

**THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS**



# **ACTIVITY REPORT**

## **2007**

**BUCHAREST - 2008 -**

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# FOREWORD



The 2007 Activity Report of the National Institute of Statistics unquestionably records the new achievements which NIS and its structures made on the multiple plans dedicated to meeting the requirements of statistical data users to a higher extent.

After the historical moment of Romania's accession to the European Union, the objectives of Romanian statistics not only became more complex, but also focused especially on the articulation and alignment of our statistical methodologies and of the entire statistical activity to the rigors and requirements of the European Statistical System.

As compared to the previous year and even to preceding years, Romanian statistics had to face new challenges, as regards both the alignment of the legal and institutional framework of our statistics to international rules and standards and the increase in the professionalism of the statistical staff, which should trigger higher quality in statistics, increased punctuality and relevance, which have become compulsory conditions for the continuity of the statistics' modernization process.

The report shows, *inter alia*, the intense concerns related to the creation and drafting of a new law on statistics which should regulate the role of our statistics in society, the mission of Romanian statistics, *i.e.* that of giving the best possible answers to current and future challenges relating to the changes that will take place in society, in the production structures at national and territorial level. Such answers are given by the quantitative expression which is used by statistics and which ensures by itself the certainty of the accuracy and validity of the evaluation of the economic and social status and development of Romania.

*The Strategy of Development of the National Statistical System during the period 2008 to 2013 and the Multi-annual Statistical Programme for years 2008 to 2010* were drafted concurrently with the statistics' law, and seemed to originate from it.

Works were initiated at national scale, such as those related to the preparation of the Population and Dwellings' Census in 2011 and the Agricultural Census in 2010. Other extremely important works, such as the *Statistical Survey in Agriculture*, a large number of publications in the international trade in goods, macroeconomic statistics, labor market and living conditions statistics, social statistics and others were completed.

The inflation and the purchasing power that generate both a major interest, but also intense controversy within the public at large, the mass-media, the business environment, the financial and banking environment and other such entities, was, this year as well, our constant concern for ensuring the stability and reliability of the price index, by providing methodological and computation compatibility with similar indicators in the other European Union member states. As a matter of fact, the implementation of the *European Statistics Code of Practice*, of the criteria and quality standards in Romanian statistics, was and still is a constant interest of our entire activity.

I would like to add, without being accused of lack of modesty, that we succeeded, more than ever, and, of course, as a succession of the continuity principle, in achieving higher transparency and visibility in the entire statistical activity.

This fact which you will find in the pages of this report consists in improvements brought to our data base, access facilities, multiplication and diversification of press releases and electronic publications, and the strict observance of the calendar of our statistical publications.

As underlined before, being concerned about the permanent contact with our data users, about the presence of Romanian statistics within the information circuit, we created a *modus vivendi* by the frequency of our meetings through press conferences, seminars, and other such events involving the participation of those who must know and use, according to their needs, our product, *i.e.* *statistical data*.

Professor PhD Vergil Voineagu,  
President of NIS

A handwritten signature in blue ink, belonging to Professor PhD Vergil Voineagu. The signature is stylized and fluid, written over the printed name and title.



In 2007, a series of projects that are extremely important for the future of Romanian statistics were initiated and a large amount of work was carried out in connection with them. Such works are the Draft Law on the organization and operation of official statistics in Romania, the Strategy of Development of the National Statistical System during the period 2008 and 2013, the first Multi-annual National Statistical Programme 2008-2010 and, last but not least, the two regulations regarding the Population and Dwellings' Census and the General Agriculture Census.

**The drafting of the Statistics Draft Law** required several stages, a high documentation process and intense consultation with various stakeholders involved in the statistical process, several iterations of the working versions in order to ensure a coherent and clear content of official statistics functions in Romania and the harmonization of national law with the European legislation in the field and the integration of the National Statistical System within the European Statistical System.

It has to be noted that this draft law was made available to the public on the institution's website, for which reason the National Institute of Statistics could benefit from important improvement contributions. The new draft law included several basic issues, of which:

1. *the de facto set-up of the National Statistical System, with concrete functions and operational capabilities.* In such context, the provision regarding the set-up/maintenance, with an increased role, of the statistical units having an internal operative function and a function of supply of the National Statistical System, on the one hand, and the coordination by the National Institute of Statistics, of the entire national statistical system. on the other hand, has a special importance;
2. *drafting the National Statistical System Strategy and the multi-annual national statistical programmes;*
3. *set-up of COMSTAT, a body having a consultative role and consisting of official statistics producers, coordinated by NIS, and redefinition of the role and structure of the current Council of Coordination of Statistical Activity;*
4. *reconsidering and adjusting the principles lying at the basis of the performance of official statistics activity in Romania by integrating, harmonizing and rendering it compatible with the principles of the European Statistical System, more precisely, with the provisions of the European Practice Code in the statistical field and with the criteria attached to statistical quality sizes;*
5. *clarifying, in a more coherent manner, the relation between the official statistics producer and the supplier and the statistical data user.* The increase in their role in drafting the annual national statistical programme and in the operation of the entire national statistical system;
6. *imposing more severe the penalties for the deeds qualified as minor offences.*

### **The Strategy of the National Statistical System Development during the period 2008 to 2013**

consists in a set of objectives and activities aimed at a more efficient involvement of statistics, within a coherent and integrating concept, in the economic and social national development programmes and policies, in the full integration of Romanian Statistics into the European Statistical System.

The main strategic objectives are aimed at:

- Increasing and consolidating the suppliers' and statistical data users' trust in statistics;
- Putting together, within a coherent and coordinated framework, of the statistical services and activities within the public institutions' structure, by setting-up, rendering operational and consolidating the National Statistical System;
- Full integration of Romanian statistics into the European Statistical System;
- Widening the scope of the statistical survey programmes and adjusting the research programmes to current and future needs of statistical data users;
- Increasing the quality of statistics, at a level comparable with the other European countries, introducing and monitoring the quality management in statistics;
- Improving the management within the National Institute of Statistics, reinforcing the technological infrastructure, organizing and developing human resources.

The design and big vision of the strategy have as basic premises the increase in the capacity of the national statistical system, in all its components, the measurement of the economic and social status, and the evolution of the Romanian society.

The first multi-annual national statistical programme was drafted in 2007 for the period covered by the *National Statistical System Development Strategy 2008-2013* in order to define the objectives and measures required to fulfil *the Strategy*.

**The National Multi-annual Statistical Programme 2008-2010** contains measures, actions, deadlines, resources and responsibilities assumed within the National Statistical System and required to fulfil strategic objectives, develop statistical infrastructure and the entire statistical process, minimize the response task of data suppliers and increase the degree of meeting the user's requirements, initiated or implemented during the period covered by the programme.

The multi-annual national statistical programme 2008-2010 is a tool meant to program, monitor and evaluate, from an annual and multi-annual perspective, the objectives and actions provided within the National Statistical System Development Strategy 2008-2013.

In order to know, as accurately as possible, the population's number and territorial distribution, its demographic, social-cultural and economic structures, the dwellings' fund and the dwelling conditions of the population, Government Ordinance no. 36/2007 regarding the **Population and Dwellings' Census in Romania in 2011**, as subsequently approved, as amended, by Law no. 5/2008, was adopted last year. As regards the **Agricultural General Census**, foreseen for 2010, its regulation forms the object of a draft law appearing as a legislative priority of the Government for the first ordinary session of year 2008.

The two actions comply with international programmes in terms of organization, period, and methodological content, but also have new characteristics of which only two must be underlined at this moment, one for each census, both of them being highly important and new.

As regards the Population and Dwellings' Census, increased importance will be attached to rendering the real dimensions of the international migration process, and as regards the General Agricultural Census, increased importance will be attached to rural development issues.

As of the beginning of 2007, the National Institute of Statistics assumed a high responsibility, unprecedented in its older or newer history, such as: collecting, processing and disseminating statistical data on Romania's foreign trade, with its two major components: **Intrastat**, representing the trade between Romania and the other member states of the European Union and **Extrastat**, representing the exchange of goods between Romania and the states outside the European Union.

This seemed to be one of the biggest challenges of statistics, because as compared to the traditional characteristics attached to it, our official statistics extended its area to the direct collection, processing and dissemination of data, with no IT support or with no other institution acting as an intermediary or interface for the trade exchanges between Romanian and the member states of the European Union.

Statistics has become a necessity and is present in the entire knowledge-based modern society, being at the basis of drafting both public policies and policies of economic agents, social partners, non-governmental organizations, mass-media representatives, in general, policies of all society members.

The quasi general use of statistics requires not only the obligation of the National Institute of Statistics to produce and disseminate quality statistical data, but also the need that such data are understood and used according to their content and meaning. Hence, the need to develop statistical culture at the level of the entire population of users, on the one hand, and the need to reinforce the credibility of the institution via a correct perception of its activity at the public level, on the other hand.

The relation with the users of statistical data in 2007 was ensured by NIS via: publications; press releases; publication on NIS website of relevant information, of the statistical surveys' results; redesign of the website and publication of the time series data base-TEMPO-On line and of the data base with consumer price indices; consultancy provided to statistical data users; relevant answers (in writing or on line) to the data users' requests; carrying out actions for promoting statistical products, participation in fairs, exhibitions and scientific seminars.

In the year 2007, 5,868 requests for statistical data were answered, of which 1,578 free of charge and 4,920 against payment. The requests for statistical data addressed by foreign beneficiaries were 714, of which 425 were answered against payment.

Through the e-commerce component available on the website, which enables the access to Tempo-On line data base, 77 on line payments were made via credit cards by Romanian and foreign clients.

The most requested statistical fields were:

1. Consumer Price Indices	46.8%
2. International trade	16.9%
3. Population	8.9%
4. Industry, constructions	8.5%
5. Population income, expenditures and consumption	4.7%
6. Labour force market	3.8%
7. National Accounts	3.7%
8. CANE and CPSA	3.2%



As of 1 January 2007, the first Grant project awarded by Eurostat, for the activity of European statistical information dissemination, was initiated. By such project, NIS provides a new guiding and assistance service for the European statistical data users by the *Assistance Centre for Dissemination of European Statistics in Romania (ADSE) established within the Department of Statistical Information Dissemination and Public Relations.*

The ADSE NIS Romania Centre is a part of the network of ESDS (European Statistical Data Support) centres of the member states, and a team within the dissemination department is available at any time in order to provide support and guide users to find the statistical information they need, the users being guided to the statistical publications and data bases available on the Eurostat website. Also, ADSE team promoted Eurostat products by the printing of folders, the translation into Romanian and the printing of the *Catalogue of Statistical Products and Services, 2007-2008 edition.*



In 2007, several actions aimed at promoting the image of the institute, statistical products and services were carried out through the "Statistical Information Dissemination Activity". Such activities consisted in the:

- ❖ Participation in 11 fairs and exhibitions within ROMEXPO Business Centre;
- ❖ Organization of 3 round tables of general statistical interest in ROMEXPO Business Centre;
- ❖ Organization of an old book exhibition in collaboration with NIS Library;
- ❖ Organization of the event entitled "Open Gates' Day" on the anniversary of 148 years of public statistics in Romania.

## 2.1 Statistical Publications

The publications printed by the National Institute of Statistics in 2007 were improved by a systemic conception based on the desire to provide a quality offer, directly correlated with the evolution of economic and social facts and processes, aligned to the similar works in other countries and to the European statistical standards in this field. The publications system made it possible to capitalize the available statistical data fund and to ensure a wide opening to public opinion, to the requirements of economic agents, of all the beneficiaries of statistical information, in accordance with the restructuring and modernization of statistical activity.

In order to draft consistent publications, harmonized to current requirements, taking into consideration the addressability of publications, new *Desktop publishing and Drafting Rules for Statistical Publications* were drafted in 2007 and are to appear in a new "NIS branded" graphical form in 2008.

The publication plan of NIS for 2007 consisted in the issuance of statistical publications of a wide interest for statistical information users, adjusted to their needs and according to the evolution and restructuring of current economy.

Structured by fields, the results of statistical research during 2007 consisted in the issuance of a large number of statistical publications, as follows:

– summary publications	11
– social statistics	28
– business, dwellings, construction, information society statistics	24
– agriculture, forestry and environment statistics	14
– transports statistics	7
– tourism statistics	7
– trade and services statistics	3





Special attention was paid to the following works: **Romanian Statistical Yearbook, International Trade Yearbook, International Trade Statistical Bulletin, Price Bulletin, Romania in Figures, Romanian Tourism Vademecum, World Economy in Figures (issued every 2 years), The 2006 Activity Report, The Statisticians' Code of Conduct, The Demographic Bulletins for 2007** in two colours for scanning purposes, **Who we are – presentation folder, Working within NIS** (July 2007), **Career Guide, Statistical Publications and Services Catalogue** and several promotional materials (calendars, agendas, folders etc.).

The National Institute of Statistics collaborated with other institutions in order to issue two important summary works which were not provided in the publication plan, i.e.:

- *System of Social Protection Indicators in Romania* (the National Statistical Training Centre, The Academy of Economic Studies and the National Institute of Scientific Research in the Labour and Social Protection field).
- *Find more about Romania–member of the European Union*, edition in the Romanian language (the Romanian Statistics Society).

In 2007, other activities which were not provided in the publication plan were performed, being aimed at:

- Promoting the anniversary of 148 years from the set-up of official statistics (invitations, banners, posters, diplomas, desktop publishing of two tomes of *Romanian Statistics after Accession - Challenges and Perspectives*).

- Digital design (creating, with own resources, a collection of photos).
- Promoting the summit *Joint Eurostat / UNECE Work Session on demographic projections* (10–12 October 2007, Bucharest) and the *Joint Session of ECE-UN, OCDE and Eurostat working group on sustainable development statistics* (7-9 November 2007), by producing banners, leaflets, badges, invitations, programme of events.
- Implementation of the new concept of publications' drafting, by using the facilities provided by Highlight digital printing equipment.

The *Romanian Statistical Yearbook* and the monthly statistical bulletins had the highest number of print-runs. If in 2006 two issues of the *Statistical Yearbook* were drafted, further to huge efforts, this created the basis for the issuance, in mid December 2007, of the 2007 *Statistical Yearbook* edition, containing data on 2006, a performance which is hard to achieve by any national statistical institute.

Also, it is worth noting the "in house" printing of the entire statistical tools that cover the requirements of statistical surveys at national level, including those of Phare projects which used to be outsourced, such as *Questionnaires for Structural Survey in Agriculture* which has 2,000,000 A3 sheets printed on both sides in two colours and the printing of the *Minutes for the European Parliament Elections and the Referendum* of November 2007.



### 2.2 Internet

The need to provide more access ways to statistical information resulted in the development, in 2007, of new solutions intended to provide statistical data users which a faster, cheaper and safer access to a large amount of information in all the social and economic fields, free of charge and also against payment. This was done by the development and publication on the website of two statistical data bases provided in this respect: Tempo-On line, with time series since 1990 to date and consumer price indices with monthly and annual series since 1990 to date.

The access to each data base is possible through the specific query interfaces, designed in a friendly manner, easy to use by any visitor of the website. The access to the database of monthly consumer price indices and to wide interest indicators and to the indicators aggregated at national level and included in Tempo is free of charge. An important component is the electronic commerce component of the website which consists in the facility to access and pay on line the statistical indicators included in the Tempo-On line data base which are broken down by groups and/or subgroups of statistical characteristics. The access to the data base is permitted based on *user name and password*, ensuring the possibility to monitor the flow of visualization and to unload statistical information from the data base.

Today, the statistical publications, methodologies and nomenclatures used in the statistical system are published on the website of the institute and the system of the websites of statistical territorial departments provide the public with the main statistics which illustrate the territorial social and economic status.

The average number of website visitors amounts to approximately 90,000 by month and to approximately 5,100 by day, and the number of sole visitors identified according to the IP address is approximately 38,000 per month.

### 2.3 Relation with the mass-media

By complying with the transparency principle, in 2007, NIS further developed the policy of openness to the mass-media, the main route of dissemination of statistical data and information to users and therefore, of capitalization of the institute's activity at the society level.

In this respect, the department in charge with mass-media relation was developed at the level of one directorate, appropriately staffed in terms of number and professional training, and the "Media Relation" component of the "Consolidation of the Romanian Statistical System" Phare Project was completed.

Throughout the year, 252 press releases were transmitted, in strict observance of the broadcast day and time, and the mass-media had a positive response and observed, in its turn, the embargo-based transmission system. Six press conferences were organized and benefited from a good promotion, including by TV live broadcasting.

At the same time, a meeting between the management of NIS and journalists representing the main media structures was organized in order to improve the relation with the media, and certain suggestions of such journalists were taken over and implemented.

In order to ensure the required rigor, formalized procedures regarding the *relation with the media, the drafting and transmission of press releases, the organization of press conferences, the response in the case of the right of reply* were drafted and approved.

Besides NIS, 19 press agencies were accredited, of which 12 are Romanian and 7 are foreign, and 10 radio channels, 13 TV channels and 160 journalists at central level. At the level of territorial departments, the number of accreditations exceeded one hundred media structures (newspapers, radio and TV channels) with over 600 journalists and the practice of organizing quarterly press conferences at local level as well was also implemented.

The data and information transmitted by NIS were taken over and commented in the mass-media accurately, which generated only three situations when the right of reply had to be used in order to ensure an accurate interpretation of such data.

The fulfilment of the official statistics mission, of its strategic objectives, in an information environment that is getting more competitive, requires permanent incorporation of scientific and technological progress in all the activity areas of official statistics.

The research and innovation in official statistics contributes to the increase in the quality of products and statistical services, by improving data collection, processing and dissemination methods and optimizing operational processes, by the integration of the latest IT and communication technologies, on the one hand, and of the required human resources, on the other hand.

The National Institute of Statistics, especially via the external financing programmes, gradually introduced new solutions for centralized data collection and management, in order to reduce collection costs and the time allocated to data processing.

The number of statistical surveys for which data inputting is carried out by scanning or Web solutions was extended.

Since April 2007, the new version of the website of the National Institute of Statistics, whereby users have direct access to the data base of statistical indicators (TEMPO) has become operational.

Data seasonal adjustment models were introduced in the monthly statistical surveys, according to the methodologies recommended by Eurostat, an example in this respect being the implementation of adjustment methods and the construction of seasonally adjusted data series also according to the number of working days (WDA) for:

- ❖ The standard version of indices, for the entire series from 1996 to date;
- ❖ The new version of indices (excluding bonuses), for the series from 2000 to date.

Internal projects for the implementation of data editing methods were launched, and special emphasis was placed on automated estimation and imputation models.



