 it was the independent grant called the *European Union Survey on Income and Living Conditions* – EU-SILC).

The *Quality of life survey* (ACAV) – longitudinal statistical research, ensured the necessary information for the assessment of the population living conditions by highlighting the interconnection and the complementarity of various aspects, such as: health, education, income, housing conditions, occupation, poverty, material deprivation etc.

The survey is implemented based on the Regulation (EC) No 1177/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning Community statistics on income and living conditions.

Secondary modules with different themes are annually included in the survey and are covered by European regulations. In 2012, the secondary module "Housing conditions" was developed according to the Commission Regulation (EU) No 1157/2010.

This survey is realized based on a rotational sample with four subsamples, each one of them having a similar dimension and principle and being representative for the whole population. From one year to another, three subsamples are kept and one is taken out and replaced by a new subsample included in the survey. Thus, transversal and longitudinal statistics are produced from the same set of observations of the sample.

The data collection has been realized, both for the transversal module and for the longitudinal one, in May 2012. 9.300 households and approximately 17.000 persons of 15 years and over were surveyed, the resulted data being disseminated in the publication *"Living conditions of the Romanian population in 2011"*. Two quality reports were made: 2007-2010 final report for the longitudinal component and an interim report for 2011. The verified and validated files with transversal microdata were submitted to EUROSTAT in the requested standard format.

During 2012 INS participated in the working group on living conditions statistics organized by EUROSTAT. The agenda for this working group included discussions about modernizing social statistics, methodological issues, correspondence issues between the transversal and longitudinal components of the EU-SILC survey and, not least, about implementing a new model of the Quality Report using the NRME (National Reference Metadata Editor) – which is a web application, developed to support national reference metadata files. The advantages of using this application have been exemplified, such as: the automation of quality reports, the possible reuse and updating of the information and the existence of a standard online form (with a higher harmonization).

In April 2012 data were collected for the *Access to information technology and communication survey* which is harmonized with the European

recommendations, providing information on households' access to modern information and communication technology, personal computers use, internet access and use, e-commerce, place and frequency of internet use. The statistical survey was realized based on an independent grant.

The survey was implemented based on Regulation (EC) No 803/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning Community statistics on information society. The questionnaires of the survey are annually updated with new indicators recommended by EUROSTAT, thus new sets of indicators that characterize the internet use and mobile connections were introduced in 2012.

For conducting this survey, the number of researched units was about 10.000 households and 15.000 individuals. Two reports were realized: the report for metadata as well as the final report for data quality which were submitted to EUROSTAT together with the microdata and metadata files. The data were provided to the public in the publication *"Population access to information technology and communication in 2012"*.



Another important activity in the field of living conditions statistics is the calculation of the social inclusion indicators. The national set of inclusion indicators continued to be established in 2012 according to the GD No 488/2005 concerning the approval of the national system of social inclusion indicators, statistical activity whose results can also be found in the publication *"Dimensions of the social inclusion in Romania"*.

Likewise, based on the results of the Quality of life survey, a set of social inclusion indicators is annually calculated according to the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) and sent to EUROSTAT.

A great emphasis is put in the last years on the European Union's strategy for promoting a sustainable and inclusive growth, known as Europe 2020 Strategy which sets goals in five main fields, including poverty and social exclusion.

Thus, 4 indicators in associated to Europe 2020 strategy were calculated in field of poverty and social exclusion having as main data source the *European survey on income and living conditions* (ACAV). These indicators determine: the individuals who are at risk of poverty or social exclusion, the individuals who live in households with very low work intensity, the individuals who are at risk of poverty after social transfers and the individuals in severe material deprivation.

4.2.11.4. Social services statistics

In the **field of statistics on education**, 15 exhaustive surveys are annually conducted in the private and public educational units and comprise the dimensions and the evolution of the educational system both at the beginning and at the end of the school/academic year providing the possibility of collecting a generous volume of information on the participation of the enrolled population in the education and training process by levels of education (according to the International Standard Classification of Education – ISCED-97).

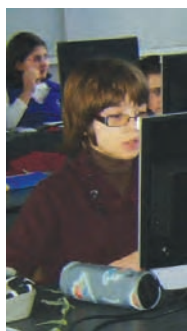
Starting with 2011, the online system for data collection through the e-SOP INS Portal has been implemented. Thus, at the end of 2012, from the 15 statistical surveys in the field of education a number of 10 surveys (7 for the beginning of the school/academic year and 3 for the end of the school/academic year) were included in the statistical data online collection system, following that the system should gradually extend for all the surveys in the educational domain.

Therewith, all the statistical questionnaires in the educational field were revised and redesigned in a new structure in 2012, in order to reduce the

burden of the respondents but to obtain a complete data background, in correspondence with the needs at national and international level. The questionnaires will be used in the new structure for collecting data on the school year 2012/2013.

Likewise, annually statistical indicators have been developed: enrolled population, enrolment degree, net enrolment rate, graduation rate, abandon rate, transition rate from one educational level to the immediately following one, results of graduation exams, number of pupils per teacher, share of qualified staff in the total number of teaching staff by levels of education, development regions, counties, sex and area of residence. These indicators are required to underlie REAP (Action Plans TVET) and LEAP (Local Plans for TVET) strategic documents.

The dissemination of the results in the educational field was performed through 10 statistical papers in which data are presented at national, regional and county level, by areas of residence, type of ownership, type of education, specialization, teaching languages, sex, age etc., as well as through the annual synthesis publication "*Educational system in Romania – synthetic data*".



Annually, The INS experts participate in Working Groups organized by EUROSTAT for the field of educational statistics. At the same time, according to the UNESCO-OECD-EUROSTAT (UOE) methodology, information on the enrolled population, new entrants, studied modern languages, foreign students' mobility, graduates, teaching and non-teaching staff, expenditure of educational units etc. was annually submitted in a standardized format, according to the provisions of the Commission Regulation (EU) No 88/2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 452/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the production and development of statistics on education and lifelong learning, as regards statistics on education and training systems.

As to the Community projects, during 18 months (January 2011 – June 2012), the independent grant “Improving the National Statistical System of Education for the implementation of Commission Regulation on the production and development of statistics on education and lifelong learning” was conducted, grant through which estimation methods have been developed to complete financial data based on the data obtained from different surveys in households. New data sources for covering lacking non-financial data were identified and computer programs to facilitate the completion of questionnaires according to the UOE methodology were developed.

Likewise, starting with December 2012 and for 21 months, the independent grant “*Implementing Adult Education Survey; reviewing the educational variables of the Labour Force Survey (LFS)*” has been conducted, grant within which it was developed the second *Adult Education Survey in Romania (AEDA)*, harmonized at European level. The survey aimed at assessing the education and training level of the population aged 18-69, for one or more forms of formal, non-formal and informal education. The data collection took place in August 2012 and during 2012 the microdata base of the survey, as well as the quality report in European level standardised format were submitted to and validated by EUROSTAT. This survey was conducted according to Commission Regulation (EU) No 823/2010 implementing Regulation (EC) No 452/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the production and development of statistics on education and lifelong learning, as regards statistics on the participation of adults in lifelong learning.

At European level, UNESCO developed a new International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011) approved by the UNESCO General Conference in November 2011, which will replace ISCED-1997 and will be implemented in all member states. In this respect, in the period November 2012 – April 2014, the grant “Implementing ISCED 2011” is being conducted, having as objectives the implementation of the new ISCED 2011 classification in the national educational system, the testing of the new classification in the Labour force survey and the

adaptation of the national statistical instruments in order to produce coherent and qualitative statistics, both for the national data fund and for the European one. The statistical data will be submitted according to the new ISCED 2011 classification, starting with the reference year 2014 (UOE 2014).

The **field of health statistics** is governed by Regulation (EC) No 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on Community statistics on public health and health and safety at work.

Statistical information on the assessment of sanitary units in the public and private sector were obtained and made available to users and comparable statistics on health care were produced in the field of health statistics.

Starting with 2011, the online data collection system through the e-SOP portal has been implemented and the SAN statistical questionnaire has been revised and redesigned in a new structure in 2012, in order to reduce the workload of the respondents but to be possible to obtain a complete data fund in accordance with the needs at national and international level. The new structure of the statistical questionnaire will be used to collect data in 2013.



The dissemination of the statistical data has been especially accomplished through the annual publication “*Activity of sanitary units*”.

The main non-financial data, together with metadata on resources in health, medical staff and main morbidity indicators are annually submitted in a standardized and harmonized at European level questionnaire to the World Health Organization (WHO), to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and to EUROSTAT.

At the same time, the financial data and metadata in health were submitted to EUROSTAT in a standardized OECD, WHO and EUROSTAT questionnaire which is harmonized at European level and comprises statistical information for the financial year 2010 on the international classification of health functions/services, health services providers and funding sources/agents in the System of Health Accounts. Currently, the data are available both on the EUROSTAT and OECD website.

Likewise, data on occupational diseases and work accidents continued to be submitted in standardized format to EUROSTAT, according to the European methodology for occupational diseases (EODS – European Occupational Diseases Statistics) and for work accidents (ESAW – European Statistics on Accidents at Work).

Concerning the *participation in Community projects*, following the completion of the “*Project on morbidity statistics*”, it was decided at European level to form a small working group (Task Force type) made up of 10 member states, including Romania. This group aims at analysing the report submitted by the countries that participated in the pilot projects from 2005 and 2009 and at realizing a methodological guide for the periodic reporting of the data on morbidity at European level, identifying the best data sources mentioned by the member states and the most relevant indicators for the list of diseases selected at European level. The activity of the working group has been carried out since 2011 and will be finished in 2013. The working group developed the methodology on morbidity statistics which will be presented in the Working groups organized by EUROSTAT for the field of health statistics. EUROSTAT proposed that the methodology on morbidity statistics should be published under its aegis.

In the period 2011-2012, the independent grant “Providing basic information on purchasing power parity – Health component” was realized and it aimed

to develop a common methodology on purchasing power parity (including the purchasing power parity – PPP specific to the products and services in health for hospitals) that would allow international comparisons of the Gross Domestic Product.

The data set for 2010 and the final report of the project on sources and methods used in collecting information for the list of diseases selected according to the OECD methodology were submitted to EUROSTAT in 2012. The activities of this project will continue to carry on until 2015, within a new project on “*Providing basic information on purchasing power parity – Health component*” in which Romania is included.

In the **field of culture statistics**, information on units that carry on cultural and artistic activities in the public and private sector was obtained and disseminated: libraries, museums and public collections, institutions for arts performing and concerts and publishers of newspapers and magazines in the synthesis publication “Activity of cultural and artistic units”.

In the period 2011-2012, the *Time Use Survey* (TUS) was conducted according to the European methodology. Time Use Survey is a selective statistical research on the basis of which the manner in which the population carry on their daily life can be assessed, providing information on the nature, duration and context in which all activities are realized during one specific reference period. Time Use Survey was designed according to the “Guidelines for Harmonizing Time Use Surveys” revised in 2008. The collection began in September 2011 and ended in September 2012, having as reference period the whole calendar year. The main results will be disseminated at the end of 2013.



Starting with 2011, INS participated, together with other 11 countries and EUROSTAT, in the works of a small working group (Task Force type) under the aegis of the United Nations (UNECE) for preparing guidelines and gathering best practices for the improvement of the comparability of TUS results at international level. In 2013, the Working group will submit the project of the new methodology to the UNECE Conference for European Statisticians for approval; planned to take place in Luxembourg and will be approved by the Conference for European Statisticians in June and then the methodology for developing TUS will be published.

In order to produce statistics in the field of justice, data from the following administrative sources are collected based on the agreements made at inter-institutional level: National Prison Administration within the Ministry of Justice, Superior Council of Magistracy, General Inspectorate of Police within the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Based on these data, indicators like the

following are calculated: number of offences investigated by the police, offence rate, and number of persons definitively convicted, criminality rate etc. which are submitted to the international organizations (EUROSTAT, UNICEF, UNODC, UNECE). At national level this information is disseminated in the Romanian Statistical Yearbook and, at European level, in the publications "Money laundering in Europe" (EUROSTAT and DG Home Affairs Report) and "Statistics in focus – Crime and criminal justice" (EUROSTAT).

4.2.12. Territorial statistics

Regarding the territorial development – county or regional level – the National Institute of Statistics founded and continues to develop a diversification strategy for the statistical indicators by introducing new statistical surveys in territorial profile or by developing and using administrative sources to obtain a maximum of statistical information, the more pertinent, and the more useful.

