

ROMANIA



1,799 employees

780 interviewers

130 million lei
budget

3.3 million hours
worked

1,100 statistical
indicators

ANNUAL REPORT 2014



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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
STATISTICS

ANNUAL REPORT

2014



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Tudorel ANDREI
NIS President



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We will continue to take all possible steps to ensure that the Romanian official statistical data should be relevant for users, are presented in a clear and understandable form, released in a suitable and convenient manner, easily available and accessible so as to meet the needs of all data and information users.

FOREWORD

*For the National Institute of Statistics, the year 2014 meant continued efforts to harmonise the activities with the requirements specified in the European Statistics Code of Practice. In this regard, the introduction of free access to the whole statistical database **TEMPO on-line** is an element of institutional modernity that ensures the increased availability of statistical data.*

*The implementation of the European System of Accounts **ESA 2010**, approved by the European Union Regulation no. 549/2013 can be considered as a major achievement in the production of statistical data. Furthermore, launching the pilot project to assess the use of administrative sources in the statistical production for enterprises below 10 employees in the trade – services field is another good example of our attempts to comply with the European requirements in order to reduce the reporting burden.*

*The completion of the **Farm Structure Survey 2013**, which has received a financial support of 2 million Euro from the European Union and which primarily aimed at collecting data and obtaining information on the main characteristics of agricultural holdings, the usage of agricultural area, type of tenure, cultivated agricultural areas, irrigation, livestock, organic farming, agricultural machinery and equipment, persons carrying out agricultural activities and rural development is another success of the Institute.*

*Not least, I would like to mention that, at the end of 2014, the role of statisticians in society was recognised by **harmonising their salary level** with the level of staff of the General Secretariat of the Government.*

We hope that this will lead to attracting talented young people in the Institute, who can take over the relay from the current generation of statisticians.

*We also consider that over the past year the National Institute of Statistics has **achieved all the objectives** as defined in the **Annual National Statistical Plan** providing timely, quality data to all the categories of official statistical data users.*

*We will continue to take all possible steps to ensure that the Romanian official statistical data should be relevant for users, are presented in a clear and understandable form, released in a suitable and convenient manner, easily available and accessible so as to **meet the needs of all data and information users**.*

Tudorel ANDREI
President of
the National Institute of Statistics





INTRODUCTION

The Activity report of the National Institute of Statistics (INS) for 2014 highlights the activities undertaken for achieving the ultimate goal of its role, devoted to the production of quality statistics, credible, compiled and supplied in due time to meet, at the highest possible level, the requirements of all internal and external users categories.

The activities of the National Institute of Statistics (INS) are harmonised to a large extent with those developed at European level and were targeted, in 2014 as well, to the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice, code to which official statistics Romania joined with other Member States of the European Union.

Through its activities, the INS has envisaged to ensure the development of mechanisms and tools tailored to statistical activities based on priorities, to increase the structure and functionality of the National Statistical System and to improve its ability to meet the needs of the statistical data and information users.

In 2014, the INS activities have been conducted in accordance with the law on the organisation and functioning of official statistics in Romania, no.

226/2009, with subsequent amendments, being fully harmonised with those achieved at European level, according to Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics.

Human resources

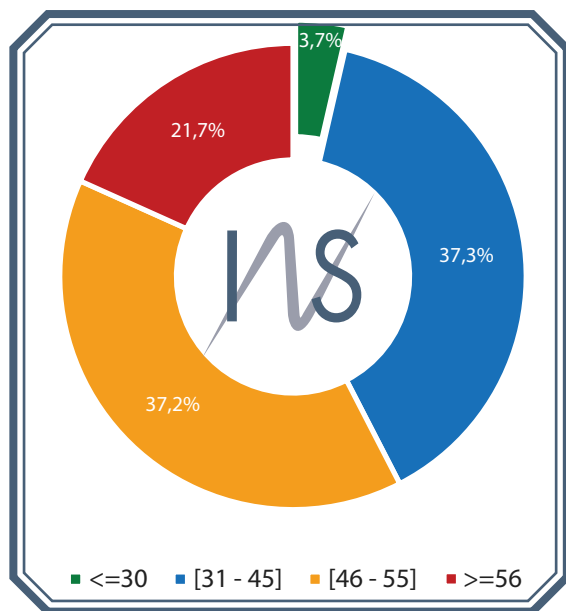
Ensuring sustainable development of a statistical system requires adequate human resources, both in terms of number, but mainly in qualitative terms.

The National Institute of Statistics has to fulfil specific obligations incumbent on Romania as an EU Member State, to promote official statistical data and information about Romania, under the European legislation in force.

Staff structure

In 2014, INS operated based on the Government Decision No 957/2005 on the organisation and functioning of the INS, as republished and amended, with a maximum number of 1899 posts, out of which 537 in the headquarters and 1362 in the regional statistical directorates (DTS).

The situation in 2014 is reflected in the annexes.



Employees structure by age groups

Of the total number of 1799 occupied positions, young people under 30 accounts for 3.7 %, while the staff aged over 56 years is 21.7 %, the staffing structure being reflected in annexes.

During 2014, 186 people were employed and 105 people left the system, out of which 55 due to retirement and 26 by agreement of

staff.

Of total staff with higher education, around 40 % have completed postgraduate courses, masters or are PhD holders.

Staff salaries

In 2014, staff salaries fell under the framework Law No 284/2010 on the unified payment of staff paid from public funds, as amended, and Government Emergency Ordinance no. 103/2013 regarding the remuneration of staff paid from public funds in 2014, as well as other measures on public expenditure.



70,7
MILLION LEI
STAFF EXPENDITURE

87,5% 
TERTIARY EDUCATION

40% { master degrees
graduates of post-
university studies,
doctor degrees }

12,5% SECONDARY EDUCATION

the parties. The situation of staff employed and leaves from the system, on causes, is presented in annexes.

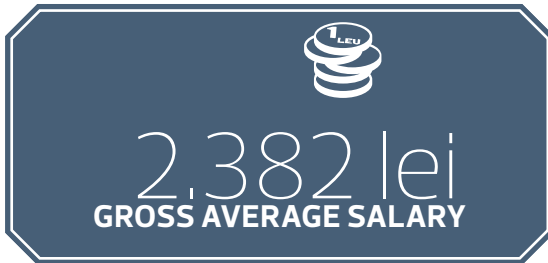
In terms of educational profile, graduates of higher education represent 87.5 % of total

Since 30 December 2014, in accordance with Government Emergency Order No 83/2014 on staff salaries paid from public funds in 2015, as well as other measures on public expenditure and the joint order of the Secretary General of the General Secretariat of the Government no 821/18.12.2014 and the order of the National Institute of Statistics' President No 717/18.12.2014 staff salaries in the National Statistical Institute, including in the regional and county statistical directorates were assimilated to staff salaries in the General Secretariat of the Government.

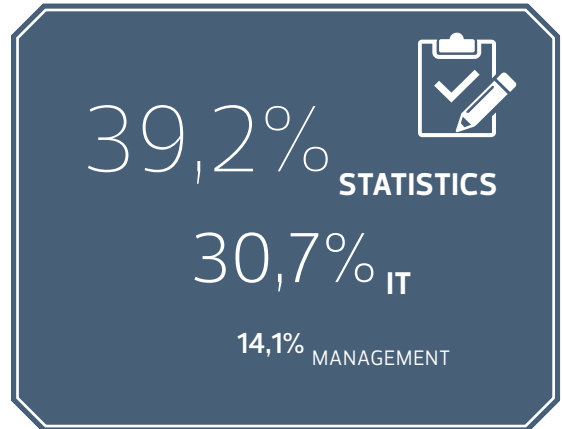
The average gross wage in INS in 2014 was RON 2.382.

Staff development

The integration of INS staff in training and life-long learning processes, in view to meet current and future challenges, was in 2014 a priority of the National Institute of Statistics, this being ensured through the Annual Training Programme.



Vocational training programmes covered mainly areas such as statistics 39.17 %, IT 30.71 % and management



14.13 %. A detailed breakdown is given in annexes.

In 2014, from the National Institute of Statistics — headquarters and territorial units, 1833 trainees participated and graduated 111 training programmes organised with the support of NCTS and other providers of training.



Cătălin PĂUNA

Country economist for Romania and Hungary, World Bank



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Within the World Bank, we wish that all the efforts of the INS should be successfully ended and we are ready to give our support whenever this would be helpful. At the same time, we are grateful for the professional relationships developed between our institutions and we are confident that new cooperation ways will be identified in the benefit of Romanian citizens.

A CENTRAL ROLE

The National Institute of Statistics is a representative public institution of Romania, being one of the major suppliers of information about the country's economic and social situation.

INS and the World Bank are collaborating for several decades. The relationships between the two institutions were substantially strengthened after 1990, with the opening of the Bank's Bureau in Bucharest. We can say, practically, that all major development projects where the World Bank was involved in Romania were granted foreground by INS. Not infrequently, INS and the World Bank were direct partners in these projects and, in all cases, the INS staff gave evidence of objectivity and professionalism, exercising the profession at high standards in respect of the institution in question.

In July this year, there will be 156 years since when Alexandru Ioan Cuza signed the birth of what became in time the INS, a modern institution, with trained staff and facilities increasingly performing, with a central position in the architecture of national administration. This position, fully deserved, is at the same time bounding in honour. Romania itself, now a full member of the European Union, is undergoing an important and long-lasting process of modernisation, democratic consolidation and economic competitiveness growth, for the benefit of its citizens. This process of modernisation and reforms, which is not easy, starts bearing fruit. If 15 years ago, for example, the GDP per capita was around 25 % of the average European Union countries, today it exceeded 50 % of the European average. Obviously, data are supplied by INS.

INS continues its way on the path undertaken in 1990 and plays a central role in the process of modernising the Romanian society. This modernisation has several dimensions – democracy consolidation; further integration into European structures, including through the adoption of the euro; modernising public administration and improving the efficiency in the spending of public money; improving the business environment in view to increase economic competitiveness and create jobs; reducing poverty and promoting human development. In this context, INS must be prepared — and we are convinced it is — to meet new challenges, i.e. not just to offer useful information for public authorities decision-making, but above all to strengthen further the capacity of analysis.

Both the INS management and staff are aware of the important role which an institution with such a status must play in support of public policy decisions based on records (or “evidence-based policy-making”, according to the literature). The concern with which INS discusses these challenges, reflected in modern legislative initiatives such as statistical law, in annual work plans, in the professional development of staff and attracting new qualifications, the development of new statistical tools or the collaboration with other public or international institutions shows that this is fully understood and accepted.

Cătălin PĂUNA
Country economist for
Romania and Hungary,
World Bank



STATISTICAL PRODUCTION

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

The full range of macroeconomic indicators from the system of national accounts, as core indicators of economy, has been placed at the heart of the National Institute of Statistics concerns, oriented towards the alignment of techniques and methods for estimating the indicators, on one side, and towards the connection of these estimates to EU standards and rules, on the other. As substantial achievements in the field, in 2014, the following are worth mentioning:

- Implementation of the **European System of Accounts ESA 2010**, approved through Regulation (EU) No 549/2013;
- Implementation of **SDMX** — single standard for compliance with the exchange

and transmission of data and metadata for the statistics stipulated in the EU Regulation No. 549/2013;

- Revision of 1995 to 2012 series according to ESA 2010, both of the Input – Output tables and of the quarterly and annual accounts;
- Uploading in the TEMPO database the data revised under ESA 2010 for the Input-Output tables, TIEC (table of integrated economic accounts) for the series 1995-2012;
- Completion of employment and hours worked revision according to CANE Rev. 2 for the years 1995-1998 for both annual and quarterly accounts;
- Revision of employment and hours worked according to the 2011 Population and

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European System of Accounts

ESA 2010



Adriana CIUCHEA

Director-General, General Directorate of National Accounts and Macroeconomic Syntheses NIS



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By the changeover to the new system of national accounts it is envisaged to reflect the new economic realities, while meeting the information needs of users as regards celerity of publication of results and measurement of specific aspects.

MEETING THE INFORMATION NEEDS OF USERS

*The current system of **national accounts** is a comprehensive and coherent system of correlated indicators, able to highlight all aspects and stages of the economic process, all transactions and flows in the economy.*

The Romanian system of national accounts is a complex system, consisting of the following components:

- annual national accounts;
- quarterly national accounts;
- regional national accounts;
- Government finance statistics.

Since September 2014, national accounts aggregates have been calculated according to the methodology of the European System of Accounts 2010 (ESA 2010). By the changeover to the new system of national accounts it is envisaged to reflect the new economic realities, while meeting the information needs of users as regards celerity of publication of results and measurement of specific aspects. At the same time, the ESA 2010 complies with the rules established at world level of the system of national accounts (SNA 2008) adapted to the structures of the Member States' economies, so that the data of the Union are comparable with those compiled by its main international partners.

ESA 2010 differs in scope as well as in concepts from the ESA 95. There are major differences in scope, as well as new chapters on satellite accounts, government accounts and the rest of the world accounts. There are also significant extensions to the chapters on quarterly accounts and regional accounts.

***Price statistics** - the objective price statistics is the production of relevant indicators on consumer prices, industrial production, services, housing, agricultural products and inputs, using robust methodologies in line with international standards and the provision of these indicators to decision makers and the general public. At the same time, the development of a system of prices comparable at European level which meets the requirements set out in the European comparison programme is envisaged.*

On October 28th, 2009, the European Commission published a Communication on "A better functioning of food supply chain in Europe". Among other challenges identified in this Communication, the Commission aims „to increase transparency alongside the food supply chain in view to encourage competition and improve resilience to price volatility". A step towards increased transparency is the creation of a European tool for monitoring food prices.

The main purpose of this tool is to bring together available data on price developments in the different steps of the supply chain, comparing changes in agricultural products prices with prices of relevant products from food industry, relevant food prices from import and, last but not least, a set of current food supplies.

