

ROMANIA



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
STATISTICS

ANNUAL REPORT



2018

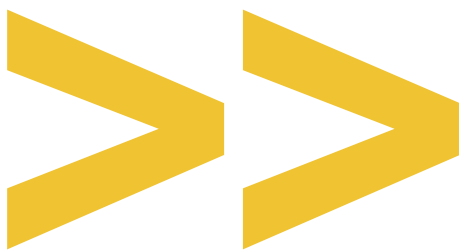
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FOREWORD

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One of the most important events in 2018 was the celebration of the Great Union Centenary. On this occasion, the National Institute of Statistics has issued an anniversary volume intended for all the categories of statistical data users. Thus, "Romania, a Century of History – Statistical Data" is a reference publication of the National Institute of Statistics, as a mean for showing that we are looking to the future while cherishing our past. It was also a good occasion of turning into account and presenting to the public a series of the NIS publications, as follows: several statistical bulletins issued during the inter-war period, the volumes related to Population and Housing Censuses, as well as some editions of the Romanian Statistical Magazine, all of them witnessing the 160 years history of Romanian official statistics.

Publishing "Romania, a Century of History – Statistical Data" was also an occasion for the NIS to strengthening the relationships with the academic environment. Sound relationships with academia results in major benefits: on the one side, the academia could deliver to official statistics ideas on improving the current production processes while, on the other side, official statistics could provide the academic environment with the support for introducing in the scientific research the newest data processing tools. On the NIS side, the relationships with academia are of strategic interest. As such, several chapters in the volume dedicated to the Centenary were issued in collaboration with experts from well-known Romanian universities or research centres.

Not least, I would emphasize that this volume observes all the scientific research rigours. Nonetheless, each chapter in this volume was presented in a user-friendly manner, meant to get the readers interest on the tremendous repository of statistical data owned by our institute.

Another major event in 2018 was the Conference of the Directors General of the national Statistical Institutes (DGINS) organised for the first time in Bucharest. The subject-matter of the Conference is of huge importance for all the organisations producing official statistics in Europe: the use of Big Data in producing new statistical indicators. The Conference works revealed that it is absolutely necessary to find new ways of producing statistical data so that users receive high quality indicators in a timely manner.

We have concluded a year that makes me sure that the activity of the National Institute of Statistics will be a landmark for the taking over of the Presidency of the European Union Council on statistical matters in the first half of 2019 and the anniversary of 160 years of official statistics in July 2019.

Tudorel ANDREI
President of
the National Institute of Statistics





INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

MISSION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Official statistics is one of the key components of the knowledge process, while bearing in mind that it is one of the essential pillars of good governance of society. It ensures, on the basis of quantitative assessments, the substantiation of decision-making at both micro and macro-economic levels.

In order to meet the public utility criteria, the statistics must be relevant, accurate and timely, so as to ensure the satisfaction of all statistical data users categories.

The first condition for statistics to answer its vocation and role in the society is to provide an institutional, functional and methodological framework for the National Institute of Statistics (NIS), as a specialised body of the central public administration, vested in the duties and functions of the official statistics coordinator in Romania.

The activity of the National Institute of Statistics is regulated by Law No 226/2009 on the organisation and functioning of official statistics in Romania, as amended. The law has established the setting up of the National Statistical System (NSS), which brings together the main producers of official statistics in a unified, coordinated and coherent whole where the NIS is prevalent, whose objective could be fully identified with the operational statistics dedicated to research, through specific methods, the economic and social phenomena and processes.

Through its activities, the NIS sought to ensure the development of mechanisms and tools adapted to the pursuit of statistical activities according to priorities, to strengthen the NSS structure and functionality and to improve its capability to meet the needs of statistical data and information users.

NIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE GOVERNANCE OBJECTIVES AND TO ROMANIA'S COMMITMENTS

In defining the priorities of the statistical programmes, a number of cross-cutting issues have been taken into account, which are of strategic importance for the development of official statistics, such as:

- the way in which strategic objectives contribute to European integration;
- the cooperation with statistical data users and producers;
- the adaptability of statistical processes to the NSS requirements and the adequacy of the methodological tools.

The National Institute of Statistics also took into account the cost-effectiveness of the statistics produced, by ensuring a coherent and rational vision of statistical priorities, with a view to making the best possible use of available resources and to reduce the response burden.

In a comprehensive view, the statistical production process includes the designing, surveying and methodological development activities, the production

of statistical data and the dissemination of statistical products and services.

The production of statistical data and information is the core set of the Institute's activities, integrating various production processes which have made use of the vast majority of available human, material and financial resources.

The statistical production was predominantly driven by the demand for statistical data. The reflection of information requirements has resulted from a long-lasting process of consultation between the producers and the users of official statistics, and the outcome of these consultations has been documented in the 2018 Annual National Statistical Programme (ANSP), which provided the legal basis for requests addressed to data providers — businesses, households and individuals, public or private organisations.

The Annual National Statistical Programme (ANSP) also represented the basis for the allocation of necessary resources, particularly as regards the financing of statistical activities. The programme brought together in a comprehensive and coherent whole the basic statistical works, oriented towards meeting the needs of all user categories by providing the utmost comprehensive and quality statistical information and data.

The structure of the Annual National Statistical Programme (ANSP) for 2018 highlights statistical surveys, statistical works, studies and publications on well-defined areas, as well as other operations, which are necessary for the efficient production of quality statistical data, such as: development of general

utility classifications and nomenclatures, development and administration of statistical registers, management of sampling bases, management of databases and metadata, etc.

With a view to ensure data volume completeness and the diminution of respondents' burden, more than 90 collaboration protocols and agreements have been concluded.

In order to obtain all the indicators foreseen in the Annual National Statistical Programme (ANSP) for 2018, the National Institute of Statistics collects and centralises data from about 2,940,000 statistical units (economic operators, public institutions and authorities and population households), through 153 statistical surveys and all these activities resulted in the drawing up of 92 studies, works and statistical analyses and 31 quality reports.

The dissemination of statistical information was made through about 300 press releases and 90 titles of statistical publications.

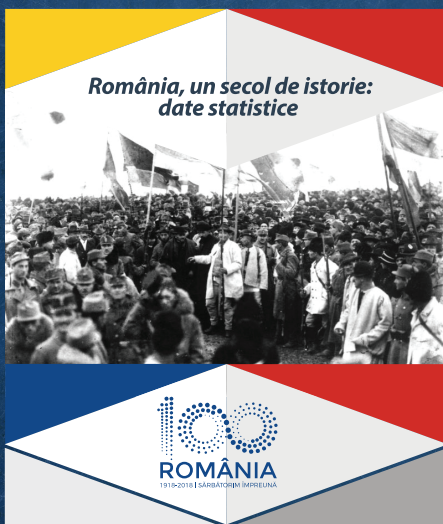




Drawing up the chapter *Romania: institutional dynamics and policy evolutions*, in collaboration with Mr. Ilie Dumitrescu (NIS) and Mr. Bogdan Murgescu (University of Bucharest) primarily represented an activity of reflecting on the content, selected pieces of information and format of this very chapter, meant to outline the institutional evolution of Romania, as well as its political system.

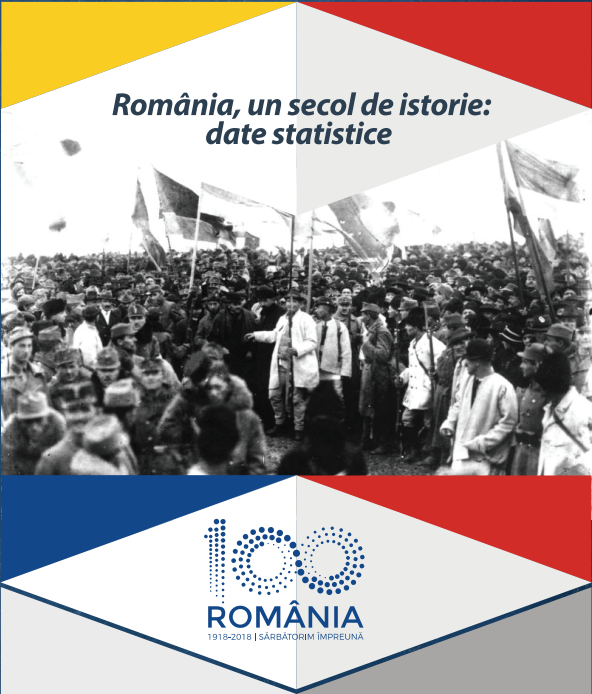
The anniversary volume **“Romania, a Century of History – Statistical Data”** is a necessary and welcome approach, whose pages provide easy access to statistical data and core information on Romania’s history, while also showing us the meaningful existence of a **“main producer of official statistical data”** that is also their depositary, missions successfully accomplished by the National Institute of Statistics.

The volume provides the reader with valuable pieces of information – some of them quite rare – for setting up his own views. It could be read for both acquiring a specialised documentation and for better understanding Romania’s history.



A NECESSARY
UNDERTAKING

Lecturer Andrei Florin SORA, PhD



100 Years of
History

100 YEARS OF HISTORY

While being or not a reference in literature, the volume “Romania, a Century of History – Statistical Data” is an important paper since statistical products (data and indicators) provides the daily reader with an overview upon facts happened during a century on our ancestral lands.

To be the coordinator of some chapters of such an exhaustive volume is first of all a way of showing respect to all the valuable co-authors who assumed the commitment of finalising such a complex and meaningful paper. To be the coordinator is rather a commitment to make all possible efforts so that this volume, with an utmost complex content, would reach all the envisaged objectives.

Bearing in mind the daily professional tasks, I appreciate that the greatest importance should be given to this volume, the fourth from the cycle “Knowing Romania” and that no additional effort is enough in the willingness of launching a book not only for libraries, but a reference for our patriotic reader. Normally, the honour of being the coordinator of some chapters in this volume, hugely for myself, is rather a privilege than an obligation.

Nevertheless, in the pulling together activity, and this is the term I would rather use instead of “coordination”, I feel each and every moment the pleasure of following the road to fulfilment.

By the end of the creative endeavours of the whole team of authors, equally well-known and scientifically valuable, I dare to believe that it is an exceptional paper issued under the aegis of the National Institute of Statistics.

100 years of history could be illustrated in many ways, but I am confident that a synthesis supported by figures is even more suggestive and meaningful. Thus, given the neatness, but at the same time the complexity of data, the reader could further identify some other valences suggesting Romania's development over the century.

The paper contents envisaged the illustration, rather in figures than in wordings, of the long way, toilsome but successfully finalised in results, traced by Romania since December 1st, 1918 till the same calendar day when we are joyfully celebrating the “Centenary of the great Union”.

I allow myself to believe that this paper is relevant to the general public in the sense that it offers more than opinions, certain facts that allow everyone to draw their own conclusions. I think the paper is plentiful of data and information, sometimes leaving room for more details, which may suggest to any patriot how Romania has evolved and can still evolve to make Romania much more dynamic and prosperous.

Prof. Constantin ANGHELACHE, PhD



ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES

The most important achievements of 2018, by statistical production domain, are hereby presented.

MACROECONOMIC STATISTICS AND SECTORAL ECONOMIC STATISTICS

• NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

The full range of macroeconomic indicators in the system of national accounts, as fundamental indicators of the economy, were in the focus of the NIS concerns, oriented towards aligning the techniques and methods for estimating indicators, on the one hand, and on connecting the results of these estimates to EU standards and rules, on the other hand.

As an outstanding achievement in the field, the following are worth mentioning:

- attending the regular meetings organised by Eurostat on National Accounts (DMES, GNI, NAWG, CMFB, EDP, TF COFOG, TF GFS, regional accounts, TF quarterly accounts of institutional sectors);
- continuing the process of improving exhaustiveness of GNI through the implementation of exemptions;
- ensuring consistency between general government accounts, institutional sector accounts and key macroeconomic aggregates for both annual and quarterly data for the period 2007-2016;
- “flash” estimates at $t + 45$ days for employment in Q III 2018;
- developing the capacity and methodology for carrying out and validating

seasonal adjustments to the quarterly and sectoral non-financial accounts, as well as of data on employment for the series 1995-2018;

- delivering the results of some action points to Eurostat, according to schedule;
- participating in the pilot exercise to identify multinational companies;
- compiling the annual national accounts, the institutional and regional sector accounts, for the reference year 2016 in the final version and the provisional and semi-final version for the annual accounts and the institutional sectors accounts for the reference year 2017;
- compiling the quarterly accounts for 2017;
- settling in advance certain derogations, the transmission deadline being 2020;
- continuing the works on the grant envisaging the improved quality of national accounts, with the following objectives: estimated gross capital formation transactions divided by industry and non-financial assets included in the ESA 2010 Transmission Programme and the cross classification of fixed assets by industry and the balance sheets for non-financial assets included in the ESA 2010 Transmission Programme, where derogations are subject to expiry in 2020.

• GOVERNMENT FINANCE STATISTICS

In the area of government finance statistics, we mention the following achievements during 2018:

- two reports were made respectively

in March and September of the financing capacity (+)/net borrowing (–) (B.9)/and the public debt for the period 2014-2017 according to ESA 2010 in the context of the Excessive Deficit Procedure;

- the sequence of non-financial accounts of the general government sector has been developed for the year 2017 according to ESA 2010;

- the tables corresponding to the transmission programme of the ESA 2010 in the area of public finance for 2017 were compiled (“Main aggregates of general government”; “Breakdown by type of taxes and contributions received by sub-sectors”; list of National Taxes; “General government expenditure by COFOG function and sub-sectors”;

- the sequence of quarterly non-financial accounts of the general government sector has been developed for Q IV 2017 and Q I, Q II and Q III 2018;

- the final consumption of the general government sector has been calculated for the reference year 2017;

- the 50 % test was applied for the reference year 2017 for the public companies under observation;

- certain derogations were settled in advance, with the transmission deadline 2020 (estimation of general government expenditure by COFOG level 2 function for the period 2004-2006);

- new methodological aspects of the Debt and Deficit Manual and the Eurostat Decisions in the area of public finance statistics were implemented.

• REGIONAL ACCOUNTS STATISTICS

In the field of regional accounts statistics, the following activities were carried out in 2018:

- regional national accounts for 2016

have been compiled in accordance with the ESA 2010 (Gross Domestic Product at NUTS III level, compensation of employees at NUTS II level, gross fixed capital formation at NUTS II level, employment — thousands of persons at NUTS III level and employment — hours worked at NUTS II level);

- regional accounts for the households sector were compiled (allocation of primary income account and secondary distribution of income account) for the reference year 2016;

- regional tables (1000, 1001, 1002, 1200 and 1300) were compiled on the basis of the ESA 2010 Transmission Programme;

- regional accounts (Gross Domestic Product at NUTS III level, compensation of employees at NUTS II level, gross fixed capital formation at NUTS II level) were revised for the period 2007-2015.

EUROSTAT missions in Romania

In the area of own resource during the period 25-26 January 2018, the inspection of the European Commission representatives on “Statements of the VAT own resources base for the years 2012-2014 with a view to apply Council Regulation (EC) No 608/2014 on the collection of own resources accruing from VAT” took place.

In the area of public finances statistics, the standard Eurostat dialogue visit took place between 6 and 8 February 2018.

This visit took place in the context of the Excessive Deficit Procedure in accordance with Article 11 (1) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2009, as amended by Regulation (EU) No 679/2010, with the following objectives:

- verifying the quality of the statistical

data reported in March and September 2017 and the application of the requirements of the new Regulation No 549/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013 on the European system of national and regional accounts in the EU (ESA 2010);

- implementing the provisions of the Debt and Deficit Manual and the Eurostat decisions in the area of public finances statistics.

• PRICE STATISTICS

In the field of **price statistics**, the following activities were carried out in 2018:

- changing the base year for industrial production price indices on services, agricultural inputs and outputs;

- high quality and timely production of indicators in the area of consumer prices, industrial production, services, housing, agricultural inputs and outputs, by using methodologies that are sound and in line with international standards and the provision of these indicators to decision-makers and the general public;

- coordinating at national level the activities established under the European Comparison Programme (ECP), the main provider of indicators on purchasing power parity and on the price convergence at European level;

- testing the software for online collection of prices for the products and services available for sale on Romanian websites;

- preparing the necessary materials and presenting them in the framework of the Eurostat expert monitoring visit on the compliance of the harmonised indices of consumer prices;

- developing a plan of measures to improve the statistical system of consumer prices.