Number of statistical surveys by statistical domains and by data processing profiles, in 2012

Table 1

No. Statistical domains crt.	Number of statistical surveys by data processing profiles		
	development regions	counties	localities
1 Economic statistics			
1.1 Agriculture statistics	15	11	-
1.2 Forestry and environment statistics	7	4	-
1.3 Business statistics (including opinion statistics)	7	1	-
1.4 Industry statistics	-	-	-
1.5 Energy, gas and water statistics	2	2	2
1.6 Construction and investment statistics	4	4	3
1.7 Internal and external trade statistics	2	2	-
1.8 Services statistics	17	11	3
1.9 Research-development and innovation	4	3	-
2 Social statistics			
2.1 Population and demography statistics	7	7	7
2.2 Living conditions statistics	3	-	-
2.3 Labour force statistics	3	2	-
2.4 Social protection statistics	1	1	-
2.5 Education statistics	13	13	13
2.6 Culture statistic	4	4	-
2.7 Health statistics	1	1	-
3 Prices statistics	4	-	4

Taking into account the demand in continuous growth of statistical data in territorial profile coming from the institutions responsible of regional policies and regional development, as well as the European Commission requests of statistical data at regional level, presented in the EUROSTAT Work program and in the Annual Reference Guide for Regional Statistics published by EUROSTAT, the Annual National Statistical Program discloses the efforts of the Romanian official statistics for adopting the *acquis communautaire* according to EUROSTAT requests in the field of the regional statistical system.

It is important to highlight the fact that, analysing the representativeness in territorial profile of statistical surveys conducted by INS in 2012, over 89 of those are structured to ensure information at region level, about 65 ensure representativeness at county level and 32 at locality level.

From the total statistical surveys designed to provide information at county level, over 60% are in the economic statistics field and about 40% in the social statistics field.

Regarding the statistical surveys designed to provide information at region level, the economical domain has a share of approximately 60%, the social one 36% and price statistics 4%.

Currently, INS ensures data in regional profile from almost all statistical fields, according to the provisions of the *acquis communautaire* in statistics. The harmonization degree of the regional statistics with the *acquis communautaire* in statistics is integral for the following domains: demography, education, labour force, migration, science and technology, structural business survey, health, tourism, transport and energy. For the statistical domains in which the alignment to the EU norms and standards regarding the data requests in regional profile is not yet fully accomplished, INS together with other interested ministries and institutions are conducting, based on some programs and collaboration agreements, preparatory works for the integral implementation of regional statistical indicators.

In 2010, the European Council approved the Europe 2020 Strategy, the EU strategy for intelligent, sustainable and inclusive economic growth. The cohesion policy is a key delivery mechanism for Europe 2020, with a long tradition in designing and running regional and urban integrated programs, in partnership with the local and regional authorities, economic agents, social partners and civil society.

The formulation of these policies cannot be accomplished without reliable statistical data, data provided for small areas and urban and rural development statistics are components of the regional statistics at European level.

Urban statistics represents one of the newest components of regional statistics at European level and, in order to ensure a comparable and unitary framework for data collection at city level, the Directorate-General for Regional Policy of the European Commission initiated the Urban Audit Project.

The Urban Audit Project is carried out by EUROSTAT, aiming to create a database with statistical information at city level for a considerable number of variables in order to realize comparisons between the European cities and to analyse disparities between them, as well as to support making some regional policy decisions.

In order to ensure the continuity of the information in the urban statistics field, in 2012 started the actions for a new phase of the Urban Audit Project – “Urban Audit 2012-2013” which aims at extending the number of participating cities (34 cities being proposed in the case of Romania).



4.3. Dissemination of statistical information

The dissemination process was conducted based on the principles of transparency and statistical data confidentiality, according to the European and national legislation into force and to the provisions of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

Regarding the exact data requests of the clients, the activity of disseminating statistical data was carried out in conditions of maximum effectiveness and efficiency. Thus, the statistical data were made available to the institutions of the central and local public administration, but also to users of statistical information in different domains (media, education, research, individuals etc.), free or not free of charge, the latter for the internal or external specialized clients or for the users of statistical information necessary for the development of the business environment in country or abroad.

➤ Direct relationship with users of statistical data

In the reported period, the total number of resolved demands for data requested in writing, from the country and abroad, was of 2.330 out of which 159 from users abroad and 69 from the press.

In addition, there were a considerable number of telephone requests consisting in communicating some indicators existent in statistical publications and press releases and in consulting regarding making a request. The approximately 3.000 phone calls especially targeted the consumer price indices, average earnings and various macroeconomic indicators.

The most data requests were from prices, external trade and population areas; a domain which very requested by the students is the tourism, many students from the tourism faculties requesting data for different projects inside the faculties.

The most requested statistical fields in the dissemination activity

Table 2

Requested fields	%
1. Consumer price indices	30,2
2. Industry, construction, business statistics	11,4
3. Population, demography	9,4
4. Labour force market	8,5
5. CANE and CPSA, SIRUES	7,7
6. Tourism	7,5
7. International trade	6,3
8. National Accounts	5,6
9. Health, education	4,7
10. Population income, expenditure and consumption	2,5
11. Other domains	6,1

Analysing the data requests by user category it can be seen that the first place is taken by the economic operators (17.2%), then the Presidency and the Romanian Government, academia, tribunals and courts.

Structure of data requests by user category

Table 3

User categories	Structure (%)
1. Economic agents	17,2
2. Presidency and the Romanian Government	16,6
3. Universities, students and researchers	15,8
4. Tribunals and courts	13,5
5. Unions and employers	9,8
6. Embassies and foreign economic representations	8,0
7. Romanian Parliament (Senate, Chamber of Deputies and specialized committees)	6,5
8. Prefectures, city halls and local councils	4,6
9. Media	3,0
10. Other types of clients	5,0

The Support Center for Dissemination of European Statistics (ADSE) – INS Romania is part of the ESDS (European Statistical Data Support) centers network of the member states and a team from the dissemination office is available at any moment, offline and online, through the XNet Assist web application designed by EUROSTAT to offer support to data users, who are guided to publications and statistical databases available on the EUROSTAT website. In 2012 technical support was provided for 159 such users. Likewise, the ADSE team promoted EUROSTAT products by editing and disseminating leaflets in fairs and exhibitions in which INS was invited to participate.

“Anton Golopentia” dissemination and free consulting room registered an average flow of 51 clients daily, summing up approximately 3.800 visitors in 2012, out of which about 5 per day requested data on the consumer price index (CPI).

From the total number of requests, in this period were resolved and charged for a number of **1.486** requests, out of which approximately 100 were from abroad. The most requested charged domains were: external trade (36%), markers of CANE codes (14%) and labour force, industry, construction, earnings, consumption (13%).

Analyzing the clients' typology, it shows that more than half of them were economic agents (57%).

➤ Activity of electronic dissemination of statistical information

Concerning the activity of electronic dissemination, it was put across into:

- development of the database for sustainable development indicators in territorial profile and its publication on the internet;
- permanent updating of IT applications for the administration of the online databases;
- publishing on the website, in Romanian and English, a number of 300 press releases, statistical publications, monthly and annual indicators, territorial statistics, monthly statistical bulletins, updating of the Intrastat website, updating statistical information to inform the general public;
- publishing statistical data and metadata according to SDDS (standard demanded by the IMF);
- realizing 245 electronic publications on CD-Rom support and their archiving on the Intranet site;
- improvement of the internet website design;
- technical support for users;
- permanent updating of the electronic panel with statistical information.

The results of monitoring traffic on the institution's website shows that in 2012 the number of pages viewed on the Internet website of the institute was 2.062 thousand, which represents a number of about 172.000 pages accessed per month. The number of web pages viewed per visit was about 2.3 pages and number of unique visitors, identified by IP address, amounted to about 386 thousand.

INS website monthly traffic in 2012

Table 4

	Unique visitors (after IP address) - total	Visits	Page views
January	51593	102076	239567
February	45812	82603	182609
March	45248	84947	202259
April	37649	70140	170432
May	50247	98963	249065
June	37026	70031	166224
July	36095	61731	136274
August	30480	52592	116444
September	33197	55443	115697
October	41512	74382	164804
November	44645	78834	177358
December	35349	61178	141221
Total year 2012:	385816	892920	2061954

The most accessed we pages were the ones containing: the statistical yearbook, consumer price indices, monthly statistical bulletins, earnings, press releases and statistics presented in the counties statistical bulletin.

INS website traffic in 2012

Table 5

	Most accessed pages	Visits
Total year 2012	2010 statistical yearbook	100732
	Consumer price index (archive)	100623
	Consumer price index	73150
	Monthly bulletins	71839
	Earnings (archive)	34455
	Press releases archive	33656
	Counties statistical bulletin	31450

The TEMPO online database makes available to the general public statistical information that covers all the socio-economical domains.

The statistical indicators in the TEMPO database are presented as multidimensional matrices by many statistical features, time series (starting from 1990 to day), with annual, quarterly or monthly periodicity, at national level, by development regions, county and locality.

The total number of matrices in the TEMPO online (free of charge and paid), at December 31, 2012, was of 1.133 matrices. The total of free views by domains in 2012 amounted to 329 thousand, out of which in Top 10 were included the matrices in table 5, these representing 74% of the total free views.

TEMPO online matrix ranking, by domains, in 2012 (free visualisations)

Table 6

Place	Domain in TEMPO-online	No. of views	No. of entries views + downloads
1	POP – Population	51818	73669
2	TUR – Tourism	40617	54417
3	AGR – Agriculture	22576	29585
4	FOM – Labour force	11956	17167
5	SCL – School units	10435	14973
6	CON – National accounts	9373	12583
7	GOS – Local interest public utility	8214	12522
8	SOM – Unemployed	7854	10576
9	AMG – AMIGO (HLFS)	7572	10931
10	LOC – Dwellings	5806	8537

As in the previous years, the dissemination of the statistical data in the TEMPO online database was accomplished also by means of the e-commerce component. The most accessed not free of charge matrices were from the population, tourism and agriculture areas.

TEMPO online matrix ranking, by domains, not free of charge, in 2012

Table 7

1	POP – Population	27257
2	TUR – Tourism	9110
3	AGR – Agriculture	8629
4	SCL – School units	6860
5	GOS – Local interest public utility	6697
6	FOM – Labour force	6530
7	INT – Business statistics	5391
8	SAN – Health	3853
9	LOC – Dwellings	3439
10	SOM – Unemployed	2836
Total not free of charge accessed matrices:		88426

➤ Geographical representation of statistical information

In 2012 the GIS Department finalised all the works mentioned in the annual program, respecting the deadlines and quality of the carried out works. These works were realized both for the statistical directions in INS and for external users. Over 200 cartograms were developed for the internal publications.

Also in 2012, the GIS Department, as well as the Department for census data processing and dissemination together with the Direction for Demography and Population Census were involved in the analysis of the 2011 Population and Housing Census.

4.4. Editing of statistical publications

The activity of editing statistical publications developed in 2012 had the main objective to enhance the professional level, according to the latest IT technologies and to issue for the interested public some elegant and attractive publications which contribute to the improvement of the image of the National Institute of Statistic, at both national and international level, but also to achieve some austerity as to the budgetary expenditure in the process.

The editing activity of statistical publications has materialized in achieving the following activities:

- design, layout, graphic design, preparation for printing and copying, finish the entire edition of the publications in the Activity Programme on paper and electronically, totalling 2,630 tops of A4 paper, out of which a number of 22,285 copies printed on paper and 19,118 copies on CDs resulted;
- do the copying of the tools necessary to statistical surveys and research, totalling 10,197 tops of A3 paper;
- do the layout of the following periodic and summary publications: The Yearbook of Romania, *Romania in figures*, *Tourism breviary*, *The International Trade Yearbook of Romania*, *Price bulletin*, *International trade bulletin*, *The catalogue of publications*, *The activity report*. The editing of these works in special programmes has included both the pattern for paper printing and the electronic pattern;
- edit and print a „Leaflet” for the *Conference on population and housing censuses, November 22-23, 2012* of the Budva Initiative Group (BIG), organised by the INS in cooperation with EUROSTAT.
- provide technical support for the anonymity of the Wealth declarations for all the employees of the National Institute of Statistics, from both the head office and the territorial divisions.





4.5. Relation with mass-media

The relation between the INS and mass-media is ensured by the press relation department that manages all the requests of the journalists from their receipt to the transmission of replies.