## 4.1 Evaluation of the National Institute of Statistics - Peer Review

The European Statistics Code of Practice was adopted by the Statistical Programme Committee in February 2005 and was enacted in the Commission Recommendation of 25 May 2005 on the independence, integrity and accountability of the national and Community statistical authorities. The Code of Practice is a common basic set of evaluation in the quality field setting out the standards regarding the institutional environment, processes and statistical results for the entire European Statistical System and for Eurostat.

In 2006, the working methodology regarding the implementation of the Code of Practice which consisted in the following important steps:

- Filling in a self-assessment questionnaire regarding the Code of Practice;
- Conducting a statistical data users' satisfaction survey;
- Conducting a Peer Review within statistical institutes.

Based on the decision of the Statistical Programme Committee, the evaluation was made by establishing the manner in which the principles of the Code are implemented both within the statistical offices of the member states, and within Eurostat. For this purpose, a self-evaluation questionnaire was made; the questionnaire was filled in by all the national statistical offices and sent to Eurostat. Based on such questionnaire and on other documents as well, the national institutes of statistics were evaluated in terms of the implementation of the Code of Practice, by the commissions made of independent experts of the European Union member states.

The National Institute of Statistics filled in the self-assessment questionnaire and sent it to Eurostat in June 2006, and the statistical data users' satisfaction survey was carried out in 2007.

In order to prepare the evaluation of the statistical activity, NIS provided to the expert team a series of materials regarding the institutional framework, statistical processes and statistical production.

During the period comprised between 29 and 31 October 2007, the National Institute of Statistics was submitted to such detailed evaluation by a team of international experts consisting of: the director of the Statistical Directorate of the EC/UN Secretariat, Mr. Heinrich Brügger, the representative of Eurostat, Mr. Michail Skaliotis and the representative of the Italian Institute of Statistics, Ms. Claudia Cingolani, advisor of the president of ISTAT.

The team had meetings with the management staff of the institute, with certain members of the College of the Institute, with specialists who had attended a training course in the statistical activity in various sectors, with young statisticians, representatives of statistical regional departments, national data producers of various ministries, statistical data users in profile institutions, ministries and other types of profile institutes, representatives of the university academic environment, members of CCAS, representatives of production units, in their capacity as respondents to statistical surveys, representatives of the mass-media and many others. In accordance with the decision of the Statistical Programme Committee, the evaluation in this stage was mainly focused on principles 1 to 6 and 15 of the Code of Practice, *i.e.*:

1. Professional independence
2. Mandate for data collection
3. Adequacy of resources
4. Commitment to quality
5. Confidentiality in statistics
6. Impartiality and objectivity
15. Accessibility and clarity

The report on the Peer Review activity was drafted by the team of foreign experts and disseminated both on the NIS website and on the Eurostat website.

The main results of the evaluation were:



### Positive issues:

- ❖ The Institute of Statistics has gained, especially over the last years, a high degree of confidence among statistical data suppliers and users, as a consequence of the fact that it observed, with conviction, consistency and professionalism, the impartiality principle, *i.e.* the non-discriminatory treatment of all data users, irrespective of their position in society. Arguments were listed, including in the general management field, and with respect to the relations with other stakeholders involved in the statistical process.
- ❖ The confidence in official statistics, in this case in the National Institute of Statistics, of respondents and data suppliers which showed during discussions that they are aware of the fact that based on the data supplied by them, relevant and quality statistics is obtained, which is returned to them in aggregated form and which they use in their current activity. They also emphasized the observance of data confidentiality.
- ❖ The statistical staff is motivated, competent and prompt in the activities it carries out, it consists of good professionals, capable to further ensure an efficient statistical activity serving the society.
- ❖ The National Institute of Statistics has a good reputation and a high prestige as compared to the other official statistics data producers. The standards and rules used by NIS are also applied in the statistical activity of other data producers.

- Very good relation with the academic world, understanding the role of each party in promoting statistics and the mutual availability for joined efforts aimed to a modern statistics, in line with the requirements of society.
- The manner in which press releases are drafted, the rigorousness of their content, the dissemination methods and last but not least, the use of embargo, a pragmatic and efficient solution that ensures the simultaneity of data availability and whose model is actually in place only in the statistics of the United States of America.
- The solutions adopted by NIS in connection with statistical confidentiality within the institute, aimed at the signature, by all employees, of the confidentiality statement and at the adoption of the statistician's rules of conduct, including the method of monitoring and settlement, by administrative investigations, of any potential leakage of statistical information before its validation and approval.

The conclusions of the evaluation activity were discussed within the final meeting when the expert team and the NIS management filled in and detailed the list of improvement measures to be taken by NIS in order to totally implement the Code of Practice in statistical activity. In short, such improvement measures are aimed at the following issues:

### Excellence activities:

The team appreciated certain activities and actions of NIS and believed that they may be promoted as an example in order to be taken over and implemented, in an optional manner, by other statistical offices in the member states:

- Set-up of the National Training Centre in Statistics. The role of such centre in the permanent training of statisticians, in the training of young specialists and the facilities it provides in order to perform purely statistical or research activities was appreciated as unique or, in any case, a tool that is seldom used by other statistical offices in the member states.

- ❖ Legal framework - *i.e.* the adoption of the new statistics law, the development strategy of NIS and the multi-annual programme;
- ❖ Statistical processes – optimization of statistical surveys by reducing the loading degree of respondents, extending the electronic data collection, improving the data processing/validation methods, extending the data bases and the metadata provided to users;
- ❖ Human resources – attracting new qualified staff and rendering the salary earnings of the NIS staff, equal to those of the staff in ministries.

## 4.2 Users' Satisfaction Survey

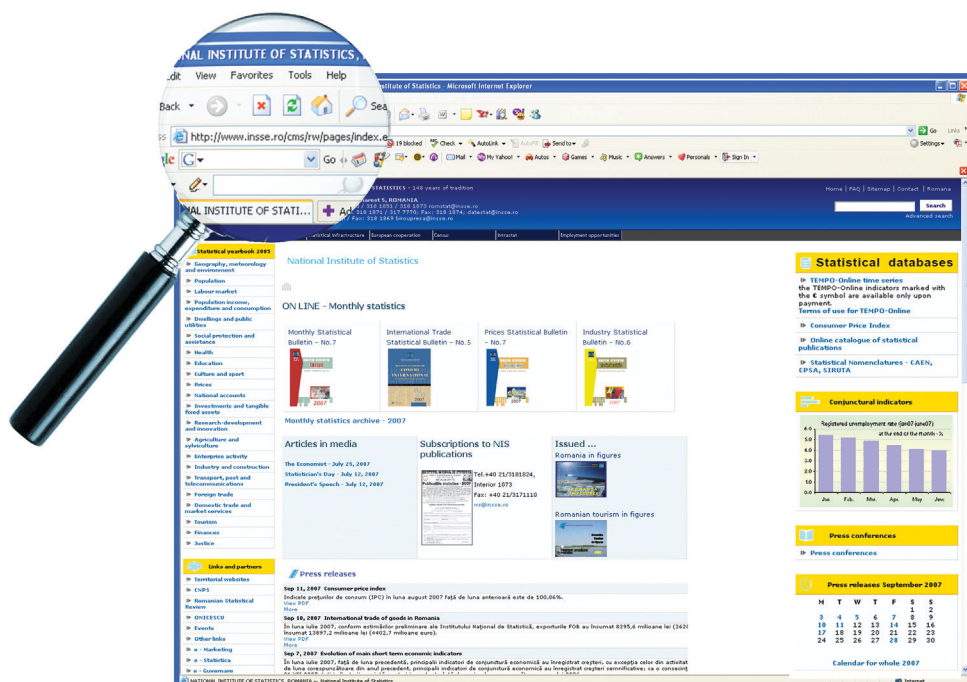
In 2007, NIS conducted a survey regarding the satisfaction degree of statistical data users.

Such survey was aimed at obtaining information regarding the requirements of statistical data users and was intended to improve the statistical system. In order to better know users' opinion, a statistical questionnaire was designed, structured by 3 sections, whereby 3 types of information were collected: general information regarding the use of official statistics in Romania; information regarding the quality of official statistics in Romania and information regarding the statistical data users' profile.

The most relevant aspects of the statistical data users' opinion may be summarized as follows:

- Most respondents show that they use statistical data in order to conduct current analyses for the issuance of short-term decisions, for the analysis of the trend in order to issue long-term decisions and for research activities;
- The most requested statistical fields are: population, labour force and unemployment, population income, expenditures and consumption, consumer prices and tourism;

- Most data are obtained from official publications or from the webpage of NIS, upon request, directly from NIS and from the press releases launched by NIS;
- The vast majority of users who expressed their opinion deem that official statistics is easy to understand;
- The statistical fields most often appreciated as impartial and accurate are: population, labour force and unemployment, population income, expenditures and consumption;
- A rather low number of statistical data users knew that a statistical data dissemination calendar is in place, which shows the need to better promote statistical products and the dissemination calendar;
- Almost half of respondents deem that statistics are disseminated in due time, whereas the remaining respondents answered they did not know whether statistics is disseminated in due time;
- As regards the quality of official statistics in Romania, as compared to statistics in other European states, the vast majority of users believe that this is as good as or even better than such statistics.



According to statistical data users, the National Statistical System or only some statistical fields should be subject to the following improvements:

- ❖ Structuring the NIS website for higher accessibility, so as to facilitate the finding of information;
- ❖ Increasing the promotion of the NIS website and the promotion of various statistical fields;
- ❖ Reducing the dissemination time frames and increasing the breakdown degree;
- ❖ Increasing the number of information at region and county level.

### 4.3 Quality Reports

The National Institute of Statistics assesses the quality of statistics also by drafting quality reports according to the standard requested by the European Community. Such reports are intended to evaluate the quality of the organization and estimations for main variables, in terms of the seven dimensions of the quality concept: relevance, accuracy, timeliness and punctuality, accessibility and clarity, comparability, coherence, completeness. Thus, in 2007, the following quality reports were drafted:

- ☞ Quality report on the labour force household survey;
- ☞ Quality report on labour force cost quarterly indices;
- ☞ Quality report on vocational training survey in enterprises – FORPRO 2005;
- ☞ Quality report for the ad-hoc module attached to the AMIGO survey in the II<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2006, having as topic the “Transition from Work to Retirement”;
- ☞ Quality report on the statistics of the research and development activity;
- ☞ Quality report on structural business statistics;
- ☞ Quality report on Information and Communications Technology Statistics.

### 4.4 Improvement of the quality of statistical processes and results

The permanent concern for the improvement of the quality of processes and results is a key element of the NIS activity. In this respect, in 2007, Eurostat accepted the reference terms drafted by NIS for the “Quality Management and Assessment” Grant. Within this project, NIS intends to develop a standard that shall include the identification, measurement, analysis and evaluation of key process variables for two types of statistical surveys.

The main results of the project will materialize in a document which will include the standards of key process variables identified for two stages of statistical surveys, *i.e.* data collection and processing. This will give to research managers the possibility to assess the strengths and especially the weaknesses of the survey by the two phases and to take measures for the improvement of their quality.

From a general perspective, the statistical production process includes the design, research and methodological development activities, the production of statistical data and the dissemination of statistical products and services.

The production of statistical data and information was, in 2007 as well, the centre of the activity of the National Institute of Statistics and included various production processes which involved the vast majority of human, material and financial available resources.

Statistical production was obviously generated by the request for statistical data. The review of the requests for information resulted from a long and very time consuming process of consultation – between the producers of official statistics and their users, and the result of such consultations was registered in the annual statistical survey program for 2007 (SRP), which provided the legal basis of the requests addressed to data suppliers—enterprises, households and individuals, public or private organizations. Last but not least, the annual statistical survey programme was the support for the allocation of required resources, especially as regards the financing of statistical activities.

During 2007, the activity of the National Institute of Statistics focused on the timely performance, under appropriate quality conditions, of the statistical surveys included in the Statistical Survey Programme.

By its structure, *The Statistical Survey Programme (SSP)* for 2007 emphasized the statistical works, surveys and publications by fields in connection with the economic and social evolution, in the form of technical specifications. The “statistical survey” term, as used in this Programme, means all the operations of collection and observation (through a set of paper of electronic questionnaires), systematization and processing of the information required in order to know and manage social and economic processes. This concept of statistical survey is also completed by other operations required for efficient production of quality statistical data which are also included in the Programme, such as: drafting of summary works by means of statistical data and the results obtained from

statistical surveys or administrative sources; drafting classifications and nomenclatures of general use; development of the Statistical Business Register, used as a framework to the censuses and statistical surveys in the economic statistics field; development of statistical and IT methods and procedures for increase in the quality of statistical production.

The Statistical Survey Programme for 2007 included 95 annual statistical surveys and 59 infra-annual statistical surveys and approximately 3,180,740 units were observed, of which: economic operators, authorities of the public administration and population households. The Statistical Survey Programme also included 41 summary works, 9 surveys and statistical analyses, and 94 statistical publications. During 2007, an important volume of data was provided to international bodies, especially EUROSTAT.

It is worth mentioning that 9 new statistical surveys and 8 methodological and summary works were introduced in the Statistical survey programme of 2007, as compared to that of 2006, whose purpose is to align Romanian statistics to the European Statistical System. One of the most important statistical surveys recently introduced in SSP 2007 include: “Innovation Activity”, conducted on a sample of about 12,000 statistical units; “Statistics of Incomes and Living Conditions” with a sample of 38,000 individual households, the performance, for the first time, of the “Intra-Community Trade in Goods – INTRASTAT”.

Table no. 1

#### Number of statistical works conducted in 2007, by categories

No.Categories of Works	number
<b>Statistical Works – Total</b>	<b>370</b>
1 Annual Statistical Surveys	95
2 Infra-annual Statistical Surveys	59
3 Summary Statistical Works/Surveys	50
4 Statistical publications	94
5 Statistical data works (sent to international organizations)	72

## 5.1 Statistics of International Trade in Goods

For the field of statistics of international trade in goods, 2007 was a very intense year, when all the preparatory efforts and activities of the previous years materialized in the operation of Intrastat statistical system and the capacity of the National Institute of Statistics to ensure the information required to characterize the volume and evolution of the Romanian international trade, after accession to the European Union.

The data collection system regarding the trade exchanges with the EU non-member countries remained the same, and the data source continued to be the export and import customs declarations collected by the National Customs' Authority.

If until 1 January 2007, the data source for the Romanian statistics of international trade in goods was the customs export and import declarations collected and processed by the National Customs Authority, after the accession to the European Union, the disappearance of such comprehensive data source for the intra-community trade required the placing into operation of the Intrastat statistical system, like in the other EU member states.

Intrastat is an official and compulsory data source regarding the deliveries and entries of goods in each EU member state, because the exchanges of goods in the Single Market is free and there is no customs registration at the internal borders of the European Union. In order to monitor intra-community trade, all the member states collect data regarding the trade in goods directly from economic operators, through a monthly statistical survey.

The impact which the introduction of Intrastat system has on international trade statistics of Romania should be seen from the following standpoints:

- The weight of about 70% of intra-community trade in the total foreign trade of Romania. In fact, for 70% of the foreign trade of Romania, NIS provided data sources in 2007, by the implementation and operation of Intrastat statistical system.

- The recommendations included in EU legislation in the field, *i.e.* to organize an almost exhaustive statistical survey of the companies with an intra-community trade activity (which should cover over 97% of the foreign trade with the EU). In fact, after having established the compulsory Intrastat threshold system, according to European regulations, of RON 900,000 for intra-community dispatches and 300,000 for intra-community entries, subject to the reporting obligations within the Intrastat system, in 2007 there were 18,481 economic operators (of which, 924 had Intrastat obligations only for the flow of intra-community dispatches of goods and 13,798 had obligations only for the flow of intra-community entries and 3,759 economic operators had obligations for both flows). It is worth noting that a very large number of economic operators filled in and sent Intrastat declarations on a voluntary basis, without having any obligations established based on thresholds. It is about 4,300 economic operators plus the economic operators which, having Intrastat obligations for one of the flows, filled in and sent the Intrastat declaration for the other flow as well (576 economic operators which made voluntary declarations for the flow of entries and 3,958 economic operators which made voluntary declarations for the flow of dispatches).
- The objective of the National Institute of Statistics to implement an Intrastat system where the statistical Intrastat declarations should be collected exclusively electronically, an objective which was successfully fulfilled, turned Romania into the sole member state of the European Union which achieved such performance (collection of Intrastat data exclusively electronically).





The proper operation of the Intrastat statistical system was mainly based on the following:

- Law no. 422/2006 on the organization and operation of the system for drafting statistics of international trade in goods;
- Performance of National Phare 2004 Project – Building the Intrastat Statistical System which materialized in the development and use of high performance IT tools/applications for:

- ❖ Data collection (on line and off line);
- ❖ Management of Intrastat Register (of intra-community trade operators);
- ❖ Validation and processing of Intrastat, Extrastat and total statistical data;
- ❖ Dedicated website, [www.intrastat.ro](http://www.intrastat.ro) (used both for on line declarations and as a help-desk support for data suppliers);
- ❖ Free of charge supply to all economic operators with Intrastat obligations of the documents and applications required to fill in and send Intrastat declarations to NIS;
- ❖ Help-desk and dedicated training courses for Intrastat data suppliers.

## 5.2 Macroeconomic Statistics

As regards **national accounts**, the backbone of our statistical system, several estimations were carried out in due time and under appropriate conditions, without any negative comments or reserves expressed by specialists, *i.e.* estimations for the Gross Domestic Product for 2006, completion of national accounts for 2005, drafting of provisional versions of quarterly national accounts for the first three quarters of 2007, regional accounts for 2004-2005, estimation of the labour force for 2002-2005, according to the national accounts methodology and estimation of the number of worked hours, in total and by year, by activity branches and types of occupations.

In 2007, the statistics regarding government finances was drafted in collaboration with the National Bank of Romania and the Ministry of Economy and Finance, *i.e.*:

- ☞ Sequence of accounts of the Public administrations for 2006 and the first quarters of 2007;
- ☞ Tables regarding the government debt and deficit for the period comprised between 2003 and 2007 (in collaboration with MPF and NBR), tables which were sent to the European Commission and Eurostat;
- ☞ Review of the data series for years 2003-2006, on an annual and quarterly basis, through the allocation of SIFIM to the Public Administrations' sector.