Activities carried out and results obtained in expanding the use of **administrative data sources**:

- continuous monitoring of national legislation in the field of prices (electricity, natural gas, agricultural land, etc.);

- regular monitoring of electricity prices by using the comparator of standard-bidding for the supply of electricity and natural gas;

- regular monitoring of the telecom standard-bidding comparator;

- transmission of questionnaires and collection of data on personnel costs and the average number of employees on certain healthcare and public administration occupations;

- requesting information on the market for telecom, post, electricity and natural gas, railway transport, necessary to establish the weighting systems.

ECONOMIC STATISTICS

The activities in the field of economic statistics have been carried out in line with the provisions of the European Statistical System (ESS) within the statutory deadlines and envisaging, on the one hand, the improved quality of the data collected, processed and disseminated, and to stimulate the perception and education of the statistical awareness of the information providers.

The modernisation of agricultural and business statistics, in order to make the collection more efficient and to produce statistics at EU level, were the major concern for the entire European statistical community in 2018. The NIS experts worked closely with their counterparts in the other EU Member States and Eurostat throughout the process

of drafting the new Regulations — the Regulation for Integrated Farm Statistics (IFS) and the Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics (FRIBS), as well as on the preparation of their implementation, after the adoption by the European Parliament and the Council.

The NIS experts in the field of business statistics (short-term statistics, structural business statistics, foreign trade and statistical business register) have continued to participate in the actions launched by Eurostat in the context of the European Statistical System Vision 2020 for reviewing and integrating the economic legislation in FRIBS and for preparing the implementation of the new Regulation requirements, by performing complex analyses of the various legislative and technical aspects of the basic Regulation identified during the adoption procedure.

The expansion of globalisation has led the National Statistical Institutes of the EU Member States to introduce new methods of measuring it. In the period from July 2017 to December 2018, the NIS participated, through an inter-departmental team of experts from the Directorate for Structural Business Statistics, the Directorate of Short-term Economic Indicators, the Directorate for Foreign Trade Statistics, the Directorate of Statistical Business Register and the Directorate of National Accounts, to the implementation of the Integrated Global Accounts and Global Production (IGA) project.

The participation of experts from the Directorate of Short-term Economic indicators, the Directorate for Structural Business Statistics and the Directorate of Statistical Business Register in the activities of enterprise groups profiling.

The participation of experts in the Committee for revising the National Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Romania 2030, establishing the National Framework to support Agenda 2030 and implementing the set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

• AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS

Continuing the preparatory works on the organisation and conduct of the General Agricultural Census (GAC) in 2020, which include:

- participation in the training granted by a World Bank expert on the design of smart electronic questionnaires, with Survey Solutions application, for the statistical data collection by using CAPI method (2nd round 29 January — 2 February 2018);
- participation in the process of adopting the Regulation on Integrated Farm Statistics 2018/1091 (published in the Official Journal on 7 August 2018) and the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1874 of 29 November 2018 on the data to be provided for 2020 under Regulation (EU) 2018/1091 of the European Parliament and of the Council on integrated farm statistics (published in the Official Journal on 30 November 2018);
- carrying out the inventory and documentation of data collection modes in farm structure surveys in 2010, 2013 and 2016 in all EU Member States; analysis of the legal framework used by Poland at the 2010 GAC;
- drafting the law on conducting the 2020 GAC in Romania;
- submitting the draft law on conducting the 2020 GAC in Romania, for endorsement, to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry

of Administration and the Interior, the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration, the National Agency for Cadastre and Land Registration, the National Supervisory Authority for Personal Data Processing, Association of Romanian Towns, Association of Romanian Communes;

- organising meetings for the presentation and discussion of the draft law on conducting the 2020 GAC in Romania;

- analysing the observations and proposals received from Institutions and formulation of replies;

- submitting the draft law to the Government Secretariat General for endorsement in November 2018;

- launching the activities from the grant "Modernisation of agricultural statistics" signed with Eurostat, which is preparing the achievement of 2020 GAC;

- processing of the structural indicators in agriculture and the environment according to the NRDP requirements;

- participation in the development at the European community level of the Regulation implementing Regulation (EC) on Farm Level Statistics (IFS) for the achievement of 2020 GAC;

- implementing some new environmental accounts — Forest Economic Account and Environmental Protection Expenditure Account;

- evaluating the national statistical system in view to provide data for monitoring the 2030 Development Agenda; Involvement in the collection, analysis and dissemination of the set of sustainable development indicators, approved in September 2016, for measuring the implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda;

- launching the actions from the grant signed with Eurostat "Establishing a statistical system of data on the balance

of the main cereals and oilseeds crops, in accordance with the common EU methodology", which sets out the calculation methodology for these balance sheets to be submitted to Eurostat on an annual basis;

- launching the actions from the Eurostat grant in the area of environmental accounts, with 2 modules: Environmental Subsidies and Similar Transfers (ESST) and Environmental-Economic Material Flows Account (WE-MFA).

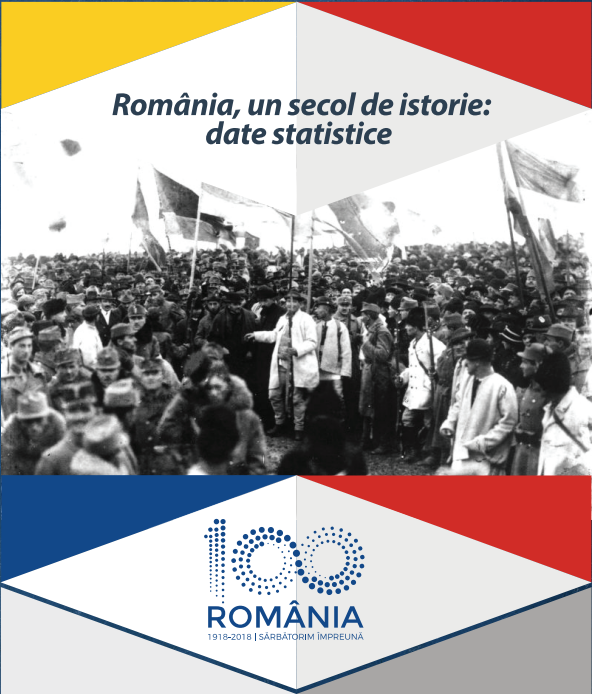
• SHORT-TERM ECONOMIC INDICATORS STATISTICS

- recalculation and dissemination of the data series of data in the field of the short term indicators, according to the new base year 2015, for the period January 2015 to December 2017 and the implementation of the monthly calculation with the base year 2015;

- analysis and reconciliation of data from annual and short-term business statistics;

- finalisation of activities foreseen in the grant "Actions for the modernisation of PRODCOM compilation", a grant signed with Eurostat, for the preparation of the use of KAU (Kind of Activity Unit) as observation unit in PRODCOM statistics, as well as for the development and review of practices related to data confidentiality with a view to increasing the volume of disseminated information;

- completion of the activities foreseen in the grant "Implementation of STS", signed with Eurostat for the purpose of analysing, identifying the causes and the diminution of revisions for the first estimates of the volume index in construction, analysis of data from administrative sources, the development of a method for



ROMANIA, A CENTURY OF HISTORY
STATISTICAL DATA

ROMANIA, A CENTURY OF HISTORY – STATISTICAL DATA

“Keep you of your time and try to be at the height of the people” Victor Hugo – Les feuilles d’automne

The appointment in this project team was both a real honour and a privilege to transpose in graphic format this volume.

Looking back at everything that was done in a very short time for the Romanian and English versions, and to the opportunity that our colleagues pay tribute to the statistics in a year of celebration, we hope that his work will bring the readers in the atmosphere of a century of Romania’s existence on the basis of statistical data.

In Chapter 15 of the Romanian version we have introduced some official

documents and some facsimile documents which are part of the National Romanian Archives patrimony, so that readers could appreciate it for their novelty and the value of the signatories.

This chapter is devoted, with grateful remembrance and the deepest feelings of gratitude, to those who have served official statistics with honesty and faith and have passed away while dedicating their lives to this noble profession of statistician, to those retired and those who will take the profession further. Long live Great Romania! Long live statisticians!

Vitty-Cristian CHIRAN,
Director

Directorate of Statistical Publications Editing

estimating monthly data on the basis of administrative reports and the implementation of FRIBS provisions at a national level, respectively the calculation of the volume index in constructing on divisions in CANE rev. 2;

- launch of activities in the grant “Modernisation of PRODCOM statistics production” signed with Eurostat. The project is carried out jointly with the Directorate of Foreign Trade Statistics and aims at improving the quality and consistency of the data on industrial production and international trade in goods, the calculation of aggregate production and foreign trade data at CPA level, 2 and 4 digits CANE Rev. 2, as well as the development and review of data confidentiality practices with a view to increasing the volume of data disseminated.

- continuation of actions in the grant signed with Eurostat in the field of science and technology “Research and development (R & D) and innovation statistics in 2018” — Community Innovation Survey (CIS 2018), which runs from 01.01.2018 to 30.06.2020 and aims at: designing and implementing in the statistical questionnaires on R & D activity of the new indicators in the field in accordance with the Frascati Manual 2015; analysing and evaluating the results, as well as designing the new questionnaire if CIS 2018 in line with Eurostat requirements; analysing and evaluating the results; comparing and analysing the data from the innovation survey with other statistical surveys conducted by the NIS in view to identify enterprises with innovative impact. In the framework of the grant activities there have been designed and launched the additional modules for the R & D activity and work started to identify the innovative profile of enterprises for the innovation activity.

- participation in the drafting of proposals for amendments to the law on the organisation and conduct of the tourism activity in Romania initiated by the Ministry of Tourism;

- participation in working group on the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) organised in Luxembourg on the initiative of Eurostat and by DG GROW (Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs of the European Commission), together with representatives from all EU Member States, EFTA countries and candidate and potential candidate countries and OECD, which have implemented or intend to implement TSA in the near future.

- attending the courses organised by a World Bank expert on the questionnaires design based on the software Survey Solutions for the collection of statistical data from households by statistical operators in the field of tourism, by means of CAPI and CAWI (second round 29 January to 2 February 2018). Examples were shown in the questionnaire for the statistical survey on tourism by using the Survey Solution software. It was designed for filling in through specific devices (tablets, telephones, etc.) and the primary conditions of the logical control were introduced.

- carrying out a pilot country survey, established at the recent meetings of the working groups on tourism statistics, to support work on the provision of new evidence on the inclusion of tourism trade in added value. This exploratory work looks at the potential benefits of tourism analysis from the perspective of value added trade, as well as at statistical limitations and priority actions to achieve progress — progress report.

- transmission of data to the UNWTO for the Compendium and the Tourism

Statistics Yearbook for the period 2013-2018 (3 questionnaires) in order to maintain the database with updated tourism statistics, requesting for the revision of previously completed data and notes.

- working meetings with the Ministry of Tourism representatives on the continuous update of the state of play of the authorised tourist accommodation structures which were introduced through the IT system SIET.

- working meetings with tourism industry representatives to discuss the importance of the data collected and disseminated in the field of tourism statistics. There have been discussions related to the works of collecting data from the tourist reception facilities, the software in which the statistical data are entered, the statistical questionnaires in the field of tourism used by the NIS in collecting the data, the difficulties faced in the collection of statistical data in the Danube Delta area.

• STRUCTURAL BUSINESS STATISTICS

- continued work on improving the statistical processes in view to implement the definition of enterprise, respectively the collection of data from the main multinational and national groups in order to identify the ways for integrated calculation of statistical data. The actions relating to the plan agreed with Eurostat on the introduction of the “enterprise” statistical unit in structural statistics have been implemented in structural business statistics. Likewise, together with the Directorate of National Accounts, the Statistical Business Register and the Directorate of Foreign Trade Statistics, information on multinational groups has been compiled and provided in the framework of the “GNI-MNE” exercise (Gross National Income — Multi-National Enterprises);

- continued use of administrative sources for annual business statistics (in structural statistics, for about 43% of companies in the sample, administrative sources were solely used);

- analysis and reconciliation of data from annual and short-term business statistics;

- completing the collection and processing of global value chain information and international outsourcing through the Eurostat grant;

- collection of statistical information on the use of robotics, “big data” sets and 3D printing processes by enterprises;

- carrying out the activities foreseen in the grant contract “Passenger mobility and road traffic statistics”, signed with Eurostat, namely the collection of information based on which the passenger mobility indicators were produced for the first time, in accordance with the Eurostat methodology and recommendations. Within the same grant there have been produced road traffic indicators (vehicle – kilometres) by the Romanian Automotive Register (RAR) on the basis of odometer reading, transmitted by the NIS to Eurostat;

- in June 2018, data on the volume of transport by intermodal transport units in tonnes, tonne-kilometres, TEU and TEU-kilometres, national transport, international transport for rail, road, sea and inland waterways modes were transmitted to Eurostat for 2017;

- during 20-21 November 2018, the workshop of the group “Structural Business Statistics”, organised jointly by Eurostat and NIS Romania, with the participation of Eurostat representatives from the “G2 - European businesses” unit, 43 experts from EU Member States, EU candidate countries and the OECD was held at the NIS headquarters.

• FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS

In the field of international trade in goods statistics, NIS continued the production of statistics on the basis of the two Intrastat and Extrastat statistical systems, observing the legal deadlines and envisaging, on the one hand, to improve the quality of the data collected, processed and disseminated and to stimulate the perception and the statistical literacy of the information providers.

Through the combined efforts of the experts from the Directorate of Foreign Trade Statistics and the Directorate General for IT and Statistics Infrastructure, the functioning and management of the Intrastat statistical system was ensured, based on a monthly census-type statistical survey covering over 20,000 economic operators from which data are collected for more than 500,000 transactions per month.

The NIS experts have provided statistical information providers with the statistical toolkit for electronic reporting, technical help-desk and methodological support services.

The most important achievements in the field of international trade in goods statistics were as follows:

- ensuring a secured channel for large volume data transfer between the NIS and the Ministry of Public Finance through the National Centre for Financial Intelligence, for the transmission of tax return (VAT and VIES) data and from the customs declarations of export and import to the NIS — Directorate of Foreign Trade Statistics;
- participation in the Intrastat Expert Working Group on the Exchange of

Intra-EU Trade microdata under the project “Modernisation of Intrastat” carried out by Eurostat in close cooperation with EU Member States;

- attendance of regular meetings of the Group on International Trade Statistics in Goods Coordination and the works of the subordinated working groups organised by Eurostat, namely:
 - working group on the methodology of international trade in goods statistics;
 - working group on the production and quality of international trade in goods statistics.
- participation in reconciliation exercises to reduce bilateral asymmetries in foreign trade in goods data: conducting bilateral reconciliation exercises with Germany and the Netherlands to reduce asymmetries in these data;
- drawing up a first detailed analysis of the possibilities to align international trade in goods with the requirements of the Balance of Payments Manual BPM 6, in the context of globalisation;
- collaborating to the development of a methodology for linking/correlating international trade in goods data with production data; participation in the development of a matching matrix for the PRODRUM and CN products;
- compiling the monthly matrices with export and import data for the calculation of environmental accounts, broken down by MFA codes, CN codes, Intra-EU, Extra-EU, etc. for the period 2013-2018;
- launching the actions in the framework of the grant of the “Implementation of the redesigned and modernised Intrastat system” and draw up the documentation necessary for implementing the grant “Improving IT security in the ESS for the exchange of confidential statistical information”.

Collaboration with other public institutions

In the field of economic statistics, there was a solid inter-institutional collaboration in 2018, based on existing agreements and protocols concluded between the NIS and other public institutions, including the following: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Public Finance, National Bank of Romania, Ministry of Research, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Economy, National Commission for Strategy and Prognosis, National Agency for Environmental Protection, Romanian Automotive Register, etc.

Steps have also been taken to conclude/update collaboration arrangements with the Agency for Payments and Intervention for Agriculture and the National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority (ANSVSA), in order to use the information for the preparation and implementation of GAC 2020; with the Romanian Railway Authority — AFER on the use of administrative sources for the production of data in transport statistics; with the National Environmental Protection Agency to use the information in the Emission Inventories to produce Air Emission Accounts.