The press relation has been based on the development of a proactive communication system, able to ensure both the compliance to the visibility and transparency principles, in order to maintain the credibility dimension of the National Institute of Statistics at a high level by promptly answering the mass-media requests and the relevance of the statistical data and information provided.

The activity takes place in accordance with five working procedures on the following: *the INS press relation; draw up, transmission and manage the press releases; organise press conferences; the way the requests for statistical data and information from mass-media are handled; the reaction to criticism or to incorrect use of statistical information by mass-media.*

306 press releases have been transmitted to the 500 accredited journalists, representing all national media categories (written press, press agencies, national and territorial radio and TV stations) and the main international press agencies, as well as central and local public institutions.

Precisely, over one thousand requests have been replied to, the answers being reflected by more than 2,500 editorial issues.

In 2012, there were no press conferences on main macroeconomic indicators but INS experts systematically attended public debates on statistical and economic issues organized by the following TV stations: Realitatea Tv, Money Channel, Radio România Actualități, Trinitas TV.

The INS press department provided the press release of the scientific activities organized by the INS on the occasion of the 153rd celebration of official statistics in Romania.

A special challenge was to get back the image deficit at the end of 2011 as a result of an insufficiently supported media promotion campaign of the PDC and especially of its impaired perception by the public.

In this respect, the publishing of the preliminary results (February 2012) and provisional ones (August 2012) has been preceded by public appearances meant to prepare the correct understanding and perception of the information to be disseminated.

The respective undertaking led to some progress as to the public perception but not strong enough to completely regain the lost image, thus, in 2013, more efforts should be made to adequately prepare the announcement of the final results of the PDC by involving all the personalities in demography, from the academic and research environment, to explain the significance of data.

EUROPEAN AFFAIRES

The INS representatives actively attended all the fourth meetings of the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC), organised at INSs presidency level that took place in February, May, October and November 2012.

The INS experts have been participating to the 41 European affairs coordinating gatherings organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of European Affairs in order to prepare Romania's point of view for the COREPER gatherings.

During 2012, the Romanian statisticians attended the 14 Brussels gatherings of the "Statistics" Work group of the European Union Council where the following proposals of legislative acts were under debate:

- proposal for the *Regulation of the European Parliament and Council on the European Statistical Programme 2013-2017*, for which the Council acknowledged the position of the European Parliament, thus adopting the legal act;
- proposal for the *Regulation on the National and Regional European Accounts System* within the European Union (ESA 2010), the review of the European Accounts System (ESA) 95, respectively, in order to harmonize the national accounts in the European Union with the new economic environment, with the evolution in the methodological research and with the users' needs. The dossier had been on the agenda of the "Statistics" Work group several times before achieving a compromise with the European Parliament which was approved at the COREPER meeting held at the end of 2012;
- proposal for the *Regulation of the European Parliament and Council on the European Statistics Regarding the Demographic Statistics*; due to the numerous amendments forwarded during debates, the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs of the European parliament decided to postpone the vote for January 2013;
- the Commission Delegated Decision of June 29, 2012 on the investigations and fines regarding the handling of statistics as provided by Regulation (EU) no. 1173/2011 of the European Parliament and Council on the actual implementation of the budgetary monitoring in the

Euro Zone that has been already published in the Official Journal of the European Union;

- as to the proposal for the Regulation of the European Parliament and Council on the amendment of certain legislative acts in the fishery and agriculture statistics, the Cyprus Presidency, together with the one of Ireland, have launched a written consultation among Member States.
- proposal for the Regulation of the European Parliament and Council on European Statistics regarding delinquency was dismissed at the plenary session of the European Parliament of December 12, 2012.

5.1. International cooperation

Regarding the international cooperation, the INS has attended a series of high level meetings where strategic issues of the official statistics have been under debate.

Consequently, at the 60th plenary session of the European Statisticians Conference, held in Paris, in June 2012 (back-to-back with the meeting of the Statistical Committee of OCDE), the INS delegation advanced the national experience within the two seminars: "Challenges of the future rounds of the Population and Housing Census based on the lessons learned during the latest round of the census" and "Implement of the Fundamental Principles of the Official Statistics of UN". During this session, the Romanian delegation also advanced the work entitled: "Statistics have radically changed: do the fundamental principles of statistics need to be reformed in order to keep up with those changes", a paper highly appreciated by the participants at the Conference.

Of major importance was the 98th Conference of the Directors General of the National Institutes of Statistics (DGINS), held in Prague, in September 2012, which had under debate three main issues:

- the quality in statistics and the access to micro data;
- comply with the new needs for information on the statistics for the "green" economy;
- coordinate statistics and the geospatial information.

5.2. Regional cooperation

In 2009, the Budva Initiative Group (BIG) was established aiming to enhance the regional cooperation in statistics between the countries located in South-Eastern Europe. The Budva Group promotes the European code of practice in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo under the UNSCR 1244/99 conditions, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Turkey and it is considered a major instrument for reinforcing the development of regional statistic knowledge and skills in the official statistics field.

In November 2012, the INS Romania organised in cooperation with EUROSTAT a BIG conference where subjects on the Population and Housing Census, the 2010 round and the perspectives of the future rounds of the population censuses were under discussion. The representatives of the INSs of the EU Member States, of Budva member states and of EUROSTAT attended this conference.

The conference facilitated an exchange of points of views and experience between countries; more precisely, there were debates regarding the practical difficulties faced by the participant countries and the solutions found in order to overcome them.

5.3. Cooperation between INS and OECD Statistical Committee

Since January 2010, Romania became permanent observer with the Statistical Committee (CSTAT) by decision of the OECD Council, attending the CSTAT meetings of 2010 and 2011 and 2012.



a) Attend OECD meetings

The INS attended, as permanent observer, the debates of the 9th meeting of the OECD Statistical Committee (CSTAT). At this meeting, held in Paris in June 2012, the following issues were under discussion: the activity program and the budget 2013-2014; the international assessment program of the adults' qualifications; redefine the urban: a new way of measuring the metropolitan areas in the OECD countries; the development strategy of OECD; the statistical measurement of welfare; the indicators regarding entrepreneurship.

b) Take part in projects organised by OECD

- work group on the Time Use Survey: intends to prepare the guide lines and gather the best practice for the improvement of the results the Time Use Survey comparability at international level;
- work group on income, consumption and welfare statistics: its main objective was to make two manuals (*International standards guide on welfare statistics at household level* and *General framework for measuring income, consumption and welfare at micro level*) that are to define the standards regarding the income, consumption and welfare measurement, manuals finished in 2012;
- provide basic information on the purchasing power parity: in the period 2011-2012, the INS took part in the project „*Provide basic information on the purchasing power parity*” by collecting and

transmitting to EUROSTAT and OECD of data and metadata. One of the project components, „Provide basic information on the purchasing power parity *in the health domain*”, intended to develop a methodology for hospital data collection for a list of diseases selected and included in the OECD methodology, as well as the production of comparable indicators at international level.

c) Participation in elaborating reports and studies organised by OECD

Since 2000, the INS has been collecting and disseminating *educational statistics* thanks to the common methodology UNESCO-OECD-EUROSTAT (comparable data on the educational system, education progress and type of resources appropriated to education).

The INS has been doing annual studies on *health accounts* that answer the common recommendations of the OECD, EUROSTAT and World Health Organisation. At the same time, the INS has been transmitting statistical data and information for the standardised questionnaire regarding health non-financial data and metadata harmonized at European level.

In 2012, the INS transmitted to the OECD a filled in questionnaire on the transition from *the GDP to the GNI* at the precise request of the OECD.

5.4. Bilateral cooperation

The year 2012 excelled especially in the growing number of the actual actions of cooperation in two directions, with the National Institute of Statistics of Bulgaria and the National Statistical Office of Moldova (BNS), respectively.

Thus, in the period January 16-17, 2012, an official mission took place in Bucharest and Braşov, headed by the President of the INS Bulgaria, within the bilateral cooperation between the INS Romania and the INS Bulgaria.

The main objectives of the mission were:

- analyse the matter of the Population and Housing Census, an undertaking action for the two state institutes;
- the data sources for the social surveys that use administrative data; survey methods;
- the integrated use of data in demographic and social statistics;
- use GIS in the BNS practice;
- sign the Cooperation Memorandum.

In 2012, the INS continued to offer technical assistance to the Office of National Statistics of the Republic of Moldova, on subjects such as: The Population and Housing Census, The General Agricultural Census, The survey of the reconciliation between the professional and family, The survey of the short term economic indicators (UNICA), the matter of the IT in statistics, the statistical education and training, etc.

At the same time, the concept note of the project “The improvement of the availability and trust in the regional statistics for the policy makers of the Republic of Moldova” was concluded and approved, project financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania from assistance funds for development (ODA). Therefore, together with the assistance beneficiary, The Office of the National Statistics of the Republic of Moldova and PNUD-Kishinev, the documentation of the project was drafted, its detailed budget included.



5.5. Participations of INS in seminars, work groups and international conferences

In 2012, the INS experts took part in over 150 actions such as seminars, work groups, conferences, training courses, etc. The participation in those work groups represented a main source of information that facilitate the permanent contact of the INS experts to the novelties, changes and progresses registered by the specific statistical fields.

The short term internships have continued to be organised, the year 2012 being dedicated to the agricultural statistics, for which the INS Romania hosted the colleagues from Turkey (September 10 – December 22, 2012).

5.6. Draw up of external non-refundable community funds by INS

After completing, in 2010, the implementation of the pre-accession programs Phare National and Multi-Beneficiary of which the Romanian official statistics benefited in time, the INS had in mind for 2012, as to the management of external non-refundable community funds, to keep following the sustainability of the results obtained in carrying out those programs.

The INS belongs to the institutions that have benefited, within the post-accession facilities and funds, by important fund sources, showing an absorption capacity of over 80% of the granted funds.

Therefore, during 2012, 37 community grants were carried out (in value of over 9 million Euros), 14 community grants were completed and a non-refundable external financing was obtained for other 13 contracts.

To the same category of post-accession funds belongs the large scale structural fund type project; 25.4 million lei non-refundable funds were attracted through the European Fund for Regional Development, in the Sector Operational Program Increase Economic Competitiveness, axis 3 – „Communications and

Information Technology for public and private sectors”, by creating a “web portal for on-line statistical data retrieval”. The project was concluded at the end of 2010, but the results sustainability obtained thanks to the project implementation kept being strictly followed during 2012, too.

The new project financed through the Operational Program Development of Administrative Capacity „Public administration capacity improvement to measure administrative performances – data bases, methodologies, modernization and standardization tools of techniques for statistical report and performance determination of the public administration” financed through the Operational Program Development of Administrative Capacity in total eligible sum of 19.5 million lei is currently in progress (http://www.insse.ro/cms/files/site_podca/index_podca.htm).

5.7. International statistics

The following papers were edited in 2012:

- the chapter of international statistics in the *Statistical Yearbook of Romania*;
- the chapter of international statistics in the breviary *Romania in figures*;
- tables of international statistics in the *Foreign Trade Yearbook of Romania*;
- the leaflet *Romania in the European Union*;
- the leaflet *The main economic and social indicators of the BUDVA initiative countries*.

Besides the above mentioned publications, the international statistics department dealt with solving questionnaires or data requests sent ad-hoc by international bodies or national authorities for periodically verifying the publications and data bases of the international organisations (Eurostat, UN or FAO) in order to determine the statistical indicators with incomplete or missing data for Romania.

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES

6.1. Human resources

A sustainable base for the statistical system development implies the existence of adequate human resources, both in number and in quality, especially.

➤ *The structure of the INS staff*

In 2012, the INS operated based on the G.O. 957/2005 on the organisation and operation of the INS republished and further amended. Therefore, the maximum number of positions is 2,159, out of which 707 in the headquarters and 1,452 in the statistical territorial offices (DTS).

Out of the maximum number of positions of 2,159, 1,772 are occupied while 387 are vacancies, therefore there is an employment degree of 82.1%.

Situation of positions in 2012*

Table 8

The INS	Maximum no. of positions	No. of occupied positions	No. of vacant positions	Employment degree (%)
Headquarters	707	487	220	68,9
STU	1452	1285	167	88,5
Total INS	2159	1772	387	82,1

* the additional contractual staff employed for the Population and Housing Census as well as for the General Agricultural Census 2010 excluded.

The staff expenditure in 2012 was of 70,224 million lei (The Annual National Statistical Programme – 58.6 million lei and PHC – 11.6 million lei).