***Dissemination of statistical data** - the main objective of the dissemination activity is to promote the online dissemination of NIS products and to support the formation of the culture on statistical information retrieval on the Internet. In view to increase the access to statistical information and to meet the data users requests, the access to the Tempo-online database is entirely free of charge. This measure resulted in an increase by 46 % of the number of pages viewed in 2014 compared to 2013*

Adriana CIUCHEA

Director General, General Directorate of National Accounts and macroeconomic synthesis INS

continued from page 15

Housing Census for the years 2012-2013 for both annual and quarterly accounts;

- Further improvement of GNI exhaustiveness, by implementing both specific and transversal reservations;
- 50 % test applied for the reference year 2013 for public companies observed;
- Estimating consumption of fixed capital by industry.

Government finance statistics

In the field of **government finance statistics**, the following took place during 2014:

- Two reports in March, respectively September on deficit (B.9)/public debt, in March under ESA 95 for the period 2010-2013, and in September under the new ESA 2010 in the context of the Excessive Deficit Procedure;
- Compilation of non-financial accounts sequence for the General Government sector for 2013 according to ESA 2010 and revision of the 1995-2012 period;
- Drawing up the tables according to the ESA 2010 transmission programme in the area of public finances for 2013 (Table 2 — Main aggregates of general government; Table 9 — Breakdown by type of taxes and contributions received by sub-sector; List of national taxes; Table 11 — General government expenditure by COFOG function and subsectors);
- Compilation of quarterly non-financial accounts sequence for General Government sector Q 4 2013 Q 1- Q 3 for the year 2014;
- Revision of Table 25 — quarterly non-financial accounts for General Government (expenditure and revenue) in accordance with ESA 2010 — Q 1 2002 -Q 3 2014;
- Compilation of final consumption for General Government sector for 2013;
- Calculation of fixed capital consumption for General Government sector for 2013.

In the field of **regional statistics**, the

following took place in 2014:

- Compilation of regional national accounts by activities for the year 2012 CANE Rev. 2 according to ESA 2010 (calculation of Gross Domestic Product at NUTS III level, compensation of employees at NUTS II level, gross fixed capital formation at NUTS II level, employment - thousand persons at NUTS-III level and Employment — hours worked at NUTS II level and their revision under ESA 2010 for the period 2000-2011;
- Compilation of regional accounts of Households sector (Allocation of primary income account and Secondary distribution of income account) for the year 2012;
- Compilation of regional tables 1000, 1001, 1200 and 1300 according to the ESA 2010 transmission programme.

STATISTICAL CLASSIFICATIONS AND REGISTERS:

- Drawing up the Order on the establishment of an internal working group for expanding the use of administrative data sources for statistical purposes within the INS — headquarters;
- Drawing up the final (extended) version of the document on the architecture of administrative sources in the national statistical system;
- Preparing information documents for administrative data sources inventoried and used within the General Directorate of statistical sources operation and management. They have been developed in accordance with the model approved, indicating the scope, the observation unit, data availability, limitations of the information;
- Launching the pilot project to assess the use of administrative sources for statistical production focusing on UNICA survey, for companies below 10 employees in the area of trade – services in Bucharest, Ilfov and Bihor counties. During 2014 was drafted the first progress report of the project (December).

Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics - FRIBS :

- Permanent documentation and preparatory phases for implementation;
- Organising working groups with all the departments concerned in order to analyse the impact of implementing FRIBS Regulation;
- Drawing up replies to questionnaires requested by Eurostat on the assessment and impact of FRIBS Regulation implementation.

Classification of Products and Services relating to Activities of Romania's national economy — CPSA

- Elaborarea structurii CPSA 2015 (versiunea revizuită a CPSA 2008) în conformitate cu stadiul de realizare, la nivelul Eurostat, a CPA (respectiv CPA 2015).
- Participare în calitate de experți în domeniul eșantionării de întreprinderi la elaborarea rapoartelor de calitate solicitate de Eurostat sau cele orientate către utilizatori.

Administrative sources management and processing

- Participation in the Working Group for PODCA Project:
 - Granting technical and methodological assistance to the experts responsible for the design of the IT system and processing statistical data and metadata to ensure the necessary format for uploading in the system;
 - Participation in the pilot project to assess the use of administrative sources for statistical production;
 - Participation in projects, grants or other works non-included in ANSP 2014:
 - Preparing the implementation of the revised definition of enterprises for statistical units: the delineation of statistical units and

testing the methodology for profiling.

Agriculture, Forestry and Environment Statistics:

- Completion of the **Farm Structure Survey 2013**, which has received a financial support of 2 million Euro from the European Union. The results of this survey were transmitted to Eurostat in the 'Eurofarm' file, containing 321581 records with anonymised micro-data at farm level;
 - Calculation of the typology and the economic size of agricultural holdings, on the basis of the Farm Structure Survey 2013 results and the standard output (SO) coefficients established by the Farm Accountancy Data Network of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development;
 - Production and transmission to Eurostat of the standard tables with statistical data and quality reports on environmental economic accounts pursuant to Regulation (EU) No 538/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 amending Regulation (EU) 691/2011 on European environmental economic accounts;
 - Completion of the Eurostat grant **"Improving water statistics"** in cooperation with the 'Romanian Waters' National Administration.

Ion FLORESCU

Director General / Directorate General of Economic Statistics – NIS



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The main objective of agricultural statistics is to provide statistical data on agriculture and fisheries necessary for achieving and monitoring the Common Agricultural Policy, reflecting the European strategic objectives related to sustainability and rural development.

STATISTICS AND THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Rural areas in the European Union has major importance both from economic and social standpoint and, therefore, the setting up of coherent common agricultural policies have an essential role in safeguarding the future of agriculture and rural areas.

The Common Agricultural Policy developed at European Union level was conceived as a partnership between the farmers in the Community area and the European Union, the main objective being to increase European agricultural productivity in the sector, but also to support sustainable rural development, a concept which involved shifting from economic to the social and human welfare, progressively including the objective of sustainable development. Since its launch in 1962, the Common Agricultural Policy has achieved progress in addressing global challenges that affect us all, in several stages.

In the last 10-15 years new objectives have been introduced in relation to the Common Agricultural Policy, which included environmental protection, sustainable farming practices, food security and food safety, animal welfare as well as broader perspectives relating to rural development.

At the horizon 2020, the Common Agricultural Policy has to respond to future challenges aimed at:

- a sustainable food production;
- the sustainable management of natural resources;
- a balanced territorial development.

The main objective of agricultural statistics is to provide statistical data on agriculture and fisheries necessary for achieving and monitoring the Common Agricultural Policy, reflecting the European strategic objectives related to sustainability and rural development by carrying out regular activities related to the development, production and dissemination of statistics.

This objective can be implemented through a series of actions to address this requirement by:

- revision and simplification of the agricultural and fisheries data collection according to the requirements of the Common Agricultural Policy;
- redesigning the agricultural and fisheries data collection processes, in particular with the objective of improving quality and timeliness of the data dissemination;
- an in-depth revision of the data management system on land usage and coverage, elaboration and implementation of a new system;
- implementation of the data collection system for agri-environmental indicators, on the basis of existing data;
- provision of data at regional level.

The development of agricultural statistics is closely linked to the development of the Common Agricultural Policy, providing the necessary data for monitoring the goals of this policy.

Ion FLORESCU
Director-General

General Directorate of Economic Statistics

Statistics of Short-term Economic Indicators

Analysis of the methodologies and definitions of variables in the field of short-term economic indicators proposed in the general framework of FRIBS and of the implications of the proposed changes on consistency and comparability of data sets.

Use of the web application (**ESS Metadata Handler**) for uploading and transmission of the metadata and quality reports for short-term indicators on tourism, science and technology.

Identification of new administrative sources for short-term indicators in order to improve data quality and reduce the burden of enterprises.

Launching the actions to achieve Energy account within a project co-financed by Eurostat, for the implementation in Romanian statistics of Regulation (EU) 538/2014. The project is to be completed at the end of 2015.

In relation to the **Tourism satellite account**, whose compilation is not mandatory under Regulation (EU) no. 692/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning European statistics on tourism and repealing Directive 95/57/EC, but encourages Member States to achieve in 2014, the National Institute of Statistics, further to several pilot exercises, succeeded to compile and publish the Tourism satellite account for 2012.

Business statistics

Analysis of methodologies and definitions of Structural Business Statistics variables proposed under the general framework FRIBS and of the implications of the proposed changes on consistency and comparability of data sets.

Implementation of preparatory actions concerning profiling and preparing information needed to test its implications at national level.

Use of Eurostat application to check the consistency and quality of data (**EDIT**) for final data from the structural survey and the statistics of foreign affiliates.

Foreign trade statistics

In the field of international trade in goods, INS continued the production of statistics based on the two statistical systems **Intrastat** and **Extrastat** respecting legal deadlines and aiming on the one hand to improve the quality of data collected, processed and disseminated and boosting the perception and awareness of statistical information providers.

Concerns relating to assessment and improved quality of statistical data and reducing the burden on providers of statistical information, continued in 2014 by performing very complex actions within the following Community grants:

- “**Modernisation of Intrastat**”, support project for the implementation of SIMSTAT by the National Institute of Statistics, as the competent national authority for the collection, validation, processing and dissemination of statistical data for intra-Community trade in goods.
- “**Preparation for the exchange of micro-data on intra-EU trade in goods between the Member States of the European Union**” — first grant of ESSnet type on this topic (Simstat-pilot ESSnet 1), undertaken with the participation of 17 Member States and coordinated by Finland, whose actions aimed at enabling to test micro-data exchange system of officials under real conditions.
- “**SIMSTAT — Implementation of the pilot tests for the exchange of micro-data**” — project launched for the implementation of pilot micro-data exchange for intra-Community

trade in goods between EU Member States for the flow of consignments, as a continuation of the ESSnet project on the preparation for the exchange of micro-data on intra-EU trade between EU Member States (Simstat-pilot ESSnet 1) with the participation of all EU Member States.

Demographic and social statistical **Sample frame in the social field** —EMZOT—

The activities carried out during 2014 had focused on the Master Sample of Territorial Zones (EMZOT) management, taking samples for the household surveys, calculation of the extension coefficients and the calculation of indicators for the quality reports.

The management of the sampling frame in the social field involved the updating of dwellings in EMZOT with data from carried out surveys, the preparation of the frame in order to extract the samples for the household surveys and the production of statistics based on information from the sampling frame.

The extraction of samples for household surveys involved the design and the implementation of the dwellings selection procedures and the preparation of dwellings nomenclature for each survey and their transmission in the territory.

Setting up the new sample frame EMZOT on the basis of definitive data of PHC 2011:

- Achieving the primary units (PUs) basis;
- Calculation of probabilities of PUs inclusion in EMZOT;

Selection of a sufficient number of EMZOT versions and sampling error calculation;

Living conditions statistics

In the field of the living conditions statistics, the activities carried out in 2014 were targeted, as hitherto, to the implementation of the methodologies for the calculation of comparable indicators in areas of great interest throughout Europe, redesigning some of statistical surveys already existing and their adaptation to the latest European regulations, but also the harmonisation with national legislation.

A statistical survey particularly important for the **National Statistical System** is the **Family Budget Survey** — sample statistical survey, the main source of data for the assessment of population income, consumption and expenditure, for the substantiation of social protection programmes, the impact analysis on the implementation of various programmes in the social field, on the economic effects of transition, in general, upon the socio-economic situation of the population. The survey was conducted based on the monthly collection of data from 3120 households, with an annual volume of sample of 37440 households.

The **Living Conditions Survey** (ACAV), longitudinal statistical survey, has provided the information needed to assess the living conditions of the population, by highlighting the interconnection and complementarity of various aspects, such as: health, education, income, housing conditions, material deprivation, poverty, employment, etc.

The year 2014 was the one of completing the secondary module “**Material deprivation**” according to Commission Regulation (EU) no. 112/2013. Likewise, 21 variables on material deprivation were also included, to be maintained in each year.

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Florentina Viorica GHEORGHE

Director / Directorate of Foreign Trade Statistics – NIS



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In addition to the potential administrative burden reduction, an advantage of the SIMSTAT implementation is the possibility to use the micro-data collected by other countries to reduce asymmetries (differences between arrivals and dispatches between two partner countries), which may have impact on the comparability and coherence of GDP and of the Balance of Payments.

REDESIGNING INTRASTAT

For the producers of official statistics in the Member States of the European Union, the functioning of the Intrastat statistical system, based on the biggest monthly statistical survey of the entire European Statistical System, is a permanent challenge. The importance of this system for Romania is further accentuated by the share exceeding 70 % of intra-Community trade in the total volume of international trade in goods. The implementation of INTRASTAT from 1 January 2007 was really successful, Romania being the first Member State that has opted for a system of exclusively electronic collection of the statistical declarations for intra-Community trade in goods. Currently, the National Institute of Statistics monthly collects Intrastat statistical declarations from over 20000 intra-EU economic operators (around 30 % of the total), covering more than 97 % of the total intra-Community trade in goods of Romania.

In recent years, EU-wide estimates suggest that, as average, the Intrastat statistical system requires more than 50 % of the entire administrative burden generated by official statistics on economic operators. Therefore, in the context of the strategy on economic growth — Europe 2020, the European Council called on the European Statistical System to take the necessary steps in the area of international trade in goods statistics to meet the current and future needs of the users and to ensure a substantial reduction of the response burden by “recasting” Intrastat, while maintaining an appropriate level of output quality.

In the case of Romania, the reporting facilities and the methodological support offered by the National Institute of Statistics have alleviated considerably the statistical reporting duties of national economic operators as opposed to those from other Member States.

From Intrastat to SIMSTAT

The major reform of Intrastat through the implementation of the SIMSTAT (Single Market Statistics) is the Eurostat response to the request of the European Council. Considered a paradigm shift in the way in which European statistics are produced and disseminated, SIMSTAT relies on the exchange of micro-data between Member States of the European Union for the flow of intra-Community shipments.