It is also worth mentioning the participations in a range of inter-institutional committees coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; in the inter-ministerial committee for the co-ordination of environmental protection integration in sectoral policies and strategies at national level, coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment; in the National Council for the Coordination of policies to reduce harmful drinking in Romania; in the committee for drafting the revised National Strategy for Romania's Sustainable Development 2030.

Technical assistance was provided during the study visit paid by experts in the field of agriculture and industry statistics concerning statistics on animal production undertaken in the period 17-21.09.2018 by representatives of the statistical offices of Albania, Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro.

Difficulties in economic statistical activity in 2018 and how to overcome them

Statistics on agriculture, forestry and the environment

In the area of agricultural, environmental and forestry statistics, particular efforts have been made to maintain the quality of statistical information produced and disseminated within the deadlines, while human resources in this area are limited, while the difficult collaboration and the lack of effective communication with the line institutions on issues of agricultural and environmental statistics hindered the accomplishment of field-specific activities as well as the preparation of the GAC 2020.

Insufficient staff in the field of sustainable development make it difficult to fulfil the role of the NIS in carrying out the activities of collecting, analysing and disseminating the revised set of sustainable development indicators, approved in September 2016, for measuring the implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda.

Short-term economic indicators statistics

The main difficulty encountered in 2018 was oversizing of the workload of employees due to frequent interruptions in the operation of the ESoP portal for collecting statistical data and the IT network at the NIS level, as well as the staff shortage.

For 2019, the staff problem has been partly solved and the technical problems will be resolved by redesigning the configuration of the internal IT system.

Another difficulty was the inability of central public institutions to address the issue of the reporting on production, import and export of sustainable biofuels under Directive 2009/28/EC despite the efforts of the NIS to build the necessary communication bridges so that Romania can fulfil the obligations raised by membership.

Structural Business Statistics

All activities relating to the modernisation of the business statistics system have been carried out in parallel with the ongoing work of the staff, with limited resources (human, financial, etc.) which has meant an additional effort on the part of the staff involved in structural statistics. The staff also experienced the following difficulties:

- refusal (in full or in part) by companies or public institutions to fill in the statistical questionnaires;
- the quality of the data from the administrative sources used as data sources for the calculation of statistical indicators or for the verification of the statistical data coherence and consistency;
- lack of trained staff necessary for the implementation of changes entailed by the new framework for business statistics (FRIBS) and for developing statistical tools for retrieving information from administrative data sources.

Foreign Trade Statistics

All activities relating to the modernisation of the Intrastat system were carried out in parallel with the current activity of

staff responsible for the foreign trade statistical system, with limited resources (human, financial, etc.) by doubling the workload of the experts involved.

DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL STATISTICS

In 2018, the activities in the field of demographic and social statistics were carried out in line with the rigors of the National Statistical System and of the European Statistical System, implementing the European regulations and observing the legal deadlines.

• POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

- the work on preparing the methodology for the organisation and conduct of the Population and Housing Census 2020-2021 (PHC 2021) continued in 2018 with the drafting of the law on the organisation and conduct of the PHC in Romania in 2021, for which the following activities were carried out:

- documentation of European legislation in the area of population and housing censuses of the 2021 round, as well as on similar legislation in EU Member States such as Poland, Italy, Latvia, the United Kingdom, Portugal, etc. and of the related Romanian legislation as of 2011;

- submission of more than 35 letters to various ministries, central and local public administration institutions, associations etc. through which the draft law was sent for analysis;

- organising 7 meetings with representatives of the various institutions consulted to discuss the draft law;

- 35 replies with comments and

suggestions for amendments to the draft law were analysed and the appropriate changes were made to the draft law;

- 5 letters in reply were issued to the addresses received from the various institutions with comments on the draft law (National Supervisory Authority for Personal Data Processing, National Agency for Cadastre and Real Estate Advertising, State Secretariat for Religious Affairs, Department for Interethnic Relations and the Permanent Electoral Authority).

- the draft PHC law for the 2021 round was drawn up and submitted to the Government Secretariat General for endorsement in December 2018.

- also related to preparing the Romanian PHC 2021, two Eurostat grants to support Member States in their efforts to improve round 2021 population censuses were successfully completed during 2018, namely: "Improving the quality of the EU census (2021 and post 2021)" and "Improving the use of administrative sources (pilot studies and ESS.VIP apps ADMIN WP 6)".

- another particular result is the projection of Romania's elderly population in 2060; the information was made available to the general public through a dedicated publication at the end of November 2018;

- as for the compilation of annual statistics on the usually resident population, it is worth mentioning the continuation of the ongoing action started last year to preserve international relations with other states with a view to exchanging the data necessary to build, with increasing accuracy, the statistical indicators, particularly those for international migration.

• HEALTHCARE STATISTICS

- as a result of the efforts made by the NIS in the area of the System of Health Accounts in accordance with the revised SHA 2011 methodology (A System of Health Accounts 2011 – Revised edition March 2017) and with the provisions of Regulation (EU) No 359/2015, a new source of data was identified (in collaboration with experts from the National Health Insurance House) which, analysed with the use of non-financial statistical data produced by the NIS in the annual survey on the activity of health-care units, enabled financial statistics indicators to be estimated with more reliability. Thus, with the data for the reference year 2016, revised data for the period 2011-2015 were sent to Eurostat-OECD-WHO, with Romania being one of the 24 EU Member States that improved the quality of the data series on health expenditure;

- a new data source has been identified that will allow the calculation of indicators on expenditure for medical services granted to the non-resident population and the deduction of them from the total health expenditure, thereby increasing the quality of health expenditure indicators of the usually resident population. To this end, the mapping has been developed of the own classifications with those of the National School of Public Health, Management and Professional Development, which is responsible for managing and validating the national database on hospitalisation (continuous and day-to-day) for the settlement of healthcare services by the National Health Insurance House;

- the bilateral cooperation with the experts of the World Health Organisation resulted in an exercise undertaken to develop the Health System revenue table for 2016 (indicators additional to those foreseen in the European Regulation No 359/2015).

• CULTURE AND JUSTICE STATISTICS

▪ the activities of the Working Group organised and coordinated by the NIS for the development of justice statistics, started in the previous year, were continued in 2018. This working group includes experts from the Ministry of Justice, the Public Ministry, the Superior Council of Magistracy, the General Inspectorate of the Judiciary, the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police, the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons and the National Anti-Drug Agency, and important steps were taken to finalise the correspondence between the types of offences set out in the Romanian Criminal Code and those of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) to be used for the production of European statistics in the field of Justice.

▪ experts of the specialised Directorate, together with Eurostat and experts from other Member States, participated in drafting a new methodology for the European Time Use Survey, round 2020, methodology which is already being finalised and which will take into account the conclusions of projects carried out in 2017-2018 in some EU countries (including Romania), which aimed to test the coverage of the usually resident population for children under 10 years and to extend the list of time use activities in line with new habits of the population, in the light of the rapidly growing technology and exponential growth of online activities.

▪ in the field of culture statistics, 27 cultural indicators have been compiled to illustrate the activity of libraries, museums, performing art and concert institutions and companies, indicators detailed at locality level. This set of indicators was

provided by the National Institute for Cultural Research and Training (INCFC) of the Ministry of Culture and National Identity which has developed a project to collect statistical indicators in the field of culture, as part of the UNESCO Project "Culture for Development Indicators (CDIS)".

• LABOUR FORCE AND EDUCATION STATISTICS

One of the NIS priorities in terms of modernisation is the shift to modern methods of data collection. It was also one of the objectives of the previous year.

The first positive step in this respect was done by using the CAPI method for collecting data with tablets on a small sample (160 tablets) in the Household Labour Force Survey (AMIGO) method, while further on the CAPI method will be implemented on a large scale. In this regard, international technical assistance was provided by the World Bank in the optimal design of the smart questionnaires through the Survey Solutions system. Training sessions were organised with the staff of the territorial statistical directorates directly involved in the collection of the data in view to appropriately prepare the necessary steps for the modernisation of data collection.

According to the provisions of the national legislation in force (Government Emergency Order No 79/2017 as amended), social security contributions, i.e. health social security contributions, which were charged to the employer, have been borne by the employee since January 2018, are entirely paid by the employee and are reflected in the gross wage bill. Accordingly, explanatory metadata

have been developed and internal and external users were informed that the indicators “gross average monthly/hourly earnings” produced and disseminated since the reference month January 2018 are no longer comparable to data series prior to 2018. However, these legal provisions do not influence the comparability of the data for the series of “net average monthly/hourly earnings”.

Efforts to exploit administrative data sources in the production of earnings statistics in view to reduce the burden on respondent companies have continued. Specific indicators are in the process of being estimated, in terms of size classes of enterprises and types of economic and social establishments.

The production of relevant statistics at EU and national level in the area of education have continued as well. The process of exploiting data from the administrative sources of education is cumbersome, but cooperation with the other responsible institutions is still being sought.

• LIVING STANDARD STATISTICS

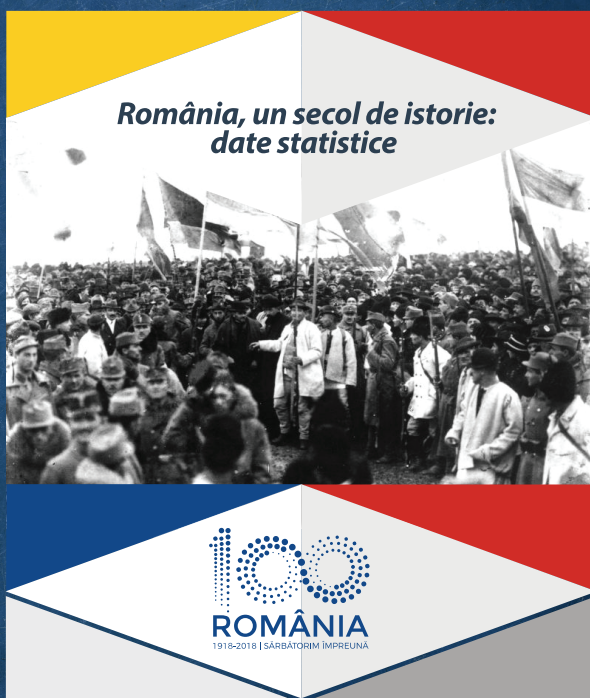
A statistical research which is particularly important for the National Statistical System is the Household Budget Survey (HBS) - sample statistical survey, the main source of data for the assessment of population income, consumption and expenditure, for the substantiation of social protection programmes, the impact analysis of the implementation of the various programmes in the social field, as well as the analysis of the economic effects of transition, in general, on the socio-economic situation of the population.

On the basis of the information obtained, an annual publication “Coordinates of the living standard in Romania” has been drawn up. Data were also made public via press releases and by uploading the results into the TEMPO Online database.

The quality of life survey (ACAV)-longitudinal statistical survey, provided the necessary information to assess the living conditions of the population, by highlighting the interconnection and complementarity of various aspects, such as: health status, education, income, housing conditions, employment, poverty, material deprivation, etc. The survey was implemented on the basis of Regulation (EC) No 1177/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on income and living conditions. Yearly, secondary modules with different subject-matters which are covered by European regulations are included in the survey. In 2018, the secondary module “Material deprivation, welfare and difficulties related to housing” was carried out under the Commission Regulation (EU) no. 310/2017.

The results of this survey were disseminated through the publication “Living conditions of the Romanian population in 2017” and by uploading the results into the TEMPO Online database. The verified and validated microdata files were sent via e-Damis to Eurostat in the required standard format. A final quality report of the ACAV data, for the period 2014-2017, was produced in ESQRS (ESS Standard for Quality Reports Structure) and sent via NRME.

In the first 3 months of 2018, in the framework of the independent grant



CENTENNIAL SERIES

CENTENNIAL SERIES

Unlike my colleagues, authors of "Romania, a Century of History – Statistical Data" who had an active role in the development of the work, initially, the mission of the Department of Communication seemed to be more technical, to provide the editorial secretariat, liaison with and between the authors, setting deadlines for chapters, editing, but also everything related to the receipt, collation of texts, verification of the sources, photos and bibliography used. An activity that we liked, mobilized us and at the same time determined us to bring, as a Department of Communication, our contribution to this Centennial celebration, not only in this way, but also through two other projects which we considered important to be distributed along with the one of the Institute.

A first project titled „The Centennial Series“ was born out of the desire to produce a collection of twelve biographies, each one devoted to a great Roman economist / statistician who, through his contribution to statistical theory and practice, significantly contributed to the development of Romanian statistics. All of these unique history records encompass the life, work, hardships experienced due to the shortcomings of the times, as well as the exceptional works of some of the most influential statisticians of the Roman nation over the past century and even more. I would like to thank to my colleagues in the Directorate, as each of them assumed the task of undertaking the research of these biographies among the dusty, obsolete book files on the shelves of the NIS library. The history of these personalities begins, not necessarily in this order, with that of Ion Ionescu de la Brad in 1818, continuing with

Dionisie Pop Martian, the first leader of the Romanian statistics since its establishment in 1859, Virgil Madgearu in 1887 and ends in our times with that of Vladimir Trebici in 1999 and Constantin Ionescu in 2013. The collection is not only a historical reading of famous biographies but also describes how the national statistical system was built up.

The second project emerged from the desire to offer the reader and to introduce him into the atmosphere of the first centuries of statistics, 150-160 years ago, by reading the story of the way our great-grandparents thought and made censuses, only with a pencil sharpened with a knife and the paper, so rare at the time.

All these special prints have been carefully gathered in a CD titled „100 Years in Documents“ as they have been published since 1861 and are finalizing with the year of the centenary celebration. The collection involves scans of some works, lost covers of works unfortunately lost, studies, calendars, photographs, as they were found in the annals of Romanian statistics, but each one in its own way brings, like in a puzzle, a file to our nation history. In the end, I would thank to those who have believed in this project “Romania, a Century of History – Statistical Data”, to all those who have contributed through their work, devotion and professionalism from then on and now to what today is the statistics in Romania, and last but not least I would wish “Long live Romania, long live NIS for the next century at least!”

Bogdan PĂTĂRLĂGEANU, Director
Department of Communication

“Testing of the Health Module to the EU-SILC 2017”, the following quality indicators have been calculated: frequency of the variables in the EU-SILC 2017 health module and non-response rate for the variables of the module in view to prepare the final report. Both the micro-data files and the final report were transmitted to Eurostat in the required standard format.

During 2018, the activities under the independent grant “Population access to ICT in households”- survey harmonised with the European recommendations, providing information on access to modern information and communication technology, use of computers, access to and use of the Internet, e-commerce via Internet, place and frequency of Internet use were carried out. The survey has been implemented on the basis of Regulation (EC) No 803/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on the information society.

The surveys questionnaires are updated on an annual basis with new indicators recommended by Eurostat as highly topical in the field of the information society. There were two reports: the metadata report and the final data quality report. These reports, together with the micro-data files and metadata, were sent to Eurostat. Data were also provided to the public through the publication “Population Access to Information and Communication Technologies in 2018”, through a press release and uploading of results in the TEMPO Online database.

In order to modernise the collection of data for the household statistical surveys, the testing of the CAPI data

collection method took place in 2018 for the Household ICT survey 2018 with the support of Survey Solutions system developed by the World Bank and provided free of charge to interested users.

The testing was carried out from 16 to 30 April 2018. 160 tablets were used and 2065 households were investigated. Following the testing of the CAPI method, an evaluation report has been drawn up, which comprised the results of the testing and the changes to be taken into account in the future.

• SOCIAL PROTECTION STATISTICS

Social protection statistics built on administrative data are an important source of data for the development of national policies in this field.

The main indicators in the field of social protection statistics refer to the number of pensioners, registered unemployed and social protection revenues and expenses. The information was taken from administrative sources, i.e. from the registers of institutions with responsibilities in the field: National House of Public Pensions (CNPP), the Lawyers’ Insurance Office, the Secretariat General for Religious Affairs, the Ministry of National Defence, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Romanian Intelligence Service, the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice, the National Employment Agency, the National Authority for Child Rights and Adoption.

In order to ensure statistical information on the annual revenues and expenditure on social protection practised in the national system, in accordance with European Regulation no. 458/2007,

provided for in the ESSPROS methodology, data on social protection revenues and expenditure have been produced and submitted to Eurostat by means of the statistical questionnaire on social protection revenues and expenditure.