In addition to the activities provided in the Statistical Survey Plan for 2007, several additional activities were carried out in the national accounts field. Such activities were aimed at:

- ☞ The inventory of data sources and estimation methods for the excessive deficit procedure – inventory requested and sent to Eurostat;
- ☞ Completion and publication on the NIS website of the methodologies regarding national annual accounts and quarterly accounts in Romania;
- ☞ Participation in the Twinning Project between Romania and Greece, regarding the simulation of Romania's budget to the European Union budget by the supply of data regarding the weighted average quota for the exercise carried out within the project, for year 2004 and preparation of data series for 2005;
- ☞ Drafting the *GNI Quality Report for Romania (Quality Report on Gross National Income)*, the first report of this type drafted in its capacity as EU member state. The data sources and the national accounts' computation methodologies were analyzed, and it was established that such are aligned to a high extent to European methodologies;
- ☞ Phare National 2003 Project – Social Accounting Matrix; Phare 2004 Project: Quarterly Accounts in Romania – quarterly input-output tables; Phare National 2005 Project – D component: seasonal adjustment, flash estimations and estimations regarding the quarterly sectors for quarterly accounts.

There are certain weaknesses in this field as well, including:

- The failure to carry out the revision of the data in national accounts for the period 1995 to 1997, according to ESA 95 (the activity required the participation of experienced staff in the drafting of accounts in both systems (SEC 79 and SEC 95), as the staff is extremely low in number and could not be exempted from the fulfilment of the other current assignments);
- Analysis of the quality of statistical and administrative data sources.

The major difficulty as regards the activity in the national accounts field is the lack of staff with high experienced in the field. This is the reason why certain solutions for their training and involvement are required.

## 5.3 Social Statistics

### 5.3.1 Demographic Statistics

In 2007, 1,076 thousand individual registrations on demographic events were processed. The results of the processing were presented in 12 annual summary works regarding demographic phenomena and the population number and structure. As compared to the previous year, the number of processed demographic events did not undergo any important change and the number of summary works was the same.

**The demographic statistical surveys** of an exhaustive type based on the Law on civil status acts and the civil status system and on the conventions concluded with the institutions that manage administrative data sources (The Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform and The Ministry of Justice), provide demographic data at national and territorial level, down to the locality level.

In 2007, the format of demographic statistical bulletins was redesigned for scanning purposes. The content of demographic statistical bulletins for death was improved with new information, according to EUROSTAT recommendations.

In order to improve the quality of statistics regarding the causes of death in 2007, the MMDS software was used as an experiment, being recommended by EUROSTAT for the automatic codification of the main cause of death and comparative analyses with the results of manual codification were conducted.

Further to the accession of Romania to the EU, the experts of EUROSTAT, NIS and central institutions (the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform, the Ministry of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family and the Ministry of Justice) evaluated in 2007 the capacity of the national system to produce data and information, in accordance with EC Regulation/2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection.

In 2007, bilateral actions with European statistics institutions were initiated for the collection of data and information regarding the migration of Romanian citizens to the EU member countries.

Government Ordinance no. 36/2007 regarding the performance of the *Population and Dwellings' Census in Romania in 2011* was drafted and approved, the Central Commission for Population and Dwellings' Census was established, and organizational and methodological works regarding such census were initiated.

The demographical data were transferred to the data bases of NIS (Data base at county level - BDJ, Data base by localities - BDL and Central Data Base with time series - TEMPO) and of Eurostat (DEMO, REGIO and MIGRAT). The data were transmitted to Eurostat by filling in joint questionnaires (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe - UNECE, United Nations Statistics Division-UNSD, International Labour Organization - ILO and the Council of Europe - CE), with data on population, demographic phenomena and international migration.



### 5.3.2 Labour Market Statistics

In 2007, the labour market statistics system was developed further to the implementation of new statistical surveys, the re-design of some of the existing statistical surveys and their adaptation to the most recent European regulations, for the purpose of a better harmonization of the methods and practices for building certain indicators.

In accordance with Eurostat work schedule, the statistical survey regarding **Occupational Health and Safety** was designed and carried out, as an ad-hoc module attached to the **Household Labour Force Survey (AMIGO)** on a sample of approximately 28,080 individual households, having the second quarter of 2007 as a reference period. Such statistical survey provided information on the health problems caused or worsened by the conditions at the place of work, the risk factors occurring during the performance of the economic activity, cases of occupational diseases, accidents at work, number of work incapacity days as a consequence of such accidents, the effects of such events on the performance of the daily activity and in relation to the labour market. The results of the survey (bilingual – Romanian/English publication) will be published at the beginning of 2008, and the evaluation of the methodology used, the organization of the survey and the results obtained will be shown in the Quality Report to be drafted at the beginning of 2008.

In September 2007, the activities for the preparation of the ad-hoc module for 2008 were initiated, being intended to ensure the information required to characterize the situation migrants and their direct descendents on the labour market of.

**The labour force – occupation and unemployment** is assessed by the Household Labour Force Survey (AMIGO), a continuous survey carried out on a sample of approximately 28,080 households by quarter and standardized in accordance with European regulations (Regulation no. 577/98 of the European Parliament and Council). In 2007, activities for aligning the **Household Labour Force Survey (AMIGO)** to the latest EU regulations were carried on and the tools used for data collection were re-designed, ensuring the alignment to the standards provided by European Commission Regulation no. 430/2005 on the organization and performance of a **Labour Force Survey in Households**. According to the working

schedule of the survey, the Quality Report on the organizational, methodological framework and on the estimations obtained for 2006 was completed at the middle of year 2007.

In order to analyse the *long-term* evolution of wages and labour cost, the information included in the **Labour Cost Survey** is used. Such survey is totally aligned to the European rules laid down in Regulation no. 530/1999 of the Council and European Parliament and Regulation no. 1737/2005 of the European Commission, amending Regulation no. 1726/1999 of the European Commission. The results of such survey lie at the basis of the computation of the indicators requested by Gentleman's Agreement regarding the annual data on the number of employees and gross salary earnings for full-time and part-time employees etc. Thus, in 2007, the method of estimation of such indicators by genders and occupation groups was developed and applied. Also in 2007, the computations for 2006 (and re-computation of the data series for previous years), according to the new methodology of OECD/Eurostat, for structural indicators (the fiscal burden over the labour force cost, the unemployment trap, the low salary trap) were also made for the indicators which have the new benchmark – AW as computation basis), such indicators being provided under the Gentleman's Agreement, being specific to the salary statistics field.





In 2007, for the *short-term* evolutions, the building of the data series for quarterly indicators of the labour force cost, was continued, in an unadjusted form, in accordance with the new methods recommended by Eurostat (Laspeyres type indices), by the rules laid down in the Regulation no. 450/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council and in Regulation no. 1216/2003 of the European Commission. The new issue related to this field consisted in the development and implementation of adjustment methods. Besides the series of quarterly indicators of the labour force cost by hour, in gross (unadjusted) form, the series in: a) adjusted form, according to the effect of working days and b) adjusted according to the effect of working days and on a seasonal basis were also computed, removing the effect of variation of the number of working days from one quarter to another and the effect of seasonal variation. The adjustment was made by the regressive method, in accordance with the recommendations laid down in Regulation no. 450/2003 of the European Parliament and the Council concerning the labour cost quarterly index. In August 2007, the Quality Report on the methodology and data series produced for such indicators was completed and disseminated. The development of metadata in SDDS format for quarterly labour force cost indices, including on adjustment methods (seasonal adjustment and adjustment according to the number of working days) and on the effects produced, as well as the transmission to Eurostat of completed series, in adjustment form, and of metadata were carried out at the end of November 2007.

**The short term statistics** for 2007, for the indicators on salary earnings, worked hours, employed persons and the labour cost were produced in accordance with the standards laid down in Regulation no. 1165/1998 of the Council and the European Parliament and in the rules specified in the most recent regulation in the field (Regulation no. 1158/2005 of the Council and the European Parliament). The adjustment method according to the effect of working days was developed and applied in this field as well.

After the experimental performance of the vacancies survey during 2005, such survey started to be implemented within the Annual Statistical Survey Programme on a regular basis (*i.e.* on a quarterly basis, on a sample of 22,000 economic and social units). Therefore, the labour statistics was also carried out taking into consideration the existing demand.

In 2007, the activities of the second round of the **statistical survey on vocational training in enterprises**, *i.e.* the implemented methodological and organizational principles permitting the distinct evaluation of the two main dimensions: initial vocational training and permanent vocational training were carried out. The results of the survey were published in August 2007 (in Romanian and in English). The Quality Report sent to Eurostat at the end of August 2007 was drafted in connection with the organizational and methodological framework and with the results obtained.

In 2007, the activities for the *implementation of the revised methodology* were carried on in order to develop statistics on Labour Market Policies, ensuring the harmonization with the European system in the field (*LMP*), the results (quantitative data on the number of participants for each LMP measure and the related expenditures and appropriate metadata) being sent to Eurostat and published on the website on NIS in the month of December.

The assessment of the labour resources and their distribution by economic and social activities were made by the **Labour Force Balance (LFB)**. The information included in the work is related to the civil labour force: employed civil population and registered unemployment; at the same time, information on inactive population is presented: *i.e.* population attending training courses and other categories of working age population.

In order to meet the internal users' requirements, and to comply with the recommendations of the International Labour Office, the **statistical survey on salaries by occupations** was conducted in October 2007 providing the statistical data required to establish the number of employees and their distribution by groups of salaries, groups of occupations, according to the basic and obtained gross average salary, by sex, economic activities, type of ownership and legal status, according to the normal average duration of the working week and the average number of paid hours per week. The results will become available at the end of April 2008.

The main indicators in the **social protection statistics field** are related to the number of registered retired and unemployed persons. The information was taken from administrative sources, *i.e.* from the registers of the institutions with responsibilities in the field:

- The National House of Pensions and Other Security Rights, the Ministry of National Defence, the Ministry of the Interior and Administrative Reform, The Romanian Intelligence Service, The Ministry of Culture and Cults, The Lawyers' Insurance House – *for the number of retired persons and the monthly pension*;
- The National Employment Agency – *for the number of registered unemployed persons and the unemployment rate*.

The Methodology for data collection and the development of social protection statistics, harmonized with ESSPROS European System - European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics was implemented in 2004. In 2007, the questionnaires with annual data on incomes and social protection expenses continued to be filled in and sent to Eurostat.

### 5.3.3 Living Conditions Statistics

In the field of living conditions statistics, the activities performed in 2007 were focused on the implementation of the methodology of computation of certain comparable indicators in fields of a high interest at European level, the redesign of some of the statistical surveys already in place and their adjustment to the latest European regulations and, last but not least, on the implementation of new statistical surveys.

The main data source for the evaluation of populations' income, consumption and expenditures, for the substantiation of social protection programmes and the analysis of the impact of the application of various programmes in the social field, of the economic effects of transition, in general, on the economic and social situation of population, is the selective statistical survey **Family Budgets' Survey** conducted in 2007 in 3,120 households, on a monthly basis (37,440 surveyed households at the year level), and the results are found in the publications

"Population's Quarterly Income and Consumption", "Coordinates of the Living Level; Population's income and consumption – annually".

The new aspect of this field consists in the fact that Romania participated in 2007, for the first time, in the European round for the transmission of microdata files representing the results of the survey conducted in 2005.

**Survey on the quality of life (EU-SILC)** – this longitudinal statistical survey provided the information required to evaluate the population's living conditions, by emphasizing the interconnection and complementarity of various aspects (health status, education, income, living conditions, occupation, labour conditions, poverty etc.) and was implemented in the Romanian statistical system **for the first time** in 2007, being conducted in 9,360 households.

**As regards the survey on households' access to information and communication technology** – an annual survey harmonized with the European recommendations carried out on a sample of around 10,000 households and providing information regarding the access of households to the modern information and communication technology, use of computers (PC), access to and use of the Internet, Internet commerce, place and frequency of Internet use. In 2007, the files of microdata were sent to Eurostat, being accompanied by a quality report.

**Social inclusion indicators** are the main statistical tool for measuring the sizes of poverty and exclusion at the level of European Union countries, the progress achieved in this field by national programmes for fighting against poverty and social exclusion, and the gaps existing among countries. In 2007, the national set of inclusion indicators was further computed in accordance with Government Decision no. 488/2005 on the approval of the national system of social inclusion indicators. The methodological work "System of Social Inclusion Indicators" including definitions and computation methods for all the annually computed indicators was drawn up in accordance with Government Decision no. 488/2005.

The increase in the statistical data offer in the field of population living conditions, by the introduction of new indicators extremely important for internal and international users, is significant. However, it has to be noted that no representative estimations are issued in this field by small units (counties), although the request for such information is increasing.

### **Sampling frame in the social field (EMZOT)**

The activities carried out in 2007 were focused on the management of the sampling frame in the social field, extraction of samples for household surveys, computation of extension coefficients and computation of indicators for the issuance of quality reports.

In 2007, the computation of sampling errors (standard deviation, variance, variation coefficient), the non-response rate by total and by causes and the errors caused by the sampling frame were computed for the evaluation of the quality of the data in the **Household Labour Force Survey, Complementary Survey on the reconciliation between professional life and family life** and for the **Survey on households' access to information and communications technology**.

## **5.3.4 Social Services Statistics**

The activities carried out in 2007 in the social statistics field were aimed at: the production, analysis and dissemination, under conditions of quality, relevance and operability, of statistical data and information, in accordance with the Statistical survey programme and with the national, European and international rules and standards; meeting the data needs of internal and external users; harmonizing national statistics with European statistics at the level of concepts, definitions and classifications used, data collection methods and indicators' computation methods.

### **5.3.4.1 Education**

In the field of education statistics, **the exhaustive statistical surveys in educational units** provide information on the participation of the school population in the training process, by educational levels (in accordance with the International Standard Classification of Education ISCED-97), for the beginning and the end of the school/academic year. For each educational level (pres-school, primary and secondary school, high school, vocational, post high-school and apprentice education, academic education), data are presented at national, regional, county level, by residence environments, forms of ownership, forms of education, gender, age, etc. Statistical information regarding especially education, non-formal and informal training are obtained by selective surveys. In 2007, important progress was made in obtaining information regarding the expenditures in the educational system, the mobility

of pupils/students who pass the bachelor's degree /school leaving/university degree/PhD exam, by fields of vocational training and by levels of education. The data collection tools for statistical surveys in the education field are redesigned on an annual basis so as to respond to the requests of internal and external users. The statistical questionnaires in primary and secondary school, high school, vocational, post high-school and university education for the end of the school/academic year were also designed in electronic format, and this is to be extended, in 2008, to the other questionnaires belonging to the beginning of the school/academic year.



The transmission of data to Eurostat in a standardized format according to UOE (UNESCO-OECD-EUROSTAT) methodology was carried on. In 2007, the statistical data on the expenditures made for education in the private sector during financial year 2006 were obtained based on an exhaustive statistical survey ("Expenditures of educational institutions - FIN ED").

In 2007, computed statistical indicators (school population, net covering rate, dropout rate, graduation rate, rate of transition from secondary school education to high school and vocational school education and from high school education to post high-school and university education, results of graduation exams, number of students allocated to each member of the teaching staff and the weight of qualified staff within the total number of the teaching staff by education levels, development regions, counties, genders and residence environments), requested by the National Development Centre for Vocational and Technical Education subordinated to the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth in order to substantiate PRAI strategic documents (Action Plans for Vocational and Technical Education) and PLAI strategic documents (Local Plans for Vocational

and Technical Education), in order to define the regional strategies regarding the development of vocational and technical education, continued to be provided.

The statistics regarding the evaluation of the permanent education of adult population is carried out based on interview surveys. As of the month of August 2007, the activities for the design of the survey regarding the Romanian Adults' Education, harmonized at European level, were initiated. This allows the evaluation of the education and training level of the persons whose age is comprised between 25 and 64 years, by various characteristics (gender, age, occupation, professional statute, field of activity etc.), covering formal education, non-formal and informal training, main activity, working programme, secondary activity, computer use, participation in cultural activity, social life, parents' education etc. Such survey shall be completed at the end of 2008.

Certain indicators in the education field are established based on the information taken from administrative sources. Such data are related to the education expenditures in the public sector, obtained from the Ministry of Economy and Finance. The results in the education field were disseminated by the annual publication *Romanian Educational System-Synthetic Data* and by the summary publications of NIS.

### 5.3.4.2 Health

The statistical data in the health field are collected by exhaustive and selective surveys. The sanitary units' network and activity is characterized based on the information collected by an annual exhaustive statistical survey from the Public Health County Directorates, from the ministries which have a sanitary network and the own medical – sanitary staff. In order to meet Eurostat requirements and obtain new information permitting the highlighting of the changes at national level and requested at European level, the questionnaire for data collection from sanitary units in the public and private sector included new indicators regarding the medical and sanitary staff by categories of staff. Thus, the information required to breakdown certain indicators regarding: the medical staff with academic and high school studies, by type of units and the medical-sanitary staff in hospitals according to the type of working hours were provided.

In 2007, the drafting of experimental survey **System of Health Accounts** (according to European methodology) was carried on. Data regarding health-related expenditures for financial year 2005 were collected and the data series for 2003 and 2004 were produced again, in accordance with a series of new requirements at European level, drafted by Eurostat, within the process of review and improvement of the methodology regarding the System of Health Accounts (SHA). The data and metadata regarding the expenditures in the health field were sent by a joint questionnaire to OECD, WHO and EUROSTAT, harmonized at European level.



The transmission of the data regarding accidents at work and occupational diseases to Eurostat, in a standardized format, in accordance with European methodology on accidents at work (ESAW) and the European Occupational Diseases Statistics (EODS) was carried on.

**The statistics regarding the assessment of the population health status** is carried out based on interview surveys.

During the period comprised between January 2006 and March 2007, the "Implementation of the **European Health Interview Survey- EHIS**" project – having as its objective the design and testing of three modules (health status determinants, health care, background variables), to be included within the National Health Interview Survey was carried out.



In August 2007, the design activities for harmonized health statistics were initiated, being aimed at the evaluation of the population health status, underlining individual morbidity, call of medical services (contacting the family physician, a specialist physician or a dentist, using alternative medicine, hospitalization) and drug consumption and providing the possibility to underline the connection between them and certain demographic, social and economic factors (gender, age, civil status, professional status, occupation etc.), environment factors (dwelling conditions) or behavioural factors having a direct impact on health (food regime, tobacco and alcohol consumption, performance of sport or physical activities). The survey will be completed at the end of year 2008.

Some indicators in the health field are established based on the information obtained from administrative sources. Such data are related to new cases of AIDS, new cases of infectious and parasitic diseases, patients out of hospital, by disease classes and the number of persons injured at work, by genders and types of accidents.

The statistical data in the health field were disseminated in 2007 mainly by the *Activity of Sanitary Units* annual publication and the summary publications of NIS.

### 5.3.4.3 Culture

In the culture statistics field, the data regarding the activity of cultural and artistic units are collected by exhaustive statistical surveys and from administrative sources.