The basic principles of the Intrastat reform are:

- simplifying the reporting requirements for the Member States regarding the flow of intra-Community arrivals. This will allow them to assess their arrivals according to their national needs, having the possibility to use other data sources as well;*
- ensuring the availability of data that already exist in the statistical system, through binding Member States mutual access to micro-data for the flow of intra-Community dispatches;*
- enhancing the quality of statistical information on intra-Community dispatches flow;*
- reducing or removing the collection of statistical data for the flow of intra-Community arrivals;*
- the Member States may decide to what extent they will use micro-data for dispatches, together*

with other sources, to assess intra-Community arrivals;

- the proposed reform allows for an individual and gradual implementation in the Member States, given the reluctance of some EU Member States in the acceptance of a statistical system based on mutual exchange of micro-data.

In addition to the potential administrative burden reduction, an advantage of the SIMSTAT implementation is the possibility to use the micro-data collected by other countries to reduce asymmetries (differences between arrivals and dispatches between two partner countries), which may have impact on the comparability and coherence of GDP and of the Balance of Payments.

Alternatives to SIMSTAT

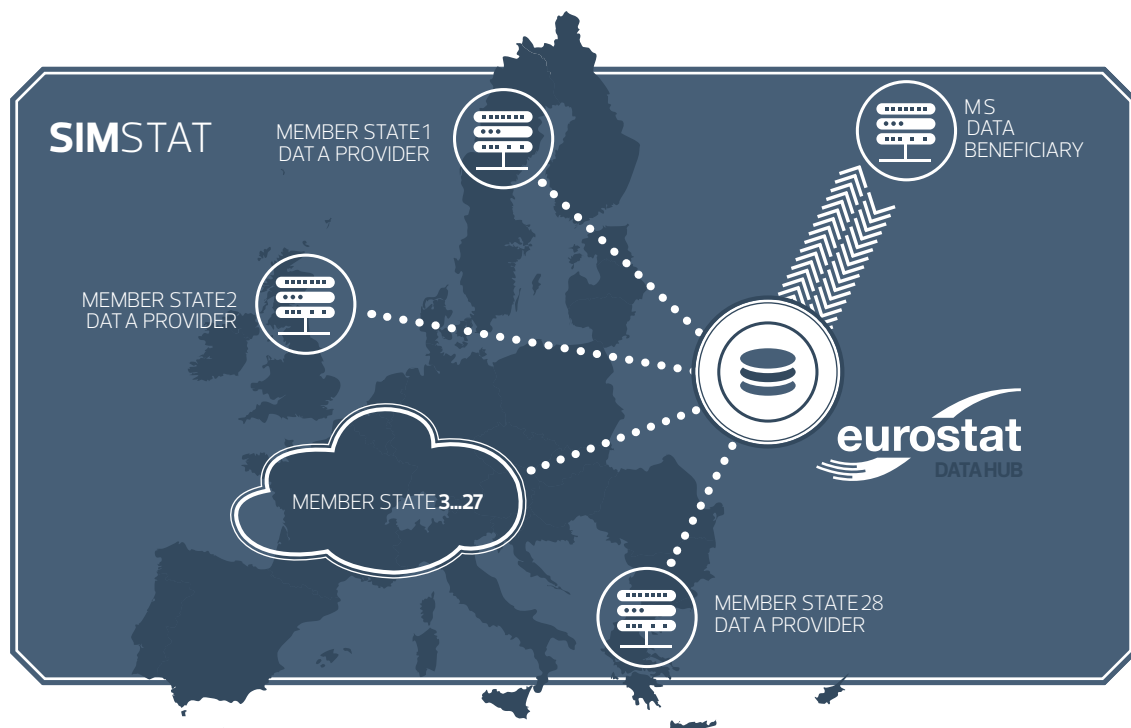
Redesigning Intrastat must take into account all the basic features of this system with a history of over 20 years: reported flows, level of detail, geographical breakdown, periodicity, data sources and the minimum coverage requirements. Studies have shown that the interests of data providers (desiring

simplified procedures) are not easily reconcilable with those of data users (who generally desire the availability of more detailed information). However, Eurostat and the Member States have defined possible alternatives to SIMSTAT, which currently are analysed and assessed in terms of the opportunity. Such alternatives include: further reducing the coverage level, the single flow reporting, use of combined frequencies — monthly, respectively annual data collection.

The European Statistical System Committee will decide on the implementation of SIMSTAT in 2016 based on the results of the pilot exchange of micro-data in 2015 and cost-benefit assessments of the alternatives identified. The National Institute of Statistics is actively involved, jointly with most Member States, since 2012, in all the activities of training, testing and evaluation of SIMSTAT and its alternatives aiming at the reform of Intrastat.

Florentina Viorica GHEORGHE

Director//Directorate of Foreign Trade Statistics



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In the second part of the year 2014 activities were carried out to improve the quality of data from the EU-SILC survey at regional level, activities included in the Grant **“Action plan to improve EU-SILC”**. Another important activity in the field of living conditions statistics is the calculation of indicators of **social inclusion**.

In 2014 continued the compilation of the national set of inclusion indicators, under Government Decision No 488/2005 approving the national system of indicators of social inclusion.

In recent years a great emphasis is put on the European Union strategy for promoting inclusive and sustainable growth — known as the **Europe 2020 strategy**, which set targets in five main areas, among which poverty and social exclusion.

Thus, 4 indicators associated to Europe 2020 have been calculated in the field of poverty and social exclusion, the main data source being the European survey on income and living conditions (ACAV). These indicators determine: people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, people living in households with very low work intensity, persons at risk of poverty after social transfers and people in severe material deprivation.

The indicators are disseminated also in the publication **“Dimensions of social inclusion in Romania”**.

Employment statistics

The information required to assess labour market phenomena, measuring economically active population — employed and unemployed — and economically inactive population are obtained from the **Household Labour Force Survey** (Amigo).

In order to better estimate the indicators on lifelong learning, in particular those forming part of the set of Europe 2020, the sequence dedicated to this area in the survey questionnaire was developed by designing a distinct module incorporated in the survey tools.

In the first part of the year, the activities relating to the survey **“Health and safety at work”** (ad hoc module attached to the Household labour force survey in 2013) were finalised by transposing the micro-data in the format requested by the European regulations in force and the delivery of the micro-data files to Eurostat.

The survey on **“Learning mobility of individuals”** — as a module attached to the household labour force survey. The survey was carried out as part of the Grant **“Achieving a system of data collection on learning mobility of individuals”** (one of the 2 components thereof).

During 2014, the quarterly results of the EU Household labour force survey (Amigo) were obtained by extension to the resident population estimated in terms of comparability with the results of the population and housing census (PHC 2011).

In the same vein, as agreed with Eurostat, the data series on monthly unemployment (according to ILO criteria) was recalculated for 2004-2014 and transmitted to Eurostat.

Wage statistics

The information necessary to assess the size, structure and trends of earnings, labour cost and job vacancies are provided by specialised statistical survey results.

Likewise, on short-term, the assessment of trends in the evolution of labour costs by

sector of the socio-economic activity, under comparability conditions with European statistics, has been achieved through quarterly indices of labour costs, produced and disseminated in unadjusted format, adjusted by working-days number and seasonally adjusted.

As consequence of the development of specific methodologies and on the basis of the results of the specified surveys, the production of additional statistics continued as follows:

- Real earnings indices — as the ratio between net earnings indices and consumer price indices (annual and monthly);
- Templates for short-term indicators (STS) — monthly;
- Structural indicators requested by the OECD: the tax wedge on labour costs, unemployment trap and low wage trap, net gains for 13 individual cases;

Indicators requested by Eurostat under the gentlemen 'agreements: the gender pay gap, annual gross earnings by activity and by gender and the number of employees in relation with the earnings, labour cost and its structure by component, the minimum wage, the ratio between the minimum wage and the average gross earnings in industry and services.

Social protection statistics

SSocial protection statistics compiled on the basis of administrative data are important sources of data required by national policy development in this field.

The main indicators of social protection statistics refer to the number of pensioners, registered unemployed persons and on income and social protection expenditure. The information is drawn from administrative

sources and of the institutions' registers with responsibilities in the area.

Education statistics

În the field of education statistics, 13 exhaustive statistical surveys in public and private educational establishments and a mixed survey (sample survey and, for a segment, based on administrative sources) are carried out.

These give a snapshot on the dimensions and developments in the education system both at the beginning and at the end of the school/academic year and provide the possibility of a higher volume of information on school population participation in the education and training process by education levels (according to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED- 2011).

At European level, UNESCO has developed a new international standard classification of education (ISCED 2011) which replaced ISCED- 1997 and has been implemented in all Member States (in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 317/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 April 2013 on the International Standard Classification of Education).

In order to reduce response burdens, the education survey tools for the school/academic year were redesigned so as to be able to continue to collect the necessary information according to European requirements. It has also been designed and introduced in the data collection process the statistical survey on ante-pre-school level in accordance with EU regulations.

Demographic statistics

Population and housing census 2011

In 2014 ended the last activities of the Population and Housing Census 2011, related to the development of channels for the dissemination of the final results in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on population and housing census and with Eurostat recommendations.

The activities carried out consist of:

- Drawing up the quality report on the Population and Housing Census 2011 in the structure described by Commission Regulation (EU) no. 1151/2010 implementing Regulation (EC) 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on population and housing censuses, as regards the modalities and structure of the quality reports and the technical format for data transmission and its transmission to Eurostat at the end of March 2014;
- Providing Eurostat with metadata related to PHC 2011 in the format required by Eurostat;
- Developing the hyper-cubes web application, as required by Commission Regulation No 519/2010 adopting the programme of the statistical data and the metadata for the population and housing censuses. 60 quantitative hyper-cubes and 21 qualitative hyper-cubes, mandatory, were produced.

Population statistics and international migration

In 2014, efforts on this area have been directed with priority towards finding a solution for the estimates on resident population and international migration of Romania in accordance with the definitions required by Regulation

(EU) no. 1260/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European demographic statistics and Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 on Community statistics on migration.

In this context, the National Institute of Statistics, with the support of Government Strategy Directorate of the General Secretariat of the Government, has developed an inter-institutional action plan on population and international migration issues, with the major objective of data collection from administrative sources, necessary for the construction of the database of social mobility, the individual record level (Stat-Pop). The action plan on population and international migration issues is subject to a Protocol of collaboration between the institutions within the inter-institutional working group.

The specific objectives of the plan are:

- The annual assessment of international migration in accordance with the requirements of Regulation No 862/2007 on international migration and Regulation No 1260/2013 on European statistics on demography;
- Producing annual statistics on the resident population in accordance with the requirements of Regulation No 1260/2013 on European statistics on demography, Regulation No 862/2007 on international migration and total migration of Romania, in particular in accordance with national requirements;
- Producing half-yearly statistics on total population and corresponding demographic structures at detailed territorial level (administrative – territorial unit).

A separate activity within the Action Plan was a draft law on demographic statistics, draft drawn up in 2014. The need for such a law is required by the European regulations which

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Silvia PISICĂ

Director-General, General Directorate of Demographic and Social



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For the future, a major challenge is the construction and availability of a statistical database on social mobility of the population (StatPop), the optimal solution to allow the exploitation of individual information collected and stored in the administrative databases of various public authorities and institutions [...]

CHALLENGES IN THE ESTIMATION OF THE POPULATION AND INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION STATISTICS

The society is composed of and means people and is governed by rules of operation and development between certain parameters and towards specific directions. The social and political rules are continuously changing and affecting each individual and, consequently, the whole of our society.

The geographical migration of people or various segments of populations has existed since immemorial times, often overlapping commercial roads. In the contemporary era, globalisation produced and accentuated a more and more frequent phenomenon: labour force migration. Even if today's society is confined to a new political-legislative-administrative context, the motivational substrate influencing human options and actions remained the same.

The free movement of workers is one of the four freedoms stipulated in the European Union legislation. Migration can occur for various reasons, such as economic, social or political. People either takes refuge to other areas due to certain calamities or disasters, wars, persecution of religious or political nature, or leaves to other areas in search of a better life, opportunities for development and a better economic level.

In the field of the population and international migration statistics have entered into force, in recent years, several EU regulations which establish a coherent framework for reporting of statistical data, requiring the use of precise definitions and concepts

on the scope of statistical indicators, reference periods, deadlines and reporting formats, etc. They aim at defining a common, harmonised framework, for reporting population and international migration statistics by EU Member States by imposing the use of the usual residence criterion and the threshold of 12 months, depending on which a person is considered as present or absent in a particular country, i.e. emigrant from/immigrant in that country.

Until recently, the phenomenon of international migration was heavily undervalued, statistics being produced exclusively based on administrative sources that are only measuring the number of Romanian citizens who change residence in Romania, and not the people who change the usual residence, the latter being much greater, i.e. millions of people.

Through a comprehensive programme of actions, Romanian statistics managed to corroborate more types of data sources and to produce, for the first time, a series of more than ten years for statistics on international migration flows (emigrants and immigrants) and resident population in accordance with European regulations in these areas.

In parallel, in view to meet the needs of national and, in particular, local policy makers, the National Institute of Statistics also succeeded to achieve the derivation of long data series (from 1990 to the present) on population statistics by residence.

For the future, a major challenge is the construction and availability of a statistical database on social mobility of the population (StatPop), the optimal solution to allow the exploitation of individual information collected and stored in the administrative databases of various public authorities and institutions, in view to comply with the European requirements in the field of population statistics, international migration, employment, poverty and social exclusion.

The setting up and functioning of StatPop will be governed by a legal act which is currently in draft stage — the draft law on demographic statistics in Romania. The main objectives of the draft

law relate to:

- setting up the legal framework for the social mobility statistical database able to meet the information needs for the organisation and production of statistics on population, demography and international migration in Romania

- including in the social mobility statistical database the information necessary for the estimates of income and poverty indicators, at local and national level

- implementing the terminology needed to produce statistics on population, demography

and international migration, for all authorities and public institutions that will provide data

- authorising public authorities and institutions for the transfer of personal data

- providing detailed information, including at the local level, for a complex range of variables which will allow to substantially reduce the costs of the next round of population census.