The results of the statistical surveys and works have resulted in the following publications, issued on annual basis: Number of pensioners and average monthly pension for 2017; Social protection statistics in accordance with the ESSPROS, for the year 2016; Balance of employment on January 1, 2018.

• Cooperation with other public institutions

In 2018, there were permanently activities on the verification of information and on validation of data from various reports drawn up by other public institutions.

The most intensive collaboration was with the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice (MMJS). Each year, the information from the Report of the Social Protection Committee and the Report prepared by Ministry of Labour and Social Justice (MMJS) is checked and data are validated.

During the period when Romania will ensure the Presidency of the European Union Council, one of the active dossiers for the debate is that of migration with the focus of amending Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection, the articles envisaged being those for which, at national level, the institution responsible for producing the necessary data is the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI).

In this regard, cooperation has intensified with the IGI in view of the changes made to Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 in respect of the composition of international protection.

• Difficulties encountered in demographic and social statistics

In the area of demographic and social statistics, in addition to the issues related to the operation of the IT network affecting working times for the uploading, checking and validating the statistical data necessary to obtain the relevant indicators, it is necessary to recall as well the toilsome collaboration with ministries and government institutions holding registers and databases useful for statistical exploitation, with a view to reducing the response burden.

Despite the efforts on the NIS side, namely of experts from the Directorate-General for Social Statistics and Demography, many actors in the central public administration, which are owners of data of interest for the production of statistics, have reservations related to the topic of individual data transfer towards the NIS. Difficulties were encountered during 2018 in the area of health and cultural statistics respectively, due to the increase in the non-response rate of private healthcare units and publishing houses.

In the process of modernising the methods of collecting data for household surveys, the recruitment of data operators with the necessary skills is particularly difficult. In this regard, a problem is also arising from the legislative restrictions that are narrowing the recruitment market as there is insufficient financial motivation for potential statistical operators.

STATISTICAL BUSINESS REGISTER

The activities related to the Statistical Business Register have been carried out in 2018 in line with the rigors of the National Statistical System and of the European Statistical System, and with due respect to the specific quality standards of the field, implementing European regulations and observing the legal deadlines, in the areas of managing the statistical business register, sampling and classifying the activities of the national economy and assessing the quality of statistical data, as follows:

- ensuring consistency and reconciliation of the annual and short-term statistics data by participating in the working group on large units;
- drawing up the list of reporting units and ensuring the extension of data for statistical surveys carried out by the National Bank of Romania;
- providing support in the interpretation and use of economic classifications of general interest administered by the NIS — approximately 1000 requests concerning the identification of activities in the CANE rev. 2 (requests coming mainly from applicants for the Start-up Nation Programme 2018);
- mapping of the GSBPM/GAMSO Work Programme and the consultation of the support Directorates on the inclusion or exclusion of some activities from the list of generic activities (LGA) and the completion of the list of generic activities (LGA);
- completing the 8 system procedures according to the GSBPM;
- participating in business statistics development and modernisation activities through involvement in grants/projects in the field;
- carrying out the necessary activities for the grant “European profiling — steps towards the implementation of the

European system of interoperable statistical business registers”:

- creation of the initial profiling for multinational groups with the decision-making headquarters in Romania and for multinational groups with the decision-making headquarters in the EU (reference period 2017);
- implementation of the follow-up profiling for multinational groups with the decision-making headquarters in Romania and for multinational groups with the decision-making headquarters in the EU;
- measurement of the quality of input/output data in/from the EGR (EuroGroups Register).

ADMINISTRATIVE SOURCES MANAGEMENT AND PROCESSING

In terms of activity in the management and processing of statistical data, this was translated into the following points:

• eDEMOS — ONLINE DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM FROM LOCAL PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS

- continuing to update the metadata corresponding to the indicators collected from local public administrations;
- updating the series of population, tourism and unemployment data, as a result of revisions;
- sustained cooperation with the statistical territorial directorates and with the local public authorities in order to reduce non-response rates and to improve the quality of information stored in the system. As a result, the response rate at national level increased by 2 percentage points to 95.8 %, with 86 % of the statistical territorial directorates having a response rate of over 90 %, with an increase

of 2 percentage points compared to the situation in 2017;

- checking the accurate operation of the system, managing the problems identified and resolving them, avoiding any inconsistencies or errors;
- the 2017 data reported by the local public authorities were made available to the general public on the NIS website since January 1, 2019.

• DATABASES; TEMPO ONLINE; METADATA

- updating and enriching of the content with data series that are recalculated/ revised:

- as a result of population data revision or of the change in the base years used in the calculation of indicators and of the weighting system update, data in more than 50 matrices has been revised, relating to: population, employees, earnings, job vacancies, unemployed, living standards, tourism, business statistics, environment, industrial production, construction, trade and services;

- in addition to the current activity reflected in the NIS Activity Programme (AP), 52 new matrices were created in TEMPO in the areas of: industry, prices, construction, trade and services, environment, labour force;

- continuing the ongoing works on reviewing the uploaded data.

- updating the software and IT applications for the management and querying of databases for international trade in goods, CPI and industrial physical production to address the requests from internal and external beneficiaries;

- compiling the software for the generation of comparative situations for

2018 as against 2017 for international trade in goods data;

- providing specialised technical assistance to various compartments in the ISI in the operation of querying applications of CPI databases and industrial physical output, prepared by the IT directorate staff;

- generating the bases for dissemination of data on international trade in goods into a maximal structure, including estimated data at 8-digit level, or in various restricted structures (for internal use), as a result of changing the structure of information on estimated data and updating them in line with CPA 2015 by means of specific software implemented in the Directorate;

- compiling the software used for the generation of data on permanent resident population as on January 1 and July 1 from 1992 onwards, made available to users in the TEMPO online database;

- compiling the software and data files in order to meet the multitude of international trade data requests from both internal and external users, the media and various government institutions and internal and international bodies;

- transposing into SDMX format and ensuring the confidentiality of international trade in goods by enterprise characteristics (TEC) data, for the years 2016 and 2017, with the data files sent to Eurostat, in accordance with the regulations in force.

- updating the metadata base with descriptive metadata by creating new versions for 8 statistical activities related to industry and standard of living;

- monthly/quarterly compilation of the tables used to determine the monthly employment trend and identify the amplitude of the data reviews in the field of business statistics, based on the information retrieved from D112, D300 and REGIS.

STATISTICAL INNOVATION

In 2018, the following activities were carried out in statistical innovation activity:

Big Data use in the development of experimental statistics - prices observed online

The project consists in the development of a methodology and of experimental statistics on data (prices) collected online in terms of the objective of exploring alternative data sources. The first phase of the project consisted in the development of automated procedures for the extraction of data from the online environment and of “data cleaning” procedures based on a set of rules taken from the traditional consumer price survey.

Various software solutions for the automated extraction of data from the online environment have been explored, out of which: Scrapy.py Library, Apache (Nutch/Solr) solutions, R (rvest, httr, RSelenium) solutions and a solution proposed by the Netherlands’ Statistical Office (RobotFramework — developed in node.js). Further to the tests, the Dutch solution proved to be much easier to maintain as compared to the others and was proposed for use. In order to carry out the “data cleaning” procedures, a number of rules have been drawn up on the basis of the Methodology of the Consumer Price Index survey. Software libraries, available in the R programming language, have been used for this purpose.

Inter-censuses estimation of the dwellings number by type of facilities

The project consisted of the use of data from PHC 2011 for the estimation of dwellings number by type of facilities, the use of data from inter-censuses surveys on

residential buildings. To this end, a method for re-weighting the total number of dwellings in the inter-censuses surveys has been developed by categories of dwellings with different types of facilities, using the weights in PHC 2011 of these categories. Two estimators (constants and variable weights) have been proposed. The calculation procedures have been carried out with software libraries available in the R programming language.

ESSnet Big Data I 2016-2018

The activities of the grant ESSnet Big Data I (2016-2018 period), WP5 Mobile Phone Data, targeted the development of a methodological framework to test the use of mobile telephony data in the production of official statistics for the estimation of some population indicators. In 2018, the main objective of the work was to develop a methodology for the estimation of the population using mobile telephony data and to develop a software package R to implement this methodology. A methodological framework was developed to assess the quality of the estimates and to implement this methodology in the software.

The results have materialised in the preparation of 3 reports (Proposed Elements for a Methodological Framework for the Production of Official Statistics with Mobile Phone Data, Some IT elements for the use of mobile phone data in the production of official statistics and Some Quality Aspects and Future Prospects for the Production of Official Statistics with Mobile Phone Data) and the development of Pestim software package. The project’s achievements were presented at the closing conference held in Sofia and at the European Conference on Quality in Official Statistics held by Eurostat in Poland, Exploring new statistical frontiers

at the intersection of survey science and big data, Barcelona and uRos 2018, The Hague.

The results achieved have been summarised in two papers that were presented at the annual conference of the Directors-General of the National Statistical Institutes of the EU Member States, held in Bucharest: Using Web scrapping techniques for price statistics – the Romanian experience and Towards a methodological framework for the integration of mobile phone data in the production of official statistics.

ESSnet Big Data II 2018-2020

Between June and September, work was carried out on a new ESSnet grant proposal on the use of Big Data sources in official statistics. The NIS will participate in two work packages, namely: WPB — Online job vacancies and WPI — Mobile network data. The proposal developed together with 24 other partners was accepted by Eurostat and the activities of the grant started on November 1 with the elaboration of a detailed work plan translating into practice the activities foreseen in the project.

Seasonal adjustment of turnover volume indices in retail

Seasonal adjustment is intended to eliminate the seasonal effects in the data series, so that comparisons between months and quarters are possible. Likewise, seasonally adjusted data may also be used to produce forecasts.

Using the data provided by the Directorate of short-term economic indicators, on turnover volume indices in retail, the TRAMO/SEATS and X-13ARIMA SEATS methods in the JDemetra + 2.2 programme

were used to find out if the results of the seasonal adjustments could be improved.

The analysis was carried out both for the period from January 2005 to December 2017 and for the years 2011 to 2017 to test whether the elimination of the period with outliers of “level shift” type positively influences the adjustment. In addition to the national calendar of public holidays, different parameters of the most complex predefined specifications were chosen (RSAfull and RSA5c). The in-depth analysis of the results of the seasonal adjustment process found that these could not be improved and resulted in similar values to those of the specialised directorate.

Internal trainings on the following topics:

- Visual FoxPro

The database course in Visual FoxPro addressed the NIS headquarters staff using the Visual FoxPro programming language. The training period was 26.11.2018-20.12.2018, the course being structured at two levels of difficulty (beginner, medium level). 90 learners were trained.

The course theme comprised: introduction to databases; the creation of the structure of a table; modification of the structure of a table; inputs to a table; positioning; the deletion of entries in a table; deleting a table; sorting and indexing; extracting information from the tables (select); operators and functions; relational databases (JOIN); subqueries; programmes.

The course aimed at deepening the commands specific to the Visual FoxPro language with a view to the sound performance of professional tasks.

- **Modern collecting software - Web scraping**

Training on the use of modern data collection tools has been addressed to the staff of the NIS headquarters. The objective of training related to the process of modernising the means of data collection using modern technologies and consisted of getting learners acquainted with the specific World Wide Web technologies, such as HTML/CSS/JavaScript, and software libraries for the automatic extraction of data from web pages. The training period was 13.12.2018-14.12.2018. On the first day of the course, the participants used a software library created by the Statistical Office of the Netherlands for the extraction of data from page web pages. The second day of the course has been dedicated to the presentation and use of software libraries specific to the R programming language for the automatic download of WEB files.

- **Introduction to the R programming environment**

The training was given to the staff of the County Statistical Directorate Braşov during 15.11.2018-16.11.2018. The objective of training was to familiarise the staff with the R programming language and graphic environment. The theoretical presentation displayed the main attributes of the programming language R and the standard libraries. The training included exercises aiming at getting acquainted with handling R specific data structures, as well as examples of statistical analysis and graphical representation of results.

Based on the particular activities carried out by the employees of the County Statistical Directorate Braşov, several alternatives (R libraries) to the currently used software have been presented,

preponderantly solutions to validate and impute the data obtained from the statistical surveys. The short term allocated to the training (2 days) is considered an impediment by the participants, taking into account the novelty and the complexity of the presented information.

- **Contributing to "Romania, a century of history - statistical data",**

Coordination of two students internship in the framework of the Official Government Programme for Internship-2018 edition, from 16 July to 14 September. Under the guidance of the Directorate experts, the two students carried out the papers entitled "Comparative analysis between statistical and geospatial data for the identification of the land use type" and "Seasonal adjustment of the gross quarterly GDP series". The two reports approached topics of interest for the modernisation of official statistics and were made public by posting them on the intranet.

- **Exploring the possibility to use administrative sources in the current statistical production.**

This project explored the possibility of using some administrative sources (D112) for the calculation of the monthly average gross earnings and the average number of employees, as well as for the diminution of the sample currently used in the sample statistical survey on the basis of which the two indicators are calculated.

The activities carried out contributed to the accomplishment of the following general objectives of the NIS: extended use of administrative data sources in the statistical process; improving the quality of statistical products and services; development of human resources.

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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

• EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The pro-active participation in European and international statistical governance structures materialised in 2018 in the following:

▪ **Meeting of the Directors-General of National Statistical Institutes (DGINS):**

- organised in Bucharest on 10-11 October 2018, it was a major success for the European agenda. The annual conference of the Directors-General of National Statistical Institutes on "The European Path towards Trusted Smart Statistics" brought together 160 participants from European Union countries, candidate countries and transition countries, European and international organisations who expressed their satisfaction both to the extremely rich and interesting agenda of the conference, but also to the impeccable organisation of the event. Furthermore, as an extension of the lively discussions caused by the very topical subject-matter, the "Bucharest Memorandum" on "Official Statistics in a Datafied Society" was adopted by the Directors General of National Sta-

tistical Institutes from the EU Member States;

▪ **European Statistical System Committee (ESSC):**

- 36th ESSC Meeting - 8 February 2018 - Luxembourg; 37th ESSC Meeting - 17 May 2018 - Luxembourg; 38th meeting of the ESSC 12 October 2018 - Bucharest;

▪ **Conference of European Statisticians (CES):**

- the 66th plenary session took place in Geneva from 18 to 20 June 2018;

▪ **OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy (CSSP):**

- the 15th meeting was held in Geneva from 20 to 21 June 2018;

▪ **United Nation Statistical Commission:**

- the proceedings of the 49th session took place in New York from 6 to 9 March 2018. Mr. Tudorel Andrei, President of the NIS Romania, was elected Vice-President of the Bureau of the UN Statistical Commission;

▪ **14 meetings of the Council Working Party on Statistics (CWPS)** (6 under the Bulgarian Presidency and 8 under the Austrian Presidency);

▪ Over **180 participations** in working groups, Task Forces, seminars, conferences organised by Eurostat and other international organisations and bilateral cooperation actions.

• BILATERAL COOPERATION

▪ A Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between the National Institute of Statistics and the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS), to be signed in 2019, was finalised. The Parties will cooperate with a view to developing and improving the statistical system in mutually agreed statistical domains, in



AN OVERVIEW OF
THE 100 YEARS

AN OVERVIEW OF THE 100 YEARS

What did it mean for you to coordinate the chapter/chapters in the NIS volume? What has been alike/different to work on this project compared to your daily professional tasks? What has this additional task involved?

Scientific research is an original work containing statistical data related to a long period of time and has been carried out by the joint efforts of a team of experts well-known at international level.

The chapter entitled “Agriculture, Forestry and Environment” was drawn up by a team of specialists from the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Economics of the Bucharest University of Economic Studies. With a view to drafting this chapter, my colleagues whom I had the honour to coordinate, given much time, but especially given a lot of soul for the result I would kindly invite you to study. Thus, the coordination of this chapter meant an additional effort, but above all responsibility, as well as an opportunity to pay respect to our ancestors.

Do you consider that this work is representative of the NIS bearing in mind the marking of the 100 years of modern history?

The National Institute of Statistics is among the first public institutions in

Romania and one of the oldest statistical offices in Europe. In order to celebrate the Centenary of the Great Union, the NIS coordinates a particularly important project by editing the volume „Romania, a century of history – statistical data”.