In 2012, The Technical Secretariat of the Central Commission for the Population and Housing Census worked within the National Institute of Statistics in accordance with G.O. no. 1502/2009 on the organisation and operation of the Population and Housing Census in Romania.

In order to perform the data preparation, organisation, collection, operation and processing activities and to publish the results of the census, the INS was granted 821 contractual positions for a given period of time, as follows:

- 33 positions within own body of the National Institute of Statistics;
- 788 positions for the statistical territorial offices, out of which 500 employees.

At the institute level, out of the total number of positions of 2,159 provided by the G.O. 957/2005, 96% are public positions and around 4% are contractual positions based on an indefinite period of time.

Out of the total number of occupied positions of 1,772, 5% represents the young staff aged less than 30 years and the staff aged more than 56 years represents around 17%.

Structure of INS staff, by age group

Table 9

INS	Total no. of occupied positions	Age groups							
		<=30		[31 - 45]		[46 - 55]		>=56	
		no. of positions	%	no. of positions	%	no. of positions	%	no. of positions	%
Headquarters	487	45	9,2	237	48,7	131	26,9	74	15,2
STU	1285	39	3,0	553	43,0	471	36,7	222	17,3
Total INS	1772	84	4,7	790	44,6	602	34,0	296	16,7

Situation of the employed staff that left INS in 2012

Table 10

	Employment (by transfer)	Leaves
Headquarters	18	27
STU	35	53
Total	53	80

In 2012, too, the National Institute of Statistics worked at hazard level, 387 vacant positions being registered, therefore 18% of the approved number of staff.

A number of 34 persons ceased their work contract by retirement, 11 from the headquarters and 23 from the statistical territorial offices during 2012.

In the visit report of the dialogue mission on the excessive deficit procedure of the EUROSTAT-EDP delegation, that took place at the INS site in the period 11-13.07.2011, it was mentioned the fact that EUROSTAT supported the proposals and plans of the national institutes of statistics to give substantial resources as to the number of employees, advising the Government of Romania to support those proposals. The lack of resources has led to reserves expressed regarding the quality of data reported by Romania within EDP.

The steps taken by the INS materialized in the elaboration of two memoranda, one of them already approved for occupying 15 vacant positions and the second under approval for occupying a number of 12 vacant positions.

The 27 requested positions are financed and represent 9.31% of the total number of vacant positions following the entry into force of G.U.O. 34/2009 (compared to a maximum of 15% provided by the regulations in force), the request of the INS meeting the provisions of Art. 22 paragraph 2 of G.U.O. no. 34/2009, further amended. A reduction of this number could have serious consequences on the activity and accomplishment of the mission and objectives of the INS.

As to the educational profile, higher education staff represents 85% of the total employees, 60% of them graduated economic universities and 23% technical universities.

Structure of INS higher education staff by specialization

Table 11

INS	Total no. of higher education positions	Higher education											
		economic		technical		humanistic profile		administrative		juridical		other specialization	
		nr. posturi	%	nr. posturi	%	nr. posturi	%	nr. posturi	%	nr. posturi	%	nr. posturi	%
Head- quarters	440	203	46,1	111	25,2	54	12,3	25	5,7	24	5,5	23	5,2
STU	1064	697	65,5	240	22,6	21	2,0	33	3,1	36	3,4	37	3,5
Total INS	1504	900	59,8	351	23,3	75	5,0	58	3,9	60	4,0	60	4,0

Out of the higher education staff, 39% represents master graduates or post academic studies graduates or have a Ph.D. degree.

The high professional level of the staff (Ph.D., master graduates and/or post academic studies) grants a qualitative implementation of the mentor programme for the development of the knowledge and competences of the young staff, for the continuous conformation of the National Statistical System to the requests of the European Statistical System.

Structure of INS higher education staff by level of post licence studies

Table 12

INS	Total no. of higher education positions	Post licence studies					
		Master graduates		Post academic graduates		Post academic	
		no. of positions	%	no. of positions	%	no. of positions	%
Head- quarters	440	46	10,5	123	28,0	18	4,1
STU	1064	131	12,3	267	25,1	4	0,4
Total INS	1504	177	11,8	390	25,9	22	1,5

It is worth mentioning that during the period 2005-2012, 9 employees were temporarily relocated to EUROSTAT. Unfortunately, or rather as acknowledgement of their professional skills, 6 of the 9 persons subsequently became employed by EUROSTAT.



➤ Remuneration of the staff

In 2012, the remuneration and re-employment of the staff took place in accordance with the Law – framework no. 284/2010 regarding the unitary remuneration of the staff paid from public funds, with the Law no. 283/2011 regarding the approval of the Government Emergency Ordinance no. 80/2010 for supplementing Article no. 11 of the Government Emergency Ordinance no. 37/2008 on the regulation of certain financial measures in the budgetary domain.

At the same time, during 2012, in accordance with the Government Emergency Ordinance no. 19/2012 on the approval of certain measures regarding the recovery of wage STU, the gross basic salary was increased as follows: by 8% starting with June 1, 2012 and by 7.4 % starting with December 1, 2012.

In 2012, the average gross salary within the INS was 2,158 lei; therefore the earnings of the INS staff are on one of the last placed in public administration (no. 60 of 66).

Higher wage conditions on the labour market, compared to those granted within the National Institute of Statistics, have a negative impact in the process of attracting and maintaining the qualified staff, while for young people the wage level is unattractive, consequently the poor number.

➤ Professional development of the INS staff

In 2012, the priority of INS was to grant professional training as a continuous education for its staff in order to face actual and future challenges and that was achieved by implementing the Annual programme of professional training.

In 2012, from the National Institute of Statistics – the headquarters – and from the statistical territorial units, 1602 public servants attended and graduated 96 training programmes organized with the help of CNPS, ASE, ANFP, MAE and other providers of professional training.

In 2012, the number of participants in professional training programmes, compared to the number of employees, represents a percentage of 105% as to 91% in 2011 and 63% in 2010.



06

Vocational training programmes

Table 13

	2011		2012	
	No. of professional training programmes	No. of participants	No. of professional training programmes	No. of participants
STU	64	1300	59	1365
Headquarters	34	302	33	504
Total	98	1602	92	1869

The professional training programmes mainly targeted areas such as statistics 51%, management 23% and IT 22%.

At the same time, in 2012, out of the total number of public servants trained within the headquarters of the INS, 41% benefited by free

professional trainings organised within two projects implemented as follows: one by ASE (The Academy of Economic Studies) in partnership with the INS "Increase of the administrative capacity and improve service quality through continuous specialized training" and the other one by MAE (The Ministry of Foreign Affairs) "The multiannual plan of training Romanian public servants in French", the INS continuing its collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign and the French Institute in Romania that started in 2007. Out of the total number of public servants trained at the STU level, 20% benefited by both free training programmes, organized within another project implemented by ASE in partnership with the INS: „Professionalism at the Statistical Territorial Units level" and by the course on the Internal/management Audit System, organised free of charge with the support of UCAAPI-MFP.

Within the ESTP courses programme, organised by EUROSTAT, a number of 7 persons attended the following courses: ESA 95 National Accounts, Government Finance Statistics, and Economic Accounts for Agriculture, GIS, Advanced Seasonal Adjustments, Water Statistics and Environmental Taxes.

6.2. Budgetary resources and budget execution

The financing of the National Institute of Statistics activities – headquarters and the subordinated units – has been done from the state budget funds, from own revenues and non reimbursable external funds granted by the European Union through various grants for which the National Institute of Statistics applied in 2012, or were ongoing since 2011.

Despite the austerity budget for 2012, streamlining and prioritizing spending, the National Institute of Statistics succeeded to cover the necessary expenses for the Annual National Statistical Programme 2012 and for all the statistical surveys scheduled for 2012 for which payments of 77,374 thousand lei were made.

At the same time, the financing for the activities performed by the National Institute of

Statistics regarding the completion of the General Agricultural Census of 2010 was ensured, 867 thousand lei being paid from the state budget and 1,066 thousand lei from non refundable external funds, as well as for continuing the Population and Housing Census of 2011 for which 20,989 thousand lei were paid.

In 2012, from statistical publications and data sale, 775 thousand lei were revenues from internal and external beneficiaries, through "The Romanian statistical information dissemination activity at the level of the National Institute of Statistics and of the Statistical Territorial Units.

Compared to the 775 thousand lei revenues obtained from the activity financed from own resources, that is from "The Romanian statistical information dissemination", the expenditure amounted to 718 thousand lei.

As to the non reimbursable external funds financing, a number of about 35 independent grants were carried out in 2012.

The execution of expenditure from the state budget, non refundable external funds and own revenues for 2012 compared to 2011 is shown in *Annex no. 2*.

6.3. Statistical infrastructure – information technology

The whole statistical activity of the National Statistical System, statistical information and data production, based on introduction and validation of statistical data, data processing and centralization, data dissemination both electronically and on paper, is not possible within a statistical institute without the IT support, without an IT and data communication high performance architecture, continuously maintained and especially developed.

The development of the IT activity in the National Statistical System materialized as follows:

- the development and improvement of the IT infrastructure of the information system for carrying out the official statistics of Romania, that

can support under high quality and efficiency conditions the statistical works of the National Statistical System;

- provide technical information assistance for the implementation and proper functioning of the Contact centre of PHC/Short term survey, as well as elaborate its functioning documentation; the implementation of the virtualization of servers in the headquarters, started at the beginning of 2009, continued. At present, in the institute, there are 8 virtualization servers connected to two high capacity storage devices that were extended over 2011. On these virtualization servers there are 60 virtual servers in production at present;
- ensure operational technical conditions for the web applications that register massive traffic, such as , the main site of the INS , as well as the portal site . Generally, their availability was appreciated as 95%, any problems encountered being solved as soon as possible;
- send to EUROSTAT through the eDAMIS system (eWA-application + eWP-portal) of statistical data within deadlines. At the same time, technical assistance has been provided for the type of transmission of statistical data to EUROSTAT through portal with the help of web forms (eWF). Thus, out of all the EU Member States, Romania registered, at the end of 2012, one of the highest coverage percentage of the sole collecting point of statistical data at EUROSTAT and ranks second, among other 5 EU statistical institutes, with a percentage of 92%, the EU average being 84%;
- provide technical conditions necessary for the best operation of the computer networks Extranet, LAN and WAN in the INS and of all computer equipment of the INS;
- ensure the operation of the Microsoft Exchange electronic mail system and Internet connections for the whole statistical system;
- ensure the technical support for the equipment operation for the acceleration of the applications and optimization of data traffic in the WAN network of the INS, the traffic being thus reduced by 60%;

- update the “Rehabilitation project of weak current network for the IT and telecommunications equipment”, funds for its achievement will be allocated in 2013.

Project and maintain the information applications ongoing in 2012, basic activities of the national statistical information system, have been materialized as follows:

- increase the number of statistical surveys with on-line reporting, from almost all the statistical fields; thus, in 2012, 62 monthly, quarterly and annual statistical surveys were launched, using the web portal for on-line taking over of statistical data, generically named e-SOP (e-Survey Online Portal);
- project, develop and maintain information applications for collecting and validate statistical data at central and territorial level for the statistical surveys that haven't been yet implemented in the e-SOP portal;
- make information applications in order to obtain control and presenting tables on which are based all the statistical publications of the INS;
- make information procedures for obtaining files in the specific format for loading the central data bases (TEMPO, BDL, BDJ);
- maintain the Intrastat information system on intra community trade;
- manage the Oracle data base servers and the Oracle applications servers, installed within the INS;
- provide technical assistance for the external and internal users of the e-SOP portal.

The e-SOP information system, implemented at the end of 2010, is a system based on own complex infrastructure (14 servers for production and 7 servers for surveys implementation and testing) and was projected for the on-line collection of data from statistical surveys directly from the units reporting statistical data.

After 2 years of using this system, we can conclude:

❖ *Improvements brought about by the e-SOP portal to the National Statistical System:*

- sole system to introduce and validate data, both for units and for territorial statistical divisions;
- uniform design of statistical questionnaires and of validation rules;
- ensure data confidentiality and security;
- store micro data in a sole data base;
- easiness in modifying the questionnaire/validation rules, even during the data collection;
- unitary management of the samples of units;
- existence of a professional environment for testing surveys before they enter production;
- possibility of following data collection in real by all the users with account in the portal.