Silvia PISICĂ

**Director-General // General Directorate
of Demographic and Social Statistics**

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stipulate that the EU Member States should calculate the “resident population” and hence the indicators on international migration based on the concept of “usual residence” and the threshold of 12 months according to which a person is considered as immigrant/emigrant for a given country.

In order to meet European obligations involving significant changes in methodology, the optimal solution consists of the exploitation of individual information which is collected and stored in the databases of several authorities and public institutions. To meet all requirements of data on population, both at national and international level, on the basis of the individual data taken from administrative sources, INS aimed to create and manage a statistical database of social mobility of the population (StatPop) in view to produce statistical indicators on population and international migration.

Another achievement in population statistics was the elaboration of the methodology on calculation of population by residence, the compilation of this indicator being necessary to cover the information relating to all persons who are “de jure” residents of Romania.

The determination of population by residence is also necessary for:

- Substantiating government decisions;
- Informing the general public;
- Setting up long series of official statistical data;
 - Ensuring information at a detailed level of territorial profile, ending at locality level (municipality, town, commune), information needed for a multitude of national strategies and policies related to administration, economic and social field;
 - Ranking municipalities in tiers;
 - Ensuring the criteria for the determination of taxes.

Health statistics

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

In the field of health statistics were obtained and made available to users of statistical information about the health units from the public and private sectors and have been produced comparable statistics on health care. Key non-financial data and metadata on health care resources, health professionals and the main indicators of morbidity are transmitted annually to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and Eurostat, based on a standardised questionnaire, harmonised at European level.

In accordance with Commission Regulation (EU) No 141/2013 implementing Regulation (EC) 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on public health and health and safety at work, as regards statistics based on the European Health Interview Survey (EHIS), in 2014 the **Survey on health** was conducted on interview basis with the aim to produce comparable statistics at national and European level for evaluating the populations health status, highlighting individual morbidity, call for medical services (contacting family doctor, a specialist doctor or dentist, use of alternative medicine, admission to a hospital) and consumption of medicinal products and should provide for an opportunity of pointing out the link between them and certain demo-socio-economic factors (sex, age, marital status, professional status, occupation, etc.), environmental (housing conditions) or behaviour that have direct impact on health (diet, smoking, alcohol drinking, sport and physical activity).

Culture statistics

In the field of culture statistics information have been produced and disseminated on establishments carrying out cultural or artistic activities in the public and private sectors: libraries, museums and public collections, spectacles and concerts halls, publishers of newspapers and magazines, through the summary publication **“Cultural - artistic activity units”**.

Justice statistics

For justice statistics, there are collected on the basis of agreements concluded at an inter-institutional level, data from

the following administrative sources: the National Administration of Prisons within the Ministry of Justice, the Superior Council of the Magistracy, the National Police Headquarters of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. On the basis of these data, the following indicators are calculated: the number of cases investigated by the police, the crime rate, number of persons definitively convicted, criminality, etc., which are transmitted to international databases of Eurostat, UNICEF, UNODC, UNECE.

Demographic studies and projections

The specific objectives of this field consist of extending and deepening demographic studies, analysis of the active population demographic behaviour and track changes in the age structure of the projected working population.

In 2014 there have been published two unique statistical publications. **“Aspects of demographic changes at the Population and Housing Census 2011”** which comprises an analysis of changes in the demographic breakdown by residence area, the evolution of population structure by sex, age and according to economic and social characteristics in comparison with the results of the population censuses carried out in the years 1992 and 2002.

The second publication **“Projection of Romania’s population by development regions at the horizon 2060”** gives a picture of the likely development of population by sex and age groups by development region.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION

The design and maintenance of IT applications developed in 2014, key activities of the national statistical information system, have materialised into the following:

- Increasing the number of statistical surveys with online reporting from almost all areas of statistics; thus, in 2014 were launched 88 statistical surveys, with monthly, quarterly and annual periodicity, using the web portal for online collection of statistical data, generically named e-SOP (e-Survey Online Portal);

- Participation in the project **eDEMOS — “Improving public administration capacity of measuring administrative performances — databases, methodologies, tools for modernising and standardisation of reporting techniques and of characterising public administration performance”** and its maintenance and management within the INS infrastructure;

- Ensuring the maintenance of the IT system Intrastat, related to intra-Community trade;

- Participation in the grant project SIMSTAT — “Preparing for the exchange of micro-data on intra-EU trade in goods between EU Member States”.

As for the hardware, the following issues have been envisaged:

- Continuing the work on high volume printouts and on sending/receiving files with statistical data and applications to/from country and regional statistical directorates;

- Ensuring the transmission to Eurostat, via eDAMIS (eWA-application + eWP-portal) of statistical data on the established deadlines. It also provided technical assistance for the transmission of statistical data to Eurostat through the portal, using Web Forms (eWF). It was ensured the functioning Microsoft Exchange e-mail system and connections to the Internet for the whole statistical system.

- Completing the implementation within the INS of the hardware and software components under the EU-funded project “Improving public administration capacity of measuring administrative performances — databases, methodologies, tools for modernising

and standardisation of reporting techniques and of characterising public administration performance” SMIS code 26932. Currently the system is in production.

EDITING STATISTICAL PUBLICATIONS

The most important summary publications edited by the editorial staff of the Directorate in 2014 were:

- **Romanian Statistical Yearbook**, yearly publication which contains time series from 1990 onwards;

- **International Trade Yearbook of Romania**;

- **Romania in figures — statistical abstract**;

- **Romanian Tourism – statistical abstract**;

- **Population and Housing Census 2011** — Volume in English, containing the most important results of the 2011 Population and Housing Census.

There have been also published **Key data on national statistical systems on Budva initiative countries** and **Key figures on Budva initiative countries** as part of a cross-regional project also attended by Romania.

INTERNAL AUDIT ACTIVITY

Increasing the efficiency of internal auditing, by organising inter-institutional actions of insurance/advice through the Annual audit plan for 2014, in the field where there have been constantly identified deviations from compliance: internal managerial, financial and accounting control.

Quality reports based on solid findings and evidence that support the increase in public accountability of state patrimony management.

The internal audit activity had an important contribution to improving the systems of internal managerial control, risk management and governance, through appropriate recommendations, through advice and methodological guidance of the compartments in the operational structure of INS and subordinate institutions.

THE WORK OF TERRITORIAL STATISTICAL DIRECTORATES

The overall activity of the Regional and County Statistical Directorates was based on compliance with the rules, objectives and good practices in the processes used to organise, collect, process and disseminate official statistics, as well as on actions meant to enhance effectiveness, reliability, relevance and consistency of these statistics.

Based on the fundamental principles of official statistics, as well as on the priorities of the Development strategy of the national statistical system, the territorial statistical directorates undertook, in 2014, the following actions:

- Providing support to the Regional Development Agencies, Institution of Prefect, County Councils and Local Councils by supplying statistical data and information required for preparing projects and studies financed by the European Union or co-financed;
- Cooperation with data and information providers;
- Modernising the data collection, processing and analysis.

In this sense, the work of Territorial Statistical Directorates was carried out in accordance with the Annual National Statistical Programme 2014 and consisted

of collecting data for all statistical surveys (annual and infra-annual), drawing up analyses and summaries on monthly developments of key socio-economic indicators, building up and maintaining data series and, not least, meeting the needs of all categories of users, with information and statistical data, as complete as possible and of high quality.

The objectives set out for 2014 were achieved, focusing on the development of data collection capacity, processing of statistical data received from statistical data providers, the development and improvement of electronic processing system of data received from suppliers. As a result of the concern to improve the collection of statistical data, the year 2014 witnessed a high level of response from the providers of statistical information, while ensuring the observance of time frames according to the deadlines established by the INS.

Likewise, in 2014, the Territorial Statistical Directorates were involved in achieving a major objective for the Romanian statistical system: completion of the **Farm Structure Survey 2013**.

Luca Mircea CHIRA

Executive Director, Regional Statistical Directorate Bistrița – Năsăud



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To talk about such achievements is a matter of satisfaction. It could be the satisfaction of building up and sustaining a genuine professional architecture with which you cannot face, as leader, either current stumbles or chills on the challenges ahead in the profession of statistician.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN BEING STATISTICIAN?

Answering this question is for me an existential challenge. I start automatically thinking about the beginning of a professional experience exclusively as statistician, placed somewhere over three decades ago. Sometimes I feel it as being much, but often I feel that this time was very condensed, that has elapsed as a wind: Sometimes gently breezing, sometimes highly blowing. However, as a dream... beautiful! Therefore, even if this has not meant a professional road in linear, idyllic sequence of beauty, wellness, successes, thanks, satisfactions, a long-lasting patient analysis both introspective at individual level and external, from collective perspective, can reveal some positive professional benchmarks, relatively strengthened. As a summary, at the level of 2014, these could be at least the following:

- The performance of ensuring a high response rate for the primary data collected from providers of statistical information, including the current online manner (the most modern method of data collection), thus ensuring a solid, real substrate of aggregated/processed information;*

- Adequate quality of data collected on the one hand and, on the other hand, of data transmitted to all beneficiaries: INS, administrative institutions, public opinion, etc.;*

- Cultivating effective, correct institutional relationships with both primary statistical data providers and recipients of statistics disseminated;*

- A good image, appreciation and recognition of appropriate professional performance.*

To these general and somewhat perennial benchmarks, constant and continuous in the statistical activity, may be added as new points in 2014 the collaboration in successfully achieving European projects at local level, territorial, either independently or jointly with the National Centre of Training in Statistics, (the project 'Making Migration Work for Development' co-funded from transnational cooperation programme in South-Eastern Europe and the Regional Development Fund).

In doing so, our professional capacity potential was able to indicate a higher valorisation process, competitive and appreciative of the statistical information available at local level, in an international framework of presentation and debate.

To talk about such achievements is a matter of satisfaction. It could be the satisfaction of building up and sustaining a genuine professional architecture with which you cannot face, as leader, either current stumbles or chills on the challenges ahead in the profession of statistician.

Luca Mircea CHIRA
Executive Director
Regional Statistical Directorate
Bistrița-Năsăud

Florin GEORGESCU

Prime Vice-Governor of the National Bank of Romania



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The very good collaboration between the two institutions, which we would like to continue and develop, is likely to result in a more concrete picture on the processes/trends in the domestic economy, efficient decision-making and oriented towards sustainable performance.

VERY GOOD INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION

I am honoured to have the opportunity of expressing some of my thoughts on a stocktaking of the National Institute of Statistics (INS). This institution, essential for the proper functioning of Romanian society and state, through the high quality information supplied to decision makers, is facing significant changes in terms of both organisation and methodologies used, in line with the steps in this field at European level.

During the post-crisis period, the economic governance framework of the European Union was supplemented with additional mechanisms and the set of monitored indicators has increased considerably. In this context, the INS efforts to meet new data needs are considerable. Of course, correct and timely data is only a prerequisite for informed decisions, another prerequisite being the use of modern methods of processing thereof, able to reach relevant conclusions on the studied phenomenon.

For the National Bank of Romania, the collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics is a two-way path, i.e. the use but also the provision of statistical data. On the one hand, data made available to the central bank by INS substantiate the analyses and, subsequently, decisions taken by the Board of Directors of the National Bank of Romania while, on the other hand, the central bank provides information for national statistics, such as balance of payments statistics, which are crucial for a proper construction of certain indicators further processed by INS, such as those of national accounts.

In the spirit of this very good and mutually beneficial collaboration, the National Bank of Romania and the National Institute of Statistics have jointly ensured the implementation of the requirements of new standards imposed by European and international statistical methodologies, respectively the methodology of ESA 2010 on national accounts and the one related to the balance of payments — BMP 6, respectively the sixth edition of the Manual on this area.

The very good collaboration between the two institutions, which we would like to continue and develop, is likely to result in a more concrete picture on the processes/trends in the domestic economy, efficient decision-making and oriented towards sustainable performance.

Convinced that the INS efforts to supply high quality information, including through permanent connection to relevant EU and international requirements, will receive the well deserved recognition, in conclusion, I sincerely express in the end of this message my hope for the continuation of the mutually beneficial cooperation between the two institutions, in order to concomitantly achieve the specific mandates entrusted by the Romanian society.

Professor Florin Georgescu, PhD
Prime Vice-Governor
National Bank of Romania

NATIONAL STATISTICAL COUNCIL

The Council of statistical data users

A central place in the process of coordinating official statistical services and of harmonising the society requirements related to statistical data lies with the National Statistical Council (CSN).

The role of National Statistical Council:

- Ensures the objective, transparent and scientific nature of methodologies, indicators, nomenclatures and classifications used in statistical activities;
- Discusses and makes recommendations on the development and improvement of the statistical information system in order to improve the meeting of data user requirements;
- Discusses and makes recommendations on the plans to develop methodologies and indicator systems, nomenclatures and classifications used in the National Statistical System;
- Discusses and makes recommendations on all the plans to organise and conduct statistical surveys of national importance, developed within the National Statistical System;
- Discusses and makes recommendations on further improving the tools and mechanisms for implementing the principles of the National Statistical System functioning;
- Discusses, makes recommendations and endorses draft regulatory acts concerning the National Statistical System;
- Notifies and discusses failures within the National Statistical System and makes recommendations for preventing and correcting them.

National Statistical Council activity in 2014

The Council met in 2014 in 3 plenary meetings where the following were discussed and endorsed:

- The Activity Report of the INS for 2013 and the Activity Report of the National Statistical Council;
- Guidelines for INS communication;
- Information on the second peer review round of INS activity carried out by Eurostat;
- Information on demographic statistics;
- 2015 Annual National Statistical Programme;
- Discussion and endorsement of the National Statistical System Strategy 2014-2020;
- Draft law on demographic statistics;
- Implications of ESA 2010 on national accounts.