The issue of this volume is a scientific event, given the completion of an exhaustive research over a long period of Romania’s history. Publishing this volume in the anniversary year is a reason for celebration, as well as an opportunity for reflection for every Romanian.

Do you consider that the volume is relevant to the general public due to the possibilities of using published statistical data/information?

The work is an overview of the 100 years for all branches of the national economy. The volume includes important statistical data from official sources, that come up the hard way, given the rather long time frame, which is why we are convinced that this will be an important source of data, a handbook and a guide for scientific researchers, students, as well as for all those interested in studying the history of the Romanian economy.

Prof. Nicolae Istudor, PhD
Rector of the

Bucharest University of Economic Studies

particular Information Technology and Communications, methodological and quality aspects, infrastructure and organisational issues. The actions envisaged include the sharing of best practices, the sharing of experience in different areas of official statistics. Furthermore, this cooperation will promote professional behaviour in line with the European Statistics Code of Practice and will provide a forum for exchanges of experience between the two countries;

- A working meeting of National Accounts Directorate representatives was held on 8 June 2018 with representatives from the Ministry of Finance of Montenegro;

- A study visit of the Polish colleagues on "Modern data collection methods for the preparation of the Agricultural Census 2020" was held at the NIS headquarters from 15 to 17 May 2018;

- From 17 to 18 September 2018, the NIS was host to colleagues from Albania, Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro, who arrived in a study visit on "Animal production statistics";

- Training sessions were organised for planning and exercising the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, either in Bucharest (with the participation of experts from Slovakia) on 12-13 June 2018, or in Croatia (experts from Denmark);

- During 2018, internships for 3 or 6 months were organised for: Jelena Marcovi, Montenegro, at Directorate of European Affairs and International Cooperation, 15 January - 15 June; Elton Bushi, Albania, at Directorate General of National Accounts and Macro-economic Syntheses, 3 September - 14 December; Nysret Sylejmani, Kosovo, at Directorate General of National Accounts and Macro-economic Syntheses, 3 September - 14 December.

• PERSPECTIVE ACTIONS

In January 2019, Romania is taking over the **Presidency of the EU Council** for the first time. For half a year, Romania is at the heart of the European decision-making process, playing an important role in the development and consolidation of the European project, the negotiation process for the development of the *acquis communautaire* and thus for strengthening the cooperation of the European Union Member States.

Priorities of the Council Working Party "Statistics".

The main objectives of the Romanian Presidency are set out in the Trio Programme of Romania, Finland and Croatia. Given the need for continuity of legislative procedure, the Presidencies will build on the results achieved by the partners in the previous Presidencies and make every effort to move forward with the legislative files under discussion.

- NIS will have the honour to chair the meetings of the **Council Working Party "Statistics"**, taking over the legislative files in the statistical domain from the Austrian Presidency with a view to moving forward as much as possible during the ordinary legislative procedure, namely:

- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on migration and international protection;

- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European business sta-

tistics, amending Regulation (EC) No 184/2005 and repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics;

- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common framework for European statistics relating to persons and households, based on data at individual level collected from samples;

- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Programme for the Single Market, Competitiveness of Enterprises and European Statistics, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 99/2013, (EU) No 1287/2013, (EU) No 254/2014, (EU) No 258/2014, (EU) 652/2014 and (EU) 2017/826;

- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the harmonisation of gross national income at market prices (GNI Regulation) and repealing Council Directive 89/130/EEC, Euratom and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1287/2003.

The meetings of the Council Working Party "Statistics" during the Romanian Presidency of the EU Council are scheduled to be held in Brussels in the following days: 31 January; 21 February; 28 March; 24 April; 23 May; 13 June.

The Presidency Team of the Council Working Party "Statistics" is composed of:

- Mr. Tudorel Andrei (NIS President), Chairman;
- Ms. Daniela Ștefănescu, Director of European Affairs and International Cooperation, co-chairman;
- Ms. Virginia Balea (Deputy Director of Structural Business Statistics),

responsible for FRIBS file;

- Ms. Laura Ichim (Chief of Office - Population and Migration Statistics), Responsible for Migration file,

- Ms. Simona Toma (Expert) responsible for IESS file;

- Ms. Gabriela Popa (Director of Public Policy Unit), responsible for the SMP file;

- Mr. Ilie Dumitrescu (adviser to the President of the NIS), Member of the Presidency Team

- Ms. Andreea Mirică (adviser to the President of the NIS), Member of the Presidency Team;

- Ms. Petronela Dina-Tănase (expert), Member of the Presidency Team;

- Mr. Lucian Hîrșu (expert), Member of the Presidency Team;

- Ms. Iulia Pop (expert), Member of the Presidency Team;

- Ms. Simona Bratu (expert), Member of the Presidency Team.

At the end of Romania's term of office at the Council of the EU, a meeting for the Presidency handover to Finland will be organised in Sinaia.

The Romanian Presidency will support the actions envisaging the modernisation of the European Statistical System that underpin the sustainable and equitable development of all Member States through a high level of convergence, cohesion, innovation, digitisation and connectivity.

In particular, in the context of the digitisation effort, the Romanian Presidency highlights the problems of the innovative instruments to be used in statistics and the importance of the World Round of the Population Census population. The topics are addressed through the organisation of three conferences, as follows:

▪ **8-9 April 2019 - Conference „Population Census: round 2020 and post 2020 - from traditions to modernism“.**

Organised 3 years before the reference year of the next PHC, the conference represents a good opportunity for practitioners to meet and share the experience gained during the previous round(s), as well as the novelty elements that will be piloted in the 2020-2021 Round, taking into account that most EU countries are now in an advanced phase of preparing the 2020-2021 round of population censuses.

We are preparing to change the image of the future census, from a traditional to a modern one, using the most recent methods and techniques to help people: a “sustainable” census with a minimised burden on respondents, faster results obtained with less resources, but with longer existence and use.

▪ **20-21 May 2019 - Conference on “Use of R software in official statistics”**

The International Conference uRos 2019 is the 7th Conference organised by the NIS promoting the use and development of R analytics software in the official statistics, but also of other software integrating packages and functions of R.

The purpose of the conference is to provide a public forum for statisticians and experts of the statistical institutes from all over the world, as well as for researchers from academia.

The works will focus on the following topics:

- application of the R software in statistical production;
- the organisational and technical

aspects of the introduction of R into national official statistics;

- examples of R application in statistics dissemination (view, applications, reporting)
- analysis of Big Data;
- statistical methodology implementation in the areas of sampling, publishing, modelling and control of statistical estimates;
- approaches on the learning of R software by users of official statistics.

▪ **5 June 2019 - National Conference of Statistical Data Users**

The conference will comprise two sessions of presentations and debates on the production of quality official statistics, integrated into the European statistical production system and their dissemination, as well as the benefits of using official statistics in economic analyses and studies to develop the economic environment, with a view to ensuring a better quality of life to standards similar or as close as possible to the European ones.

The purpose of this conference is to promote both national and European official statistics, their use, increased trust in official statistics and their producers, improved statistical culture and awareness of the interest expressed by users themselves on Romanian and European official statistics.

• **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EXTERNAL FINANCING PROGRAMMES**

Projects with non-refundable external funding in progress during 2018:

1. Establishment of the production

process for new production indices on services — implementation of short-term statistics;

2. Collection of data on Purchasing Power Parities 2017 to 2018;

3. Preparing the revision of EU-SILC - Testing of ad hoc modules in EU-SILC 2017;

4. Collection of data for infra-national statistics;

5. LFS 2017 — Ad hoc module on self-employment;

6. Actions for modernising the compilation of PRODCOM statistics;

7. Improving the use of administrative sources (ESS.VIP ADMIN WP 6 — Pilot studies and applications)

8. Passengers mobility and traffic statistics;

9. Improving the quality of EU censuses (2021 and post 2021);

10. ESSnet Big Data SGA 2;

11. Integrated global accounts and global output;

12. Environmental accounts 2017: 2 modules: Pilot compilation of the environmental subsidies and transfers account and the economy — environment material flows account;

13. Progress towards full implementation of the ESA 2010 and its transmission programme for national accounts, development and implementation of a quality framework for national accounts data;

14. 2017-2018 short term surveys,

15. Modernisation of the production of PRODCOM statistics;

16. Data collection on ICT use in households and by individuals 2018;

17. European profiling — Steps towards the implementation of the European system of interoperable statistical business registers — Individual grants 2017;

18. Infra-national statistics;

19. LFS 2018 — Ad hoc module on reconciliation of work and family life;

20. Implementation of short-term statistics;

21. Ongoing surveys, through pilot studies to establish harmonised data on land prices and rentals;

22. Survey on international outsourcing;

23. Research and development (R & D) and innovation statistics 2018;

24. Statistics on passengers mobility and road traffic.

New Projects with non-refundable external financing signed during 2018:

1. Establishment of a statistical system for crop balance data for the main cereals and oilseeds in accordance with the common EU methodology;

2. Modernisation of agricultural statistics;

3. Labour Force Survey 2019 — Ad hoc module on work organisation and working time planning LFS-2019-AHM-EMPL-2018 (LFS AHM);

4. 2018-2019 short term surveys,

5. Purchasing power parity data collection 2019;

6. Environmental accounts 2018 — (1) Environmental tax on economic activity; (2) Equivalent raw material;

7. Profiling — Support for the implementation of profiling in Member States' statistics;

8. Statistics on the use of ICT products in enterprises 2019;

9. Development of structural business statistics;

10. Implementation of the redesigned and modernised Intrastat system;

11. Improvement of IT security within the ESS for the exchange of confidential statistical information, signed in January 2019;

12. ESSnet on „BIG DATA 2018-2020 — signed in Q I 2019.

COMMUNICATION

During 2018 the communication activity focused on the following issues:

- modernisation of the NIS web solutions and of the application Tempo online database;
- collaboration with the Directorate for European Affairs and International Cooperation in the development of the DGINS 2018 website in October;
- providing the technical secretariat for drawing up the paper dedicated to the Centenary of the Great Union "Romania, a century of history - statistical data";
- taking over and addressing the requests submitted to the Institute on Law No 544/2001;
- ensuring the decision-making transparency in accordance with Law No 52/2003.

As far as the modernisation of the web solutions is concerned, both the websites of the NIS and of the Statistical Territorial Directorates have been taken into account, as well as the intranet as an institutional communication solution..

These upgrades consisted not only in re-designing the website, involving modern online communication facilities for users of statistical information, but also in the possibility, through the chosen architecture, of ensuring a simple view and downloading of statistical data by all categories of users. The wish to provide the Statistical Territorial Directorates with a modern communication platform through which they can control and update the published information of local interest on each county's website has also been taken into account.

Regarding the TEMPO application, in addition to the need to upgrade the design and

to implement graphs for the time series, the need to remove the user account has been identified, the access to this free of charge application being hindered by the restriction in question, being also identified the possibility that the entire database can be read in JSON format.

It was also envisaged the increased cohesion and communication within the NIS by updating the intranet portal.

Other activities during the year:

- optimising the relationships with media and ensuring better communication with this important user category;
- full openness of the institution to the online media and social networks with the aim of promoting statistical culture, the image of the NIS/STD, their activities and events or those closely correlated with them;
- initiating the regular meetings of the NIS with all the user categories by promoting the NIS activities on the occasion of the European Statistics Day and Open Doors Day;
- drawing up statistical leaflets and brochures with a view to promoting statistical publications within the Institute;
- organising thematic round tables in partnership with academic and research institutes;
- continuing the organisation of special events to highlight the major moments in national and international statistics history;
- organising events and round tables on the occasion of celebrating the Great Union Centenary;
- continuing internal and external debriefing of the latest events by means of the newsletters and Insight magazines.

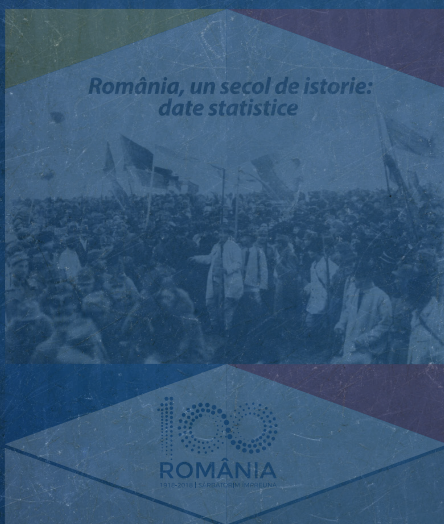
In addition to the regular monthly newsletter, as established since December 1, 2016, the Directorate of Communication has regularly drawn up a special newsletter dedicated to the greatest Romanian statisticians with



The invitation to work on the anniversary volume „Romania, a century of history - statistical data” honoured me, tickled me, but it made me responsible at the same time. It honoured with the chance to bring my professional contribution to building a valuable piece of work about the becoming of our country.

It tickled me through the achieved result, after accepting the challenge to carry out team work with quality people, but with different ages, mentalities and work styles. It was a unique, exciting experience that enriched me both professionally and at personal level. It has made me responsible, a constantly experienced feeling, for the rigor of the data and sources used, for the quality of the analyses, for the clarity and the usefulness, both at this time and in the future, of the messages coagulated by teamwork.

I think that the National Institute of Statistics celebrates with professionalism, in an inspired and elegant manner, the Centenary of the Great Union through this volume „Romania, a century of history - statistical data”. In fact, it is the result of „uniting” the creative energies of those who have given considerable effort, intellectual work, time and dedication, in order to leave not only a proof of the importance of the celebration, but also statistical information and analyses of wide public usefulness.



UNITING CREATIVE
ENERGIES

prof. Constanța MIHĂESCU, PhD

particular important contribution to statistical theory and practice. On the occasion of celebrating the Great Union Centenary, all of this Newsletters were gathered in a magazine "Info NIS – Centenary Series".

On December 21, 2018, the Amphitheatre Hall of the NIS hosted, in the presence of the NIS President and of some personalities of economic and social life, the launch of the volume "Romania, a century of history - statistical data".

Statistical leaflets and brochures were developed to promote statistical publications issued within the NIS, joint presentations of statistical activities were organised with the contribution of several Directorates in the NIS to the "School otherwise" programme and also as part of the "Open Doors Days of the NIS" event.

7 public events were organised, which had a large number of participants from outside the Institute. In addition to the

Activities carried out in 2018 illustrated by figures

	Actions related to NIS promotion / performance indicators	2018
1	Facebook	
	Number of likes	12,747
	Number of shares	2,698
2	Twitter	
	Number of posts	110
	Number of following pages	329
	Number of followers	863
3	Leaflets and brochures	
	Number of downloads/shares	72
4	Newsletters	
	Number of subscribers to Romanian version	190
5	Press conferences, round tables, symposia, etc.	
	Participants from outside NIS	411
6	Petitions	
	Petitions settled	11
7	Law No 544/2001	
	Number of solved requests at the end of the year	131
8	Requests for statistical data from media	
	Number of solved requests for statistical data	183
9	Law No 52/2003	
	Number of acts under discussion at the end of the year	5
10	Press articles related to the NIS activity	
	Unfavourable articles of total articlese	32/3,417
11	Questionnaires on various topics of interest	
	Number of questionnaires	24
	Number of replies	201 of which 169 positive

series of events dedicated to the Centenary, on the occasion of the “Open Doors Days of the NIS” and “European Statistics Day”, the NIS experts gave lectures to the students of the Cambridge School of Bucharest.

The event “Statistical data, support for the development of academia”, chaired by the NIS President and organised together with the Bucharest University of Economic Studies on 21 November, was attended by over 250 students from various faculties.

• DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

The main difficulties were related in particular to the lack of software, IT equipment and technical equipment needed to tracing appearances in media, which are very useful to carry out the work, as well as to restricted access to various web pages, which prevented the visualisation of informative materials and events, which are particularly useful.

STATISTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

• DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF SOFTWARE APPLICATIONS

The development and maintenance of computer applications resulted in the following:

- maintenance and administration of the online statistical data collection portal, generically named e-SOP (e-Survey Online Portal) - more than 95 % of business statistical surveys (on monthly, quarterly and annual basis) are implemented in the portal;
- maintenance and administration in the NIS infrastructure of the eDEMOS project - “Improvement of the public

administration capacity to measure administrative performance - databases, methodologies, instruments for the modernisation and standardisation of statistical reporting techniques and for the characterisation of public administration performances”;

- design, development and maintenance of software applications for the collection and validation of statistical data at central and territorial level for statistical surveys not implemented in the e-SOP portal;

- development of software applications to obtain control tables and presentation tables, which are the basis for the statistical publications of the NIS;

- development of IT procedures for obtaining files in the specific format for uploads in the central database - TEMPO;

- maintenance of Intrastat IT system on intra-Community trade;

- maintenance of SIMSTAT IT system - “Preparedness for the exchange of micro-data on intra-Community trade in goods between EU Member States”;

- uploading and administrating the Oracle database with administrative sources, on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis; development and implementation of the encryption procedures related to individuals ID codes and of the persons names and first names;

- administration of the Oracle database servers and Oracle application servers, installed in the NIS;

- providing technical assistance for both internal and external users of the e-SOP and eDEMOS systems;

- part of the Directorate’s staff ensured, together with the Permanent Electoral Authority, the staff of the auxiliary technical secretariat of the Central Electoral Bureau for the national referendum of 6-7 October 2018, in charge of centralising the results of the votes.

Difficulties encountered in 2018 in this area were:

- lack of investment in modernising the IT infrastructure, the equipment used being physically and morally obsolete;
- blocking the operation of systems due to infrastructure overload;
- insufficient staffing; despite of organising job contests, vacancies have not been occupied;
- lack of training courses due to budget restrictions.

• ADMINISTRATION OF THE STATISTICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM AND SYSTEM ENGINEERING

All the statistical activities, the production of statistical data and information is not possible in a statistical institute without information technology support, without a performing IT architecture.

The statistical information system in the NIS has been administered through the following:

- activities of large volume printing and transmission/receipt of files with statistical data and applications to/from the STD have been continued;
- the functioning and administration of the existing physical and virtual servers have been ensured in the headquarters. At this time, there are 10 virtualisation servers connected to high-capacity storage facilities. On these virtualisation servers there are currently approximately 150 virtual servers in production;
- technical operational conditions for web applications recording massive traffic have been ensured, such as <http://www.intrastat.ro>, the NIS main website <http://www.insse.ro>, as well as the websites of the portal <http://esop.insse.ro/esop-web/> and <http://edemos.insse.ro/portal>. In general,

their availability was found to be 98%, with the identified problems being solved as soon as possible;

- IT technical assistance for incidents reported by the STD as well as within the NIS headquarters in order to ensure that their work is carried out in the best possible way,

- the eDAMIS system (eWA-application + eWP-portal) was used for the transmission of statistical data to Eurostat within the prescribed time limits. Technical assistance was also provided for the transmission of statistical data to Eurostat through the Web forms (eWF). As such, Romania registered at the end of 2018 a coverage of 92% at the Eurostat single collection point;

- the technical conditions needed to operate at the best of the Extranet, LAN and WAN networks in the NIS and of all the IT equipment of the NIS (servers, workstations, peripherals, infrastructure and network components) have been ensured;

- technical assistance was provided for computing equipment of the NIS used in the framework of scientific seminars, training courses organised by NIS, conferences and meetings held within the NIS;

- the electronic mail system Microsoft Exchange and the Internet connections were ensured for the entire statistical system. During the year there were no major problems except for those caused by voltage fluctuations in the electricity supply and the failure of some network equipment. All of these problems have been set within the shortest possible time so that there are no malfunctions in the activity of the institution;

- implementation of the extension of the NIS virtualisation platform;

- implementation of the structured cabling network for data/voice transmission under the project "Low voltage network for IT and telecommunication equipment";

- implementation of a secure remote access system in the NIS network;

- support for the centralised antivirus solution (Kaspersky) has been secured in the entire statistical information system;

- technical support in the NIS and STD was provided for the equipment to speed up applications and to optimise the data traffic in the WAN network of the NIS, thereby reducing traffic by around 50 %.

Difficulties highlighted in previous years continued, consisting of:

- lack of financial resources — these made impossible, until the second semester of 2018, the implementation of the structured cabling network for data/voice transmission, that could be reconfigured at both hard and soft level;

- since no major investments were made recently in the IT infrastructure, the NIS IT system faces a number of acute problems that may severely influence the work of the institution in the future, namely:

- the capacity to virtualise is fully used so that it can no longer be possible to create new virtual servers or increase the capacity of existing ones;

- the storage capacity on the centralised storage system is also at maximum charge. Moreover, as some discs of these systems are in operation since 2008, several failures of these discs have occurred in 2018, requiring for their replacement, while spare parts are increasingly difficult to find on the market;

- a back-up facility exists in the NIS solely for the servers of the eSoP Portal, the remaining back-up activities being manually carried out by the IT staff, upon request, on magnetic tapes or by copying onto the storage system. Only part of the statistical data have backup;

- there is no disaster recovery solution or business continuity in disaster cases within

the institution.

- the unscheduled disruptions in the supply of electricity, as well as fluctuations of voltage, have resulted in the failure of some PC sources, UPSs and server hardware, causing disruption at the level of the entire IT system (domain servers, e-mail servers, NIS portal, NIS website, network, switches, routers, etc.);

- lack of specialised staff due to leaves;

- lack of funds allocated to the replacement of obsolete computing equipment in the NIS (PCs, printers, servers), which increases the risk of malfunctioning within the NIS statistical information system.

STATISTICAL PUBLICATIONS EDITING

The statistical publications editing has resulted in the multiplication, on paper and electronic support, of the entire print run of publications provided for in the ANSP, respectively 11,727 copies of statistical publications, the equivalent of 1,600 A4 reams, supplemented by 16,920 publications on CDs, as well as the printing of 2,414 leaflets and brochures issued by the NIS. At the same time, there have been printed out of all the statistical tools necessary for the collection of statistical data at national level - demographic bulletins, statistical surveys, structural surveys, questionnaires, etc. The electronic publishing of all statistical publications issued in the headquarters, with improved presentation and optimised access to statistical data, accounting for more than 140 titles.

The most important periodicals produced and edited by the editorial team in 2018 were: the Romanian Statistical Yearbook, annual publication and time series; Romania's International Trade Yearbook; Romania in figures - statistical abstract; Romanian tourism - statistical abstract; World Economy in figures; Prices Statistical Bulletin; International Trade

Statistical Bulletin; Catalogue of statistical services and publications. From 2018 onwards the Monthly Statistical Bulletin is drawn up within the Directorate's editorial collective.

The editorial team was involved in the projects aiming to promote the image and activity of the NIS, with the continuation of the hard copies and internet formats of monthly leaflets with the main statistical data of Romania compared to the EU-28 and to a number of other European countries. The Graphic Department designed the statistical publications covers, as well as pre-press preparation of some syntheses produced in the specialised directorates.

In the year of the Centenary, the editorial collective of the Directorate has been actively involved in the development of "Romania, a century of history - statistical data" by ensuring the graphical form and editing of the two volumes (Romanian and English), which amounted to over 800 pages.

The lack of financial resources led to the impossibility of purchasing new editing equipment and software in order to improve the quality of the publications' design in line with advances in IT and to provide the public with publications in an elegant and attractive format that would help to improve the internal and international image of the NIS. The main objective for the next period is to raise the professional level of the editorial team by participating in training courses on the use of existing software and on acquiring knowledge related to new software from the Adobe package (Indesign, Illustrator), Photoshop and Coreldraw.

INTERNAL AUDIT ACTIVITY

The internal audit activity provides for the audit function in a centralised system for the

compartments in the functional structure of the NIS (Directorates General and subordinated directorates, independent directorates and other distinct compartments), as well as for the institutions subordinated to the NIS, namely the 42 statistical territorial directorates, whose leaders are in the position of authorising officers.

The specific objective of the internal public audit is to improve the institution management by providing assurance and advisory activities on all activities carried out in the headquarters and subordinated institutions to meet the objectives, including the evaluation of risk management, control and governance processes.

By methodical planning of human resources, by making the best use of the knowledge, skills and expertise of the Internal Audit staff, the Internal Audit Plan for 2018 has been fully implemented and a number of assurance missions have been carried out on:

- activities related to statistical survey activities, specific to the institution, 1 mission (in the field of economic statistics);
- support activities (in the following fields: financial accounting, human resources, community funds) within the NIS headquarters, 6 missions;
- financial activities or activities with financial implications, from the institutions subordinated to the NIS, 6 missions;
- assurance audit missions covering other areas (communication, public policies), 2 missions.

27 follow-up actions checking the implementation of recommendations were carried out, which involved 13 structures (directorates general and subordinated directorates, independent directorates and other distinct compartments of the NIS) and 18 statistical

territorial directorates, subordinated to the NIS. 468 recommendations were envisaged, of which 74% are implemented or the implementation is ongoing.

A number of 29 informal advice actions were carried out, resulting in the drafting of opinions and recommendations on topics mainly related to the following areas: staff remuneration, legal service, public procurement, management of assets, communication, IT.

Difficulties encountered in carrying out internal audit activities

The size of the public internal audit structure is not compliant, in terms of auditors' number, with the volume of activity and associated risks amplitude for ensuring the auditing of activities falling under the internal public audit scope and the necessary periodicity, of at least every 3 years.

Under the conditions where the auditable scope is not covered at least every three years, there is a possibility that some risks identified at the level of the institution are not subject to assessment by the internal audit and, therefore, the internal control system at public entity level would not to be correctly implemented or applied for the risk management purposes.

ACTIVITY OF STATISTICAL TERRITORIAL DIRECTORATES

There are 8 Regional Statistical Directorates, organised at the level of counties - centres of development regions and 34 County Statistical Directorates at the level of the other counties subordinated to the NIS.

Regional and county statistical directorates, public institutions financed by the State budget, subordinated to the NIS, organise and maintain the statistical information system in territorial profile, collaborate with local public administration institutions and decentralised services of central government.

In 2018, the activity of territorial statistical directorates consisted in the following:

- the collection of data for all statistical surveys;
 - carrying out analyses and syntheses on the monthly development of the main economic and social indicators;
 - setting up and updating the data series;
 - providing statistical data and information as complete and accurate as possible in view to meet the needs of all user categories at territorial level, in particular those of local authorities, identification of statistical units (economic operators, units in the social sphere, households), necessary to ensure representativeness at territorial structure level, the involvement of economic and social units in the statistical system by promoting solutions to increase the response rates to the statistical questionnaires;
 - organised training based on direct contact with the factors responsible for filling in the statistical questionnaires necessary to the new way of statistical data transmission by using the online reporting system (e-SOP);
 - effective collaboration with the local branches of the other bodies of the central government to complete with specific issues the statistical and economic and social information;
 - drawing up statistical reports aiming at informing local authorities, statistical publications at territorial level and electronic dissemination systems towards statistical data users.



WHAT IS IT NOT "ROMANIA, A CENTURY OF
HISTORY - STATISTICAL DATA"?

WHAT IS IT NOT “ROMANIA, A CENTURY OF HISTORY - STATISTICAL DATA”?

It is not a statistical yearbook, it is not a collection of data, it is not an encyclopaedia or almanac, but has some features of each of them. For those who worked on the volume, surprises came in the documentation stage, by identifying unpublished sources, very rich and detailed, which were collected, processed and published, with the means that we would call today as “precarious”.

The major statistical surveys carried out over the last 150 years have been closely linked to the preparation of major structural changes in the country's economy. Some examples: “The Census of Industrial Establishments 1862-1863” had the role of preparing measures and reforms for the modern development of the United Principalities.

“The Industrial Survey 1901-1902” was a first stocktaking in the outset of industrialisation that started in 1859, “The Industrial Survey of 1920” sought to obtain a picture as complete as possible of the national industrial potential after the Great Union, while “The Census of Industrial and Commercial Enterprises in 1930” was aimed at establishing measures to accelerate the exit from the economic crisis.

“The Inventory of Private Industrial Enterprises of 1947” was intended to prepare the nationalisation of the production means in June 1948, the first step in the communist reforming of the country's economy.

At the same time, it was also a reminder about the fact that many of the start-ups in industry, construction and transport are placing us at the forefront of progress in Europe.

The major difficulty in drawing up the volume was mainly related to the sorting, selection and retention of the most significant moments and data from the process of the Romanian economy development.

The aim of this volume is to provide readers with an overview of the Romanian economy since the modernisation outset, using statistical data as argument, being useful not only to professionals, but also to the widest categories of readers concerned about Romania's development.

Professor Emeritus Alexandru ISAIC-MANIU,
PhD
Centre for Industry and Services Economy
Romanian Academy



OUR HISTORY ILLUSTRATED
THROUGH PERSUASIVE STATISTICAL DATA

OUR HISTORY ILLUSTRATED THROUGH PERSUASIVE STATISTICAL DATA

The paper “Romania, a Century of History - Statistical Data” was undoubtedly a remarkable initiative of the National Institute of Statistics, pointing out, on the one hand, that statistics wanted to join the National Program of Events celebrating the Centenary of the Great Union and, on the other hand, to raise awareness and assume that our institution could not miss the concert of the institutions called upon to reveal the importance of the historical moment.

The modernization of the state in the period preceding the First World War, and especially after the war, determined, as a natural consequence, the modernization of the state management systems and implicitly the intensification of the statistical activity, an important institution in substantiating the political decisions in the economic and social field over time and to the present.

It is worth noting in this respect the appreciation made by Leonida Colescu, the leader of Romanian statistics in the period 1899 - 1922, presented in the Statistical Bulletin No. 1 of 1919, stating the following: “After the events of 1918 when the country, liberated from the invasion of the enemy, could realize its secular dream by uniting the nation into a single state, statistics were called upon to collaborate in the elucidation of the political concerns about the ethnic interests of the Romanian state as well as the work of

rebuilding our economic and administrative organization, so shaken by the effects and consequences of this war.”

This appreciation of the illustrious Romanian statistician unequivocally puts statistics among the important institutions of the state. Thus, although statistics are sometimes unkindly regarded as suspicious of mistrust, they are undoubtedly the constructor of the paved pathway to identify the truth. Colescu also highlights the special significance of statistics in the introduction to the first yearbook of Romania (1904), saying that: „Statistics, once regarded as a means of measuring a mere curiosity, have come to such a great development that today it is a general opinion that without statistics we do not know what we have been, what we are and what we will be.”

Under such circumstances, the works began to draw up, under the aegis of statistics, this exceptional publication, involving many colleagues from the NIS, as well as experts and specialists from other public and academic institutions. Investigating the sources of information has revealed, perhaps surprisingly, not a lack of documentary material but, on the contrary, a wealth of information, a true treasure of statistical works, newsletters, magazines, statistical publications and other valuable documents that we, the authors, have faced the dilemma of covering as much as possible the economic and social domains presented

by statistical data, or trying to choose the description by statistical figures only of the essential elements of the events, facts and actions that took place in different periods time.

Of course, in the absence of the necessary space, the second solution was chosen, the content of each chapter being, in my opinion, a compendium of „multum in parvo“ than the realization of an exhaustive image, anyway impossible.

A second precondition is, as can be seen, the fact that statistical data are comparable only within defined time segments, unaffected by political or administrative disturbances, generated mainly by the consequences of the First and the Second World War.

With all these said, I appreciate that the chapter, perhaps the most important, to which I personally worked with two other valuable colleagues, Mrs. Constanța Mihăiescu, professor at the Bucharest University of Economic Studies and Andreea Mirică (NIS), is the one which outlines, for the first time in an official manner, the numerical evolution of the population and, in part, the demographic events for the whole series of years, dating from 1860 until today. In the context of this volume, we agreed to present as well some significant moments in the history of Romanian statistics in order to highlight its role in the historical evocation of Romania's development and, implicitly, to give rise to the continuation of the investigation and to the presentation to general public of our history by the convincing expression of statistical data.

Ilie DUMITRESCU
advisor of NIS president



THE PRIDE OF THE JOB

The participation in drawing up this volume was, on the one side, the equivalent of a plunge into unknown depth; on the other side, it brought the fascination of understanding the types of statistics that were developed a century ago, how well these statistics tell the story and illustrate the conditions in which the Romanians lived then and over the time till nowadays.

These statistics have told us about the ravages brought by the two World Wars, but also about the extraordinary impact of the Great Union of December 1, 1918 which reconfigured Romania on the map of Europe and provided it with a solid base of natural and material resources and with human potential, resized after the Union, that gave Romanian economy impetuosity.