❖ *Weaknesses of the e-SOP portal system:*

- unsatisfactory response time, especially during processing the monthly survey UNICA (short term indicators, monthly report);
- mandating the use of certain browsers, for which the system was optimized;
- lack of a reporting off-line alternative, using the e-SOP system;

- system insufficient documentation; it is not possible to display all methodological notes;
- describing correlations involving mathematical formulas require knowledge of PL/SQL programming;
- the on-line reporting is not especially provided by legislation, therefore the units take advantage of it in order to report on paper.

❖ *Risks:*

- statistical questionnaires of high complexity, difficult to fill in on-line;
- long response time due to the great number of correlations per survey;
- blocking operation due to infrastructure overload (servers of the e-SOP infrastructure, network);
- increased rate of non-response;
- failure in keeping the completion deadline of survey in case of processing disruptions;
- incomplete volume of data in case of processing disruptions;
- insufficient resources for ensuring technical support.



❖ Opportunities:

- develop, within the maintenance, of some new functionalities that were identified in order to optimize the system (e.g.: in 2013, as a reporting off-line solution, the design of an intelligent PDF is provided in the specification);
- correct, within the maintenance, the existing failures;
- optimize, within the maintenance, of long time response functionalities;
- use data from administrative sources that allow to simplify questionnaires or even replace/drop out some statistical surveys;
- investment in the infrastructure in order to enlarge the server capacity and improve the network operation.

With the local elections of June 6, the national referendum on impeaching the President of Romania of July 29 and the parliamentary elections of December 9, the **INS was technically involved** in performing the following activities:

- purchase IT components: PC computers, printers, telecommunications and network equipment, supplies for computers, spare parts, other IT services;
- participate in the tender evaluation committees for achieving the national information system specific to the 3 types of election events;
- provide IT support for purchasing, installing, configure and implement software and hardware components necessary for achieving the system of processing and centralizing the results of the 3 types of election events;
- do the minutes customization procedure, by polling stations, used in elections for scanning;
- print the customized minutes for the centralization of the referendum and local elections results;

- implement, test and operate the software applications made available by the Permanent Electoral Authority to the Central Electoral Office.

A significant contribution was made to the documentation preparation for the information system within the project financed from European funds: "Improvement of the public administration capacity to measure administrative performances – data bases, methodologies, instruments for modernizing and standardizing the statistical reporting techniques and for determining the public administration performances" Code SMIS 26932, within the Operational Programme for the Administrative Capacity Development (PODCA).

6.4. Internal Public Audit Activity

06

The internal audit department succeeded in 2012, as well as in the previous years, to promote its activity through an approach based on involvement that meant a closer collaboration between the audit staff and the INS head and the public entities regarding a good management of risk, control and administration processes.

The internal public audit activity had an important contribution at enhancing the value of the departments in the INS structure and of the public entities, through its recommendations on the occasion of the insurance missions performed. These recommendations convinced the audited structures to improve their activities and their internal audit system, consequently there was registered a significant progress from an audit session to another.

In 2012, the risk management process has been the subject of the audit missions. On the occasion of the audit mission, the implementation stage of the managerial/internal audit systems was evaluated, the auditors giving recommendations on how to implement Standard 11 *Risk management* and the system procedure elaborated and approved by order of the INS president.

When carrying out the audit missions, it was checked if there was an identification, evaluation and determination as to the management measures for the main risks proper to the activities performed within the audited structures and if the completion and updating of the Risk Register are provided. The findings of these missions underlined the fact that, at the level of the audited structures, the implementation of the risk management is advanced enough, is known by the whole staff of the structures, but it is less used in practice. During these missions, the auditors supported the management of the audited structures in their self-assessment, providing information meant to facilitate the understanding of the standard on the *Risk Management* and of the implementation methodology and also through their recommendations, which aim at lowering the potential risks. These identified risks were mentioned in the audit reports and were analysed and their impact evaluated, following to be written in the Risks Register.

The organizational frame regarding the monitoring, coordination and methodological guidance of the SCIM implementation was created at the level of the INS and its subordinated institutions. During the audit missions, the conformity and efficiency of the activities performed was appreciated and, where applicable, recommendations were formulated meant to contribute to the improvement of the Development programme of the managerial/internal audit system.

On the occasion of every audit mission performed, the internal audit gave the management "reasonable" insurance on the conformity and operation of the internal audit implemented at the level of the activities audited according to the implementation of the recommendations.

The recommendations of the internal auditors, formulated during the audit missions performed in 2012, had a decisive impact on the improvement of some important systems, activities and processes within the entities, contributing to:

- develop the managerial/internal audit systems within the audited entities by having a proper

control over the processes and activities;

- improve the performance of property management;
- better manage the allocated funds, the revenues and expenses, in accordance with the rules in force and with the objectives of the audited structures;
- check setting and correct granting of staff rights;
- improve the registration process of economic and financial accounting operations and the preparation of financial statements.

In 2012, the audit activity contributed to the improvement of the decision-making system by providing advice throughout the year, either as a member of various committees and working groups in which it was co-opted, or when asked for its point of view on certain aspects within its area of competence.

The contribution of the internal audit in the governance of the entities has resulted in:

- *assist in obtaining additional information for an in-depth knowledge, by the entity management, of the following:*
 - stage of internal audit standards implementation at the entity level or in some of its structures;
 - observe the legal provisions on public procurement, organize and manage the accounting activity;
 - the impact of the changes in the staff evaluation criteria;
 - the influence of granting some staff bonuses;
- *participate in working groups responsible for examining operations and making recommendations on:*
 - check the implementation of some activities, processes, programs;
 - check the existence of supporting documents for fixed assets;
 - check the compliance with the project evaluation procedures;
 - check the documentation and the carrying out of procurement procedures.

In 2012, the audit activity had an important contribution to the improvement of the risk management processes, of control and governance, by making adequate recommendations and being

an active presence within the INS and its subordinated institutions.

During 2012, the control environment in the INS improved, becoming favourable to an internal audit activity based on favouring ethical values and the awareness of the risks, as well as on organizational policy proper to the strategic objectives.

All the internal audit reports, containing findings, causes, consequences and recommendations, have been approved and endorsed by the management of the INS and of the subordinated institutions. When implementing the recommendations, Action plans and an implementation schedule were prepared and elaborated. The audit department permanently monitors the implementation stage of recommendations and quarterly reports the status of implementation to the president who, in his turn, presents it in the Board of Directors meetings and orders the measures to be taken.

In the file of every audit mission, performed by the specialized department and approved by the INS president, there is also a summary of the recommendations that includes the deadlines and responsibilities regarding the recommendations implementation. This document, together with the written answers of the entities, transmitted to the Audit Department within the time limits; represent the priority subject for the analyses of the future audit missions.

6.5. Internal management audit

Under the provisions of Art 4 paragraph 3 of the Government Ordinance no. 119/1999 on the internal audit and preventive financial audit, republished, with subsequent amendments, the National Institute of Statistics has a system of internal audit/management whose design and implementation allow the INS management to provide reasonable public funds allocated in order to achieve the general and specific objectives, used legally, regularly, efficiently and with economy.

Since 2007, a Monitoring, Coordinating and Methodological Guidance Committee was set at the INS, having as objective to implement the provisions of the Order of the Minister of public

finances no. 946/2005 for the approval of the Code of internal audit/management, containing the internal audit/management standards for the public entities and for the development of the audit/management systems, republished and for the implementation and development of the INS internal audit/management system, respectively. Similar structures have been created, by decisions of the executive directors, at the level of the subordinated entities.

The conditions for the gradual implementation of the audit standards have been created, by developing and improving some tools and methods specific for the statistical activity, actions that favoured the achievement of an audit environment based on determining the tasks and duties and positions based on performance and competence criteria, respectively, in accordance with total quality management and with optimizing the operational processes, main strategic objective in the development of the National Statistical System.

The activities specific to the designing, implementing and performing of statistical surveys have been identified and detailed, the activities being included in the activity programme, updated annually, with actual deadlines and responsibilities, which represent an important pillar in the information system created to monitor the stage of the statistical production, within the time limits and in the terms of quality according to the provisions of the European legislation in the field.

At the INS, 2,929 procedural activities have been identified, out of which 673 at the headquarters and 3,376 operational procedures have been elaborated, out of which 588 at the headquarters. The large number of elaborated operational procedures may constitute a disability as to their implementation monitoring, as to the coverage of the monitoring activities, respectively.

At the headquarters, out of the 25 standards, 11 are fully implemented and 14 are partially implemented, while at the subordinated structures 18 standards are implemented and 7 standards are partially implemented, which leads to the conclusion that the INS and its subordinated entities have partially compliant internal audit/management systems.

6.6. Investment, services and modernization

The **procurement** activity, regarding the **investment, services and modernization**, as a consequence of the requests from the specialized departments, was substantiated by the 17 public procurement procedures: demand-tender on contracting and monitoring service provisions, on products provision and execution of construction and repair works, procedures that have been organised, over 44.52 %, through on-line electronic means, 4.52 % more compared to the limit provided by the regulations in force.

The activity of procurement, investment-modernization has been mainly oriented to provide the technical and material conditions necessary for the organization and conduct of the current activity for the Annual National Statistical Programme, the Population and Housing Census 2011, Local and Parliamentary Elections; at the same time, public procurement procedures have been organised for contracting the following:

1. work stations (PC) – Local elections – 146.00 thousand lei, VAT excluded;
2. Laser printers – Local elections – 14.6 thousand lei, VAT excluded;
3. Laser multifunctional – Local elections – 200.00 thousand lei, VAT excluded;
4. dot matrix printers type Line matrix – Local elections – 103.9 thousand lei, VAT excluded;
5. 4 processors servers - Local elections – 258.6 thousand lei , VAT excluded;
6. scanner – Parliamentary elections – 458.9 thousand lei, VAT excluded;
7. services – technical assistance for the IT applications during processing the statistical data for the Population and Housing Census 2011- 124.9 thousand lei, VAT excluded ;

In order to meet, within the budget limits, all the requests received from the statistical territorial divisions regarding their operation, repairs to both their buildings and installations have been provided as follows:

- DRS Brăila – interior repair works – 10,000 lei (VAT included);
- DJS Maramureş – change of carpentry works – 10,000 lei (VAT included);
- DJS Satu –Mare – sanitation works – 20,000 lei (VAT included);
- DJS Suceava - interior repair works – 20,000 lei (VAT included);
- DJS Teleorman - interior repair works – 15,000 lei (VAT included);

The following remain as unsolved:

- provide appropriate locations for DJS Sibiu, Hunedoara, Mureş and Harghita;
- rehabilitation of the low current network for the IT and telecommunications equipments, an imperative investment with significant budgetary implications.

6.7. Legal activity

In 2012, the legal activity of the National Institute of Statistics consisted in securing the lawfulness as to its activity and to defend its patrimonial interests and had the following results:

- prepare the procedural documents necessary in court for the cases in which, either the National Institute of Statistics or the statistical territorial divisions, were involved;

- approval of orders issued by the institution management, of public procurement contracts, of collaboration protocols with other ministries/ specialized bodies of the central public administration;
- monitor and report on the contents of the normative acts that had implications on the activity of the National Institute of Statistics;
- provide legal advice to the structures of the National Institute of Statistics, to the statistical territorial divisions included;
- formulate requests for summons necessary for defending the institution rights;
- participate in elaborating bills initiated by the National Institute of Statistics, also constantly monitoring the process of their approval. The following are some of these bills:
 - Draft of Government Decision on the approval of the Annual National Statistical Programme 2012 (G.D. no. 1083/2012);
 - Draft of Government Decision on the approval of the Memorandum of understanding between the National Institute of Statistics of Romania and the National Institute of Statistics of Bulgaria on the cooperation in statistics, signed in Braşov on January 16, 2012 (G.D. no. 274/2012);
 - Draft of Government Decision on amending Annex no. 3 to G.D. no. 1502/2009 on the organization and conduct of the Population and Housing Census in Romania in 2011 (G.D. no. 847/2012);
 - Draft of Government Decision on determining the minutes model on registering the result of the vote in the elections for the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate in 2012 (G.D. no. 1092/2012);

- Draft of Government Decision on the approval of the minutes model on registering the result of the vote in the elections of the local authorities in 2012 (G.D. no. 509/2012).



ACTIVITY OF TERRITORIAL STATISTICAL DIVISIONS

The main objective of the territorial statistical divisions is to ensure high quality standards in all the stages of the statistical survey process. Under these circumstances, the requirements for providing consistent and credible statistical data and information are met. The quality of the statistical indicators obtained decisively influences the accuracy of the territorial-level analyses and, ultimately, the quality of the socio-economic policy decisions made at these levels.