In its capacity as coordinator of the national statistical system, the National Statistical Council has proposed itself for 2015 to intensify its activities through the prioritisation of objectives and tasks in order to meet as much as possible the statistical needs of the society.

For the future development and improvement of statistics, in close correlation with European Union norms and standards and in view to improve statistical methods and procedures leading to a complex and efficient use of statistical tools, the NSC is to become more involved in the activities of the National Institute of Statistics.

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR TRAINING IN STATISTICS

In accordance with the objectives set by Government Decision No 295/2003 the National Centre for Training in Statistics (CNPS) under the authority of the INS, public institution with legal personality, financed entirely from its own revenues, has ensured in 2014 the continuous vocational training for staff from official statistics services, projects financed from European Structural Funds, 2 projects funded by the European Commission from FP 7 research funds, as well as other projects financed from private and public funds (national and international).

Vocational Training activity

The training programme designed for 2014 was structured in four categories of courses:

1. Courses for civil servants of the INS and of public administration;
2. Courses for civil servants of territorial statistical directorates;
3. Courses for statisticians of other public institutions: ANAF, ANRMAP (SEAP) etc.;
4. Courses for the public and companies "Development of culture statistics through one day courses" and advanced statistics courses lasting 5 days.

The following objectives have been achieved by organising such courses:

- Harmonisation of national statistics with the latest requirements of the European Statistical System;
- Gaining better communications with respondents;
- Sustaining the quality and efficiency of statistical processes and products;
- Strengthening the INS role of National Statistical System coordinator, by raising the professional level of staff within this system.

The **CNPS courses structure** can be found in Annex 10.

Scientific research projects

In February 2008, the National Centre for Training in Statistics submitted to the Advisory College for R & D and innovation, the self-assessment report for attesting capacity to carry out scientific research.

The National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation, by Decision No 9725/25.08.2008, certifies the National Centre for Training in Statistics as provider of services of scientific research.

In 2014, CNPS was partner in technical assistance projects for national statistical offices from other countries (EU Member States, ASEAN countries, Turkey), reflected in Annex 11.

Budget execution 2014:

Financial availabilities on 31.12.2014: 581,635 lei; the structure of budget implementation is to be found in the Annexes.

Activity “Dissemination of Romanian statistical information”

The activity “Dissemination of Romanian statistical information” operates on the basis of GD 1504/2002.

Although heterogeneous, the dissemination of statistical information was carried out with the greatest possible effectiveness and efficiency. Thus, the statistical data was put, on paid basis, at the disposal of the central and local public administration institutions, but also to users of statistical information across various areas (mass-media, education, research, individuals, etc.). In the reporting period, the total number of data requests in written form, in the country and abroad, was 2,130, of which 23 for users from outside the country. Of these, 1,246 have been paid.

The most requested area was the trade, with 575 applications paid throughout the period reported. As for population and demography, there were 119 requests paid, 44 applications targeted CANE related information, 216 requests related to industry and the remaining 292 applications concerned other statistical domains. Furthermore, there were 33 requests for data in the TEMPO — online database until 16 April 2014. The analysis of customers’ typology revealed that over half of them were economic operators (63 %), embassies, entrepreneurs, universities, researchers, students.

The most requested publications in 2014 were the Statistical Yearbook of Romania, with 250 copies sold, and monthly bulletins, with 1,476 copies sold.

Four numbers were issued from the Romanian Statistical Magazine and 12 numbers of the magazine supplement. During the year, the scientific level of Romanian Statistical Magazine has increased following the implementation of measures meant to obtain ISI Thomson recognition.

Budget execution 2014

The financing of the National Institute of Statistics activities — headquarters and subordinated units — was made from the State budget funds, from its own funds and non-refundable external funds granted by the European Union to which the National Institute of Statistics applied for in 2014 or that were ongoing in 2013.

Through streamlining and prioritisation, the National Institute of Statistics has managed to cover the expenditure necessary for the Annual National Statistical Programme 2014, respectively of all statistical surveys scheduled for 2014, for which payments amounted to 97,803 lei.

Likewise, it was ensured the financing of actions carried out by the National Institute of Statistics for the completion of the following projects:

- Improving the capacity of public administration to measure the administrative performances — databases, methodologies, tools for modernising and standardisation of reporting techniques and characterisation of government performance, SMIS code 26932, for which payments amounted to 8,507 lei;
- The farm structure survey — 2013 for which payments amounted to 7,557 lei.

In 2014, sales of data and statistical publications resulted in revenues amounting to RON 475 thousand, from national and external beneficiaries, from the activity “Dissemination of Romanian statistical information” at the level of the National Institute of Statistics and Statistical Territorial Directorates, while expenditure amounted to 593 thousand lei.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The National Institute of Statistics is an active partner in the global statistical system which includes the European Union, United Nations, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the International Monetary Fund and other bodies and supra-national organisations acting in the spirit of development and adaptation to European and international standards and of official statistics harmonisation.

Lessons of success: 2014

In June 2014, the project “Enhancing availability and reliability of statistics regional decision makers of Moldova” whose beneficiary was the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of the Republic of Moldova, project in cooperation with the UN, was successfully completed. The project envisaged the enhancement of the national statistical system of the Republic of Moldova and concern the improvement of production and dissemination of statistics.

The National Institute of Statistics/Romania was the main enforcement body on behalf of Romania, which has financed the project. The INS has made available its experience Moldovan statisticians in the fields of concern and facilitated the cooperation between stakeholders in the Republic of Moldova and EU counterparts (notably Eurostat).

The State Chancellery, the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction, the Ministry of Economy and other governmental institutions of Moldova had the fundamental role to endorse and promote the results achieved under the project component relating to partition the country on the basis of the nomenclature of

territorial statistical units and to institutionalise the development of small areas index. The staff from the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction has also benefited of training granted by the Romanian statistician experts concerning the use of statistics for evidence-based monitoring and evaluation of regional development.

In the period June 2013- June 2014, Romania has held the Presidency in the South-East Europe Cooperation Process (SEECPP). On this occasion, the National Institute of Statistics organised a regional conference on international migration statistics, on the way to cope with main challenges and harmonisation of practices at regional level in this field.

This event brought together specialists from the National Institute of Statistics, Romania and experts of Albania, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and Kosovo ¹.

The Budva initiative group (BIG) created in 2009 aims to strengthen regional co-operation among the countries of South East Europe and promotes good European practices in the Member States of the group: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo *, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. Alongside these countries, Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia and Greece are active partners, managing to support development in the region of the statistical science and skills in the field of official statistics.

In 2014, INS Romania continued to work in a spirit of good cooperation in the region and has issued two statistical products, much appreciated: the 3rd edition of the publication “Key figures on Budva initiative countries” and “Key data

¹ This name is without prejudice to the positions on its status and complies with UNSCR 1244 and the endorsement by the High Court of Cassation and Justice of Romania related to Kosovo Declaration of independence

on national statistical systems - Budva initiative countries”, the last being a reference document in terms of the collection of information on the organisation and institutional capacity of the national statistical offices of Budva Member States.

On the occasion of celebrating 155 years of official statistics in Romania, an anniversary ceremony was organised, attended, besides leading figures of academic and scientific environment, by notable representatives of main sectorial partners of the National Institute of Statistics, former Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Institute. We were honoured with the presence of Ms. Lucia Spoială, Director-General of the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova and Mr. Sergey Tsvetarski, President of the National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria. In their speeches, they have addressed congratulations to Romanian statisticians and have highlighted the fact that this event strengthens the role and place of Romanian statistics in promoting European and international statistical practice.

The European Statistical System (ESS) Vision 2020

The ESS has a crucial role in providing high-quality information for all statistical data users in Europe, for decision-making, research, information and discussion purposes. In the medium and long term, in view to continue to fulfil its task efficiently, the system must adapt to the changing global environment and technology, to seize the opportunities offered by it, while coping with the limitations of available human and financial resources.

The ESS Vision 2020, the main reference framework that will guide strategic decisions in the ESS for the coming years, was approved in the European Statistical System Committee in May 2014 and is a framework that will guide

the development of the ESS by 2020. It is an important step towards ensuring the production of high-quality European statistics, meant to meet user needs within the limits of available resources. The Vision proposes five priority areas:

- Meeting the users' needs of data and information;
- Improving the quality of statistics;
- Exploiting new data sources;
- Ensuring effective production processes;
- Improving dissemination and communication.

2014 was the year with a sustained level of commitment from Member States (including Romania) to develop an implementation plan of the Vision.

Key proposals in EU legislation

There are a number of proposed aspects in relation to EU Law supporting the ESS Vision 2020. The implementation of the vision will include a portfolio of various programmes, projects and other activities covering a new legislation and which, altogether, will facilitate achieving the Vision objectives.

Regulation (EC) No 223/2009

The Commission has submitted a proposal for the amendment of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 (Law on European Statistics) in 2012. The intention of its revision was to strengthen the governance of European statistics production and, in particular, to reinforce the independence from political pressures. The revised Regulation was agreed in the Permanent Representatives Committee (Coreper) in December 2014.

INS-Romania sustained the revision of this Regulation.

Framework Regulation for Integrating Business Statistics

Eurostat is discussing a proposal for a new Framework Regulation for Integrating Business Statistics (FRIBS). The Regulation will have implications for all business surveys. In addition, it will entail changes which for other surveys using it as a sampling frame; it will lead to changes in Extrastat and Intrastat surveys, influencing other important results of statistical production such as National Accounts.

The intention is to finalise the Regulation so as to be submitted for approval in 2015 to the European Statistical System Committee, before being submitted to the Commission for adoption. Lengthy discussions within the Council and the European Parliament are expected, so that the Regulation is estimated to enter into force in 2018.

Integrating European social statistics

Eurostat is discussing a proposal for drawing up a Framework Regulation for an integrated system of social surveys which include the Labour Force Survey, the Survey of Income and Living Conditions, the European Survey of Health, Household Budget Survey, Adult Education Survey.

The aim is to finalise the Regulation so as to be submitted for approval, by the end of 2015, to the European Statistical System Committee. As in the case of FRIBS, lengthy discussions within the Council and the European Parliament are expected, so that the Regulation is estimated to enter into force in 2018.

The second round of Peer Review

In the period 2006-2008, national statistical institutes and Eurostat were subject to a Peer Review evaluation exercise, which assessed the compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice, in particular in the areas related to the institutional environment and dissemination of statistics (principles 1-6 and 15 of the Code of practice).

The round 2014-2015 builds on the previous round successes and achievements, but is more ambitious, seeking to assess progress made in relation with all the 15 principles of the Code of Practice and to identify areas where progress has to be made for full alignment with the Code.

INS, as Member State of the European Statistical System, has started in 2014 the Peer Review evaluation. In this respect, 3 support questionnaires were filled in, envisaging the INS harmonisation with the European Statistics Code of Practice, the coordinating role of the INS within the National Statistical System and the level of cooperation and integration in the European Statistical System.

Compared to the previous round, 3 other authorities producing European statistics have been included in this assessment: the National Centre of Public Health Statistics and Informatics, the Ministry of Agriculture and Regional Development and the National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture. These 3 authorities have filled in the questionnaire on the harmonisation with the Code of Practice and will participate in the evaluation that will take place at the INS headquarters in 2015.



EUROPEAN
STATISTICAL
SYSTEM

Sergey TSVETARSKY

President of the National Statistical Institute Bulgaria



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Participation in EU and other international projects, as partners, and the re-establishment of the Association of Balkans Statisticians are some of the activities which could lay the foundations of a new spirit of cooperation in 2015 and beyond.

A CLOSER PARTNERSHIP

As members of the European Statistical System, the national statistical institutes of Bulgaria and Romania engaged in developing and promoting European and international statistics. On 16 January 2012, the two institutes of statistics signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of statistics.

In addition, both national statistical institutes are partners in many international organisations, such as the UN Statistical Commission, the Commission on statistics and statistical policy of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Thus, statisticians of both parties are formally associated with the most important international institutions of the statistical community. We need to focus much more on our cooperation, by applying a strategic approach, to face these challenges in a constructive and positive manner.

We could work together in regional cooperation arrangements and promote best practice in official statistics in the Balkans region. Participation in EU and other international projects, as partners, and the re-establishment of the Association of Balkans Statisticians are some of the activities which could lay the foundations of a new spirit of cooperation in 2015 and beyond.