The data regarding the activity of libraries, museums and public collections, show/concert institutions, newspaper and magazine publishing houses are obtained by exhaustive statistical surveys.

The data regarding the **activity of libraries, museums and public collections, show institutions and publishing houses (newspapers and magazines)** are structured in territorial profile (national, regional, county), by residence media and ownership forms. In 2007, new indicators were built in connection with: the projects carried out by participation in external financing programs; titles of plays/concerts in the repertory of show/concert institutions in the reference year; temporary exhibitions organized by museums.



The design/re-design and performance of statistical research were aimed at improving the quality of data and meeting the requirements of internal and international users and comply with the provisions of the Statistical Survey Programme. Certain indicators in the cultural field are established based on the data taken from administrative sources. Such data are related to the activity of cinemas – distribution and projection of movies, movie production, structure of radio and TV programs, production of books and brochures, manuals and university courses. The results of statistical surveys in the culture field are disseminated by the annual publication *Activity of Cultural-Artistic Units* and by the summary publications of NIS. As an integral part of national statistics, *social services statistics* are undergoing a continuous process of improvement of and harmonization with the European Statistical System. Thus, additional activities for improvement of data quality are required, especially the improvement of financial data in the education and health field.

### 5.3.5. Demographic Surveys and Projections

In 2007, according to the Statistical Survey Programme, the summary work “Social Trends” and 7 demographic statistical data analysis works were carried out, of which: 4 annual works (2 of them being single publications) and 3 infra-annual works

(statistical bulletin in the *Population* series with operative statistical data for 3, 6 and 9 months respectively).

As compared to 2006, two single statistical publications were issued: "Design of Active Population in Romania, in the perspective of year 2025" and "The Demographic Behaviour of Young Persons".

Further to the collaboration between NIS and other institutions, the data supply activities and demographic analyses for the Council of Europe and Eurostat were carried out, by the transmission of short analyses regarding the demographic situation of Romania in 2006 and the supply of demographic data and demographic projections to third parties (central and local government, research institutes, natural and legal persons, mass-media).

The current problems of the population and the demographic facts specific to each country were discussed on the occasion of the "**International Conference of Population Projections**" which was held between 10 and 12 October 2007, within NIS, under the aegis of UNECE, Eurostat and NIS.

Table no. 2

## Number of statistical surveys and number of observed units in the field of social statistics, in year 2007

Social Statistics	Number of Statistical Surveys	Number of observed units
<b>Statistical surveys in the social field</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1,966,526</b>
<i>of which, by fields:</i>		
Population and demographic statistics	8	1,280,000
Labour market statistics	10	499,406
Living conditions statistics	2	74,880
Social services statistics, of which:	16	112,240
- education	11	76,700
- health	1	20,200
- culture	4	15,340

## 5.4. Economic statistics

### 5.4.1. Short - term Indicators

The 2007 activities were focused on the strategic objective of timely meeting the users' requirements for quality and relevant data complying with the EU statistical rules and standards in the field of short-term indicators: annual statistics of industrial products and services, meat, milk and dairy products statistics, energy statistics, research, development and innovation statistics, tourism statistics, dwellings and public utilities statistics.

To this end, in 2007 the activities for enlarging and diversifying the conceptual and methodological framework to implement surveys, studies and projects within the annual statistical survey programme were continued with special focus on:

- ❖ Improvement of statistical data dissemination through press releases unitarily achieved for most of the statistical indicators computed by the concerned department in strict observance of the announced deadlines;
- ❖ Data quality improvement.

In 2007, there continued the data quality improvement in the field of short-term indicators and progress was scored regarding the data dissemination deadlines. In this respect, in the field of **industry statistics**, the industrial output indices were regressively adjusted depending on the number of working days and seasonally for the data series starting with 1990. The obtained data were disseminated at national level, transmitted to Eurostat and uploaded on the online TEMPO database.

In the field of **statistics of wholesale trade and services mainly provided to enterprises**, the data series were remade from 2000 and could be sent to Eurostat grossly adjusted according to the number of working days and also seasonally.

In 2007, the pilot project on “Improvement of short-time indicators” within the Phare Multi-beneficiary 2004 statistical co-operation programme was finalised and value indices for turnover and new orders in industry were computed in accordance with the European regulations. Such indices were transmitted to Eurostat and published at national level, too.

Terms of reference were drafted and the activities within the grant project for implementing the CANE Rev. 2 classification and changing the base year for short-term statistics were started. This project will be ended in August 2009.

In 2007, there continued the **energy statistics** restructuring in order to harmonise the infra-annual surveys and the energy balance system with the provisions of the European Commission draft regulation to ensure the full comparability of NIS data with the international requirements.

In the field of **construction, investment and dwellings statistics**, in 2007, the related publications were restructured; the data collection and checking techniques on the finished dwellings and the dwelling works execution stage were also improved.

As regards the **research & development statistics**, in 2007 NIS specialists filled in the unified questionnaire and the distinct modules for Eurostat/OECD with data relative to the research & development for 2005.

In the last quarter of 2007, information on the R&D indicator metadata for Romania was filled in using the online application of Eurostat.

Both the final report and the five quality reports under the Phare Multi-beneficiary 2004 programme project “Quality report on the R&D statistics” were compiled.

As regards Phare Multi-beneficiary 2005 programme project on the **Career of PhD Degree Holders**, the final report was drawn up and the activities provided by the related TORs were carried out. The project as such was finalised in February 2008. Through this statistical survey, information was collected from individuals having obtained a PhD degree in any scientific domain. The survey will be conducted over a two-year period and will follow the career of PhD degree holders having obtained this title in Romania or abroad.

In order to have consistent and internationally-comparable statistical data, the National Institute of Statistics capitalised on the experience acquired in the field of **innovation statistics** by launching the next innovation survey over the period 2004-2006 harmonised with the **Community Innovation Survey – CIS 2006**.

CIS 2006 was accompanied by a pilot survey addressing 500 enterprises for testing new innovation types, organisational/marketing/knowledge flow innovations, respectively. The pilot survey was conducted by face-to-face interview. The two surveys were successfully implemented through the “Innovation statistics” project under the Phare Multi-beneficiary 2005 programme, the interim report being sent in August 2007 and the “Report on the pilot survey results” in November 2007. The project-related activity was presented to the Eurostat team for monitoring and evaluating the Phare Multi-beneficiary 2005 projects, in November 2007.

As regards **tourism statistics**, besides the customary surveys, the statistical questionnaire of the touristic expenses of non-residents accommodated in collective touristic accommodation structures was designed in co-operation with the National Bank of Romania and the National Institute for Tourism Research & Development and was tested in 3 Romanian localities (Braşov, Constanţa and Bucharest), which represented a new practice in the field.

## 5.4.2 Business statistics

The increase in the statistical indicator range and data quality, meeting the internal and external users’ requirements, as well as the provision of information necessary for Romanian economy development policies were the main goals for 2007.

The main fields tackled were the structural business statistics – in the economy – and the insurance – reinsurance & banking, information society, audiovisual statistics, business and consumer statistics, transport, postal and telecommunication statistics and statistics of direct foreign investment in Romania.

**Structural business statistics**, the most complex statistical survey in the economic and financial field provides information obtained in a precise, reliable and suitable manner, characterising the productive and commercial system of the enterprises - the basis for analysing the Romanian economy development. In 2007 for this survey the intention was to reduce the response burden using the balance sheet as data source for micro-enterprises.

The Romanian service sector is continuously growing and the newly-created value will have a significant weight in the future. This is the reason why the purpose of this survey is to get data under comparable conditions allowing the analysis of the services by type and by client (commercial companies, institutions, non-profit organisations) resident or non-resident (within or outside the EU).

The booming growth of the "digital" information available through IT products is typical for the **information society**.

In 2007, a special achievement was the statistical survey on ICT products and services investment and expenditure.

The **audiovisual** sector has an essential cultural dimension and represents not only the expression of creativity, of identification of specificities and a crucial means for promoting democracy, but also an economic activity of a growing importance.

The improvement of the Romanian business environment represents a strategic objective whose achievement involves the adoption of policies and action directions ensuring the infrastructure development and modernisation and the stimulation of Romanian and foreign investment. In this context, the **statistics of direct foreign investment in Romania** was made due to the need to collect comparable and updated information on the direct foreign investment taking into account its essential role in the globalisation process integrating the Romanian economy.

The statistical survey on "Direct foreign investment in Romania" was carried out in co-operation with the National Bank of Romania.

The **business tendency statistics** are based on the business managers' estimates regarding the evolution trend of the economic activity, which are used for short and medium-term forecasts.

In the field of **transports, posts and telecommunication**, the statistical surveys are complex: from the analysis of transport infrastructure, types and modes (road, air, sea, railway, via pipelines – passengers and goods) to the analysis of the postal, radio-communication and telephone-wireless means.

As a novelty in this field, we carried out the **statistical survey on the transport of passengers by road**.

Table no. 3  
**Number of surveys and number of surveyed units in the field of economic statistics in 2007**

<b>Economic statistics</b>	<b>Number of surveys</b>	<b>Number of surveyed units</b>
<b>Statistical surveys in the field of economic statistics</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>833,666</b>
<i>of which, by field:</i>		
Industry and construction statistics	37	418,088
Statistics of trade, services, transports and tourism	35	269,128
Business statistics	12	146,450



The main purpose of the statistical survey on the transport of passengers by road is to collect data on the passengers transported by motor vehicles with a capacity of more than nine seats (driver's seat included), namely buses and minibuses registered in Romania with a valid passenger transport licence.

The redesign of the statistical survey TR2E on inland waterways transport in agreement with the new Regulation no. 1365/2006, the data collection according to the new classification of goods NST 2007, the NUTS 3 coding by travel origin and destination in the transport of goods by road were objectives fulfilled in 2007.

As regards the statistical surveys on "Structural business statistics" and "Information and communication technology" quality reports were made in compliance with the European requirements in the field.

The problems encountered throughout the year 2007 in achieving the desired objectives were the refusal of the economic agents, especially those of a major importance in the Romanian economy, to provide answers and the lack of qualified staff.

### 5.4.3 Agriculture, Forestry and Environment Statistics

#### 5.4.3.1 Agriculture and Forestry Statistics

In the agriculture statistics field, in 2007 we carried out all the statistical surveys and works on crop production, animal production and economic accounts.



Also, the harmonisation was continued in agreement with the community statistical system revisions and data were compiled and sent to Eurostat on the second estimation of the **economic accounts for agriculture** for 2006 and the first estimation for 2007, as well as the computation of the agricultural production value by product at regional level as part of the regional accounts for 2005.

The results obtained through the statistical surveys in this field were made available by press releases and publications.

Thus, a better and faster access to the statistical information could be provided for all the users.

The preparations for the **General Agriculture Census – 2010**, including those for the statistical survey on the "Production methods" were started, by setting up the legislative framework and the preparatory works for the **Farm Structure Survey – 2007** were initiated too, the statistical tools were designed and distributed, the data processing requirements and the results' dissemination method were established.

Under the Phare Multi-beneficiary 2004 programme, the project on the **Farm Register Improvement**, a tool used to determine the sample size for the agricultural surveys, was completed.

Under the Phare Multi-beneficiary 2005 programme, the following activities were achieved: design of the statistical tools and IT application, the collection and inputting of the data derived from the pilot surveys on the **Production Potential of Wine Plantations** and on **Pesticide Use in Agriculture**.

The PHARE National 2005 programme "Development of Economic Statistics" was launched, namely component A on the "Improvement of Agriculture Statistics" with the related subcomponents: "Vegetable Production Survey", "Fodder Production Survey", "Flower and Ornamental Plant Production Survey" and "Fodder Balance Methodology".

Preparatory works were carried out in order to launch the project "LUCAS 2008" and "Geo-referencing of the Agricultural Holdings" under the PHARE Multi-beneficiary 2006 programme.

The 2007 EC grant on the **Compilation of a Methodology on the Use of Organic and Inorganic Fertilisers in Agriculture** and the **Pilot Survey**

### Following the Units Engaged in Subsistence and Semi-subsistence Farming were started.

New fields were tackled: rural development and food safety:

- In the rural development field the inventory of the indicators required to implement the National Rural Development Programme was conducted.
- As regards food safety, experts having participated in the Eurostat taskforce were included in the team.

In addition, the work **Typology and Economic Size of Farming Holdings** was drafted, being an important action in consideration of the Romanian agriculture alignment to European standards.

The **Computation Methodology of Agricultural Labour Productivity** and the statistical summary work **Excess Stocks of Food Products**, regarding the production, stocks, imports and exports of food products were also drafted as additional activities.

### 5.4.3.2 Environment Statistics

In 2007, in the field of environment statistics, important actions were initiated to provide and improve statistics and indicators at a high quality level in order to help users to implement and monitor environmental policies. Thus, statistical surveys for developing the basic environment statistics were conducted: environmental protection expenditure statistics, water statistics, and waste statistics.

The results obtained through the related statistical surveys were presented in press releases and publications.

Also, in order to ensure a faster access to the statistical information, NIS electronic databases were expanded with environment indicators.

At the same time, the process of harmonisation with the European standards was continued, allowing the provision to Eurostat of environment data comparable to those provided by other Member States. In this respect, projects for designing new statistical tools were carried out, such as the **environmental accounts** by which integrated "economy-environment" indicators were built. Through the Phare National 2003 programme, the environmental protection expenditure account was finalised, which enables the double reflection of environmental protection as production and financing of environmental protection services.

The Phare Multi-beneficiary 2004 programme laid the foundations for building indicators of resources use productivity and eco-efficiency and the **"economy-environment" account material flow** was compiled. Also in 2007, new environmental account projects were started, such as: **air emissions account** and the **subsoil resources account** by developing the range of indicators reflecting the impact of economic development on the environment.

A newly tackled domain was the sustainable development statistics and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development initiated several actions aiming at creating an institutional frame for collecting data and producing indicators in

Table no. 4

#### Number of statistical surveys and number of observed units in the field of agriculture, forestry and environment statistics in 2007

Agriculture, forestry and environment statistics	Number of statistical surveys	Number of observed units
<b>Surveys in the field of agriculture, forestry and environment statistics</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>250,908</b>
Agriculture statistics	17	229,358
Forestry and environment statistics	11	21,550

this field and establishing a set of indicators reflecting the strategic development directions of Romania and monitoring the planned actions.

## 5.5 Price Statistics

In the field of price statistics and especially the **consumer price statistics** major steps were made as regards the improvement of computations and also concerning the dissemination of results and of related methodologies.

It is worth mentioning that in 2007 the computation methodology of the **harmonised index of consumer prices (HICP)** was analysed by Eurostat experts as regards its compliance with the EU standards and regulations and the conclusion of the expert team was that in Romania the concerned methodology is fully compliant.

Another major result in the field of price statistics was the compilation of the computation methodology for the **prices of the means of agricultural production** (Input II), which ensured the harmonisation of this sector with the EU standards.

Also in 2007, several activities were implemented in order to expand and complete the Romanian price statistics system with the price indices ever more requested both by internal and external users:

- ❖ Creating a joint working group with the National Bank of Romania for discussing the main aspects of the real estate market and the compilation of a computation methodology for the Romanian dwelling prices;
- ❖ Starting the compilation of a new computation methodology for the production price index in the service sector;
- ❖ Starting the compilation of a computation methodology for the residential building price index.

## 5.6 Territorial Statistics

As regards the territorial – county and regional – development, NIS devised and continues to develop a strategy for statistical indicator diversification either by introducing new surveys at territorial level or by developing and using administrative sources. The purpose of all these actions is to obtain relevant and useful statistical information to a maximum level. Taking into consideration the growing demand for statistical data at territorial level from the institutions responsible for regional policies and regional development, as well as the territorial statistical data requests of the European Commission mentioned in the Work programme of Eurostat and in the Annual Reference Guide for Regional Statistics drafted by Eurostat, NIS statistical survey programme reveals the Romanian official statistics efforts towards adopting the *acquis communautaire* and meeting the Eurostat requirements in the regional statistics field.

When analysing the territorial representativeness of NIS surveys in 2007, it is worth emphasising that over 47% of them are structured so as to provide information at regional level, 36% provide representativeness at county level and 17 % at locality level.



Table no. 5

**Number of surveys by statistical field and data processing profile in 2007**

No.	Statistical fields	Number of surveys by data processing profile		
		development regions	counties	localities
<b>1</b>	<b>Economic statistics</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>16</b>
1.1	Agriculture statistics	16	11	-
1.2	Forestry and environment statistics	9	7	8
1.3	Business statistics (consumer and business surveys included)	7	2	-
1.4	Industry statistics	5	3	-
1.5	Electric power, gas and water statistics	2	2	2
1.6	Construction and investment statistics	4	5	2
1.7	Internal and external trade statistics	-	-	-
1.8	Service statistics	19	13	4
1.9	Research-development and innovation statistics	4	3	-
<b>2</b>	<b>Social statistics</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>18</b>
2.1	Population statistics and demography	8	8	8
2.2	Living conditions statistics	2	-	-
2.3	Employment statistics	3	2	-
2.4	Social protection statistics	1	1	-
2.5	Education statistics	11	11	10
2.6	Cultural statistics	4	4	-
2.7	Health statistics	1	1	-

Of the total statistical surveys designed to provide information at **county level**, approximately 63% are economic statistics and 37% social statistics. As regards the surveys designed to provide information at **regional level**, the weight of the economic field is of about 69%, and the weight of the social field is 31%. At present, NIS provides regional data in almost all the statistical fields according to the *acquis communautaire*. The degree of harmonisation of regional statistics with the *acquis communautaire* in the statistical field is complete as concerns the following domains: demography, education, employment, migration, science and technology, structural business statistics, health, tourism, transport and energy. For the statistical domains where the

compliance with the EU rules and standards regarding the regional data requirements is not fully achieved, NIS together with other interested ministries and bodies carries out preparatory works based on collaboration programmes and conventions in order to fully implement the regional statistical indicators. The fields on which NIS will be focused in the future in order to provide regional data are the following: agricultural accounts at regional level according to EAA 97 (Rev. 1.1), employed population according to ESA 95 (European System of Accounts) and environment statistics. The obtainment of statistical information and data meeting the *acquis communautaire* standards and methodologies as regards the comparability and quality represents

essential prerequisites for harmonising the Romanian statistics with the European statistical system. The achievement of statistics comparable at European level requires the use of statistical rules governing the production and publication of indicators in a harmonised frame based on unitary concepts, definitions, classifications and nomenclatures.

The collection, processing, transmission and dissemination of statistical indicators at regional level within the European statistical system are made based on a common nomenclature named **Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS)**, approved by Regulation (EC) no. 1059/2003 of the Council and European Parliament.