The overall activity of the territorial statistical divisions was based on complying with the norms, objectives and good practices in the processes used for organising, collecting, processing and disseminating official statistics, as well as on actions aimed at increasing the efficiency, credibility, relevance and consistency of these statistics.

Basing their activity on the fundamental principles that govern the functioning of official statistics and on the priorities of the Strategy for the Development of the National Statistical System, the territorial statistical divisions had the following objectives: ensuring the continuous progress of statistics in accordance with the responsibilities of the INS; creating inter-institutional partnerships; supporting the activity of the Regional Development Agencies, the Prefect's Office, the County Council and the local councils by providing the statistical data and information requested for carrying out EU-financed projects and studies; co-operating with the data and information providers; modernising the way in which the data are collected, processed and analysed.

In performing these activities, which are based on the principles of scientific autonomy, relevance, confidentiality, correctness, timeliness and punctuality, transparency, accessibility, consistency, statistical deontology and the cost-efficiency ratio, a series of actions and measures were undertaken at the level of the territorial statistical divisions in order to make sure that the surveys included in the 2012 Annual National Statistical Programme are conducted on time and under quality conditions.

In this respect, the activity of the territorial statistical divisions consisted in collecting data for all statistical surveys, making analyses and syntheses on the monthly evolution of the main socio-economic indicators, building and updating data series and, not in the least, meeting the needs of all the categories of users by providing them with complete and quality statistical data and information.

The objectives set for 2012 were achieved by focusing on strengthening the capacity to collect statistical data from statistical data providers and process them, as well as on developing and improving the system that electronically processes the data from the providers. As part of the efforts for making the collection and processing of the primary statistical information more efficient, by improving the *on-line collection* process and the implementation of the e-SOP web portal, the uploading of the data to the database continued in 2012 through a multi-access application, with a view to a more efficient processing of statistical data. In this respect, for an operative dissemination of the data, there is the possibility of querying the database at locality level and obtaining indicators for various fields: the facilities of the territory (the dwelling stock, the technical and administrative facilities of the territory), the population, labour force, education, culture and art, health care, investments (completed dwellings), post and telecommunications, tourism etc.

As compared to the 2011 programme, in the 2012 Annual National Statistical Programme new statistical surveys concerning several statistical areas were introduced, with a view to aligning Romanian statistics to the European Statistical System. The statistical data were produced in accordance with CANE Rev. 2, with the nomenclatures for the statistical surveys in all the fields covered being updated. Special attention was given to the total and permanent control of statistical data in terms of completeness and quality, in each stage and work phase. The *rate of non-response* from economic operators decreased, particularly as a result of extending the electronic collection of the

information to numerous statistical surveys, as well as due to the training provided to the economic operators by the specialists of the institution. Due to the concern for increasing the degree of statistical data collection, in 2012 there was a high level of response from the providers of statistical information and the deadlines set by the INS were met.

In 2012 there was also a considerable involvement of the specialists in statistical actions of national importance, namely the completion of the *2010 General Agricultural Census* and of the *2011 Population and Housing Census*, as well as the participation in the operations related to the preparation and carrying out of the three voting processes that took place during the year (the election of the authorities of local public administration of 10 June 2012, the National Referendum of 29 July and the elections for the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of 9 December 2012). As regards the use of the funds allocated for the statistical work included in the 2012 Annual National Statistical Programme, for the 2010 GAC and the 2011 PHC and for electoral activities, the 2012 budget implementation complied with the legal provisions.

The work of the territorial statistical divisions was performed under good conditions for maintaining and improving *collaboration* with the (local and central) public authorities, for the continuous promotion of statistical culture, both in the economic field and in the social field, for developing co-operation with the academic environment or other ministries/institutions in order to carry out the projects and programmes financed from external funds (e.g. the Operational Programme “Developing the Administrative Capacity 2007-2013 – Innovation in Administration”, a project co-financed from the European Social Fund).

At the level of the territorial statistical divisions there was constant concern for maintaining and updating the existing databases, which covered a wide range of economic and social indicators. At

the level of the localities the databases were updated with indicators on the facilities of the territory, the population, labour force, education, culture and art, health care, agriculture, housing, post and telecommunications, tourism etc.

The *dissemination* activity was mainly focused on improving, diversifying and modernising the means used for the dissemination of statistical data, on increasing the timeliness and accuracy of the responses provided to the users, as well as on ensuring quality while complying with the principles of transparency and confidentiality of the statistical information and data supplied, under equal conditions for all users and in accordance with the Law on the organisation and functioning of official statistics in Romania. This activity was carried out both through the website of the territorial statistical divisions and by means of direct contact with the beneficiaries of statistical data. The administration of the website at county level was a very important activity in 2012, which led to the development of a more attractive interface between the beneficiaries of statistical information and territorial statistical divisions.

The dissemination activity also consisted in the release of publications (the County's Monthly Statistical Bulletin, the County's Statistical Yearbook etc.), statistical information and data, periodically or on request, with a view to accurately and timely informing the local public authorities, the state's decentralised institutions, the public, the mass media, the people involved in education (teaching staff, students, pupils) and scientific research, the business environment and other users of statistical data about the county's economic and social situation.

The specialists of the territorial statistical divisions actively participated in the *working groups* created for drawing up ample synthesis papers (county plans for social inclusion, urban development plans) and represented the institution in various committees, commissions, colleges (e.g. prefectural colleges, councils, county/regional commissions and local committees).

Action was also taken with regard to the development of the electronic exchange of data between territorial public institutions, so that the wide use of administrative data sources can be improved.

In 2012 the relations of the territorial statistical divisions with the mass media improved, with the public being timely and transparently informed of the evolution of the main socio-economic indicators, inflation, earnings etc. through press releases. Steps were also taken to promote the image of the institution by publicising the activities carried out in 2012 or on the occasion of celebrations.

There were concerns and steps were taken to modernise the computer network and maintain it at the optimal parameters for receiving and processing a large volume of statistical data.

The efficiency of the statisticians' activity is also based on the constant concern for improving *vocational training*. In this respect, vocational training courses for civil servants were organised and specialised training courses were delivered under the various projects financed from external funds in 2012.

The increase in the quality of statistical work and management in the territorial statistical divisions was reflected in the improvement of the work methods, the monitoring of Total Quality Management, the development of the technological infrastructure and a more efficient use of financial and human resources. Due to the permanently changing and increasingly diversifying needs of the users, it's necessary to improve the work methods, techniques and procedures based on professional standards so as to meet the requirements of all categories of statistical data users, whose role in the production and planning of official statistics is significant.

Focus was also placed on the implementation of a quality management system based on the development and use of continuous evaluation mechanisms, with a view to improving the quality of the organisational system. The implementation of efficient solutions, the removal of the drawbacks and the use of internal as well as foreign practices will be a valuable source for improving the management of statistical quality.



ACTIVITY OF NATIONAL CENTRE FOR TRAINING IN STATISTICS

• The vocational training activity

In 2012, in accordance with the objectives set out in Government Decision No 295/2003, the National Centre for Training in Statistics (CNPS), which is subordinate to the INS, a public institution with legal personality, fully financed from its own revenues, provided vocational training for the staff from the official statistical services, carried out research projects under the national programme PN II, projects financed from European Structural Funds and a project financed by the European Commission from FP7 funds, and supplied technical assistance to the official statistics of other countries: EU Member States, ASEAN countries, Macedonia, Turkey, Jordan.

The vocational training programme for 2012 was structured on four categories of courses:

1. Courses for civil servants from the INS and public administration;
2. Courses for civil servants from the territorial statistical divisions;
3. Courses for statisticians from other public institutions: the National Bank of Romania, the Brăila Regional Development Agency etc.;
4. Courses for companies and the public ("Broadening statistical culture through one-day courses" and advanced statistics courses).

From a statistical point of view, these courses are presented in the table below.

Courses **Table 14**

Financing source	Course category	No. of courses	No. of participants
INS budget	Courses for civil servants from the INS	9	266
INS budget	Courses for civil servants from the Regional Statistical Divisions/County Statistical Divisions (DRS/DJS)	51	1094
For a fee	Courses for companies and the public: Intrastat, Vodafone Romania	13	171
Free of charge	Course organised by the National Centre for Training in Statistics with the support of the Ministry of Finance – the Central Unit for the Harmonisation of Financial Management and Control Systems, "Internal audit and management control"	1	80

The vocational training programmes were based on the offer of the National Centre for Training in Statistics, improved with the proposals of the divisions from the main office and of the territorial statistical units. The topics covered were: the methodologies used in Community statistics, the European Statistics Code of Practice, the measurement and assessment of the quality of statistical data, communication and internal audit, computer science applied in statistics, statistical analysis – correlation and regression functions, statistical databases, business statistics, macro-economic statistics.

As a result of organising these courses, objectives such as the following were achieved:

- harmonising national statistics with the latest requirements of the European Statistical System;
- better management of time and projects (workshops organised with the support of COMPASS Training);
- supporting the quality and efficiency of statistical processes and products;
- strengthening the co-ordinating role of the National Statistical System by improving the training level of the staff from this system.

● Carrying out scientific research projects

In February 2008, the National Centre for Training in Statistics submitted the Self-Assessment Report to the Advisory College for Research & Development and Innovation, so that its capacity to perform scientific research activities could be confirmed.

By means of Decision No 9725/25.08.2008, the National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation confirmed that the National Centre for Training in Statistics was able to perform research activities.

In 2012, the National Centre for Training in Statistics was partner of national statistical offices from other countries (EU Member States, ASEAN countries, Macedonia, Turkey, Jordan) in technical assistance projects.

As partner, the National Centre for Training in Statistics was involved in new projects and continued old research projects financed from structural funds.

Status of projects carried out by the National Centre for Training in Statistics

Table 15

Cur. Contracting institution no.	Name of the project	Status of the project
1. National Trade Union Block	Office for monitoring the labour market and the quality of jobs	Won and carried out from 2010 to August 2012
2. Foundation for Democracy, Culture and Freedom – Călărași branch	System of statistical indicators on the socio-economic development of the Romania-Bulgaria cross-border area	Won and under way since April 2011
3. Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport	Management of the correlation between the education system and the labour market	Won and under way since March 2011
4. Foundation for the Development of Economic Civil Society	Promotion of Romanian social economy through research, education and vocational training at European standards – PROMETEUS	Won and under way since September 2010
5. Academy of Economic Studies	Modern practice systems for facilitating the labour market access of the future specialists in statistics and economic forecasting or business informatics	Won and under way since August 2010

As partner, the National Centre for Training in Statistics has been involved in the project “DATA without Boundaries”, a project financed by the European Commission – the FP7 programme, since May 2011.

● Staff

The list of posts contains 21 posts of which 6 are occupied.

The research and training activities are carried out by temporarily hiring highly qualified experts from within the INS or university teaching staff. In 2012, the average number of employees of the National Centre for Training in Statistics was 30.

● 2012 budget

2012 budget implementation:

- available budget on 01.01.2012: 1,149,771 lei
- available budget on 31.12.2012: 692,059 lei (excluding the treasury pre-financing account)
- available budget on 31.12.2012: 15,509 lei (in the treasury pre-financing account)

Turnover (lei)

Table 16

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1.072.868	1.715.753	1.420.055	2.099.556	3.775.805	1.923.023

Income structure

Table 17

Cur. no.	Type of income Income structure (lei)				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1 INS courses	117.029	119.350	52.826	27.810	60.329
2 County Statistical Divisions courses (including the training for the 2011 PHC)	164.963	82.610	73.339	1.272.400	46.999
3 Courses with other units	192.228	99.110	90.512	25.004	50.236
4 Research:	1.162.422	1.020.527	1.538.160	1.155.722	511.856
National	623.904	601.990	1.048.613	897.699	353.313
International	538.518	418.537	489.547	258.023	158.543
5 Sponsorships	48.057	70.374	22.700	24.000	9.500
6 Exchange-rate differences	29.429	22.512	23.253	20.290	13.876
7 Interest	1.625	5.572	2.486	2.830	3.437
8 Income from structural funds	-	-	288.280	1.247.749	1.226.790
Total	1.715.753	1.420.055	2.099.556	3.775.805	1.923.023

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN 2012

As in the previous years, the activity related to the *IT infrastructure and applications* also faced a series of difficulties in 2012, namely:

- the lack of financial resources did not allow the implementation of the project consisting in the rehabilitation of the hardware and software reconfigurable structured cabling network for data/voice transmission in the INS; the non-identification and non-allocation of the necessary funds for rehabilitating the current computer network of the INS as soon as possible (cabling, passive/active equipment) increases the risk of major malfunctions in the statistical IT system of the INS;
- the unscheduled failures in the supply of electricity and the voltage fluctuations led to the failure of PC sources, UPSs and server hard disks, generating malfunctions at the level of the entire IT system (domain servers, e-mail servers, the INS website, the network etc.);
- the percentage of on-line entry and validation of statistical data through the use of the web portal was below expectations due to the following reasons: the lack of staff and inappropriate facilities, particularly in small reporting units, inappropriate Internet connection speeds for economic operators, the slow running of the large statistical questionnaires, with many chapters, indicators, control and warning keys. The fact that the statistical questionnaires were not adapted to this reporting system made many operators give up on the use of the web portal and fill in the paper questionnaire, which took less time. The more complex statistical surveys, with many indicators that are not found in the records of the economic operators under the form required by the INS, first imply the filling in of paper questionnaires, with the data being subsequently entered through the web portal;
- the difficult provision of the technical assistance and of the maintenance of the licences under which the national statistical IT system operates:

the global antivirus solution, Oracle, SAS, Kofax, the infrastructure management and monitoring solution etc.