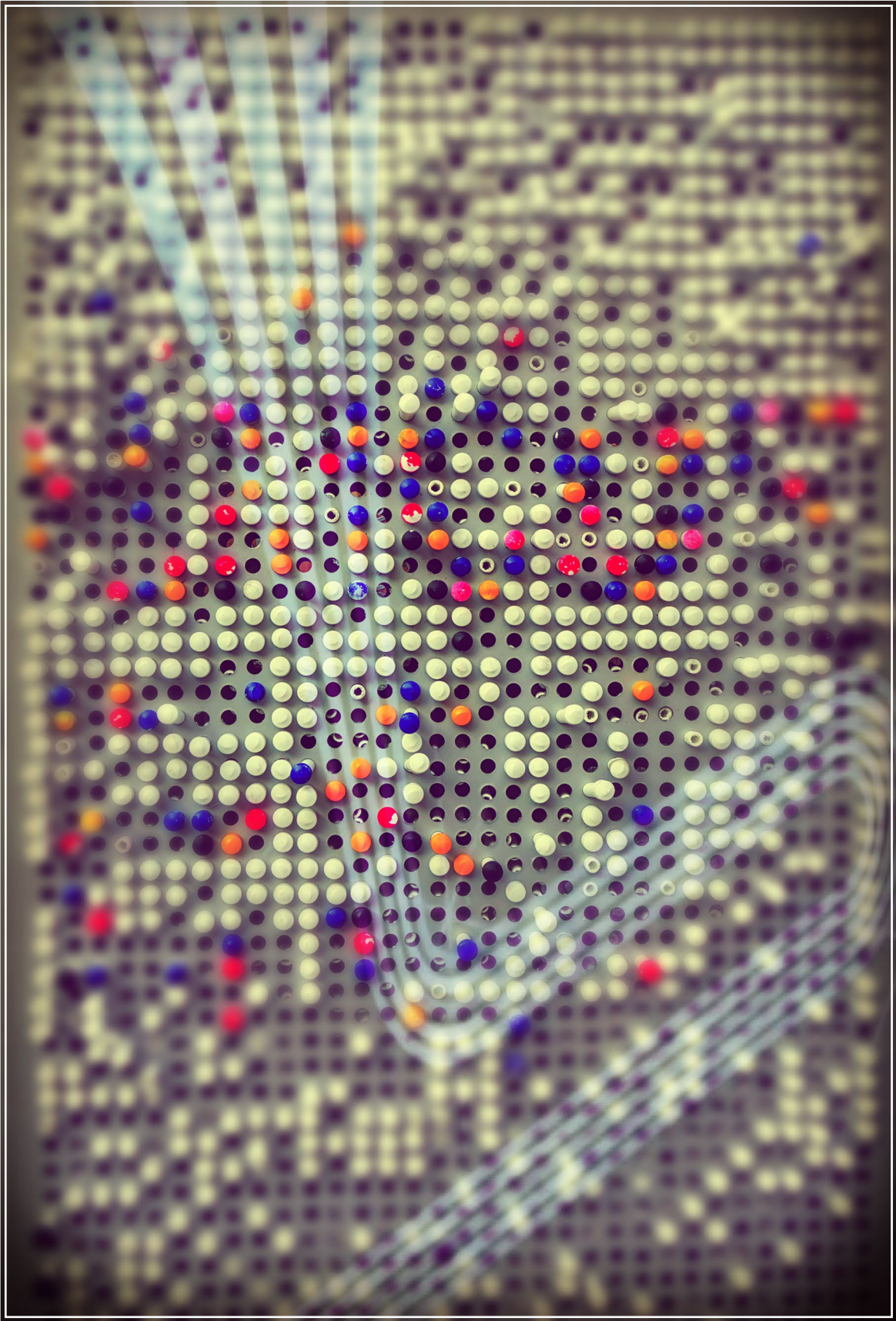
The “benchmarking / benchlearning” activities could be applied in view to identify best practices and to improve the efficiency of the National Statistical Systems and to ensure greater convergence within the European Statistical System.

Developing a closer partnership between the national statistical institutes of Bulgaria and Romania, by encouraging bilateral cooperation and the widening of regional cooperation, is a goal worth fighting for!

Sergey TSVETARSKY,
President of the National Statistical Institute of the Republic of Bulgaria

Mr. Tsvetarsky is a statistician with wide expertise in demography and regional statistics, as well as in key indicators.

Likewise, he was involved in many international projects and is the author of a significant number of scientific publications.



Dissemination

In 2014, the number of requests for information has increased, of which 2110 were solved free of charge. Free of charge and, at the same time, most complex requirements, since these included time series and data from several areas were submitted mainly by universities, ministries and other central public institutions.

Most requested statistical fields		
	Field of activity	(%)
1.	Consumer price indices	31,46
2.	International trade	11,56
3.	Population, demography, censuses	10,44
4.	Industry, construction, business statistics	9,37
5.	Population income, expenditure and consumption	7,59
6.	Labour market	7,54
7.	Tourism	6,51
8.	National Accounts	5,98
9.	CANE, CPSA, SIRUES	5,73
10.	Health, education	2,68
11.	Other fields	1,14

The INS Website

From 15 April 2014, the access to Tempo-online database is entirely free of charge.

This measure targeted increasing the access to statistical information and satisfying at maximum the data requests of users.

They were followed by the requests from economic operators, with more precise requirements, by area of economic activity.

The structure of data requests, free of charge, is as follows:

Structure of data requests		
	Users category	(%)
1	Universities, students and researchers	17,84
2	Romania's Presidency and Government	16,19
3	Economic operators	15,07
4	Courts of justice	14,52
5	Trade unions and employer organisations	9,78
6	Romania's Parliament	8,52
7	Prefectures, town halls and local councils	5,62
8	Mass-media	4,96
9	Embassies and foreign economic representatives	4,53
10	Other users	2,97

This measure resulted in an increase by 46 % in the number of pages viewed in 2014, compared to 2013 (2.8 million pages in 2013 as against 4.1 million pages in 2014).

The total number of the website accessing in 2014 amounted to:

Free of charge accessing		
	Website traffic indicators	Number
1.	Sessions	1,101,943
2.	Users	515,550
3.	Viewed pages	5,837,418

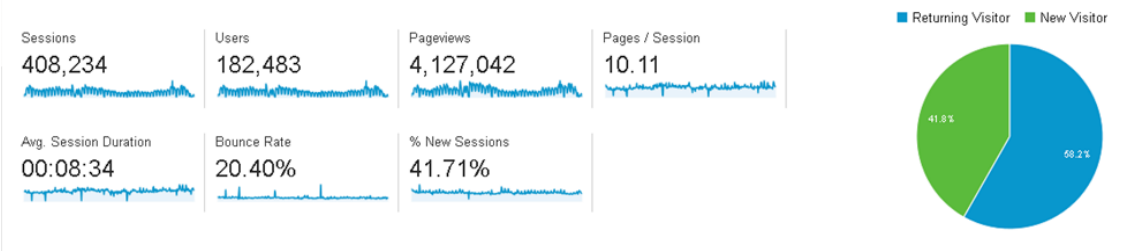
The number of matrix accessed (viewed and/or downloaded) was 761.420. The top of such matrix is presented in the table below:

Matrix accessed		
Matrix code		Number of accessing
1	POP101D	31,221
2	POP102D	23,318
3	POP101A	21,953
4	TUR101C	18,777
5	TUR104B	12,139
6	AGR101B	11,941
7	TUR102C	11,709
8	TUR104E	10,973
9	SOM101E	8,638
10	POP102B	7,811
TOTAL		761,420

By country, the top of foreign users that have accessed information from the database TEMPO- online is as follows:

Tempo-online accessing		
Country		Number of accessing
1	India	3,538
2	Poland	2,702
3	Germany	2,391
4	USA	1,928
5	Bulgaria	1,498
6	Great Britain	1,444
7	France	1,343
8	Moldova	1,261
9	Hungary	1,220
10	Canada	1,186

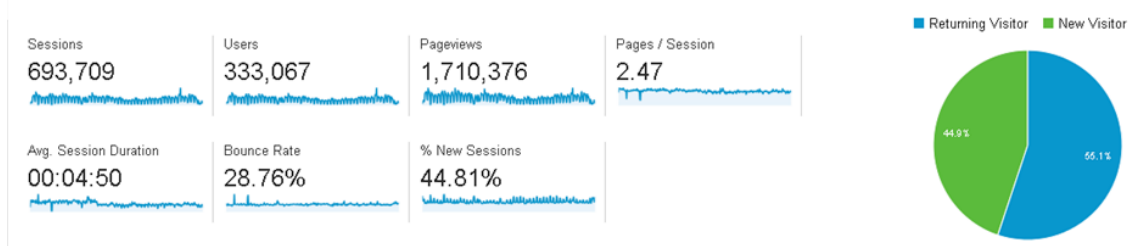
The traffic to Tempo – online database of the INS, during January 1st – December 31st 2014, is as follows:



Country	Sessions	% Sessions
1. Romania	376,521	92.23%
2. India	7,321	1.79%
3. Germany	3,108	0.76%
4. United Kingdom	2,777	0.68%
5. Moldova	2,202	0.54%
6. United States	1,918	0.47%
7. Poland	1,512	0.37%
8. France	1,488	0.36%
9. Italy	1,227	0.30%
10. Hungary	1,025	0.25%

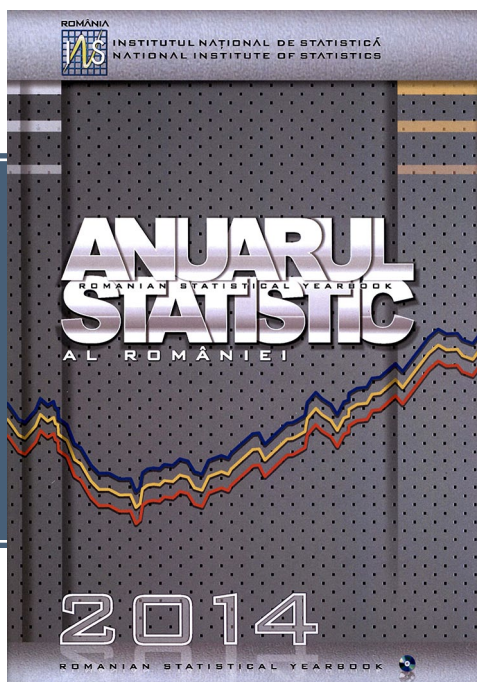
[view full report](#)

The traffic on the INS website, during January 1st – December 31st 2014, is as follows:



Country	Sessions	% Sessions
1. Romania	587,221	84.65%
2. India	47,310	6.82%
3. Germany	6,922	1.00%
4. United Kingdom	6,270	0.90%
5. United States	5,792	0.83%
6. France	3,782	0.55%
7. Moldova	3,576	0.52%
8. Poland	3,098	0.45%
9. Italy	2,745	0.40%
10. Hungary	2,187	0.32%

[view full report](#)



Dumitru SANDU

Professor, Faculty of Sociology and Social Assistance University of Bucharest



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The current Romanian society becomes more and more self-aware. It starts to consider "**statistical mirrors**" more appropriate to the international movement of their populations and to internal development dynamics.

DIRECT ACCESS TO DATA

In the last years' sequence, 2014 has been for the National Institute of Statistics (INS) a year of confrontations and answers to major methodological issues. Challenges came overwhelmingly from problems associated with how to conduct the census in October 2011.

Added to this were those of public space: Which is in fact the Romanian population? How many people have voting rights? How many are in the country or abroad? Which are the demographic resources different localities and regions of the country are involved or could be involved in development processes? and the list of questions from the public area may continue. The experts also queried whether census data which severely underestimated (730 thousand compared with about 2.5 million) the number of persons gone abroad for a longer time may be used, are credible.

Questions referred arose during the census and also after the publication of the first results, especially since 2013. There is no doubt that many questions were well founded. Others were from areas overburden by ideologies and interests, more or less close to the political space or power (generally quite hostile to the Census when it was carried out). This is not the case here to have a discussion on this topic.

In this context, the INS experts have reacted actively, by recognising the real problems and, especially, by identifying ways for appropriate solutions of technical and methodological nature. The rescue, through the INS experts, came from the population data available in

electronic databases of public institutions and of complementing the census data with those of large INS sample surveys on issues of labour force or living conditions. There have been taken, in this regard, modern working algorithms of Eurostat and other statistical institutions strongly upgraded.

Building on such reforms in the methodology for processing and correction of census data, major changes in Romania's population reporting and in the presentation and distribution of data have occurred. The distinction, of international circulation, between the resident population or population with usual residence in Romania and that residing in the country was adopted, with reliable, substantiated results in the official reports of the Institute.

On such a basis, the current Romanian society becomes more and more self-aware. It starts to consider "statistical mirrors" more appropriate to the international movement of their populations and to internal development dynamics.

In the new approach, for example, that the usual resident population of Romania on 1 January 2014 was around 19.94 million and those residing in the country was 22.3 million. The difference between the two is given by the approximately 2.4 million Romanians who left for more than one year abroad, but still have their residence in the country.

For those like me, interested in migration and territorial development, the new socio-demographic data from the INS have had a direct impact on the way to solve the serious problems

in academic circles but also to substantiate the development projects.

By way of example I would mention only the case of Human Development Index of Localities (HDIL). This index, compiled based on a widely circulated model (HDI — UNDP) involved the use of indicators with high power of measurement, generated by the specialists of the INS in all the localities in the country. This is the first time, to my knowledge, when highly complex indices (such as life expectancy at birth, education, etc.) used in the construction of HDIL have been calculated at the level of communes or towns in Romania. The results of validation for HDIL, published, confirmed without doubt the quality of primary data collected through the census in 2011, their consistency.

Although seriously underestimated, temporary migration abroad has proved to be a good predictor of the quality of human development indices at locality level. It follows that, although this flow was seriously underestimated, the sample of nearly 700 thousand persons registered in the 2011 census as left from the country for a longer time, constitute a good basis for analysing the development phenomena in territorial profile.

Particularly interesting issues arise, on the basis of INS new data, on international migration regions of Romania.

The possibility of direct access to different data, in dynamic and at different territorial levels, via TEMPO, on the INS website is, once again, a marker of institutional modernity in the INS functioning.

Next steps, in the expectations of users, are related to access to micro-data, not only from Eurostat but also directly, the multiplication of indicators accessed via TEMPO at locality level (Local database or other similar sources), the possibility to download data at local level not only county to county, interactive maps, etc.

**Professor Dumitru Sandu,
Faculty of Sociology and
Social Assistance
University of Bucharest**



90%

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2



By the end of 2014, Romania recorded one of the highest coverage, 90%, of the single point for statistical data collection at Eurostat, thus being placed on the 2nd position among the EU Member States.



Internal and external communication

During 2014 a number of courses and meetings were held on the improvement of press releases, by changing the template, taking into account the communication standards in official statistics established by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. These changes were based on a series of activities, such as: a comparative study of the press releases template at international level, the choice of new template and the collaboration with other Directorates within the institution in connection with the wording. These press releases shall enter in force since February 2015 on the basis of an operational procedure.

Since September, internal communication is monitored, with a view to improving it by ensuring a constant flow of information between the INS headquarters and the territorial statistical directorates. Thus, each territorial statistical directorate reports problems faced in the communication with respondents, collaborators, headquarters, online media, the official website or local media agencies, in the organisation of the various meetings or courses.