We, the authors, proudly reported on the Spiru Haret Laws and the reform of the educational system that have been and have remained a model for all generations that followed, about the first two universities founded in Romania (Iasi and Bucharest), that in early '30s Romania had a leading position compared to other countries in the world (for which such data are available, including USA, Japan, Norway, etc.) in terms of labour force activity rate.

The manner of producing statistics has evolved significantly over the 100-year period, any other science alike. It is astonishing, however, that despite the time that has passed and the changes in the socio-economic order faced over this long period, some situations are still topical – such as limited/restricted access to data from administrative sources or the difficulties encountered in compiling statistics by using data from these source categories.

But the strongest and most experienced feeling that remains alive and unaltered, whether we refer to interwar, communist or post-December statistics, is the pride of the job we are practicing, the statistician being the one who was concerned about and knew what, when and how to collect information and how to render it to the general public as statistics, to acknowledge and to remember.

**Silvia PISICĂ, General Director
Directorate General of Demography
and Social Statistics**



PRIORITIES OF 2019

PRIORITIES OF 2019

MACROECONOMIC STATISTICS AND SECTORAL ECONOMIC STATISTICS

- Eurostat Working Visit for the second GNI verification cycle in January 2019;
- ensuring consistency between general government accounts, institutional sector accounts and key macroeconomic aggregates for both annual and quarterly data for the period 1995-2006;
- revision of the employment and hours worked according to the 2011 PHC for the period 2004-2011 for both annual, quarterly and regional data;
- improving the quality of annual and quarterly data for the institutional sector accounts;
- test of “flash” estimates at $t + 30$ days for employment and hours worked;
- estimation of general government expenditure by COFOG function 2 for the period 2001-2003;
- compiling the annual national and regional accounts for the reference year 2017 – final data and for the reference year 2018 – semi-final data;
- compiling quarterly accounts for 2018;
- compiling quarterly non-financial accounts of the general government sector for Q IV 2018 and Q I, Q II and Q III of 2019.

PRICES STATISTICS

- accurate and timely production of indicators in the area of consumer prices, industrial production, services, housing, agricultural inputs and outputs, by using sound methodologies in line with international standards and the provision of these indicators to decision-makers and the general public;
- development of the data collection system using electronic tools, subject to the availability of the necessary resources;
- analysis of the possibility of integrating data collected online by the Directorate for Innovative Instruments in Statistics in the system of CPI compilation;
- development of an application for data collection on agricultural land prices.

AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS

- continued work on the preparation of GAC 2020 — accelerating the adoption of the national legal framework, the design the data collection tools, the specific methodology, etc.;
- transmission of the application related to the Eurostat grant on “Integrated Farm Statistics Programme” in the context of preparing and conducting the GAC 2020;

- carrying out the statistical survey “The use of Pesticides in Agriculture”, which takes place every 5 years;

- launching the actions from the grant signed with Eurostat in the area of environmental accounts, 2 modules: Environmental taxes on economic activities (ETEA); Raw Material Equivalents (RME);

- compiling the set of sustainable development indicators in view of monitoring the implementation of the revised National Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Romania 2030;

- launching the collection, analysis and dissemination of proposed and approved set of sustainable development indicators;

- launching the activities under the Operational Programme Administrative Capacity for the projects: “Strengthening the National Statistical System and modernising the statistical production processes in view to conduct national censuses” and “Sustainable Romania — Development of the strategic and institutional framework for the implementation of the National Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Romania 2030” (as a partner of SGG).

SHORT-TERM ECONOMIC INDICATORS STATISTICS

- continued actions under the grant signed with Eurostat “Modernisation of PRODCOM statistics production” which are carried out jointly with the Directorate of Foreign Trade Statistics and are aimed at improving data quality and ensuring a better consistency of data on production and on international trade in goods, as well as the development and review of data confidentiality practices with a view to increasing the volume of data disseminated;

- continued actions under the grants from the “Research and Development (R

& D) and Innovation statistics in 2018” — Community Innovation Survey — CIS 2018 and the implementation of new R & D indicators in line with the Frascati Manual 2015. Also linked to the new indicators of R & D activity, the possibility of extending them as output indicators will be assessed. For the innovation activity, new modules for this statistical domain are to be implemented under the grant and the transmission of data to Eurostat under the SDMX system shall be tested;

- implementation of the SDMX standard for the transmission to Eurostat of data on short-term indicators;

- continued activities on designing the ACTR questionnaire and logical control conditions in the Survey Solutions application for CAPI and CAWI models aimed at the collection of data on specific electronic devices and the adaptation of statistical questionnaires in the field of tourism, used by the NIS to collect the data, in view to meet users’ needs at national level, while observing the requirements of the European Union Regulations;

- participation in the activities of the Romanian Presidency of the EU Council of the EU related to FRIBS file.

STRUCTURAL BUSINESS STATISTICS

- double data collection of structural business statistics at legal unit, respectively at enterprise level, required by the implementation of the changes brought by the new legal framework on business statistics FRIBS;

- continued actions under the grant “Survey on international outsourcing”;

- participation in the grant on “Structural statistics development”. The project on the development of structural statistics requires for the linkage of micro-data from the survey on outsourcing

and the global value chain with data from structural statistics, foreign affiliates and international trade statistics, as well as for defining a methodology for the calculation of indicators on job created or abolished as a result of outsourcing activities/functions for periods between statistical surveys;

- contacting, discussing and agreeing the structure and ways of reporting statistical information by groups of enterprises (multinational and national);

- continuing and reinforcing statistical processes aiming at implementing the definition of enterprise in structural statistics, respectively the collection of data from the main multinational and national groups and the identification of ways for integrated compilation of statistical data;

- carrying out the actions under the grant “Passengers mobility and road traffic statistics” implemented during 2018-2019, namely the compilation of indicators on passengers mobility statistics for the reference year 2018;

- identification of data sources and development of a methodology for the production of harmonised indicators on passengers transport and on inland waterways accidents;

- continued activities of the working group set up for large and complex enterprises for a consistent and coherent treatment of information on structural statistics and other business statistics;

- participation in the activities of the Romanian Presidency of the EU Council of the EU related to FRIBS file.

FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS

- continued actions under the project “Implementation of the modernised Intrastat system”, in collaboration with Eurostat, in particular those related to the future components of the system. The

project involves both the implementation of the modernised Intrastat system throughout the European Statistical System by creating an additional source of data and at national level by developing innovative systems for the compilation of statistics on international trade in goods;

- preparatory activities for the future exchange of micro-data both in statistical and IT terms;

- collaboration with the specialised directorate within the NIS for the implementation of the security conditions for the micro-data exchange framework as required by the European Statistical System;

- participation together with Eurostat and the other Member States within working groups in the discussions on innovative ways of compiling statistics on international trade in goods;

- participation in the activities of the Romanian Presidency of the EU Council of the EU related to FRIBS file.

DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL STATISTICS

- continuing the preparatory activities for the PHC 2021 round through the completion of the secondary legislation, the finalisation of the statistical tools and the design of the general infrastructure for the new census;

- preparing the methodology for the Population Health Survey, carried out by interview, to be implemented during September - November 2019 in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) No 255/2018 as regards statistics based on the European Health Interview Survey (EHIS). The survey will be carried out for the first time by means of an electronic questionnaire, in the CAPI system;

- continuing the activities of the working group established by the NIS in the field of justice in order to complete the

mapping and to obtain the approval of this new national classification by each central government institution playing a role in the production of justice statistics. The approval of the new classification will be the first major step in the long and difficult process of harmonising national and European justice statistics. At national level, the harmonisation process would involve at the level of each institution in the central public administration with a role in the production of justice statistics, as well as in the network of IGPR units, the prosecution and the district courts, the development of harmonised IT applications for the implementation of the new classification and for the extraction of the indicators required at the European level, which will involve important financial and human resources;

- continuing the bilateral cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO) experts in order to improve the data quality and to provide the revenue table, including those for the years prior to 2016, and the transmission of statistics on revenue in the framework of the joint Eurostat, OECD and WHO data collection;

- in 2019, hospital expenditure on various types of healthcare services provided to the usually resident population (services under continuous or day hospitalisation and for some outpatient services) will be estimated for the first time, in collaboration with experts from the National School of Public Health, Management and Professional Development and the review of the 2011-2016 data series for the System of Health Accounts are to be launched;

- steps will be taken to move towards modern methods of data collection through the development of electronic questionnaires for most of the sample statistical surveys in the social field;

- implementation of all European regulations in the field of demographic and

social statistics and observance of the legal deadlines and conditions;

- participation in meetings organised during the Romanian Presidency of the EU Council for the files in the field of migration statistics and integrated social statistics (IESS);

- steps will be taken to participate in the grant "Strengthening the National Statistical System and modernising the statistical production processes to carry out national censuses" of the Operational Programme Administrative Capacity (POCA).

STATISTICAL BUSINESS REGISTER

- reaching the agreement on the structure and ways of reporting statistical information by groups of enterprises (multinational and national);

- using the administrative data sources to which the NIS have access in the statistical data production;

- carrying out the activities under the grant "Support for the implementation of profiling in the Member States statistics";

- issuing the publication "Statistical data users satisfaction" — GSU 2018;

- monitoring the mapping of the statistical surveys in ANSP according to LAG in order to continue the implementation of the GSBPM in the NIS;

ADMINISTRATION AND PROCESSING ADMINISTRATIVE SOURCES

- optimising the administrated databases, re-designing the data collection module of the eDEMOS system in order to remove the identified deficiencies;

- Use of administrative data sources, to which NIS has access, in the production of statistical data.

INNOVATION IN STATISTICS

- continued activities in the project Experimental statistics — Using Big Data for the development of some experimental statistics — prices observed online. As the next steps, currently ongoing, an extension of the collection procedures to the whole product and service nomenclature used for the Consumer Price Index Survey will be carried out and a robust calculation methodology for some experimental statistics, with a deadline for reporting results in the second half of 2019, will be developed;

- development of (semi-)automatic tools for the collection of prices in various fields through modern IT techniques and the transposition of unstructured or semi-structured data into structured data;

- participation in the grant ESSnet Big Data II. In 2019, the development of a software to generate synthetic data sets similar to mobile phone data is envisaged, as well as the improvement of the population estimation methodology on the basis of mobile phone data and the development of tools to collect data on vacancies presented on Romanian specialised websites and to transform them into structured data;

- continuing to investigate the possibility of using administrative sources in the current statistical production.

COMMUNICATION

- organising the two conferences under the Romanian Presidency of the EU Council, namely the conference on PHC 2020 round on 8-9 April 2019 and the conference dedicated to the use of the R in the official statistics on 20-21 May 2019;

- carrying out and updating, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs, the website dedicated to the Romanian Presidency of the EU Council, on issues related to official statistics;

- celebrating, on July 12, 160 years of official statistics;

- preparing the communication plan for the next two works of highest importance for the NIS, GAC 2020 and PHC 2021 and the way in which the obtained results are promoted;

- paying increased attention to on-line environments and social networks in order to attract as many people as possible to acquaint themselves with statistical information and to actively promoting it, by taking over the results of surveys provided by the NIS;

- democratisation of the statistical language: transforming the technical statistical language into one accessible for more categories of the public, despite their diversity (researchers, journalists, general public);

- continuing the organisation of press conferences, round tables, scientific workshops and meetings with the stakeholders;

- strengthening institutional relations with other institutions/organisations in the country and abroad;

- listing of the Romanian Statistical Magazine and of its Supplement in as many databases as possible.

DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF SOFTWARE APPLICATIONS

- migration of the ESoP portal to the new hardware structure;

- introduction of data collection for the statistical surveys in the social field via mobile devices (CAPI method), thus ensuring the standardisation of data collection and validation solutions;

- using data from administrative

sources that would allow for simplifying the questionnaires or even replacing/removing some statistical surveys;

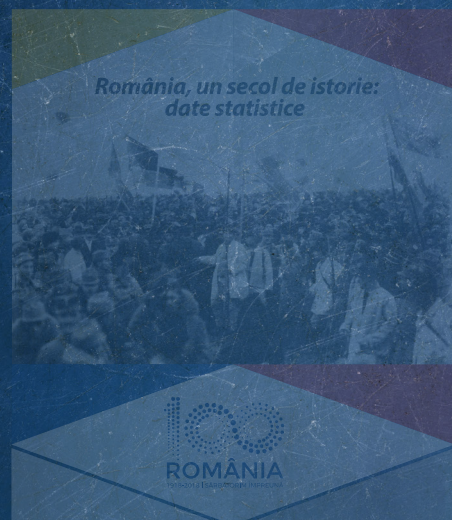
- organising training courses aiming at the involvement of all staff in the use of new technologies.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE STATISTICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM AND SYSTEM ENGINEERING

- triggering major investments in IT to ensure the continued operation of IT systems at optimal parameters. Currently, the statistical activity can no longer be carried out without the use of performing IT systems to ensure timely accomplishment of the objectives.

INTERNAL AUDIT ACTIVITY

- re-sizing the internal public audit structure, in terms of auditors number, based on the workload and associated risk size, so as to ensure that the activities covered by the internal public audit are audited at least every 3 years;
- improving the competences of the internal audit structure within the NIS through professional training in IT, statistical areas and Community Funds, or by attracting staff specialised in these fields, in order to ensure the necessary competences for carrying out audit missions.



KNOWLEDGE OF THE PAST IS
NECESSARY

The contribution to the anniversary volume „Romania, a century of history – statistical data“ dedicated to the Centenary of the Great Union, had as driving force the assertion that the knowledge of the past is necessary to understand the present and to make plans for the future. The measurement of the evolution and structure of the main economic activities over the 100 years since the union of all the historical provinces inhabited by Romanians inside the borders of the same national state was accomplished with the support of long data series, with a complex structure and, where possible, statistically comparable.

Through the information contained, the volume is certainly a particularly useful tool for students, teachers, researchers and the general public, facilitating manifold retrospective analyses: learning from errors and good practice in decision-making; identifying recurring issues, problems and difficulties caused by crises, business cycles or geo-political factors; highlighting to what extent the Great Union offers in the future goals and objectives related to unity and economic and social cohesion.

I was honoured to coordinate a team of exceptional colleagues, genuine professionals, fully committed to the statistician job, but also to collaborate with important personalities for national statistics, and not only, professor Tudorel Andrei, PhD, president of NIS, professor Isaic Maniu, PhD, economist Ilie Dumitrescu.

The results were obtained from thousands of pages from the NIS archive, carefully examined in many hours of study to be able to select the most relevant data and information that statistically reflect areas of economic activity such as industry, construction, domestic and international trade, transport, telecommunications. Thanks once again to all my colleagues and collaborators for their commitment and congratulations for their results!

Florentina GHEORGHE,
General Director
Directorate General of Economic
Statistics



INSTITUTIONAL TRANSPARENCY

INSTITUTIONAL TRANSPARENCY

BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING

The financial and accounting activity took place in accordance with the legal provisions. In the financial year 2018, the following major works were accomplished:

- preparing the draft annual centralised budget at the secondary authorising officer's level for their own work and for the subordinated territorial structures;
- the budget allocation as approved by the annual budget law over the quarters and the subordinated units and the completion of the budget appropriations, with a view to observe the total appropriations approved by means of the State Budget Law and budget correcting ordinances for the current year;
- analysing and keeping trace of budgetary execution by titles, articles and paragraphs of the approved budget and providing guidance for the structures subordinated to the NIS for compliance with financial discipline;
- submitting to the SGG for approval of the documentation on credit transfers between the budget articles for the NIS and for public institutions financed by the NIS budget;
- quarterly and annual review and centralisation of the accounting financial statements of the public institutions financed by the NIS budget resulting in the

centralised accounting balance of the NIS;

- drawing up staff salary entitlements and transferring the contributions to the state budget;
- filling in the certificates required by employees or former employees with data on salary entitlements;
- drawing up the documentation necessary for making payments to suppliers/contractors based on statements of expenditure and/or payment orders;
- checking returns from internal journeys and payment of entitlements;
- drawing up the documentation for carrying out foreign exchange operations necessary for travelling abroad;
- monitoring the payments relating to title 20 "Goods and services" for the NIS headquarters and the subordinated units;
- preparing the centralised report on preventive financial control work on a quarterly basis;
- preparing the quarterly and annual financial statements that required: registration of the supporting documents, drawing up "forms for miscellaneous operations" and balances of analytical and synthetic checks, drawing up the documentation relating to the guarantee for the managers and recording in the accounts the securities lodged, the organisation of the analytic records of receipts;
- drawing up the inventory of the institution assets.