In 2007, Eurostat included in its publication, **EU Regions – Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics**, also the Romanian territorial units corresponding to **NUTS 1, 2** and **3** level. This statistical configuration of the country was confirmed at national level by inter-institutional consultation and was approved by Eurostat in accordance with the criteria of Regulation 1059/2003.

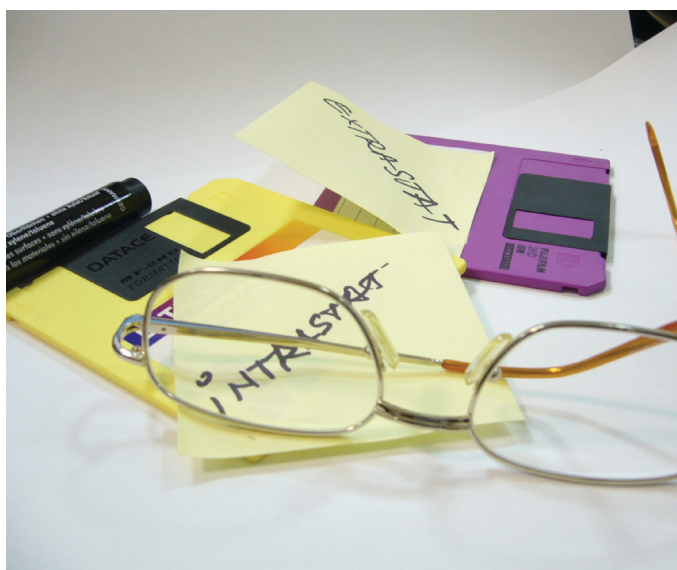
The statistical territorial structure of Romania is the following: NUTS 1 – 4 macro-regions, NUTS 2 – 8 development regions, NUTS 3 – 42 counties.

The **Urban Audit project** is an important initiative of the General Directorate for Regional Policies of the European Commission in the context of the preparation of a new regional policy for the 2007-2013

budgetary period. The concerned project is carried out by Eurostat at the Commission's proposal in order to set up a database containing statistical information at city level for a considerable number of variables comparable on a European level in order to make comparisons among the European cities, to analyse the discrepancies among them and to assist in the regional policy decision-making process. The statistical data collection is made for a defined number of variables in 14 Romanian cities, namely: Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Timișoara, Craiova, Brăila, Oradea, Bacău, Arad, Sibiu, Târgu Mureș, Piatra Neamț, Călărași, Giurgiu and Alba Iulia.

In 2007, NIS continued to collaborate with Eurostat in the Urban Audit field, by participating in a Phare Multi-beneficiary 2005 project. The purpose of this project was to complete the data series, previously obtained within the "URBAN AUDIT - 2001 Data collection" (Phare 2001 and Phare 2002) and "URBAN AUDIT - Historical Data" (Phare 2004) projects containing data for the years 2001 and 2004.

In 2007, NIS started the **Phare National 2005 project on "Economic Statistics Development"**. The general objective of the project was to strengthen the "Romanian statistical system by adopting the *acquis communautaire* in force and its new aspects". One of the specific objectives of the project was the **development of a main regional indicator system**, in accordance with the new EU requirements.





### 6.1 Business Register

As regards the business register, in 2007 CANE and CANE Rev. 2 respectively were compiled and implemented in accordance with the provisions of the Government Decision 656/1997 on CANE and of the European Commission Regulation no. 1893/2006 on CANE Rev. 2.

CANE Rev. 2 came into force on 1 January 2008, in accordance with the provisions of Order no. 337/20 April 2007 on CANE updating, published in the Romanian Official Journal no. 293, part I, 3 May 2007. CANE Rev. 2 implementation at national level took place concurrently with the implementation of CANE Rev. 2 at EU level.

The statistical classification of economic activities - CANE Rev. 2 represents one of the main elements of the tools required in order to be in line with the European circuits through the communication of data and information (collected, processed and transmitted) about Romania in accordance with the same regulations applied in the other Member States.

CANE Rev. 2 is a statistical classification allowing the identification and grouping of the statistical units by homogeneity criteria and providing the base for preparing a wide range of statistical data related to such units. CANE Rev. 2 is structured on four levels – section, division, group and class – built on grouping criteria taking into account the characteristics of economic activities. The maximum homogeneity level of CANE Rev. 2 is achieved at activity class level.

In November 2007, the work “CANE Rev. 2 – Explanatory notes” was printed, addressing the CANE Rev. 2 users, providing them several explanations and descriptions on the content of the various classification entities. This work also includes the CANE Rev. 1- CANE Rev. 2 correspondence table, with certain observations relative to the connections between the two versions of classifications.

According to the European provisions on business registers in 2007 through European projects, two surveys were conducted on a sample of approximately 50,000 enterprises, with a view to complying with the mandatory double coding of the

business register units under CANE Rev. 1 and CANE Rev. 2.

The multitude of surveyed enterprises was set up by observing the representativeness criteria, namely a 80 % coverage of turnover at CANE Rev. 1 division level.

The experts of NIS Business Register Department participated in the drawing up of quality reports for annual surveys in the frame of European projects.

The activities included in the statistical survey programme were carried out in due time and to the desired quality despite the severe lack of qualified staff in this field throughout 2007.

### 6.2 Database

The databases which operated in 2007 were created for storing and archiving the data series and for disseminating statistical information. The central databases were permanently updated to include all the structural and content changes to the surveys and were improved as regards the accessibility and the related metadata. The database management was particularly focused on their supply with the most recent information provided by all NIS central and territorial departments.

The administration of the national data fund and of NIS databases also involved the development and maintenance of IT applications required to manage and draw information from the databases. In order to meet the requirements of NIS departments, as well as the needs of other internal and external beneficiaries, the databases were complete with information taken from administrative sources.

#### 6.2.1 Territorial Databases

##### 6.2.1.1 Database at Territorial Administrative Unit Level (BDL)

BDL contains information at territorial administrative unit level and the related indicators cover the following fields: territorial equipping, population, labour force, education, health, culture, agriculture,

finished dwellings and tourism. The number of BDL indicators exceeds 4 million covering the 1990-2006 period. Only for year 2006, 200,000 indicator values were introduced for 3,176 Romanian localities including the changes in the nomenclature of territorial administrative units (SIRUTA).

The changes in the structure of statistical data sources are reflected in BDL. Thus, time series were uploaded for 24 new indicators relative to the volume of public utility activities, the natural and migratory movement of the population and the building permits.

In order to ensure the compliance with the information in the TEMPO online database, the time series were remade at territorial administrative unit level starting from 1990.

### 6.2.1.2 County Database (BDJ)

The appearance of new sources of information and the changes in the data source structure were reflected in the county database as well. Since this database covers all the social and economic fields, the volume of the yearly uploaded information is significant: around 120,000 values for 2006 for roughly 4,000 indicators.

More than 1,000 indicators of the TEMPO database were included in BDJ so that the information volume of the two should be equivalent over the 1990-2006 period.

Within the co-operation between NIS and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development for fulfilling the National Strategic Plan 2007-2013 and the National Rural Development Programme in order to define the rural space according to the OECD methodology, the information used was drawn from the territorial databases.

### 6.2.1.3 Population Database and the "Demographic Sheet"

Information on the 2007 Romanian population (stable population/domicile) was uploaded in the population database, beginning with 1995, by locality, gender

and generation (on 1 January and 1 July), whereas starting from 1966, the **demographic sheet** containing absolute and relative data on the migratory and natural movement of the population at locality/county level was updated with information for 2006. Information from both databases was extracted according to extremely varied criteria in order to meet the numerous data requests of the internal and external users.

### 6.2.1.4 TEMPO Central Time Series Database

In 2007, a sustained activity for ensuring and completing the TEMPO time series as of 1990 took place. The TEMPO central time series database contains statistical indicators covering all the important social and economic fields characterising the specific Romanian events. The information has a monthly, quarterly, annual or irregular periodicity. The stored data make up time series continued and comparable in time as regards the coverage, methodology and representativeness. At the end of 2007, TEMPO contained 827 matrices for 353 indicators having 8,550,000 uploaded non-null values, approximately 2 million values more than in the previous year. To be mentioned:

- finalising the data series remaking and reloading at locality level, so that the data structure should allow an easier and faster consultation of such information;
- introducing new agri-environment, innovation, business economic and financial indicators;
- developing 13 new matrices in the national accounts field, with ESA 79 methodology information completing the ESA 95 methodology information;
- remaking the data series on agricultural product prices, industrial physical production, business statistics, tourism, public utilities of local interest;
- reorganising the information on a new structure and completing the related metadata with additional information required by the TEMPO database availability on NIS website.

### 6.2.2 Databases with Annual Financial Statements and Bi-annual Accounting Reports

The data series completion with the annual financial statements and the bi-annual accounting reports was done by taking over, from the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the information for 2006 and first semester of 2007 relative to economic operators, credit and insurance companies, legal persons with non-patrimonial purpose, capital market, execution of other budgetary funds by converting it into DBF format and its archiving. The database includes information on the balance sheets of the economic operators being used together with the **active economic agents' database** for correlating the statistical indicators with the economic and financial indicators of the bi-annual and annual financial and accounting reports of the economic operators.

### 6.2.3 ASTRM Sampling Frame

The database for the survey on the transport of goods by road (ASTRM) was updated on a quarterly basis using the information provided by the Romanian Road Authority and DRPCIV (MIRA) and quarterly samples were drawn with the identification data of the companies included in the survey in order to customise the statistical questionnaires. The data files are used by the statistical territorial departments to update the current ASTRM base.

### 6.2.4 External Trade Database

Starting with 2007, the structure of the external trade database information reflects the major changes in its collection: the import - export data taken on a monthly basis from the National Customs Authority after their conversion into a format compatible with NIS system were merged with the INTRASTAT data and thus a unitary database was set up. This database provides monthly external trade data detailed by merchandise quantity and value at an 8 digit level of the Combined Nomenclature by country of origin/dispatch and destination, by transport mode and customs regime.

For this field NIS has a most complex database as regards the content and series of years (1986-2007), being used both for editing specific publications and for meeting the data requests of the internal and external users.

Throughout 2007, more than 1,500 export and/or import data requests were answered, which accounts for over 26,000 positions of the Combined Nomenclature and there were approximately 100 requests for external trade information – aggregated or merchandise-structured – relative to various states or area/economic groups of states.

Year 2007 represented the starting of new activities:

- ❖ developing specific IT applications for extracting information required to meet the co-operation conventions with various sector partners in the external trade field;
- ❖ specific data processing of a large volume requested by ministries in order to provide the correlation with the information sent to the European Commission;
- ❖ complex data processing in order to use them for various components of the Phare programmes;
- ❖ setting up data files in the standard format established by DocMeth 400-Rev. 16 for the monthly transmission to Eurostat;
- ❖ advance passage to the Eurostat-required GESMES format for external trade data in accordance with DocMeth 400-Rev. 17.

### 6.2.5 Consumer Price Index Database (CPI)

This database includes CPI data series starting with October 1990 until present – for the monthly indicators, while the annual indicators are available starting from 1990. The standardised IT application for CPI was updated on a monthly basis and annually on the NIS server, respectively, with data received from NIS specialised department.

### 6.2.6 Industrial Physical Production Database (INDFP)

This database includes information – in terms of quantity and value – on the production, deliveries, internal productive consumption and stocks at the beginning and at the end of the period, as well as the total value of the deliveries by main products surveyed. The database was updated on a monthly basis and annually on NIS server, respectively, with data received from NIS specialised department.



The entire statistical production and not only, could not be achieved under optimal quality conditions without the consistent support of the IT departments. The 2007 achievements include the following:

Following a government decision, NIS communication services were entrusted to the Special Telecommunication Service. This meant both WAN reorganisation and the increase in the Internet access speed.

At the central level and within WAN a single Windows domain was implemented resulting in the improvement of NIS national network safety. This was done via the migration of the insro.local domain from the Windows 2000 Advanced Server platform to a far more reliable scalable platform. The advantages of such a solution were:

- centralised management of the network resources and of the user privileges;
- centralised authentication and management of all the objects in the Active Directory, there being a single database keeping all the user accounts in the field so that the network resources could be configured by users in order to access them;
- resource management delegation, so that more people could be delegated by the domain manager to administer certain zones of the Active Directory hierarchy. It is worth mentioning that the access to the network resources is permitted at the users written request based on the privileges previously given by the domain manager. Thus, any user from the national statistical system can access a shared resource based on the associated privileges.

The electronic mail service was migrated from the Lotus Domino platform to the Microsoft Exchange Server 2003 platform. Some of the advantages of the new solutions include: centralised management of the objects – a single (Microsoft Management Console) console can be used, being configured to administer Exchange 2003 and Windows 2003, the account type objects created in the Active directory having both attributes used by Windows 2003 and by Exchange 2003; simplified management of security – the same Access Control List type of Windows 2003 can be applied to all Exchange 2003 objects: any user having a user account created in the Active Directory and who has a configured e-mail box can read his/her own correspondence from any location with Internet access without being obliged to go to the office to read his e-mails.

☞ NIS IT staff was involved in both elections organised in 2007, namely the National Referendum of 19 May 2007 for dismissing the President of Romania and the National Referendum of 25 November 2007 on the introduction of the uninominal voting system and European Parliamentary Elections.

☞ Throughout 2007 the statistical data were transmitted to Eurostat via the EDAMIS system at the established deadlines. Thus, Romania scored at the end of 2007 one of the fastest growth rates among all the Member States as regards the number of the transmitted data flows.

☞ Suitable technical conditions were ensured for running the web applications with a huge traffic such as <http://www.intrastat.ro> and the main NIS site <http://www.insse.ro>. In general, their availability throughout the whole year can be appreciated at 97%, the problems that appeared being remedied as soon as possible.

☞ The implementation of the Help Desk activity aims to centralise, identify and suggest solutions for the hardware and software issues that occurred during the operation of NIS computing equipment. This activity will become more efficient after the purchasing of a specialised software.

☞ From 1 January 2007, for the very first time in Romania, an IT system for the electronic collection of the Intrastat declarations (Intra-Community trade) was implemented. The novelty and uniqueness of the concerned system consists in the fact that the data are exclusively collected on electronic questionnaires filled in on and off line by the statistical data providers and that the paper support for Intrastat reporting was completely removed.

☞ A constant concern was the design and implementation of IT applications for the electronic collection of statistical data. Thus, EXCEL electronic questionnaires were developed:

- for collecting data directly from respondents;
- for education surveys: pre-school education (SC 1.1), primary and secondary education at the end and beginning of the school year (SC 2.2 and SC 2.1), special primary and secondary education (SC 3.1), high school education at the end of beginning of the school year (SC 4.2 and SC 4.1), professional, post-high school and apprentice education at the beginning and end of the school year (SC 5.1a and SC 5.2a), university education at the end and beginning of the school year (SC 6.2 and SC 6.1);
- for culture surveys: activity of libraries (CULT 1), activity of museums and public collections (CULT 2), activity of entertainment and concert halls (CULT 3), activity of publishing houses (CULT 4);
- for salary earnings surveys: October salary earnings survey (S2), labour cost survey (S3).

☞ Taking into consideration the difficulties faced by the IT department – low budget, reduced qualified staff, high turnover – it has to be noticed that the satisfaction level of NIS statisticians (both at the centre and in the county offices) as users is high, even if, for more or less objective reasons, the provided IT services cannot always be beyond reproach.



## 8.1 The New Capacity as Member State

2007 marked a major structural change in the European activities of NIS-Romania. Already an active part of the European statistical system with a long previous exercise as an observer in the context of the European decisions, NIS succeeded in adapting its activities dedicated until 2007 to the "European integration" and in keeping the extremely alert pace imposed by its new quality of active member of the working groups of the European Commission and Council.

For 2007, the adaptation efforts are reflected in the following results:

- co-ordination of the process of transposing the new Directives in the statistical field and the related notification to the European Commission;
- active participation in the weekly co-ordination meetings in the European affairs field organised by the European Affairs Department and the Foreign Affairs Ministry;
- co-ordination of the preparation of materials for the participation of NIS representatives in the works of the Committee of Permanent Representatives – COREPER and in the works of the Council's working group on "STATISTICS";
- participation in the co-ordination meetings in the "better regulation" field;
- co-ordination of the preparation of materials for participating in the meetings of the Statistical Programme Committee;
- co-ordination of the points of view drafted on the occasion of NIS high-level delegations attending the international meetings in the statistical field;
- drafting of programmatic and reporting documents related to European statistical matters;
- translations of the various statistical materials into Romanian and English.

## 8.2 PHARE Statistical Co-operation Programmes

### 8.2.1 Phare National Programmes

In 2007, the continuous adaptation of the Romanian statistical system to the *acquis communautaire* was achieved by several "engines" provided by the Phare National programmes and European grants.

Thus, the following actions were carried out in good conditions:

👉 **Successful implementation of the Phare National 2003 programme** – Sustainable development of the Romanian statistical system (2.8 M EUR worth)

The overall objectives of this project were: improvement of the sustainable development frame of the Romanian statistical system; strengthening of the Romanian statistical system towards its compliance with the EU norms and standards in order to acquire the capacity of assimilating the newly-adopted statistical *acquis*.

The purpose of the project was: strengthening NIS institutional capacity (relation with the media and the general public) and the statistical infrastructure in order to continuously improve the data quality and to meet user's needs; harmonisation and improvement of the statistics of information society and the new economy; drafting of new modules in the social statistics field so that the new aspects of social life be increasingly surveyed; development of service statistics and particularly of the statistics of the transport of passengers by road; permanent development of national accounts, especially the satellite accounts segment (environmental protection expenditure) and the implementation of flexible structures such as the social accounting matrix.



Actually, 3 sub-projects were implemented:

- Sustainable development of the Romanian statistics (IT training);
- Strengthening of the Romanian statistics (statistical surveys);
- Strengthening of NIS infrastructure (purchasing of PCs, servers, licences).

### **Successful implementation and finalisation of the Phare National 2004 programme** – Design and implementation of the Intrastat system (1 M EUR worth)

The overall objective of the project was the optimal implementation of the *acquis communautaire* regarding the statistics of the trade in goods among EU Member States, considering that after joining the EU, the monitoring of the goods movement among Member States will be transferred from the customs system to the Intrastat statistical system.

The purpose of the project was to prepare the implementation of the Intrastat statistical system so as to become fully operational on the date of entry date into the European Union (design of methodologies for the Intrastat survey, conducting the pilot survey, design of the compilation methodology, as well as the implementation of the Intrastat register, drafting of the methodological guide for the Intrastat data providers, design of the unitary value index computation methodology for the Intrastat data, training of the “stakeholders” involved in producing the external trade statistical data, conducting a media information campaign, purchasing of software and IT equipment for designing and implementing the Intrastat system).