The major difficulties identified in *business statistics* were:

- an increase in the non-response rate, particularly as regards the large enterprises that are important to the Romanian economy;
- for research & development statistics the main difficulties consisted in redesigning the questionnaires in accordance with the European regulations, adapting the IT requirements to the new changes, and obtaining and processing the R&D and innovation data from the integrated questionnaire of the business environment survey on research & development and innovation.

Agricultural statistics primarily had to deal with a lack of staff, as did the other fields of statistics, which made it difficult to meet the deadlines of the statistical surveys / works and increased the risk of inappropriate quality of the statistical data. The collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development left a lot to be desired in terms of the co-ordination and coherence between the statistics produced by these institutions and the statistics produced by the INS.

In conducting the statistical survey "The number of items in the agricultural register, equipment, facilities for agriculture and forestry, means of transport and agricultural buildings in households/individual agricultural holdings and units with legal personality at the beginning of 2012, within the territory of the locality" (GAC) – on the web portal – problems occurred due to the lack of staff trained in IT within the town halls, particularly in the rural area.

The main difficulties faced by *external trade statistics* in terms of the impact on the quality of the statistical outputs regarding the international trade in goods (which are monthly disseminated by the INS) were:

- servers – for databases and applications – that are not good enough to support the simultaneous access of a large number of economic operators who want to use the modern statistical reporting techniques (web forms);
- the need to revise the statistical data reported by the exporters and importers with an important share in the Romanian trade, which may jeopardise the quality of the intra-Community trade data published as provisional data. In order to meet the reporting deadlines (15 days following the end of the reference month), many companies submit partial Intrastat declarations and a few days or months later they send revised Intrastat declarations, which contain values that are very different from the initially declared values;
- the large number of errors in the monthly Intrastat declarations, mainly caused by the fact that the data providers gave up on the specialised staff that completed the Intrastat statistical declarations (most of them were former customs declarants who became Declaring Third Parties, according to Law No 422/2006 and the Community regulations in force). The tasks of completing and submitting the Intrastat statistical declarations were performed by inexperienced people, which affected the quality of the collected data, causing an increase in the number of errors.

The average number of monthly declarations for the 20,000 economic operators is almost 27,000 (of which 10% contain *form* and/or *flow errors* and cannot be uploaded onto the system – which requires the contacting of the economic operators, clarifications, the re-submission etc.). The Intrastat declarations contain on average 400,000 lines per month. Approximately 10% of the number of lines collected in a month (40,000 lines per month) potentially have *content errors* and consequently require analysis, contacting the companies, clarification, correction, re-submission/re-collection etc.);

- the high workload of the employees, particularly of those working in the department for the validation of the collected Intrastat statistical data, considering that the Intrastat statistical

survey involves the monthly collection of data from approximately 20,000 economic operators. Each person who performs tasks within the department for the validation of the collected Intrastat data has to monitor and ensure data quality for about 2,000 companies. In order for the validation of the collected Intrastat data and the appropriate quality of the published statistical results to be ensured, tasks involving the validation of Intrastat data were also assigned to employees from other departments of the External Trade Statistics Division.

In 2012, the activities carried out as part of the Population and Housing Census faced the following difficulties:

- the assignment of an insufficient number of persons, according to the budget allocated for the PHC, to the uploading and control of PHC data at the level of the County Statistical Divisions. The lower quality of the data recorded on the individual forms led to a higher number of errors and, implicitly, to the need to supplement the resources involved in data codification, validation and entry at county level. The entry and control of the data recorded on the individual forms, which was scheduled to be completed in August 2012, ended in November of the same year;
- the difficult access, after many attempts, to administrative sources, with a view to providing complete census data;
- the postponement of the dissemination of the preliminary results of the PHC from May, when it was initially scheduled, to August 2012 made the mass media have new suspicions about the PHC, particularly as regards the use of the collected data for other purposes than the strictly statistical ones.

The activity of the Legal Service was affected by the considerable number of days employed by other ministries/specialised bodies of local public administration to endorse the draft legislation, which complicated and continues to complicate the endorsement procedure and implicitly the procedure relating to the submission of this draft legislation for adoption.

PRIORITIES OF 2013

The priorities of the National Institute of Statistics for 2013 are focused on three main areas:

1. continuing the activities – within the National Institute of Statistics and at the level of the entire National Statistical System, which includes the producers of official statistics, the National Statistical Council (Council) and the Committee of the National Statistical System (COMSTAT) – meant to consolidate the means for co-ordinating the National Statistical System and implementing the European Statistics Code of Practice at the level of all the producers of official statistics, for strengthening the professional independence and credibility of Romanian official statistics;
2. permanent compliance with the standards and best practices of European statistics in the statistical production areas;
3. introducing new data collection and processing tools to the statistical system, which will contribute to an increase in the quality of statistical data and to a lower response burden on data providers, as well as to an improvement of the technological infrastructure.

- ❖ to promote the Declaration on confidence in statistics at the level of the Romanian Government;
- ❖ to expand the role and tasks of the Council and COMSTAT in defining the guidelines on the development of the National Statistical System and assessing the degree of implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice in Romanian official statistics;
- ❖ to strengthen COMSTAT's role in drawing up and approving the statistical methodologies and increase the efficiency of the institutional co-ordination structures in the mutual exchange of data and the approval of the draft legislation;
- ❖ to draw up the new Strategy on the Development of the National Statistical System for the 2014-2020 period and the Multi-Annual Statistical Programme;
- ❖ to launch the draft Annual National Statistical Programme for 2014 in the first half of 2013, to be approved by the Romanian Government in the first quarter of 2014 at the latest.

10.1. Statistical governance

The increase in the credibility of official statistics is directly influenced by how the European Statistics Code of Practice is applied at the level of all the actors of the National Statistical System. In this respect, it is necessary to strengthen the role and visibility of the National Statistical Council as guarantor of the professional independence, transparency and impartiality of official statistics, on the one hand, and to increase the efficiency of the Committee of the National Statistical System, on the other hand.

In order to improve statistical governance, in 2013 the National Institute of Statistics aims:

- ❖ to consolidate the legal framework by strengthening the INS's role of co-ordinating the National Statistical System;

10.2. Statistical production

The priorities in the field of statistical production cover the entire range of official statistics and are determined by the stage reached in the activities performed in 2012, by the projects based on Community grants and by the projects carried out under post-accession financing programmes. The priorities for the various statistical areas are presented below.

National accounts and government finance statistics

- producing the annual and regional national accounts for 2011;
- producing the quarterly accounts for 2013;

- revising the annual, quarterly and regional accounts according to CANE Rev. 2 for the years 1995-2007;
- revising the annual, quarterly and regional accounts in order to ensure consistency with the general government accounts for the years 1995-2007;
- applying the 50% test for 2012 to the public companies monitored under the Excessive Deficit Procedure;
- expanding the calculation of the general government expenditure to COFOG level 2 functions;
- completing the project on the estimation of illegal activities (drug consumption and trafficking, prostitution, alcohol and tobacco smuggling);
- starting the activities related to the improvement of the estimates on insurance and pension funds;
- building the inventory of sources and methods for the annual accounts of institutional sectors;
- starting the activities related to the implementation of the new Regulation on the European System of National and Regional Accounts in the EU – the 2010 version (ESA 2010);
- continuing the improvement of the comprehensiveness of the GNI, in accordance with the lines of actions agreed on with EUROSTAT;
- estimating the fixed capital consumption by sector of activity;
- improving the estimates on regional accounts;
- the EUROSTAT experts' 2013 dialogue visit regarding the Excessive Deficit Procedure

Short-term statistics

- analysing and disseminating the data series on short-term indicators, according to the new base year 2010;
- conducting the integrated Business Environment Survey on Research & Development and Innovation and implementing the CIS 2012 questionnaire in this statistical survey;
- calculating and publishing the tourism satellite account which measures the weight of tourism in the GDP by means of comparison;
- expanding the e-SOP project in order for the annual statistical data on energy to be collected online.

Agricultural statistics

- developing the organisational and methodological framework necessary for conducting the Farm Structure Survey 2013;
- drawing up the quality report on "Pesticides placed on the market";
- drawing up the quality report on "The productive potential of fruit tree plantations and vineyards intended for the production of table grapes";



- drawing up the methodology on “The use of pesticides in agriculture”;
- conducting the statistical surveys “The economic activity of the trading companies that made agricultural products in 2012” (AGR.1A) and “The economic activity of the units that provided services for agriculture in 2012 – mechanisation, chemification, plant protection (AGR.1B) – with data extracted through the web portal”;
- reporting the data on the environmental economic accounts to Eurostat, in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 691/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council;
- completing the EUROSTAT grant-based project “Environmental accounts”;
- starting the EUROSTAT grant-based project “The improvement of water statistics” in co-operation with the “Romanian Waters” National Administration;



- drawing up the first quality reports and statistical data on the economy-environment material flows account, the air emissions account and the environmental taxes account and sending them to EUROSTAT, in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 691/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council;

- using the web portal for the on-line processing of statistical data at the level of local public administration in the statistical survey “Environmental protection expenditure”.

Statistics on the international trade in goods

- assessing the financial and material needs related to the implementation of SIMSTAT – the expenses entailed by the changes in the IT data collection system and in the IT infrastructure of the INS are very high and cannot be assessed until the technical and methodological requirements generated by the shift to SIMSTAT for all EU Member States are clarified;
- building and ensuring the running of the system of exchange of micro-data between Romania and the other EU Member States;
- re-designing the national IT systems used for the collection, validation and processing of the data on the international trade in goods in the framework of implementing SIMSTAT;
- starting the updating of the national legal framework and of the methodologies for the production of statistics on the international trade in goods, according to the content and deadlines that will be set out in the Community legislation on SIMSTAT;
- continuing the reconciliation of Romania’s statistical data on intra-Community trade with the corresponding data of the main trading partners;
- continuing the improvement of the use of administrative data sources for the statistics on the international trade in goods;
- the INS experts’ participation in all meetings (working groups, workshops, seminars etc.) on business statistics, where issues related to the SIMSTAT project are debated.

Social statistics

- The 2011 Population and Housing Census;
 - meeting the deadlines set out in the 2011 PHC timetable, particularly as regards the processing of the data and the production of the final results of the census;
 - ensuring the completeness of the 2011 PHC database;
 - ensuring the quality of the resulting indicators;
 - disseminating the final results;
 - defining the hyper-cubes and the necessary programme specifications for building them;
 - drawing up the 2011 PHC Quality Report etc.



- Other works in the field of social statistics:
 - completing the econometric model for the estimation of external migration, starting from the results of the 2011 PHC, which will provide the basis for the recalculation of the data series on external migration, the stable population and the relative demographic indicators (rates) for the 2002-2011 period;
 - exploiting the administrative sources with a view to building algorithms that allow to turn this

information into statistically usable data, so as to reduce the response burden on enterprises in sample surveys;

- developing methods for the imputation of the data obtained in sample surveys by using information from administrative sources;
- assessing the (financial, human and organisational) needs for the shift from PAPI to CAPI in the collection of data through household sample surveys;
- building the new EMZOT master sample:
 - preparing and processing the file containing the final census data with a view to extracting the Primary Units (PUs);
 - extracting, testing and validating the PUs that will be included in the new sampling frame;
 - creating the new EMZOT sampling frame by uploading all the addresses of the dwellings that belong to the selected Primary Units;
 - designing the system for the management of the new sampling frame;
 - preparing the documentation for the building of the new EMZOT.