Each month, an internal newsletter for employees of the National Institute of Statistics and a newsletter for external subscribers: statistical data providers, academics, media, have been issued.

A selection of the INS key publications have been promoted through leaflets distributed by e-mail, Facebook and in the newsletter.

April 9th was “The open day at the National Institute of Statistics”, when pupils and teachers, as well as other interested persons, had the opportunity to know its work and its history.

The activity of the National Institute of Statistics has been promoted through the Facebook page, sending press releases and info-graphics based on statistical data and providing information on the conferences held within INS.

Presentations were also made, on available statistical data and access thereto, under the SME forum and INDAGRA at Romexpo.

Under the “Career Days” at the Academy of Economic Studies were presented to students the organisational culture and employment opportunities in the National Institute of Statistics.

In December, a humanitarian campaign was organised, in view to give aids to poor children attending an after-school organisation in the village Vizurești and to those from the “Social Establishment Saints Mihail and Gavril” in the commune of Slobozia.



2015 PRIORITIES

National accounts and government finance statistics:

- In January 2015, the Eurostat visit will take place on the implementation of specific and transversal reserves in national accounts;

- Revision of the annual and quarterly accounts, in order to ensure consistency with general government accounts for the years 1995-2014;

- Revision of TIEA (table of integrated economic accounts) consisting of the reconciliation of the annual and quarterly accounts for the series 1995-2014 with data for public administrations;

- Updating of the inventory of sources and methods for deficit and debt under the new international standards (ESA 2010 manual on deficit and debt);

- Identification of data sources for indicators whose derogations will reach deadline;

- Application of qualitative and quantitative criteria (test of 50 %) for the delimitation of the general government sector for public companies controlled by the State;

- Compilation of annual and regional national accounts for the reference year 2013, final version and for the reference year 2014 in the semi-final version;

- Compilation of quarterly accounts for the year 2015.

Classifications and statistical registers:

- Completion of grant project which started in mid- 2014 — “Improving statistical register at national level and testing the profiling developed at European level”

- Completion of the second grant project which started in mid- 2014

— “Preparation for the implementation of the revised definition of business statistics for statistical units: the delineation of statistical units and testing the methodology for profiling”

- In each Member State there shall be established a compartment of “profiling” in view to analyse the structures of both national and multinational enterprises and to define optimal constituent entities of the group.

Administrative sources management and processing

- Participation and identifying solutions, in timely and quality conditions, of tasks specified in the action plan for monitoring the sustainability of the project “Improving public administration capacity of measuring administrative performances - databases, methodologies, tools for the modernisation and standardisation of techniques related to statistical reporting and characterisation of government performance”, SMIS code 26932

- Participation in the activities planned to achieve the grants “Preparation for the implementation of the revised definition of enterprises for statistical units: the delineation of statistical units and testing the methodology for profiling” and “Urban audit 2014-2015”;

- Extending the coverage of statistical indicators at TAU level;

- Designing and entry into service of questionnaires for data collection at TAU level for chapters labour force and health.

Agriculture, Forestry and Environment:

- Carrying out the activities in the four Eurostat grants:

- “Provision of harmonised data on land coverage and land use: LUCAS and national systems”;

- “Production of eggs for consumption”

- “Environmental Accounts — Forestry Accounts”

▪ Issuing the publication “Environmental economic accounts”

Short-term economic indicators

Analysing the impact of implementing the definition of statistical unit for business statistics in the context of integrating them in a single European regulation (FRIBS) to ensure data consistency.

In 2015, at the request of the National Tourism Authority and of the National Institute of Statistics, a mission of World Tourism Organisation will take place in Romania, in view to assess the satellite account of tourism, providing guidance for filling in tables 8 and 9 in the account (which have not yet been filled in).

In the field of innovation statistics, the priorities will be to translate and design the new Community statistical questionnaire CIS 2014, the methodology and the corresponding methodology notes. Due to the new components of the questionnaire and to the high quality of the questions included, one important step will be data collection.

Business statistics

Analysing the impact of implementing the definition of statistical unit for structural business statistics, foreign affiliates and use of ICT in enterprises in the context of integrating business statistics (FRIBS);

The submission of additional data on inland waterway transport in accordance with Eurostat decisions;

Foreign trade statistics

Improvement of tools and methods for the exchange of international trade in goods data in the Member States through the implementation of actions foreseen in the new Community grant approved by the European Commission

Completion of actions linked to the achievement and testing the functioning and inter-operability of INS infrastructure and the statistical tools necessary for the exchange of micro-data on intra-EU trade in goods

Participation in pilot testing of the exchange of micro-data between EU Member States and evaluation of the pilot test results in terms of compliance with the rules for validating and compiling statistical data exchanged between Member States. Continuing the actions related to the revision and integration of the legislation on international trade in goods statistics in FRIBS, the new common legal framework for business statistics, also part of the ESS Vision 2020

Living conditions statistics

Re-extending the results of Quality of life survey (EU-SILC) for the years 2007-2013 as follow up to the recalculation of the annual series of resident population for the previous inter-censuses period PHC 2011;

Participation in the activities included in the national action plan requested by Eurostat, in order to optimise the calculation of indicators for poverty and social inclusion at regional level of EU-SILC and to improve the timeliness of transmission to Eurostat of micro-data files both for the “early transmission”, the cross-sectional component and for the longitudinal one.



Rigour and transparency in decision making, coherence in approaching current issues from the perspective of future undertakings, a permanent interaction that ensured the accomplishment of the mission to produce and to disseminate relevant data and information, necessary to draw up, on solid basis, all the projects and development programmes at macro and micro social level, increasing the credibility of Romanian official statistics based on the continuously increasing quality of data produced, of timeliness in their provision and of higher visibility as consequence of improving the communication both inside and particularly outside the organisation, strengthening the prestige and the place of the Institute within the similar European and international institutions, these are, briefly expressed, some of the coordinates and objectives envisaged and achieved by the National Institute of Statistics in 2014.

The President, Mr. Tudorel Andrei, the Vice-Presidents: Mrs. Mihaela Iagăr, Mrs. Beatrix Gered and Mr. Dan Gherguț, the Directors – General: Mrs. Adriana Ciucă, Mrs. Silvia Pisciă, Mr. Ion Florescu, Mr. Gheorghe Vaida, the Directors: Mrs. Daniela Ștefănescu (European Affairs) and Mr. Ilie Dumitrescu (President's Cabinet), together with the Secretary – General, Mr. Răzvan Profiroiu (absent from this picture) are making up the leadership team which, besides all the other colleagues from the National Institute of Statistics, have ensured the achievement of objectives assumed for 2014.

Employment statistics

In 2015, the recalculation of quarterly indicators of Household Labour Force Survey (Amigo) is to be completed by re-extending with resident population for 2004-2013, in view to uploading them onto the Tempo online database and to transmit them to Eurostat.

For a better information of users, there will be designed and uploaded new matrix in the Tempo online-database, which will contain data on major indicators at both national and European level, related to the share of young people who are neither in employment, nor in education or other form of training (NEET), but also indicators for monitoring the Europe 2020 strategy.

Wages statistics

The substitution of some categories of entities by observing them exclusively through administrative sources and the advancement in the exploitation of administrative data sources for statistical purposes, as well as the completion of the statistical survey on wages in October 2013 are the priorities for the year 2015.

Social protection statistics

For 2015, a better collection of data from administrative sources for the development of social protection statistics and the collection of quantitative data on social protection expenditure by type of social risks provided by resident non-profit institutions serving households are envisaged.

Education statistics

Finalising the activities related to the grant “Achieving a system of data collection on

learning mobility of individuals” is a priority. Statistici demografice

Demographic statistics

Population and housing censuses in 2011

- Continuing the documentation in the field of censuses and identifying best practices in this field in order to find the best ways of carrying out the future population and housing census in Romania;
- Documentation on the possibility of collecting census variables from different administrative sources of data;
- Launching the activities of planning and preparing the future population and housing census in Romania.
- Redesigning the publications of reporting indicators on demographic phenomena in a new format, more attractive to users;
- Issuing the Demographic Yearbook of Romania.

Population and international migration statistics

For 2015, it is planned to continue the dialogue with a number of ministries and subordinate institutions in view to finalise the draft law on demographic statistics in Romania and the protocols of collaboration and the take-over of comments on the draft law on demographic statistics, in order to submit the draft law to decision-makers.

Designing the database on population mobility (StatPop) is one of the priority activities of the year 2015.

Health statistics

Analysing and publishing the results of the survey on the population health status, preparation and transmission to Eurostat of

micro-data and of quality report for this survey;

Implementing the new methodology on the System of Health Accounts (version 2011);

Participation in the independent grant on the “Provision of basic information on purchasing power parity — Health Component 2013-2015”;

Culture statistics

Development of the national statistical system in the field of culture statistics, in accordance with the main recommendations provided by ESSnet Culture working group organised by Eurostat;

Participation in the independent grant “Time Use Survey — codification of national data in the required format for data processing and dissemination at European level”

Justice statistics

Organisation of thematic working groups with appropriate institutions of justice, providers of statistical data (Ministry of Justice, General Inspectorate of Romanian Police, General Council of the Magistracy, the National Administration of Prisons) for further harmonisation of concepts, definitions and indicators with the methodological recommendations used by various international organisations, which collects annual data;

Carrying out the survey on public security and identifying new sources of administrative data.

Demographic studies and projections

Achieving the projection of the economically active population in Romania, by the year 2060.

Information and Communication Technology

- Development, within maintenance process, of new functionalities which were identified for the user-friendliness of the system by statisticians and designers of surveys;
- Optimisation, within the maintenance process, of functionalities with high response time;
- Investments in infrastructure for increasing servers capacity and improving the operation of the network;
- Implementation, as urgently as possible, in the INS of the new network, otherwise existing the risks that the whole statistical system software become inoperative;
- Upgrade and purchase PC operating systems.

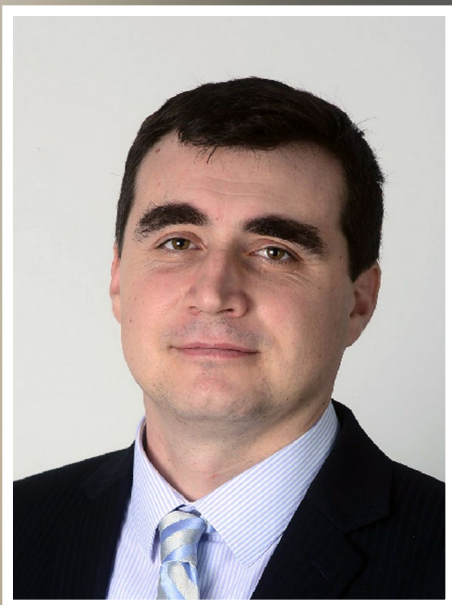
Internal audit

Resizing the Internal Public Audit Department, in terms of the number of auditors, based on the activity volume and the size of the associated risks.

Attracting staff with IT and statistics skills, in view to ensure the competences necessary to carry out audits on areas which form part of the core activity of INS.

Making optimum use of knowledge, skills and expertise of the internal audit unit in view to improve the quality of the audit work, for the efficient management of public finances.

Sorin PÂSLARU,
Editor in-chief, Financial Newspaper



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The next challenge for professionals from the Institute of Statistics is to come with studies capturing correlations between data in order to provide strategy makers in this country — how many remaining — with genuine instruments for economic growth.

INS: CREDIBILITY AND CONSISTENCY

I do not believe that there is any Financial Newspaper edition, of its inception on November 16, 1998 until the present, not using data from the National Institute of Statistics. Added value, GDP or productivity are indicators apparently seen as simple figures, but what a surprise when finding out that these describe our day to day lives and show the way to move a country away from under-development.

After 25 years, Romania is still looking for another way, because it does not know to look at the very things: the statistical indicators. We propose reforms, year by year new changes, new laws and new draft tax, civil, commercial or electoral codes are issued, we are knocking to pieces railways, energy companies, decentralize, establish Health Houses, Pension Houses, authorities for energy prices regulation, for financial surveillance or communications administration and regulation and, in the end, we are asking ourselves why we are on the last places in Europe whatsoever.

Why? Because there is no control and evaluation of changes based on indicators. Where we are now, what we want to change, how and where we will be more than a month, more than one year, more than ten years, and in that time we are checking the execution stages of our plans the way any entrepreneur shall verify week by week, month by month the budget implementation.

Each Government meeting session should begin and end with indicators from Statistics on the table and each Minister should be familiar with the indicators in the related industry, to start the day with them.

Statistics is hardly visible to public opinion leaders in Romania and quite often the country leaders use it only in populist manner, when they need a certification of one policy or another.

The Institute of Statistics must become an elite body, where all databases of all public institutions should converge, so that no more conflicts between indicators exist — such as the number of employees in the economy, where different institutions give different dates. What kind of social or economic policies could be established when you do not know exactly whether the number of jobs has increased or decreased?