Two projects were implemented:

- Building the Intrastat statistical system;
- Purchasing of equipment and accessories for the Intrastat system (licences, fax machines, Xerox machines, video projectors and furniture).

### **Launching the Phare National 2005 programme** – Strengthening of the Romanian statistical system (4.6 M EUR worth)

The overall objective of this programme is the strengthening of the Romanian statistical system by adopting the applicable and newly-adopted Community regulations.

The purpose of the project is the development of NIS institutional capacity to ensure the strengthening of the compliance with the EU standards and regulations and the improved access to the statistical information for the general public.

The project consists of 3 sub-projects (tasks):

- Social statistics development (statistical surveys, training);
- Economic statistics development (statistical surveys, training);
- Equipping in order to strengthen NIS capacity (purchasing of laptops, licences and security equipment).

### **Preparing the documentation for the Phare National 2006 programme** – Adoption of the new statistical *acquis measures* (1.8 M EUR worth)

The provision of quality and comparable statistical data to the decision-makers at national and European level is the general objective, while the project purpose is the implementation of the new EU legislative provisions, measures and actions in the Romanian statistical system.

The concerned objective will be achieved through the following sub-components:

- Improvement of tourism statistics quality;
- Improvement and compliance of forestry statistics;
- Achievement of a consistent and integrated system for using the administrative data sources in the Romanian statistics;
- Implementation of the statistical TQM.

## 8.2.2 Phare Multi-beneficiary Programmes

 **Phare MB statistical co-operation programme – 2004** granted for:

- Participations in the regular working meetings organised by Eurostat and in the pilot project, task force and other meetings;
- Sending of trainees to Eurostat and other statistical institutes of the EU Member States;
- Carrying out bilateral co-operation actions with the statistical institutes of the EU Member States;
- Participations in the Eurostat and other EU Member States training courses on the European Statistical System;
- Achievement of 21 data collection projects:

- ❖ Improvement of the quarterly national accounts
- ❖ PPC-Purchasing Power Parities
- ❖ Statistics of the foreign affiliates in Romania based in the country or abroad - Inward/Outward FATS
- ❖ Quality reports in the field of research and development statistics
- ❖ Business register improvement
- ❖ Structural business statistics
- ❖ Implementation of surveys on the professional training in enterprises
- ❖ Improvement of short-term statistics quality
- ❖ Transport statistics
- ❖ ICT use in enterprises and households
- ❖ Improvement of database for the time use survey
- ❖ Improvement of unemployment statistics quality
- ❖ Improvement of the quality of the labour cost and earnings survey
- ❖ Improvement of the quality and availability of the international migration statistics
- ❖ Implementation of the European health interview survey
- ❖ Improvement of the quality of the statistics of causes of death
- ❖ Improvement of meat statistics quality
- ❖ Water statistics
- ❖ Waste statistics
- ❖ Historical data of the urban audit
- ❖ Farm register improvement





👉 **Phare MB statistical co-operation programme – 2005**, technical assistance programme granted for:

- Participations in the regular working meetings organised by Eurostat and in the pilot project, task force and other meetings;
- Sending of trainees to Eurostat and other statistical institutes of the EU Member States;
- Carrying out bilateral co-operation actions with the statistical institutes of the EU Member States;
- Participations in the Eurostat and other EU Member States training courses on the European Statistical System;
- 16 data collection projects:

- ❖ Improvement of the coverage and quality of national accounts
- ❖ PPC-Purchasing Power Parities
- ❖ Innovation statistics
- ❖ Statistics of the career of PhD holders
- ❖ Business register: implementation of the new *acquis*
- ❖ Survey on Information and Communications Technology (ICT) expenditure and investment by the enterprises
- ❖ Survey on ICT use by the enterprises
- ❖ Survey on ICT use by households
- ❖ Labour force survey – ad-hoc module on accidents at work and occupational diseases
- ❖ Employment statistics in subsistence and semi-subsistence farms – ad-hoc module attached to the household labour force survey
- ❖ Improvement of the statistics of crop production and wine plantations
- ❖ Employment statistics in the subsistence and semi-subsistence farms
- ❖ Urban audit – phase III
- ❖ Improvement of life quality and encouragement of economic activities diversifying in the rural area
- ❖ Environment – “pesticide” indicator
- ❖ Statistical data dissemination – assisting users in obtaining European statistical data

### 8.2.3 Statistical Projects through Eurostat Grants

In 2007, 18 such projects were launched, namely:

- Business tendency survey – industry component
- Business tendency survey – construction, retail trade, services and investment component
- Farm structure survey 2007
- Implementation of FATS pilot studies – action 1
- Implementation of FATS pilot studies – action 2
- Income and living conditions survey – EU-SILC 2008
- Collection of business demography data
- Statistics of Romanian affiliates abroad – FATS outward
- Implementation of NACE Rev. 2 in short-term statistics
- Supporting the double-counting and retrospective analysis of the time series for NACE Rev. 2 in the structural business statistics and in the inward FATS
- Improvement of the statistical processes and production quality
- European integrated social protection statistics (ESSPROS): pilot data collection on the net social benefits
- Ad-hoc module of the labour force survey on the situation of migrants and their descendants on the labour market
- Implementation of NACE Rev. 2 in labour market statistics – quarterly labour cost indices
- Pilot survey on fertiliser use
- Simplification of Intrastat
- National and regional accounts – project 1 and project 2
- European system of the social statistics modules (EHS)

### 8.3 Data Transmission to International Bodies and Organisations

2007 meant an improved quality in the transmission of data to the international bodies and organisations (Eurostat, UN Statistics Division, ECE/UN Statistics Division, IMF, OECD, World Bank, etc.), which entailed, on the one hand, the drawing up of an inventory of the indicators relative to Romania existing in the main publications and databases of the international bodies and on the other hand, in the need to compile several indicators for which there is a “lack of data”.

Besides the data transmission activities and the drafting of documentation on international comparisons, the corollary of the international statistical activity is the 2007 edition of the “World Economy in Figures” and the International statistics chapter in the *Statistical Yearbook of Romania*.

### 8.4 International Activities

Two major international actions carried out in Bucharest in 2007, under the aegis of ECE-UN and Eurostat, having conclusively tested and fully confirming NIS organisational capacity, and its professional potential as well, are worth mentioning.

These are **the International Conference on Demographic Projections** carried out during 10–12 October 2007 and the fourth meeting of the **ECE-UN/OECD/Eurostat Working Group on Sustainable Development**.

In both cases, the conclusions of the organisers, representing the most authoritative forums of international statistics, the Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations Organisation and Eurostat revealed the excellent conditions provided by NIS as a host of meetings, which set a hard-to-attain standard in organising such events.

Ensuring a sustainable basis for the development of Statistical System requires that appropriate human resources are in place, both in terms of number and especially of quality.

## 9.1 Structure of NIS Staff

In accordance with Government Decision 957/2005 on the organization and operation of NIS, as republished in 2007 and in consideration of the addition of jobs for INTRASTAT, the maximum number of jobs financed from the State budget is 2,149, of which 662 are in the central headquarters and 1,487 in the statistical territorial units.

Of the total number of 2,149 jobs, 2,024 jobs are occupied and 125 jobs are vacant.

Table no. 6

### Situation of jobs financed from the State budget in 2007

	Maximum no. of jobs	No. of occupied jobs	No. of vacancies
NIS – central headquarters	662	580	82
Statistical Regional Departments/ Statistical County Departments	1,487	1,444	43
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,149</b>	<b>2,024</b>	<b>125</b>

95% of the employees of the official statistics system are civil servants and approximately 5% are persons employed under employment contracts.

Table no. 7

### Breakdown of public servants, by genders

	Central headquarters	Statistical regional departments/ Statistical county departments	Total NIS
<b>Occupied jobs</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>1,406</b>	<b>1,928</b>
Women	403	1,141	1,544
Men	119	265	384

The staff structure by age is the following: 10% represents the employees below 31 years, 42% represents the employees between 31-45 years and 48% are the employees over 45 years.

Table no. 8

### Breakdown of civil servants, by groups of age

	Number of employees		
	Below 31 years	31–45 years	Over 45 years
NIS – central headquarters	89	230	203
Statistical Regional Departments/ Statistical County Departments	105	582	719
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>922</b>

The analysis of the above mentioned data show that the civil servants aged below 31 years, employed in all the structures of NIS, account for 11.9% of the total employed civil servants. They account for 19.9% of the employees of the central headquarters and for 8.9% of the employees of the Statistical Territorial Departments. Civil servants aged 45 years and over account for 45.7% at the level of NIS (37.4% being at the level of the central headquarters and 48.8% at the level of Statistical Territorial Departments).

The staff with academic studies account for approximately 70.0% of the total number of civil servants.

Of the number of civil servants with academic studies, 13 % graduated in 2007 the following courses: post-university courses, master programmes or PhD degrees.

Table no. 9

### Break-down of civil servants, according to their training level

	Number of employees		
	High-school studies	University studies	Post-university studies
NIS – central headquarters	134	446	55
Statistical Regional Departments/ Statistical County Departments	478	966	135
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>1,412</b>	<b>190</b>

The public servants with management positions account for 12% of the total staff. 15% of them graduated from post-university courses / master programmes in 2007, or are PhDs.

In 2007, the following competitions were organized:

- ❖ 18 competitions to occupy 125 execution public service positions within NIS, vacant at the beginning of the year, and the positions that became vacant during the year;

- ❖ 2 competitions to occupy 5 vacant management public service positions within NIS;
- ❖ 2 competitions to occupy 4 temporarily vacant execution public service positions within NIS;
- ❖ 13 competitions to occupy 10 vacant management positions within the statistical territorial departments.

The competitions organized ensured the occupation of 96 vacant execution public service positions and 3 temporarily vacant execution public service positions within NIS, as well as the 10 vacant public management positions within the statistical territorial departments.

At the same time, the 16 competitions organized to occupy the contractual positions within NIS permitted the employment of 44 employees with execution positions and 2 employees with management positions.

Unlike year 2006, when 70 employees left NIS, in 2007, 82 employees left NIS, of which 63 had public service positions.

Only 14 persons left by retirement, and the rest of them left by transfer or by parties' consent, invoking salary-related reasons.

Table no. 10

Staff Fluctuation	Number of employees	
	Year	
	2007	2006
<b>Total staff, of which:</b>	2,024	1,948
- staff who was hired	277	323
- staff who left	191	126

Of the total number of persons who left in 2007, by total statistical structure, 129 persons left for reasons other than retirement, as compared to 88 in 2006.

The organizational structure of NIS is presented in Annex 1.

## 9.2 Staff Remuneration

Out of the total number of 2,149 positions, the public service positions are 2,040, of which 598 are in the own system of NIS and 1,442 in the statistical territorial units; 109 are contractual positions (64 in the own system of NIS and 45 in the statistical territorial units).

In accordance with applicable regulations, in 2007 three salary rises took place, *i.e.*: 5% on 1 January 2007, 2% on 1 April 2007 and 11% on 1 October 2007.

In 2007, the average gross earning within the statistical system was RON 2,393, *i.e.* RON 2,435 in the own system and RON 1,968 in the statistical territorial units.

The difference between the gross average salary in the own system of NIS and in the statistical territorial units is owed to the fact that the staff with high-school studies employed in the statistical territorial units have a higher weight (34.0%) as compared to the staff with high-school studies hired in NIS own structure (22.0%). Taking into consideration the remuneration level within the statistical system, the staff with university studies is extremely difficult to recruit, especially in territorial units, where the job offer of this type is minimal and this is the reason why the staff with high-school studies is hired, as such type of staff is not needed by other institutions and/or the private system.

In 2007 as well, NIS faced serious staff scarcity as compared to the staff scheme approved. The staff deficit is especially high in the fields that require increased specialization, such as information technology, mathematical statistics or macro-economic statistics. Such situation is generated, on the one hand, by the unattractiveness of the salaries in the statistical system and, on the other hand, by the applicable legislation regarding the organization of competitions to occupy vacancies.



In order to further develop and improve statistics, in close correlation with the European Union rules and standards and to improve the statistical methods and procedures that may lead to an efficient and complex use of statistical tools, the National Institute of Statistics has the task to provide qualified human resources which might contribute to the sustainable development of the National Statistical System, in accordance with the evolution of the European Statistical System.

The integration of NIS staff within processes of vocational training and permanent education in order to be prepared for present and future challenges was a priority of the institute in 2007, provided by the Annual Vocational Training Programme.

In this respect, the Annual Vocational Training Programme for 2007 was drafted further to the evaluation of the individual performances in 2006 and based on the offer of the National Statistical Training Centre which took into consideration the training needs expressed by the National Institute of Statistics.

The vocational training programme for the staff in the official statistics system was focused in 2007 on achieving several general objectives, *i.e.*:

- development of basic skills of the statistician: adaptability, polyvalence, communication skills, initiative, responsibility;
- creating certain specific practical abilities: applied informatics in statistics, data analysis, presentation of results.

Such programme was drafted based on vocational training needs, expressed by general departments/the departments within the official statistics system.

In this respect, in 2007, 1,643 civil servants in official statistics participated in and graduated from 87 vocational programmes organized by the National Statistical Training Centre (NSTC).

For the central system, 31 courses with 343 participants (294 of NIS and 49 statistical territorial

departments) were organized, and for the statistical territorial departments, 56 courses with 1,251 participants were organized. In order to improve the training process, the 31 courses for the central system of NIS were evaluated by participants via an evaluation questionnaire. 8 courses obtained the “very good” rating, in 100%, for all the 7 evaluation criteria, and 5 courses obtained the “very good” rating, in 100%, for 6 evaluation criteria. The main problem found during the permanent training courses was the request made by line managers that certain course participants interrupt their training process, because they had to fulfil their daily assignments. In this respect, the compulsory attendance of at least 70% of the course duration was introduced. For the first time in 2007, 14 civil servants attended 7 courses organized by the National Administration Institute.

During the month of June of 2007, 168 civil servants from the official statistics system graduated from specialized post-university courses. 167 graduated from the “Data Development and Administration for Business Management” and one civil servant graduated “The Human Resources Management” course. The courses were organized by the Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies, during academic year 2006 to 2007.

Also in 2007, four young persons selected based on their CVs, on the evaluation of their performance and the activity carried out graduated from the following master programmes: “Computerized Project Management” (3 participants) and “Support Data Bases for Business Purposes” (1 participant), organized by the Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies during the period 2005 to 2007. Out of the 4 young participants in master programmes, 2 are employees of the central system and 2 are employees of the statistical territorial units. Within PHARE National Programme, four course series were organized for SAS and one course series was organized for Seasonal Adjustments being attended by 58 persons within NIS.

In 2007, 23 employees within the official statistics system attended international courses and seminars (including the European Statisticians’ Training Programme – ESTP) and 13 employees participated in training courses of 5.5 months organized by Eurostat.



The National Institute of Statistics, through the National Statistical Training Centre, has become a famous supplier of training and professional specialization programmes and of statistical expertise, acknowledged at national and international level. By its educational offer, NSTC covers the vast majority of training and specialization of the National Institute of Statistics. At the same time, the cooperation agreements concluded with university education institutes, especially the Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies, NSTC also mediated in 2007 the performance of post-university education programmes. An important component is related to the certification programmes in statistical professions addressed to civil servants and the public service staff.

The vocational training programme designed for 2007 was structured by three categories of courses:

- Courses for companies and the public whose generic name is "Development of statistical culture by one-day courses";
- Courses addressed to civil servants within NIS and the civil service;
- Courses addressed to civil servants within the Statistical Regional Departments/Statistical County Departments.

The courses belonging to the first category were aimed at promoting statistical culture in the Romanian society and included 16 courses which could be organized both at the headquarters of Statistical Regional Departments/Statistical County Departments and at the headquarters of companies or in county residences. Unfortunately, not all the courses within such package were successful, because such activity was not made public to a sufficient extent.

The INTRASTAT course of one day addressed to the companies involved in international trade was particularly successful. Thus, in 2007, 89 courses were organized and attended by 1,313 participants. The courses were organized at the Bucharest headquarters of NSTC, and at the headquarters of the Statistical County Departments in Argeş, Bihor, Bistriţa, Botoşani and Harghita counties.

The courses belonging to the second category were aimed at the professional training of the civil servants

in NIS and in other central bodies. In this respect, NSTC organized 31 courses attended by 343 civil servants in the NIS network and 45 civil servants of the National Bank of Romania. For such category, the training process was ensured by 23 trainers, of which 15 highly qualified specialists within NIS – the central headquarters, 5 persons belonging to the teaching staff of the Academy of Economic Studies (ASE), and two experts from COMPASS SRL.

The courses belonging to the third category were aimed at the professional training of the civil servants in the statistical territorial departments. By the contribution of the statistical territorial departments, 56 courses were organized and attended by 1,251 civil servants. Annex 2 details the courses performed by the civil servants of NIS.

NSTC was, in 2007 as well, an active partner at European and international level, besides the organizations specialized in the supply of training programmes for European statisticians and within international technical assistance projects.

Thus, NSTC continued the activity of partnership with foreign companies and institutions for the offer of research and development and new statistical methodologies at the beneficiary's request. Annex 3 lists the projects where NSTC is a partner for the supply of statistical research and development services at the beneficiary's request.

The scientific research activity performed by NSTC is detailed in the "SELF-EVALUATION report of the scientific research activity 2005-2007" listed on the [www.insse.ro](http://www.insse.ro) website, under the National Statistical Training Centre heading.



## 12 Budgetary Execution

In 2007, the activity of NIS was financed from funds provided by the State budget, from its own revenues obtained from the sale of statistical data and publications and from external non-reimbursable funds granted by the EU through National PHARE and PHARE Multi-beneficiary Programmes for statistics and independent grants.

The funds from the State budget were allocated based on the budget approved for 2007, its basis and size being established so as to permit the fulfilment of the Statistical Survey Programme for 2007.

Also, the financing from the State budget covered the maintenance and operation expenditures of the administrative headquarters of NIS and of the subordinated territorial units, the expenditures related to staff training and labour protection and the purchase of an administrative office for Braşov Statistical County Department – RON 3,400 thousand and of independent equipment amounting to RON 5,157.6 thousand.

The budgetary execution amounted to RON 100,186.7 thousand as compared to the budgetary forecast of RON 101,406.7 thousand, accounting for 98.80% of the approved budget. This budgetary execution is detailed in Annex 4.