- expanding the results of the Time Use Survey;
- implementing the new International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011);
- identifying solutions for the collection and production of statistics on youth mobility in education and credit mobility in tertiary education;
- designing the statistical tools for the second wave of the Health Survey through the implementation of the revised European methodology for the European Health Interview Survey (EHIS);

- implementing the new methodology for the System of Health Accounts (SHA 2011).

Databases

- continuing to upload information into TEMPO and the metadatabase and improve the existing one;
- gradually harmonising the national reference metadata (to the ESMS standard) in accordance with the flow of activities and their periodicity, by using the NRME application.

10.3. Technological improvement

A first set of technological improvement priorities is related to the improvement of the IT infrastructure:

- implementing the "Project on the rehabilitation of the weak current network for IT and telecommunications equipment" as soon as possible;
- replacing the domain servers and the e-mail servers;
- identifying financial resources for the provision of technical support and the maintenance of the licences which allow the national statistical IT system to operate: the global antivirus solution, Oracle, SAS, Kofax, the IT infrastructure management and monitoring solution etc.;
- identifying solutions for providing the IT Application Design and Maintenance Division with specialised IT staff.

The lack of necessary financial and human resources for addressing the 2013 priorities may lead to these priorities turning into very high risks for the entire National Statistical System, and the highest risk is the impossibility to maintain the national statistical IT system in operation.

Another set of priorities is related to the introduction of new data collection processes and tools to statistical production, which are adapted to the need to modernise the National Statistical System and to the new technological progress:

- building a legal framework that is adapted to the need to expand the use of administrative sources for statistical purposes, in order to diminish the burden on respondents and the redundancies and to increase the overall quality of official statistics;
- improving the web portal used to collect statistical data from economic operators (the e-SOP portal) with a view to increasing its coverage and functionality;
- implementing within the INS the project financed from European funds "Improving the capacity of public administration to measure administrative performance – databases, methodologies, tools for the modernisation and standardisation of statistical reporting techniques, and tools for characterising the performance of public administration" Code SMIS 26932.

CONCLUSIONS

The activity report of the National Institute of Statistics tried to cover the entire range of activities carried out in 2012.

In the context of the current evolution of Romanian society, which is integrated in the far-reaching processes of political and institutional transformation of the European structures, and in the difficult economic climate at global level, official statistics has become necessary and omnipresent in the knowledge-based modern society, providing the basis for the development of public policies and the policies of economic operators, social partners, non-governmental organisations, mass media representatives, the policies of all members of society in general.

The quasi-general use of official statistics implies not only the obligation of the National Institute of Statistics to produce and disseminate quality statistical data, but also the need for these data to be understood and used in accordance with their content and significance. This explains the need to develop statistical culture at the level of the entire population of users, on the one hand, and to strengthen the credibility of the institution through an accurate perception of its activity by the public, on the other hand.

Summarising the entire statistical activity in this report brings to the forefront a series of measures that need to be taken in order to improve the overall activity of the National Statistical System:

- strengthening the statistical data providers and users confidence in statistics through transparent communication of the statistical results, including in terms of the procedures and methods used, and increasing the accessibility of the statistics produced;
- gathering the statistical services and activities of the public institutions under one coherent and co-ordinated framework by consolidating the National Statistical System and the co-ordinating role of the INS, aiming at the implementation of the Code of Practice in the entire National Statistical System;
- fully integrating Romanian statistics into the European Statistical System, at institutional and operational level;
- expanding the coverage of the programmes of statistical surveys and adapting the programmes of surveys to the current and future requirements of the statistical data users by increasing the degree of use of administrative data sources in the statistical process;
- increasing quality in statistics to a level that is comparable to the other European countries and monitoring quality management in statistics at all operational and institutional levels;
- strengthening the technological infrastructure, organising and developing human resources to address the challenges generated by the evolution of information and communications technologies;
- improving the institutional framework and the management in the National Institute of Statistics in order to attract and maintain qualified and motivated staff to/in the system, staff who are capable of meeting the requirements involved in the continuous development of the National Statistical System in a creative and innovative manner, and who have adapted themselves to economic and social changes.

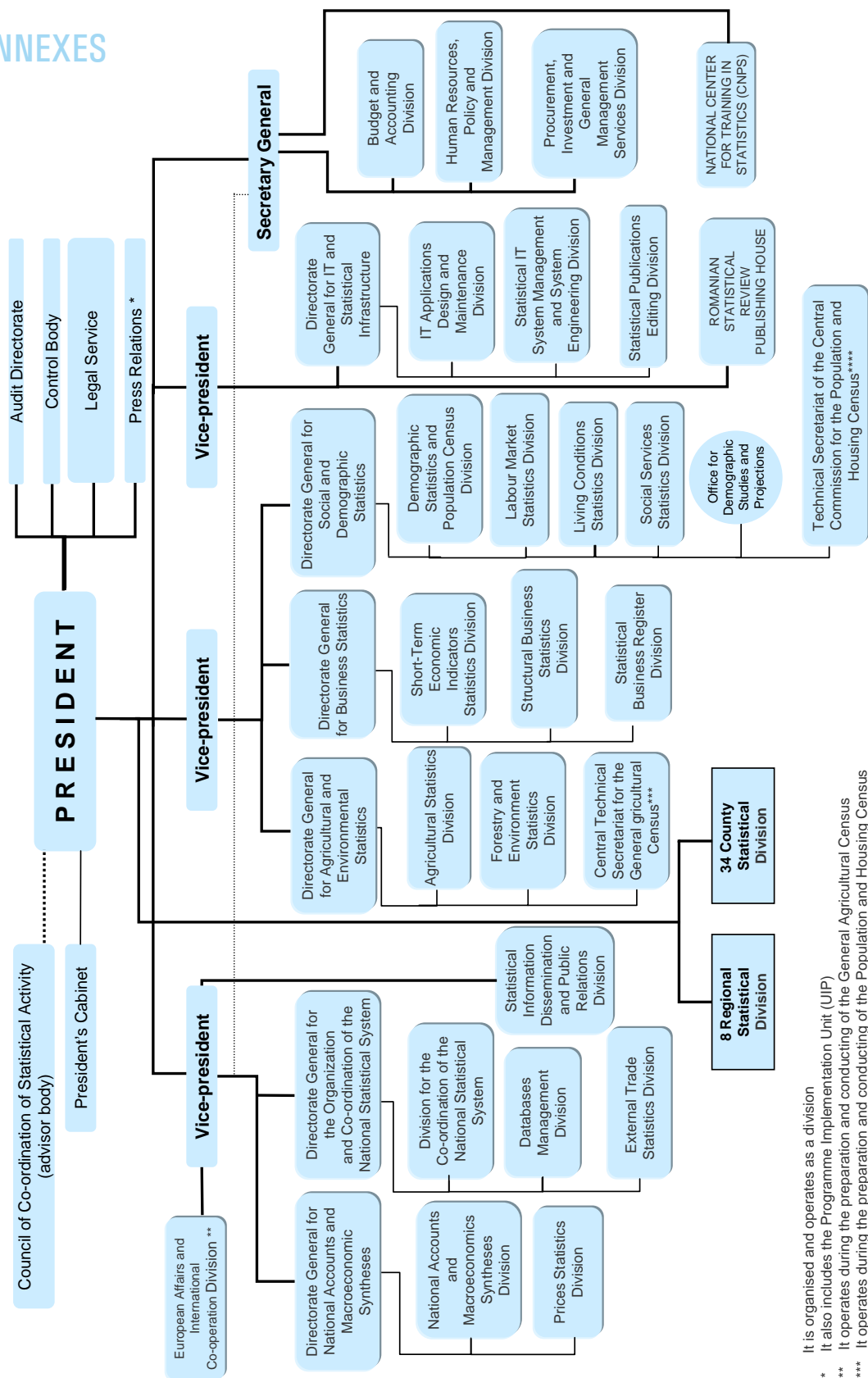
LIST OF ACRONYMS

Cur. no.	Acronyms	Explanations
1	ADR	Regional Development Agency
2	ADSE	Assistance for the Dissemination of European Statistics
3	AEDA	Adult Education Survey
4	ANFP	National Agency of Civil Servants
5	ASE	Academy of Economic Studies
6	ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
7	BDJ	County Database
8	BDL	Database at administrative-territorial unit level
9	BNR	National Bank of Romania
10	CANE	Classification of Activities in the National Economy
11	CDI	Research & Development and Innovation
12	CDI-BES	Questionnaire for the Business Environment Survey on Research & Development and Innovation
13	CIF	Cost, Insurance, Freight (price at the Romanian frontier)
14	CN	Combined Nomenclature
15	CNPP	National House of Public Pensions
16	CNPS	National Centre for Training in Statistics
17	COFOG	Classification of the Functions of Government
18	COREPER	Committee of Permanent Representatives in the European Union
19	CPI	Consumer Price Indices
20	CPSA	Classification of Products and Services by Activity
21	DJS	County Statistical Divisions
22	DRS	Regional Statistical Divisions
23	EDP	Excessive Deficit Procedure
24	ESMS	Euro-SDMX Metadata Structure
25	ESTP	European Statistical Training Programme
26	EU-SILC	EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions
27	FOB	Free on Board (price at the Romanian frontier)
28	FRIBS	Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics
29	GNI	Gross National Income
30	IMF	International Monetary Fund
31	LMP	Labour Market Policy

Cur. no.	Acronyms	Explanations
32	MAE	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
33	MCS	Management Control System
34	MDRT	Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism
35	MFP	Ministry of Public Finance
36	NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics
37	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
38	PHC	Population and Housing Census
39	PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
40	PRODROM	National Nomenclature of Industrial Products and Services
41	PU	Primary Units
42	SDDS	Special Data Dissemination Standard
43	SIMSTAT	Single Market Statistics
44	SIRUES	Republican Statistical Code of Socio-Economic Units
45	STU	Statistical Territorial Units
46	TEMPO	Time Series Database
47	TUS	Time Use Survey
48	UCAAPI	Central Unit for the Harmonisation of the Public Internal Audit
49	UCASMFC	Central Unit for the Harmonisation of Financial and Accounting Management Systems
50	UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
51	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
52	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Organizational Chart of the NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS

ANNEXES



* It is organised and operates as a division

** It also includes the Programme Implementation Unit (UIP)

*** It operates during the preparation and conducting of the General Agricultural Census

**** It operates during the preparation and conducting of the Population and Housing Census

BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION FOR THE YEAR 2012 AS COMPARED TO THE YEAR 2011

Annex 2
- thousand lei -

	YEAR 2011				YEAR 2012			
	Annual estimates for 2011		Payments made 31.12.2011	% Payments as compared to final estimates	Annual estimates for 2012		Payments made 31.12.2012	% Payments as compared to final estimates
	Initial	Final			Initial	Final		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE financed from the state budget	136000	125411	120648	96,20	98452	114399	111544	97,50
- STAFF EXPENDITURE	65693	59765	58421	97,75	64960	70677	70223	99,36
- GOODS AND SERVICES	44510	46577	44309	95,13	21432	36220	34993	96,61
- TRANSFERS	164	208	162	77,88	46	50	1	2,00
- PROJECTS FINANCED FROM NON-REIMBURSABLE EXTERNAL FUNDS	17400	9912	8952	90,31	5960	3447	2324	67,42
- CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	8233	8949	8804	98,38	6054	4005	4003	99,95
TOTAL EXPENDITURE financed from non-reimbursable external funds	11740	11740	10994	93,65	3899	3899	3492	89,56
- PHARE programmes and other programmes financed from non-reimbursable funds	2505	2505	2483	99,12	-	-	-	-
- Programmes financed from the Transition Facility	360	360	344	95,56	-	-	-	-
- Projects financed from non-reimbursable external funds (other post-accession facilities and tools)	8875	8875	8167	92,02	3899	3899	3492	89,56
TOTAL EXPENDITURE financed from own revenues	2742	2742	667	24,33	1700	1672	718	42,94
- STAFF EXPENDITURE	892	892	142	15,92	317	305	149	48,85
- GOODS AND SERVICES	1800	1800	512	28,44	1313	1297	569	43,87
- CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	50	50	13	26,00	70	70	-	-