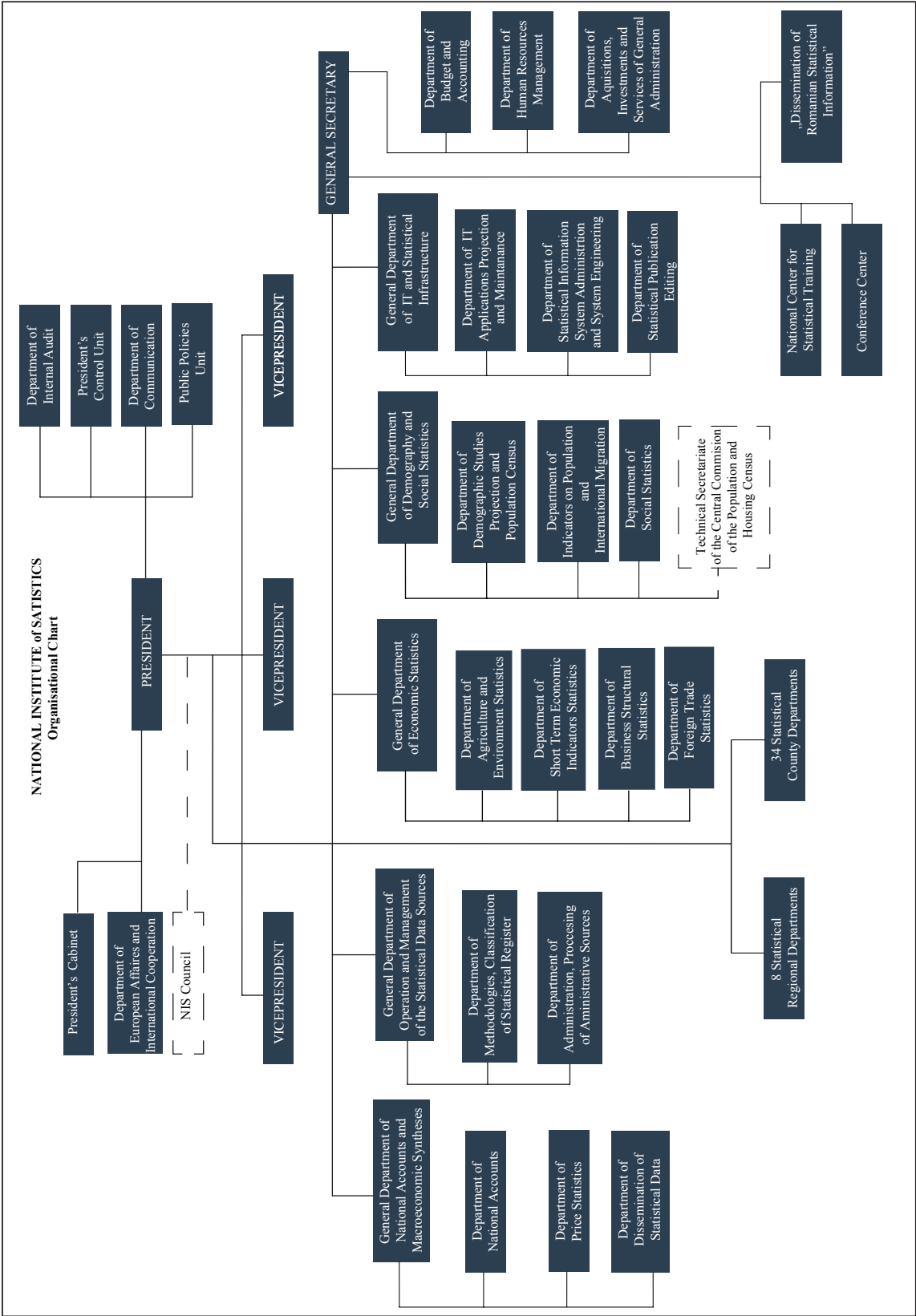
On the other hand, the Institute of Statistics could use the available data to become a force in the world market research. Why would not Statistics, for example, provide information to companies producing consumer goods concerned about market shares or to companies wishing to know wage levels in one industry or another?

Why would not the Institute organise conferences in Bucharest or in the country in which to discuss social, economic indicators that capture the development? Statistics has many indicators on health and education in Romania, but what relationship exists between the money allotted from the State budget or local budgets and the health status of one county or another? What is the relationship between the money allocated to infrastructure in different regions and the attracted foreign investment? What about the relationship between foreign investment and wage rates?

The next challenge for professionals from the Institute of Statistics is to come with studies capturing correlations between data in order to provide strategy makers in this country — how many remaining — with genuine instruments for economic growth.

Sorin PÂSLARU,
Editor-in-Chief, Financial Newspaper

ANNEX 1 – NIS organisational chart



ANNEX 2 – Staff structure

Jobs state of art in 2014

	Number of jobs	Number of vacancies	Number of occupied jobs	Occupancy level
Headquarters	537	24	513	95.5%
TSD*	1,362	76	1286	94.4%
Total NIS	1,899	100	1799	94.7%

INS staff structure, by age group

Total number of occupied jobs		Age groups (years)							
		<=30		[31 - 45]		[46 - 55]		>=56	
		jobs	%	jobs	%	jobs	%	jobs	%
Headquarters	513	41	8.0	215	41.9	168	32.7	89	17.3
TSD*	1,286	26	2.0	456	35.5	502	39.0	302	23.5
Total NIS	1,799	67	3.7	671	37.3	670	37.2	391	21.7

ANNEX 3 – NIS staff turnover

Causes of leaves from INS

	Total number of occupied jobs	Total number of leaves	%	Retirement	Agreement of parties	Transfer	Death	Dismissal	Resigna- tion
Headquarters	513	48	9.4	12	20	2	0	13	0
TSD*	1,286	57	4.4	43	6	3	0	2	3
Total NIS	1,799	105	5.8	55	26	5	0	15	4

Hires in and leaves from NIS in 2014

	Hires	Leaves
Headquarters	87	48
TSD*	99	57
Total NIS	186	105

ANNEX 4 – *Staff structure by educational level*

NIS staff structure by educational level

Total number of occupied jobs		Educational level			
		Upper secondary education		Tertiary education	
		Number of jobs	%	Number of jobs	%
Headquarters	513	43	8.4	470	91.6
TSD*	1,286	182	14.2	1104	85.8
Total NIS	1,799	225	12.5	1574	87.5

Structure of NIS staff graduates of tertiary education by field of education

Total number of jobs with tertiary education		Tertiary education											
		economic		technical		humanities		administrative		law		other fields	
		jobs	%	jobs	%	jobs	%	jobs	%	jobs	%	jobs	%
Headquarters	470	223	47.4	110	23.4	58	12.3	32	6.8	30	6.4	17	3.6
TSD*	1,104	709	64.2	255	23.1	27	2.4	44	4.0	42	3.8	27	2.4
Total NIS	1,574	932	59.2	365	23.2	85	5.4	76	4.8	72	4.6	44	2.8

Structure of staff graduates of tertiary education by post-university studies

Total number of jobs with tertiary education		Post-university studies					
		Master graduates		Post-university graduates		Doctorate graduates	
		jobs	%	jobs	%	jobs	%
Headquarters	470	97	20.6	109	23.2	26	5.5
TSD*	1,104	147	13.3	252	22.8	5	0.5
Total NIS	1,574	244	15.5	361	22.9	31	2.0

*Territorial Statistical Directorates

ANNEX 5 – Vocational training

Vocational training programmes

	Number of vocational training programmes	Number of attendants
TSD	45	1213
Headquarters	66	620
Total NIS	111	1833

Structure of vocational training programmes by fields

	Field	Attendants from headquarters	Attendants from TSD*	Total attendants from NIS	%
1	Statistics	144	574	718	39.17
2	Information and Communication Technology	172	391	563	30.71
3	Management	171	88	259	14.13
4	Communication and decision-making transparency	70	132	202	11.02
5	Personal development	60	18	78	4.26
6	Resources and public services	3	10	13	0.71
	TOTAL	620	1,213	1,833	100

ANNEX 6 – Budgetary execution of the National Centre for Training in Statistics

Turnover

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1 715 753 lei	1 420 055 lei	2 099 556	3 775 805 lei	1 923 023 lei	1 892 219 lei	2 051 985 lei

Structura veniturilor (lei)

Type of revenue	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
NIS courses	119 350	52 826	27 810	60 329	50 969	84 098
CSD courses (including training on PHC 2011)	82 610	73 339	1 272 400	46 999	80 656	203 930
Courses with other units	99 110	98 512	25 004	50 236	65 832	51 918
Research, of which:	1 020 527	1 826 440	2 403 471	1 738 646	1 672 612	1 692 466
Projects for domestic and international beneficiaries	1 020 527	1 538 160	1 155 722	511 856	976 547	1 169 165
Projects from structural funds	-	288 280	1 247 749	1 226 790	696 065	523 301
Sponsorships	70 374	22 700	24 000	9 500	10 000	11 450
Foreign currency exchange differences	22 512	23 253	20 290	13 876	9 698	4 833
Dobânzi	5 572	2 486	2 830	3 437	2 452	3 290
Total	1,420,055	2,099,556	3,775,805	1,923,023	1,892,219	2,051,985

*Territorial Statistical Directorates

ANNEX 7 – Statistics on courses organised by the National Centre for Training in Statistics

	Financing source	Category of courses	Number of courses	Number of attendants
1.	NIS budget	Courses for civil servants from NIS	29	397
2.	NIS budget	Courses for civil servants from TSD/CSD	41	1,009
3.	Payed	Courses addressing companies and the public: e.g. Methods of statistical data analysis (for ANRMAP – SEAP team, ORANGE Romania, etc.) INTRASTAT for companies and the public	12	120

ANNEX 8 – Research projects organised by the National Centre for Training in Statistics

Crt. No.	Contracting institution	Project name	Project stage
1	Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports	Management of education system correlation with labour market	March 2011-January 2014
2	CNRS France – financing from the European Commission FP7	Project “Borderless data” on ensuring researchers access to micro-data existing in the official statistical system of EU Member States	February 2010-May 2014
3	Foundation for Civil Society Development	“Making Social Economy Visible in Romania” satellite accounts on social economy in Romania	May 2013-December 2014
4	University Titu Maiorescu	“Development and adaptation of university programmes to labour market competences, taking account of CNCIS standards requirements”	June 2014-January 2015
5	National Institute for Scientific Research in the field of Labour and Social Protection	3 projects from sectorial funds on labour market and social protection in Romania	September 2013-December 2015

ANNEX 9 – Budgetary execution of NIS										
	2013				2014					-- thousand lei --
	Annual provisions 2013		Payments made on 31.12.2013	Payments as against final provisions	Prevederi anuale 2014		Payments made on 31.12.2014	Payments as against final provisions		
	Initial	Final			Inițial	Definitiv				
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	138,043	131,372	115,597	87.99	119,130	129,378	119,749	92.56		
Financed from the State budget	128,983	122,401	110,883	90.59	109,770	120,018	114,670	95.54		
Personnel expenditure	69,528	67,338	66,238	98.37	64,500	70,852	70,679	99.76		
Goods and services	31,134	27,420	26,662	97.24	30,000	29,670	27,072	91.24		
Transfers	48	98	97	98.98	50	50	50	100.00		
Projects with NRE funding	23,273	26,656	17,024	63.87	12,000	15,893	13,324	83.84		
Capital expenses	5,000	889	862	96.96	3,220	3,553	3,545	99.77		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	7,388	7,299	3,966	54.34	7,997	7,997	4,486	56.10		
Financed from non-reimbursable external funds	7,388	7,299	3,966	54.34	7,997	7,997	4,486	56.10		
Projects with NRE funding										
TOTAL EXPENDITURE financed from own revenues	1,672	1,672	748	44.74	1,363	1,363	593	43.51		
Personnel expenditure	305	305	142	46.56	534	534	324	60.67		
Goods and services	1,297	1,297	549	42.33	758	758	269	35.49		
Capital expenses	70	70	57	81.43	71	71	0	0.00		

Statistics of training courses organised by NCTS

Financing source	Training course category	Number of courses	Number of attendants
INS budget	Courses for civil servants within INS.	29	397
INS budget	Courses for civil servants within DRS/DJS.	41	1009
Against payment	Courses intended for companies and public at large: e.g. Methods of statistical data analysis (for ANRMAP - SEAP, ORANGE ROMANIA teams, etc.); INTRASTAT for companies and public at large.	12	120

Research projects developed by NCTS

Crt. No.	Contracting institution	Project name	Project stage
1.	Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports	Management of matching the education system with the labour market.	March 2011- January 2014
2.	CNRS France-funding from the European Commission FP7 funds	"Data without borders", on giving researchers access to micro data existing in the official statistics system within the EU countries.	February 2010 - May 2014
3.	Foundation for the Civil Society Development	"Making Social Economy Visible in Romania" Satellite accounts on social economy in Romania	May 2013 - December 2014.
4.	"Titu Maiorescu" University	"Development and adaptation of tertiary education curricula to labour market skills, taking account of the CNCIS standards requirements"	June 2014 - January 2015
5	National Scientific Research Institute for Labour and Social Protection	3 projects, based on sectoral funds, on labour market and social protection in Romania	September 2013 – December 2015



The National Centre for Training in Statistics (NCTS) is a public institution subordinated to the National Institute of Statistics, carrying out research & development activities certified by the National Authority for Scientific Research (NASR) since 2008.

The objectives of the National Centre for Training in Statistics are:

- **continuous vocational training** of the official services staff in the following fields: demographic statistics, social statistics, economic statistics, research and innovation statistics, econometrics, classification systems and registers;
- carrying out research and documentation activities and granting statistical technical assistance or consultancy by statistical fields;
- **cooperation** with other national statistical institutes in view to develop a sustainable statistical system and to carry out statistical projects aiming at ensuring the comparability of statistical data with the statistics produced by other countries and the compliance with the EU standards.

The National Centre for Training in Statistics:

- **organises and carries out statistical researches** related to economic and social phenomena and processes, either through exhaustive or sample surveys;
- **designs, prints and disseminates** the statistical survey questionnaires and the related guidelines for filling in;
- **collects, processes and stores data and information** in view to develop the statistical databases; draws up studies and analyses

based on the achieved results;

- **organises the upgraded vocational training** in the statistical field of the staff from NIS and from the other official statistics services, aiming at the formation of statistical literacy at national level.

The NCTS team consists of statistical researchers, being an inter-disciplinary group that gathers economists, engineers, statisticians, geographers with expertise in statistical methodologies (sampling techniques, data entry methods, interviewing methods, data analysis and seasonal adjustment methods, econometric methods, methods for compiling macro socio-economical statistical indicators, methodologies for the compilation of structural indicators used for international comparisons), in drawing up macroeconomic studies and their analyses in various domains: demography, evolution of various economic sectors, evolution of labour market, life quality and living conditions, assessment of the level of population poverty, education and health.

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