Please note that the budgetary execution for 2007 also includes the execution of the funds allocated to the actions in which the National Institute of Statistics was involved, *i.e.* the National Referendum of 19 May 2007 for the dismissal of the President of Romania, the National Referendum of 25 November 2007 regarding the introduction of the uninominal voting system and the European Parliament Elections.

The sales of data and statistical publications in 2007 brought own revenues of RON 644 thousand, from internal and external beneficiaries, through the activity of the “Romanian Statistical Information Dissemination” departments within NIS – central headquarters and territorial units.

In 2007, all the works within the financial and accounting system were carried out within legal frameworks and no cases of refusals of financial preventive control visas have been reported.

In 2007, the budget of the National Institute of Statistics was drafted, executed and reported by two programmes, whose financing was ensured as follows:

- ❖ Programme 1 “Preparation and Organization of the Annual Statistical Survey System”, financed

from the funds allocated from the State budget and the funds obtained from own revenues for the “Dissemination of Romanian Statistical Information” activity;

- ❖ Programme 2 “Permanent Harmonization of Romanian Statistics with the Rules and Standards of the European Statistical System”, financed from external non-reimbursable funds (allocated via the Phare National, Phare Multi-beneficiary Statistics programmes, independent grants) and from the co-financing from the State budget related thereto and included in the Budgetary Execution.

Table no. 11  
**Execution of Non-reimbursable External Funds (related to Programme 2)**

No.Indicator	Annual forecast (non-reimbursable external funds)	RON
		Payments made
1. Total expenditure	23,804.0	9,314.7
2. Staff expenditure	2,938.0	1,911.7
3. Goods and services	20,693.0	7,164.7
4. Capital expenditure	173.0	158.3

The small amount of payments made is caused by the delay in the conclusion of the contracts with the goods and services suppliers, by the Contracting Authority, *i.e.* PHARE Payments and Contracting Office within the Ministry of Economy and Finance, thus the vast majority of the payments for PHARE National 2005 and 2006 will be made in 2008, from external funds which are carried forward in the next year.

As regards the approval of the abovementioned programmes, the State Budget Law on 2007 approved the funds required for their performance for 2007, and the estimations for 2008, 2009, 2010, which also requires the possibility to carry out multi-annual activities.

Since the costs of multi-annual works are estimated, such costs may be achieved taking into consideration the methodology for the drafting of budget forecasts for the next year and the estimations of the funds required for three more years.

In support of such action, please note that in 2007 an integrated human and financial resources management programme which is under implementation was purchased and will permit the future monitoring of projects in financial terms.

In 2007, the activity of **Investments and Modernizations** was materialized by the 73 public procurement procedures regarding the contracting and monitoring of service supplies, the supply of products and the execution of construction and repair works.

As regards the contracting and monitoring of services (33 contracts concluded), purchases were made for:

- Performance of the *"Integrated IT system (IT application and IT equipment) regarding the processing of the results of the National Referendum of 19 May 2007, of the European Parliament Elections and of the National Referendum of 25 November 2007"*, of the *"Integrated IT System for the processing of data related to the Structural Survey in Agriculture 2007"* and the performance of the *"Tele-detection Survey in 2007 (IT application and IT equipment)"*;
- The printing of statistical publications and statistical tools over the capacity of the own printing workshop, i.e. *The Romanian Statistical Yearbook - 2006*;
- Service of IT equipment, typographic machines, technical equipment of the building of the NIS headquarters and of the stock of motor vehicles, as well as cleaning within NIS headquarters.

As regards the supply of products (33 concluded contracts), the purchase of a black/white printing equipment, of a car for the central headquarters, of an archiving system and an electric generating set,

besides the provision of the required IT and printing consumables and office supplies, has to be noted.

In 2007, the following works were completed:

- rehabilitation of the switchboard, amounting to RON 593 thousand;
- rehabilitation of the underground electrical installation, ground floor 1 and 2 and I, II, III, IV and V floors within the NIS headquarters, amounting to RON 1,496.5 thousand;
- overhauls of the elevators within NIS headquarters and overhaul project at the headquarters of Timiș Statistical County Department amounting to RON 290 thousand;
- overhauls and modernizations in several headquarters of territorial departments, of which: Teleorman (RON 100 thousand), Giurgiu (RON 77 thousand), Satu Mare (RON 75 thousand) and Arad (60 RON thousand);
- purchase of a new headquarters for Brașov Statistical County Department.

The technical assistance in the performance of the public procurement activity and the technical endorsement of current repair works were carried out in the statistical territorial departments.

As regards the results of the public procurement activity, the National Authority for the Regulation and Monitoring of Public Procurement was informed by on line reporting.

The new headquarters for  
BRAȘOV Statistical County  
Department



The Internal Audit Department within the National Institute of Statistics is organized at central level and performs its specific activity in all the structures within NIS – general departments, departments, statistical territorial departments, “The Romanian Statistical Review” Publishing House and the National Statistical Training Centre – and the activities performed by them.

The general activity of the department in 2007 consisted both in internal audit assignments, counselling missions and the set-up of auditing rules for specific activities carried out by NIS. Thus, audit assignments carried out for the first time within NIS were conducted and implemented:

- ❖ The practical guidelines for the internal audit assignment regarding the statistical research activity and
- ❖ The Manual of Procedures regarding the Internal Audit of the Projects Financed from Community Funds (Phare and other types of funds).

As regards the internal audit assignments conducted, such complied with the annual internal audit plan, drafted further to the analysis of the risks associated to the structures and activities within NIS and approved by the President of NIS, as follows:

☞ being focused on the following distinct structures:

- ❖ 21 statistical territorial departments;
- ❖ “The Romanian Statistical Review” Publishing House;
- ❖ The National Statistical Training Centre;

☞ regarding a Phare National programme (for the first time):

- ❖ Phare National 2003 Programme: implementation, monitoring and reporting system;
- ❖ results obtained;

☞ regarding the functional activities deemed as presenting the highest risk:

- ❖ financial and accounting system;
- ❖ human resources;

☞ regarding certain statistical surveys (for the first time):

- ❖ Family Budgets’ Survey (FBS);
- ❖ Household Labour Force (AMIGO):
  - Labour force cost (S3);
  - Breakdown of salaries by groups of salaries and occupations (S2).

**The main contribution** of the internal public audit to the improvement of the activity of structures was in the internal managerial control field and all the audit assignments conducted also included, among other audit objectives, this aspect that lies at the basis of an efficient activity in the real sense of the word. By emphasizing the importance of an accurate risk management (identification, assessment, classification and risk reaction), both by the operating staff and by the management staff of the units within NIS structure, the need related to the existence and implementation of working procedures and of an accurate management of documents, the audit activity launched in 2007 – with the support of the Monitoring, Coordination and Methodological Guidance Commission (COM-SCMI) – a process of renewal, regulation and training at general level, as regards the organization and results orientation of the activities within NIS.



The “Romanian Statistical Review” Publishing House, a public institution with a legal status, totally financed from own funds, operates under Government Ordinance no. 9/1992 on the organization of official statistics, as republished, as subsequently amended and supplemented and Government Ordinance no. 957/2005 on the organization and operation of NIS.

In 2007, the year when “The Romanian Statistical Review” turned 55 years of continuous issuance, a *monthly periodicity* was foreseen and achieved through the publication plan. At the same time, all the published articles were translated into English or French in order to make better use of the national scientific communications at international level. Also, a tome dedicated to the Scientific Communications presented in 2007 within “Octav Onicescu” National Statistics Seminar, entitled “Integration of Romania within European Structures” was developed and published.

Further to the evaluation of the scientific content and quality, as compared to international standards, and of the activities of promotion and dissemination of the Romanian scientific research results, The National Scientific Research Council in University Education (CNCSIS, code no. 601), within the *Ministry of Education and Research*, decided, during the session of February 2007, to transfer the “Statistical Romanian Review” from Category C, i.e. from *scientific publication of national importance*, obtained in 2005, to Acknowledgment category B+, i.e. *a review having the potential required in order to obtain international acknowledgment*.

The own site of [www.revistadestatistica.ro](http://www.revistadestatistica.ro) was organized and operates properly.

At the same time, the stages for including the review within the data base of the Institute for Information Science in Philadelphia, USA (ISI – Thomson) were carried on. Such process was carried out by correspondence and a direct dialogue with the messengers of the Thomson Institute who visited Romania.

In the same context, in order to increase international visibility, collaboration and promotion activities were carried out in the publishing and scientific field with education and research institutes in France, Germany, Greece, Republic of Moldova, Hungary and with specialists of Eurostat who visited Romania and the National Institute of Statistics, where they participated in specialized international sessions, some of their communications being included in the “*Romanian Statistical Review*”.

In 2007, logistics was provided in order to keep the *monthly periodicity of RSR* in 2008 as well, concurrently with the *experimental development of an image laboratory*. Photo reports and films after various scientific events of NIS were carried out, as well as an editing dedicated to the celebration of 148 years of official statistics in Romania, the activities from Gura Humorului, Suceava county, being also included.

During 2007, 15 leaflets and posters were produced, further to the consultation of plastic artists, in order to promote the image of NIS and the publications issued by NIS.

The Publishing House also participated in the printing of four tomes issued by NIS and other collaborators of NIS, as follows: “*Romanian Statistics after Accession. CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES. Gura Humorului Scientific Symposium 13-14 July 2007*”, two tomes issued by NIS and the Romanian Statistics Society, “*Demographic Behaviour of Young People*”, a tome issued by NIS, and “*System of Social Protection Indicators in Romania*”, a tome issued by the National Institute of Statistics, the National Scientific Research Institute in the Labour and Social Protection Field, the Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies and the National Training Centre in Statistics.

In 2007, the Publishing House ensured the dissemination, by subscriptions and sale through “Ion Ionescu de la Brad” Bookstore of around 20 thousand copies of NIS publications.





## 16 Activity of Statistical Territorial Departments

Romania's accession to the European Union represented a new and higher stage of development also for the activities of the statistical territorial departments. This stage is characterized by the continuation of the process of harmonization with the *acquis communautaire*, by aligning research methodologies to the requirements and standards imposed by European bodies, concurrently with the consistent follow-up of the permanent improvement of the quality of statistical data in terms of their accuracy and reliability.

In 2007, the statistical territorial departments were concerned with the performance of vocational activities in line with the structure, weight and deadlines of the works provided in the Statistical Survey Programme for 2007, materialized in the works' schedule on the National Institute of Statistics and according to the already well-known requirements of Romanian official statistics and with the requirements of European statistics.

As during the previous year, approximately 70 % of the activity of statistical territorial departments was intended for the collection, checking, introduction on technical support and related validation of the statistical surveys in the annual program. These were completed by the works conducted in order to develop publications, surveys and analyses at local

level, dissemination of statistical data and activities of collaboration in the performance of certain works or activities in the territory.

The statistical territorial departments were involved in 2007 as well in data processing for an important number of statistical surveys within PHARE Multi-beneficiary programmes, such as: Statistics of the branches of multinational companies in Romania headquartered in the country or abroad, implementation of the Surveys regarding the vocational training in enterprises, the Survey on the use of the Information and Communications Technology in enterprises and households, implementation of the European Core Interview Health Survey, the Labour Force Survey-ad-hoc module on accidents at work and occupational diseases (Health and Safety at Work), Business Statistical Register: implementation of the new *acquis*, Statistical Survey regarding the innovation in industry and services, Occupation Statistics and Subsistence and Semi-subsistence Farms, Employment in Rural Households, Statistics regarding the Career of the PhD degree holders, etc.

It also has to be noted that as of 1 January 2007 Intrastat statistical system regarding the collection of data of intra-community trade with goods directly from economic operators became operational.



The analysis of the internal and external human resource consumption (interviewers/collaborators), at the level of statistical territorial departments, in order to carry out the statistical works included in 2007 Statistical Survey Schedule, by hours and type of works (annual, infra-annual, standardization works and data bases, surveys, publications, answering to data requests), shows a total of 4,009,739 hours, of which the own staff of the statistical territorial departments account for 73.3% and the contractual staff at the level of the territorial system accounts for 26.7%.

In the field of the statistical information dissemination activity, carried out at territorial level in 2007, the alignment to the *acquis communautaire* was carried on by taking over and adjusting the current best practices in European statistics: electronic display of information (creation and maintenance of web pages), in support of statistical data users, statistical products and services promotion campaigns, provided both by the statistical territorial departments and by NIS.

All such concerns were successfully added to those already in place, as regards the improvement and diversification of the forms of dissemination of statistical data, the increase in the operability and accuracy in giving answers to users, the accurate and prompt information of public opinion and authorities, and the consolidation of the institution's image as an official source of statistical information, by maintaining and attracting new users.

Out of the large number of requests, a priority treatment was given to those made by: local government, State de-centralized institutions, mass-media and various economic agents. All the requests for available data were answered promptly, irrespective of the manner in which they were received: by telephone, fax, email or written request at the address of the institution's headquarters.

The most frequent requests for statistical data and information are those regarding: consumer price indices, salary earnings, indicators that characterize the economic and social development of counties and localities, and the census in 2002.

The consolidation of a positive and accurate image based on reliability was taken into consideration in 2007 as well, special emphasis being laid on a close cooperation with the local mass-media, by the appearance in the written and audiovisual press of certain interviews or materials on current economic and social topics.

The requests for statistical data at territorial level were also answered by the issuance of statistical publications, both those produced in a unitary manner and a standardized format (*Monthly Statistical Bulletin of the County*), and a series of distinct publications, drafted at the level of each statistical territorial department (information, surveys, folders, annual vademecums, bulletins etc.). Such publications are a rich and diversified source of statistical information and analyses regarding the main economic and social indicators and their evolutions at local level, being designed and adjusted according to users' interest. They are required in order to take economic and social policy decisions at microeconomic and macroeconomic level.

The increasing requests for new and various statistical information generated more diversified data series at regional, county and local level in order to issue books, surveys and publications, as well as the extension of the collaboration with specialists of the local government institutions and university teaching staff. It has to be noted that the number of statistical publications within territorial departments has increased very much during the relevant period.

The statistical territorial departments continued in 2007 their relations of cooperation, collaboration and partnership with various institutions and bodies such as: Regional Development Agencies, the Regional Agency for Labour Protection, the Project Implementation Unit within the Ministry of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family etc. These benefited from the requested statistical data (according to their availability), from the statistical publications drafted by the statistical territorial departments and their participation in various seminars, conferences and from the involvement of the specialists within the statistical territorial units in the performance of certain works, such as:

- ❖ The Regional Development Plan (RDP) for the period 2007 to 2013;
- ❖ The Regional Plan for Employment and Social Inclusion (RPESI) for the period 2006 to 2008;
- ❖ The Regional Action Plan for Education (PRAI), as an item useful to implement the Programme regarding the development of the vocational and technical education (TVET), financed by the EU;
- ❖ The Regional Waste Management Plan.

The specialists of the statistical territorial departments represented the institution in various county commissions, such as:

- ❖ The Consultative Council of the County Employment Agency (AJOFM);
- ❖ The Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Promotion County Commission;
- ❖ The County Commission in the field of Equal Opportunities for Men and Women;
- ❖ The Regional Committee for the Drafting of the Regional Development Plan 2007 to 2013, etc.

The activity of the statistical territorial departments faced certain difficulties in 2007. Thus, in the case of the statistical surveys conducted in the population households, the interviewers faced an increasing number of obstacles due to the population's lack of information, which might generate the impossibility to extend results. Although an attempt at overcoming such obstacles was made by drafting a notification letter for each respondent household, describing the objectives, the legal framework and the importance of the survey, the non-response rate was rather high, which shows that a better promotion of the survey, also via the mass-media, is required.

The increase in the non-response rate of economic operators is also generated by the large number of statistical surveys to which they have to answer, and by the repeated request for certain indicators, under various forms.

The statistical territorial departments are also faced with the increase in the number of non-identified economic operators, which problem is caused by the delayed updating of the Business Register with the new addresses of their headquarters.

The activity of the statistical territorial departments is negatively affected by the high loading of staff and the fluctuation degree, which is caused by the lack of material motivation and opportunities for promotion.

Last but not least, it has to be noted that certain territorial departments need new headquarters or additional premises so as to ensure optimal performance of their activity.

In 2008, the activity of the statistical territorial departments will be aimed at maintaining a high degree of response to all the statistical surveys within the Statistical Survey Programme for 2008.

The basic objective of 2008 will be to maintain and improve the quality parameters of the statistical production process, under all aspects. The clarity, coherence and accuracy of statistical indicators were and will continue to be the major concern of the staff of the statistical territorial departments. For this purpose, the increase in the responsibility of the management and operating staff for the quality of the data validated and sent to NIS and to the local government is taken into consideration.

As regards the human resources management, emphasis will be laid on the permanent training of employees and the knowledge of the EU methodologies and standards in order to render the statistical data and information compatible with those in the EU member states. The knowledge of the European Statistics Code of Practice and of the Statistician's Code is taken into consideration. In general terms, we may say that the improvement of the human resources management is planned.

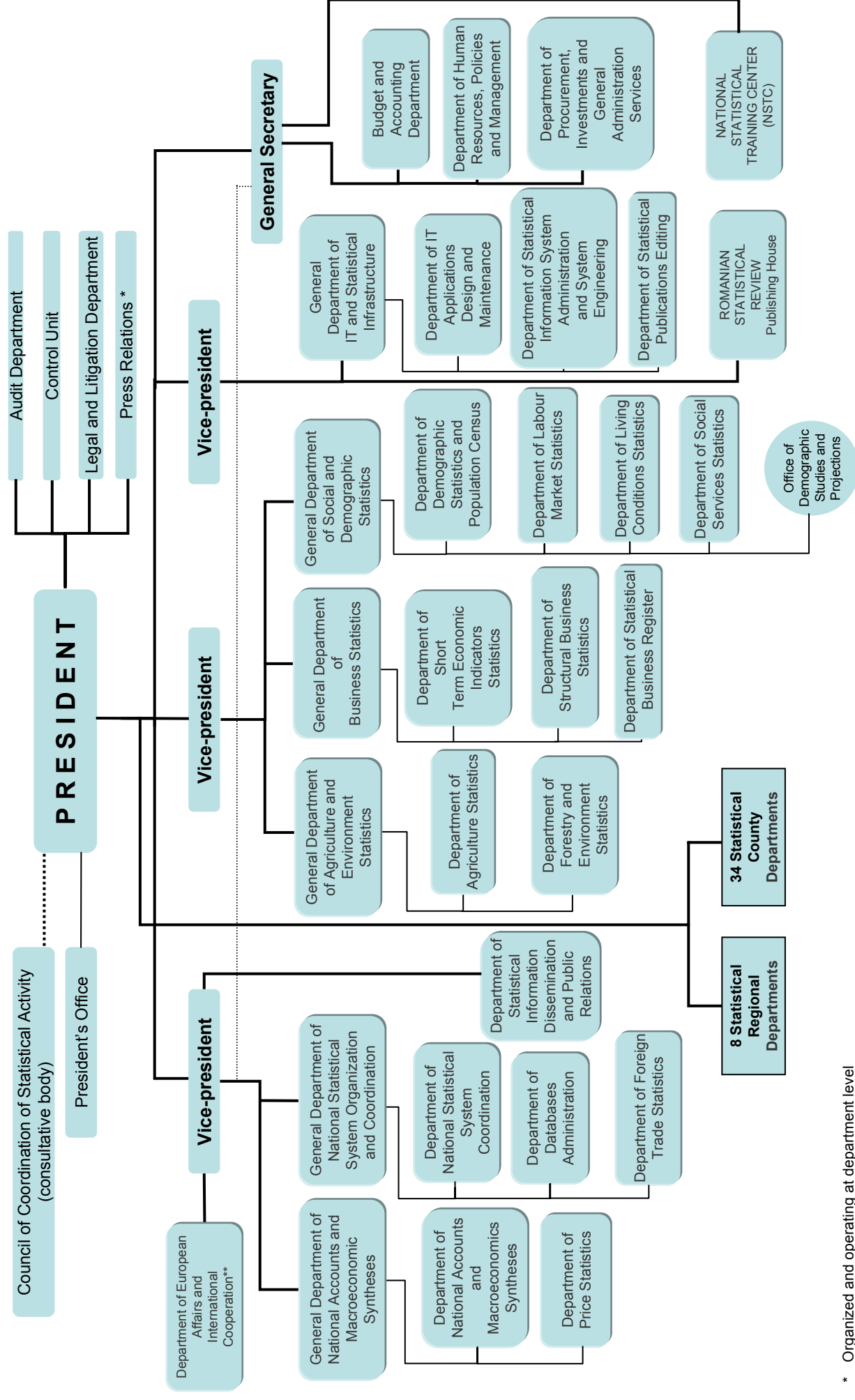
As regards the capitalization of statistical products and services, sustained marketing policies shall be applied, concurrently with the increase in the capacity of response to the requirements of statistical data consumers. The finding of new methods of capitalization of the statistical activity products is intended. The presentation in the mass-media of the statistician's role in every day life and of the importance of statistics at the level of public institutions is taken into consideration.

# ANNEXES





# Organizational Chart of the NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS



\* Organized and operating at department level

\*\* Also including the Phare Programmes Implementation Unit (PIU)

**LIST OF COURSES ORGANIZED FOR THE CIVIL SERVANTS WITHIN  
THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS - in 2007 -**

No.	Course Name	Course Duration
1.	Visual FoxPro – initiation/intermediate level	5 days
2.	Oracle - SQL and Reports	5 days
3.	Microsoft Office – for data analysis and presentation	3 days
4.	Web Design	3 days
5.	Rules regarding the desktop publishing of statistical publications	2 days
6.	European Integration– Implementation of Programmes (GRANT performance)	2 days
7.	Official Statistics System; European Statistical System	3 days
8.	Development of the civil servants' career; performance management	2 days
9.	Human Resources Management	3 days
10.	Risk Management in Statistics	3 days
11.	Techniques of Communication, Public Relations and Contact with the Mass-media	3 days
12.	Measurement of the Quality of Statistical Data	5 days
13.	Stages of Statistical Survey	3 days
14.	Statistical Study regarding the Dynamism of Social and Economic Events and Processes	4 days
15.	Theoretic Statistics in Practice	3 days
16.	Sampling Techniques, Non-response Treatment Methods	3 days
17.	Training Programme for New Employees	5 days
18.	Classification of Activities in the National Economy (CANE rev.2)	1 day
19.	GIS – Geographic Information System	3 days
20.	Trainers' Training	3 days
21.	Leadership – Theory and Practice	8 days

## NATIONAL STATISTICAL TRAINING CENTRE

### SERVICES RESULTING FROM THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

Project Title		Methodological Assistance for the Implementation of the European Statistical System						
No. Name of Company	Country of Destination	Project Amount (EUR)	Percentage allocated to NSTC (%)	Number of Staff Involved	Name of Beneficiary	Financing Source	Date (initiation / completion)	Name of Consortium Members
1. The National Institute of Statistics - The National Statistical Training Centre	Ukraine	960,000	12%	20	State Statistical Committee of Ukraine	EuropeAid 121119	2006	GIP ADETEF, France
The service consists in the analysis of the current statistical system and the analysis of the economy stage against the demands of the market economy. The result of the research consists in the drafting of the documentation regarding the statistical methodologies to be implemented in order to ensure the harmonization with the European Statistical System in the following fields: National Accounts, European System of Classifications, Structural Business Statistics.								
2. The National Institute of Statistics - The National Statistical Training Centre	Republic of Moldova	150,000	50%	10	National Statistical Office of Moldova	GIP ADETEF Franța	2004-2006	INSEE - FRANCE
The service consists in the analysis of the current statistical system and the analysis of the economy stage against the demands of the market economy. The result of the research consists in the drafting of the documentation regarding the statistical methodologies to be implemented in order to ensure the harmonization with the European Statistical System in the following fields: European System of Classifications, Business Statistics, Construction Statistics, PRODCOM Nomenclature – industrial physical production.								

SERVICES RESULTING FROM THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY - continued -

Project Title			Methodological Assistance for the Implementation of the European Statistical System					
No.Name of Company	Country of Destination	Project Amount (EUR)	Percentage allocated to NSTC (%)	Number of Staff Involved	Name of Beneficiary	Financing Source	Date (initiation / completion)	Name of Consortium Members
3. The National Institute of Statistics - The National Statistical Training Centre	Georgia	250,000	10%	1	National Statistical Office of Georgia	FAO	2005	FAO
The service consists in the analysis of the current statistical system and the analysis of the economy stage against the demands of the market economy. The result of the research consists in the drafting of the documentation regarding the statistical methodologies to be implemented in order to ensure the harmonization with the European Statistical System in the field of Agriculture Statistics								
4. The National Institute of Statistics - The National Statistical Training Centre	Albania	550,000	50%	8	INSTAT	CARDS	01.12.2007-1.12.2008	INTRACOM SA Greece; ATKOSOF SA Greece
The service consists in the analysis of the current statistical system and the analysis of the economy stage against the demands of the market economy. The result of the research consists in the drafting of the documentation regarding the statistical methodologies to be implemented in order to ensure the harmonization with the European Statistical System in the field of Development of the Economic and Social Analysis Capacity at Regional Level								
5. The National Institute of Statistics - The National Statistical Training Centre	Uzbekistan	500,000	2%	1	NIS of Uzbekistan	TACIS9	2007-2008	Sogeti Luxembourg SA; Group Cap Gemini
The service consists in the analysis of the current statistical system and the analysis of the economy stage against the demands of the market economy. The result of the research consists in the drafting of the documentation regarding the statistical methodologies to be implemented in order to ensure the harmonization with the European Statistical System in the field of Market Services and Social Services Statistics								

SERVICES RESULTING FROM THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY - continued -

Project Title			Methodological Assistance for the Implementation of the European Statistical System					
No. Name of Company	Country of Destination	Project Amount (EUR)	Percentage allocated to NSTC (%)	Number of Staff Involved	Name of Beneficiary	Financing Source	Date (initiation / completion)	Name of Consortium Members
6. The National Institute of Statistics - The National Statistical Training Centre	Kyrgyz Republic Turkmenistan	500,000	8%	5	NIS of Kyrgyz Republic and NIS of Turkmenistan	TACIS9	2006-2007	Sogeti Luxembourg SA; Group Cap Gemini
The service consists in the analysis of the current statistical system and the analysis of the economy stage against the demands of the market economy. The result of the research consists in the drafting of the documentation regarding the statistical methodologies to be implemented in order to ensure the harmonization with the European Statistical System in the field of Market Services and Social Services Statistics								
7. The National Institute of Statistics - The National Statistical Training Centre	Kazakhstan	500,000	5%	5	NIS Kazakhstan	TACIS9	2006-2007	Sogeti Luxembourg SA; Group Cap Gemini
The service consists in the analysis of the current statistical system and the analysis of the economy stage against the demands of the market economy. The result of the research consists in the drafting of the documentation regarding the statistical methodologies to be implemented in order to ensure the harmonization with the European Statistical System in the field of Market Services and Social Services Statistics								



#### NUMBER AND AMOUNT OF INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONTRACTS – FINANCED FROM PRIVATE FUNDS

No. Name of Research Topic	Financing Framework Programme	Project Manager	Contract Period	Contract Amount - USD -	of which, NSTC - USD -
1. System of social protection indicators in Romania	IBRD-THE WORLD BANK	National Institute of Research and Development in the Labour and Social Protection Field	05.2006–01.2007	26,394	3,261
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>26,394</b>	<b>3,261</b>

#### NUMBER AND AMOUNT OF INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONTRACTS – FINANCED FROM PUBLIC FUNDS

##### A – PNCD I

No. Name of Research Topic	Financing Framework Programme	Project Manager	Contract Period	Contract Amount - RON -	of which, NSTC - RON -
1. Specific issues of the development of the network of localities in the Southern area of Romania. Development Regions 3 (South), 4 (South-West) and 8 (Bucharest) - RETLOC -	PNCDI – I	National Institute of Research and Development for Town Planning and Land Use Planning– URBANPROIECT	08.09.2004–15.09.2006	430,000.00	86,000.00
2. Integrated system of territorial indicators, as a tool to evaluate and monitor the land use planning activity - SITER -	PNCDI – I	National Institute of Research and Development for Town Planning and Land Use Planning– URBANPROIECT	01.10.2004–31.07.2006	408,000.00	144,647.10
3. Drafting the competitiveness indicators and setting-up the methodology of evaluation of product, technology, company, sector competitiveness - CALIST -	PNCDI – I	Institute of Heavy Machines Design and Consulting– IPCMG	10.12.2004–25.05.2006	350,000	68,300

NUMBER AND AMOUNT OF INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONTRACTS – FINANCED FROM PUBLIC FUNDS - continued

A – PNCD I

No. Name of Research Topic	Financing Framework Programme	Project Manager	Contract Period	Contract Amount - RON -	of which, NSTC - RON -
4. Migration of the labour force and sustainable development of Romania - CERES -	PNCD – I	National Economy Institute – IEN	04.11.2004–15.09.2006	120,000	18,000
5. National Programme for the implementation of a geographic information system (GIS) in order to build data banks for real estate cadastre – building, town planning and land use planning - GIS -	PNCD – I	Bucharest Technical University of Constructions - UTCB	04.11.2004–15.09.2006	703,600.00	10,596.50
<b>TOTAL A - PNCD I</b>				<b>2,011,600</b>	<b>327,543.60</b>

# NUMBER AND AMOUNT OF NATIONAL RESEARCH CONTRACTS – FINANCED FROM PUBLIC FUNDS

## B – CCEX

No. Name of Research Topic	Financing Framework Programme	Project Manager	Contract Period	Contract Amount - RON -	of which, NSTC - RON -
1. Demographic ageing. Economic and social implications - IDIES -	Excellence research programme	National Economy Institute	04.10.2005–04.10.2008	1,400,000	150,000
2. Sustainable development of Romania in European and international context - DDRCEM -	Excellence research programme	National Economic Research Institute	04.10.2005–04.10.2008	1,488,500	50,000
3. Convergent interdisciplinary solutions in land use planning and in the structuring of the transport system, focused on sustainable development and increase in the quality of life - TERITRANS -	Excellence research programme	Bucharest University of Polytechnics – The Research, Design and Transport Consulting Centre	25.10.2005–30.07.2008	1,600,000	120,000
4. Projection of the occupation and qualifications' deficit on short and medium term - PODCTSM -	Excellence research programme	The National Scientific Research Institute in the Labour and Social Protection Field	10.10.2005–05.12.2007	1,156,220	50,000
<b>TOTAL B - CCEX</b>				<b>5,644,720</b>	<b>370,000</b>

## NUMBER AND AMOUNT OF NATIONAL RESEARCH CONTRACTS – FINANCED FROM PUBLIC FUNDS

### C – PN II

No. Name of Research Topic	Financing Framework Programme	Project Manager	Contract Period	Contract Amount - RON -	of which, subcontract amount, NSTC- RON -
1 Modelling and evaluation of the impact of national and international direct investments on the labour market and macroeconomic evolutions in Romania	PN II	Academy of Economic Studies	2007-2009	1,240,000	130,000
2 Methodologies for the evaluation of the impact of family policies on the behaviour and evolution of family structures at regional and national level	PN II	The National Scientific Research Institute for Labour and Social Protection	2007-2010	1,706,900	376,525
3 Correlations between the social and economic characteristics of the Development Regions and the level of Informal Economy: estimations, analyses and scenarios	PN II	Academy of Economic Studies	2007-2010	1,285,000	70,000
4 Modelling of the financial behaviour of population, considering the impact of demographic ageing. System of specific indicators and measures to fight against financial imbalance	PN II	Academy of Economic Studies	2007-2010	824,600	353,800
5 Economic and social effects of the cultural and creative industries in Romania	PN II	National Economy Institute	2007-2010	1,900,000	150,000
6 Expression of molecules associated to the cell signal and genetic rearrangement – clonal molecular markers identified in the development of lymphatic proliferations with B cell. Setting-up the national register of follicular lymphoma	PN II	COLTEA HOSPITAL	2007-2010	1,800,000	151,000

NUMBER AND AMOUNT OF NATIONAL RESEARCH CONTRACTS – FINANCED FROM PUBLIC FUNDS - continued

C – PN II

No.	Name of Research Topic	Financing Framework Programme	Project Manager	Contract Period	Contract Amount - RON -	of which, subcontract amount, NSTC- RON -
7	Prognosis of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, volatile organic compounds and ammonia emissions resulting from industrial activities (including energy) on medium term (2010) and long term (2020)	Sector Plan	National Institute of Research and Development for Industrial Ecology	2007-2008	200,000	40,000
8	Impact of introduction of privately managed compulsory pension schemes and of optional pension schemes on households' well-being	PN II	The National Scientific Research Institute for Labour and Social Protection	2007-2009	1,950,000	419,500
9	Models of sector economic evaluation of tourism in Romania	PN II	The Institute of Research and Development in Tourism	2008-2010	1,198,000	200,000
<b>TOTAL C - PN II</b>					<b>12,104,500</b>	<b>1,890,825</b>

**D – PLAN SECTORIAL**

No.	Name of Research Topic	Financing Framework Programme	Project Manager	Contract Period	Contract Amount - RON -	of which, NSTC Amount - RON -
1.	Drafting a set of general indicators and specific indicators for research and development programmes and for PNCD I	Sector Plan	Polytechnics Managerial Agency of Scientific Research and Technology Transfer AMCSIT - Bucharest	07.04.2005–30.09.2005	1,000.000	15,000
2.	Procurement of sampling services for the "Policies in the Mental Health Field " survey		The National Institute of Research and Development in Health	30.11.2005–20.04.2006	27,900	27,900
<b>TOTAL D – sector plan</b>					<b>1,027,900</b>	<b>42,900</b>



# NUMBER AND AMOUNT OF RESEARCH CONTRACTS FINANCED FROM OTHER SOURCES

No. Name of Research Topic	Financing Framework Programme	Project Manager	Contract Period	Contract Amount - USD -	of which, NSTC - USD -
1. Preparing representative samples of 10% of the micro-data of population and dwellings' censuses of 1992, 2002, for households, persons, dwellings— data anonymisation, frequency control analysis of representativeness, ensuring data comparability. Projection of query and sampling applications and their execution.	other contracts – MINNESOTA UNIVERSITY -SUA	National Statistical Training Centre	02.2005–07.2005	21,200	21,200
2. Recovery of micro-data from the population and dwellings' census of 1977: - transfer, recovery and conversion of data from magnetic band – 9 partially deteriorated trails in binary ICL code, in ASCII format; - deciphering of binary information data anonymization, frequency control, representativeness analysis, ensuring data comparability with other censuses.	other contracts – MINNESOTA UNIVERSITY -SUA	National Statistical Training Centre	05.2006–08.2006	10,600	10,600
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>31,800</b>	<b>31,800</b>

**BUDGETARY EXECUTION FOR 2007**  
**- funds allocated from the State budget -**

- RON thousand -

Indicators	Annual Forecasts		Payments on 31 December 2007		% Payments against forecasts
	RON thousand	% out of total	RON thousand	% out of total	
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>101,406.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100,186.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>98.80</b>
<b>Staff expenditures</b>	<b>72,056.0</b>	<b>71.06</b>	<b>71,549.6</b>	<b>71.42</b>	<b>99.30</b>
- salary expenditures	45,581.0	44.95	45,317.6	45.23	99.67
- vacation bonuses	6,388.0	6.29	6,299.2	6.28	98.61
- allowance for statistical agents	4,640.0	4.58	4,621.8	4.62	99.60
- salaries-related contributions	15,336.0	15.13	15,220.9	15.20	99.25
- travel allowances	111.0	0.11	90.1	0.09	81.17
<b>Goods and services</b>	<b>19,512.0</b>	<b>19.24</b>	<b>18,807.1</b>	<b>18.77</b>	<b>96.39</b>
- maintenance expenditures	4,319.0	4.25	4,188.1	4.18	96.97
- materials and services of a functional nature	5,249.9	5.18	5,209.8	5.15	99.24
- post, telephone	2,302.0	2.26	2,270.2	2.27	98.62
- motor vehicle fuels	478.8	0.47	472.5	0.48	98.69
- inventory items	1,060.7	1.05	1,043.0	1.10	98.30
- current repairs	3,238.0	3.20	3,145.9	3.14	97.13
- transport and accommodation for delegates	1,023.8	1.01	955.3	0.95	93.31
- vocational training	468.0	0.46	454.5	0.45	97.11
- labour protection	236.0	0.24	197.9	0.20	83.86
- other expenditures	1,135.8	1.12	870.0	0.85	76.60
<b>Transfers (contribution of the Romanian party to the programmes financed by the EU)</b>	<b>989.0</b>	<b>0.97</b>	<b>982.1</b>	<b>0.98</b>	<b>99.30</b>
<b>Capital expenditures</b>	<b>8,849.0</b>	<b>8.73</b>	<b>8,847.9</b>	<b>8.83</b>	<b>100.0</b>
- headquarters of Braşov County Statistical Department	3,400.0	3.36	3,400.0	3.40	100.0
- independent equipment	5,158.0	5.08	5,157.6	5.15	100.0
- overhauls	291.0	0.29	290.3	0.28	100.0