BUDGET EXECUTION

▪ The financing of the NIS activities, both in the headquarters and in the subordinated units, was achieved from the state budget and the EU's grants to which the NIS applied in 2018 or were in progress since 2017.

▪ Through the rationalisation and prioritisation of expenditure, the NIS was able to cover the expenditure necessary to implement the 2018 ANSP and of all statistical surveys scheduled for 2018 for which payments were made in the amount of RON 150,000 thousand.

▪ In 2018, according to the legal provisions in force, revenue amounting to RON 424,551 thousand was transferred to the State budget from the sale of statistical data and publications (RON 231,482 thousand) and rental of premises in the public domain of the State (RON 193,069 thousand).

▪ In the case of the financing from the grants in 2018, activities have been carried out under 27 independent grants.

▪ The defrayal from the State budget and grant funds for 2018 compared to 2017 is set out in Annex no 5.

Performance indicators

Efficiency indicators	Forecasted	Realised
Average consumption per man hours per statistical unit investigated	1.27	1.08
Average consumption of man hours per synthesis and analysis	910	810
Average consumption of man hours per statistical publication	203	181

Output indicators	Forecasted	Realised
Surveyed statistical units	2,800,000	2,940,000
Man hours consumed	4,086,352	3,637,280
Synthesis and analysis (No)	494	494
Man hours per synthesis and analysis	449,540	400,140
Statistical publications (No)	403	403
Man-hours of statistical publications	81,809	72,943

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

In the area of public procurement, in 2018 the NIS concluded 46 service provision contracts, 3 supply contracts and 1 works contracts.

Five tenders were cancelled, as follows:

- Simplified Procedure - SAS licenses;
- Direct purchase cancelled

- Archiving services;

▪ Direct purchase cancelled - Air conditioners for servers room;

▪ Own simplified procedure cancelled - Security guard services;

▪ Direct purchase with advertising announcement cancelled - Fire safety works - NIS headquarters basement

Types and number of public procurement procedure:

- Direct purchase - on line -23;
- Direct purchase with advertising announcement -11;
- Subsequent Contract to framework agreement - 8;
- Negotiation without prior publication - 2;
- Open tender on line - 4;
- Simplified off line procedure - 2.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Staff structure

▪ In 2018, the NIS has operated under Government Decision 957/2005 on the organisation and functioning of the NIS, republished, as amended, with a maximum of 2,011 posts, of which 661 in the headquarters and 1,350 in the statistical territorial directorates. The organisational chart is shown in Annex 1.

▪ At the institute level, out of total posts provided for by the Government Decision 957/2005, 93.1% are public functions and around 6.9 % are contractual posts on indefinite period.

▪ Out of the total number of posts occupied (1790), the young staff ≤ 30 years represents 2.4% and the staff ≥ 56 years is 23.9%.

▪ During 2018, 107 persons were employed and 104 persons left the system, of which 47 for retirement reasons.

▪ In terms of educational profile, the staff with tertiary education account for 91.3 % of total staff.

▪ Out of the total staff with tertiary education, 57% of employees graduated economic tertiary education and 19% are engineering graduates.

▪ Out of the total staff with tertiary

education, about 46% are graduates of master degree, postgraduate courses or are PhD graduates.

▪ The high level of staff specialisation (doctors, graduates of master degree and/or postgraduate courses) allows for the high quality implementation of the mentoring programme for young staff development of knowledge and skills, in order to continuously adapt the National Statistical System to the requirements of the European Statistical System.

▪ It is worth mentioning that during 2005 - 2018, 17 persons were temporarily seconded to the Statistical Office of the European Union - EUROSTAT. As a recognition of their professionalism, some of them subsequently became employees of EUROSTAT.

▪ Ensuring a sustainable basis for the development of the statistical system requires adequate human resources, both in numerical terms and particularly in terms of quality.

▪ In 2018, by Memorandum approved by the Government of Romania, job contests were organised to occupy 16 managerial vacancies and 98 executive vacancies at the NIS headquarters and the STD, in accordance with Government Emergency Order No 90/2017 on certain fiscal measures, on amending and supplementing certain legislative acts and on postponing deadlines.

▪ Also this year, on the basis of Law No 188/1999 on the Civil Servants Statute, republished, as amended, 25 civil servants were temporarily promoted to the public managerial vacancies.

Staff training

▪ One of the NIS priorities, within the limits of the allocated funds and the time available for the organisation and conduct

of training programmes, is the training of the NIS staff, to be carried out on the basis of the Annual Training Plan.

- From the 2018 budget for training, of RON 118,000 (RON 73,000 for the headquarters and RON 45,000 for the STD), the amount of RON 71,112 was spent, representing 60% of the total allocation.

- As regards external courses, courses with certified professional training providers were organised in 2018 for 143 persons (83 participants from the NIS headquarters and 60 participants from the STD), representing 64% of the 223 persons proposed for training, within the limit of the approved budget.

- As far as the number of staff trained by certified providers is concerned, there were 83 persons (92%), of the initially proposed 90 persons from the headquarters and 60 persons (45%) of the initially proposed 133 persons from the STD.

- At the level of NIS headquarters, within the limits of the available budget, the organisation of 12 professional training programmes with certified providers was envisaged, out of which 4 courses could not be organised due to the impossibility of acquiring the respective professional training services due to the lack of providers or to the receipt of non-compliant offers (the course on fire prevention and extinguishing; Management of emergency situations; Administration, installation and configuration of the Windows 10 operating system; Computer Network Administrator).

- Under these conditions, 8 professional training courses were organised at the level of NIS headquarters:

- Data Protection Officer;
- European legislation (comitology);
- English language;
- Implementation of Regulation (EU) No 679/2016 on the protection of personal data;

- Remuneration of budget staff, Wage Law No 153/2017;
- Public procurement;
- Microsoft Office 2016 -Windows 10;
- Training of Spokespersons.

- Of the total number of courses proposed to be organised with certified professional training providers, most of the participants from NIS headquarters and the STD were recorded in the following courses:

- National accounting/accounting for enterprises - 29 persons from the STD;
- European legislation (comitology) - 16 persons from the NIS headquarters;
- English language - 15 persons from the NIS headquarters;
- Implementation of Regulation (EU) No 679/2016 on the protection of personal data - 15 persons from the NIS headquarters;
- Microsoft Office 2016 + Windows 10 - 15 persons from the NIS headquarters;
- Communication and public relations - 14 persons from the STD.

- In terms of internal training courses in 2018, as against the 157 persons from the STD proposed for training, 231 persons were trained (147%), while from the NIS headquarters, compared to the 121 persons proposed for training, 140 persons were trained (116%). Therefore, in 2018, the total number of persons having received internal training (from both the NIS headquarters and DTS) was 371 persons (133%).

- Summing up, 514 persons (223 from the NIS headquarters and 291 from the DTS) were trained in 2018 (courses organised with in-house trainers and courses organised with professional training providers) as compared to the total number

of 501 persons proposed for training (211 from the NIS headquarters and 290 from the DTS).

- As regards courses organised with professional training providers in 2018, 143 persons were trained (83 from the NIS headquarters - 92% and 60 from the STD — 45%), representing 64% of the total number of 223 persons proposed for training with professional training providers.

- The internal training courses organised in 2018 resulted in 371 persons trained (140 from the NIS headquarters and 231 from the STD), i.e. 93 persons more than the proposed number to participate in internal training according to the approved plan.

- In the framework of the European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP) organised by Eurostat, 15 persons from the NIS headquarters participated in specialised courses on various statistical domains between April and December 2018.

Staff remuneration

- Since 01.01.2018, the staff remuneration was made in accordance with the provisions of Article 38 (3) of Law No 153/2017 on the remuneration of staff paid from public funds, i.e. the increase of the gross salaries by 25% as compared to the level of December 2017.

- In 2018, in accordance with the SGG Order No 776/24.05.2018, with the provisions of Article 1 of Chapter I (B) and Chapter II (I) of Annex No VIII and with the provisions of Article 23 and Article 25 (1) of Framework Law No 153/2017 on the remuneration of staff paid from public funds, as amended, and in accordance with the Framework Regulation on employment, categories of staff and the actual size of bonuses for working conditions and the conditions for paying them to the

occupational family of budgetary functions “Administration” of general government, approved by Government Decision No 917/2017, the staff of the NIS (headquarters and the STD) received a 15% bonus, calculated on the basis of gross salary, for harmful or hazardous conditions. The average gross wage in the NIS in 2018 was RON 5,532.

LEGAL ACTIVITY

NIS representation in the courts:

- This activity consisted mainly in the preparing the defence in each file, with appropriate appeals (64 new files recorded during the reporting period).

- Taking into account the files already registered in previous years, out of the total number of 107 pending in 2018, there were 68 administrative litigations, 5 labour disputes, 23 civil litigations, 7 concerned claims on enforcement proceedings and 4 criminal cases.

- In 2018, 13 files were favourably concluded, while 10 files got unfavourable decisions.

Advisory and endorsement activities:

- Endorsement of 1,737 orders, contracts and other documents;

- Providing answers to all requests on points of view, briefings.

List of draft regulatory acts initiated by the NIS:

In 2018, 4 Government decisions and 3 joint orders were approved. The name of each project and the type of legislative act are listed below:

- Government Decision No 77/2018 amending Government Decision No

803/2017 approving the expenditure relating to the organisation and proceedings of the DGINS Conference and the ESSC Meeting, held in Bucharest on 26-28 September 2018 (published in the Official Journal of Romania, Part I, No 212 of 8 March 2018);

- Government Decision No 209/2018 amending Government Decision No 957/2005 on the organisation and functioning of the NIS (published in Official Journal of Romania Part I No 329 of 16 April 2018);

- Government Decision No 545/2018 approving the annual national statistical programme 2018 (published in the Official Journal of Romania, Part I, No 673 of 2 August 2018);

- Government Decision No 856/2018 amending Annex 40 to Government Decision No 1705/2006 approving the centralised inventory of assets in the State public domain (published in the Official Journal of Romania, Part I, No 936 of 6 November 2018).

Joint orders issued by the NIS:

- Order No 1136/10.01.2018 approving the technical rules for completing the agricultural register for the period 2015-2019 (published in the Official Journal of Romania, Part I, No 62 of 22 January 2018);

- Order No 1635/07.05.2018 amending the Annex to Order No 1832/856/2011 of the Minister for Labour, Family and Social Protection and the President of the National Institute of Statistics, on the approval of the occupation classification in Romania - occupation level (six digits) (published in Official Journal of Romania Part I No 329 of 16 April 2018);

- Order No 1943/25.07.2018 amending and supplementing the occupation classification in Romania — occupation level (six digits), approved by Order No

1832/856/2011 of the Minister for Labour, Family and Social Protection and the President of the National Institute of Statistics.

Views of the NIS on other institutions' projects:

In accordance with the legislation in force, the NIS, through specialised services, endorses in terms of legality the draft legislative acts drawn up by other ministries and specialised bodies of the central public administration that are submitted to the Government for approval.

In addition to the endorsement of legislative acts, other activities were also carried out in 2018, such as:

- participation, in accordance with the law, on the completion of draft legislation from the programme of other ministries or public authorities;
- drafting of views on the legislative proposals initiated by parliamentarians.

In 2018, the NIS continued to carry out intensive work in the areas mentioned above, as follows:

- draft legislative acts endorsed: 12
- in relation to the activity carried out in 2018, the NIS accomplished all their legal tasks with regard to the endorsement of regulatory acts.

Legislative priorities for the next period:

The legislative drafting work for the next period will mainly follow two directions:

- support for the measures proposed in the draft laws approved by the Government to be debated in Parliament;

- development of new draft legislative acts, comprised in PALG 2018, or resulting from ongoing work of the NIS.

Thus, according to the PALG 2019, the NIS aim to develop in 2019 the following draft legislative acts:

- Draft Government Decision on the budget of the Romanian GAC 2020;
- Draft Law amending and supplementing Law No 226/2009, as amended;
- Draft Government Decision on the ANSP 2019;
- Draft Law on the organisation and conduct of the Romanian PHC 2021;
- Draft Law on the Romanian GAC 2020;
- Draft Government Decision on the ANSP 2020;
- Draft Government Decision on the approval of the budget for PHC 2021;
- Draft Government Decision on the composition, organisation, functioning and responsibilities of the Unit for Census Coordination and Implementation and of the County Units for Census Implementation;
- Draft Government Decision establishing the form and content of the census tools, of the classifications and nomenclatures useful for the Census;
- Draft Government Decision on the technical specifications for the transmission of data from administrative sources.

The priority projects in 2019 are:

- Draft Law on the Romanian GAC 2020;
- Draft Law on the organisation and conduct of the Romanian PHC 2021;
- Draft Law amending and supplementing Law No 226/2009, as amended.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY

During 2018, a number of 11 petitions were settled under Ordinance No. 27/2002, over 130 requests under Law 544/2001, as well as 183 requests for statistical data from journalists.

The activity report pursuant to Law No 544/2001 is published on the NIS web-site at: <http://www.insse.ro/cms/ro/content/rapoarte-si-studii>;

NATIONAL STATISTICAL COUNCIL

A key place in the process of coordinating the activities of official statistical services and of harmonising the society requirements for statistical data in held by the National Statistical Council (NSC).

NSC was established on the basis of Law No 226/2009 on the organisation and functioning of official statistics, as amended.

It ensures the objective, transparent and scientific nature of methodologies, indicators, nomenclatures and classifications used in statistical activities.

The NSC has the following tasks:

- to debate and draw up guidelines on the development and improvement of the statistical information system, with a view to increasing the degree to which the requirements of data users are met;
- to debate, draw up guidelines on and endorse the draft Strategy and the drafts of national statistical programmes;
- to debate and draw up guidelines for the plans concerning the elaboration of the methodologies, systems of indicators, nomenclatures and classifications used in

the National Statistical System;

- to debate and draw up guidelines for all the plans concerning the organisation and conducting of statistical surveys of national importance, elaborated within the National Statistical System;

- to debate and draw up guidelines on the improvement of the tools and mechanisms used in the implementation of the principles that govern the functioning of the National Statistical System;

- to debate, draw up guidelines on and endorse the draft legislative acts that concern the National Statistical System;

- to point out and debate the irregularities within the National Statistical System and issue guidelines on their prevention and correction.

The objective of the NSC activity report for 2018 is to consider its undertaken activities.

The Council met in 2018 in two plenary sessions where they discussed and endorsed:

- NIS Activity Report 2017;
- NSC Activity Report 2017;
- Information on NSC members mandate 2016-2018 and 2018-2020;
- Annual National Statistical Programme 2019;
- Approval of the NSC leadership for 2018-2020
- Approval of CME leadership and of working groups representatives;
- Release of book "Romania, a century of history – statistical data";

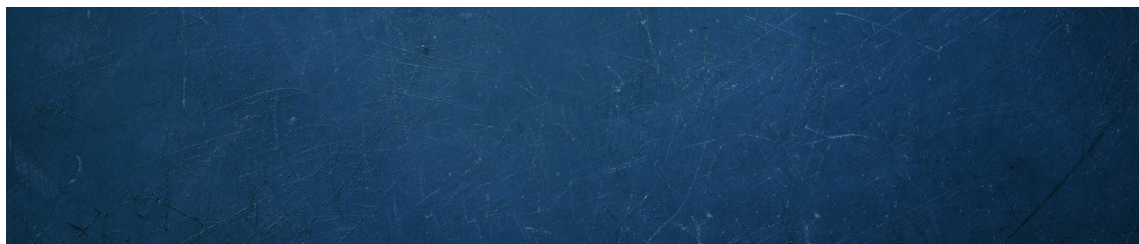
- Various other issues of importance for official statistics.

In 2018, the NSC changed its composition according to the Prime Minister decision No 283/24.10.2018. At the first meeting in the new composition, the members of the NSC approved the leadership, consisting of a Chair and 3 Vice-Chairs.

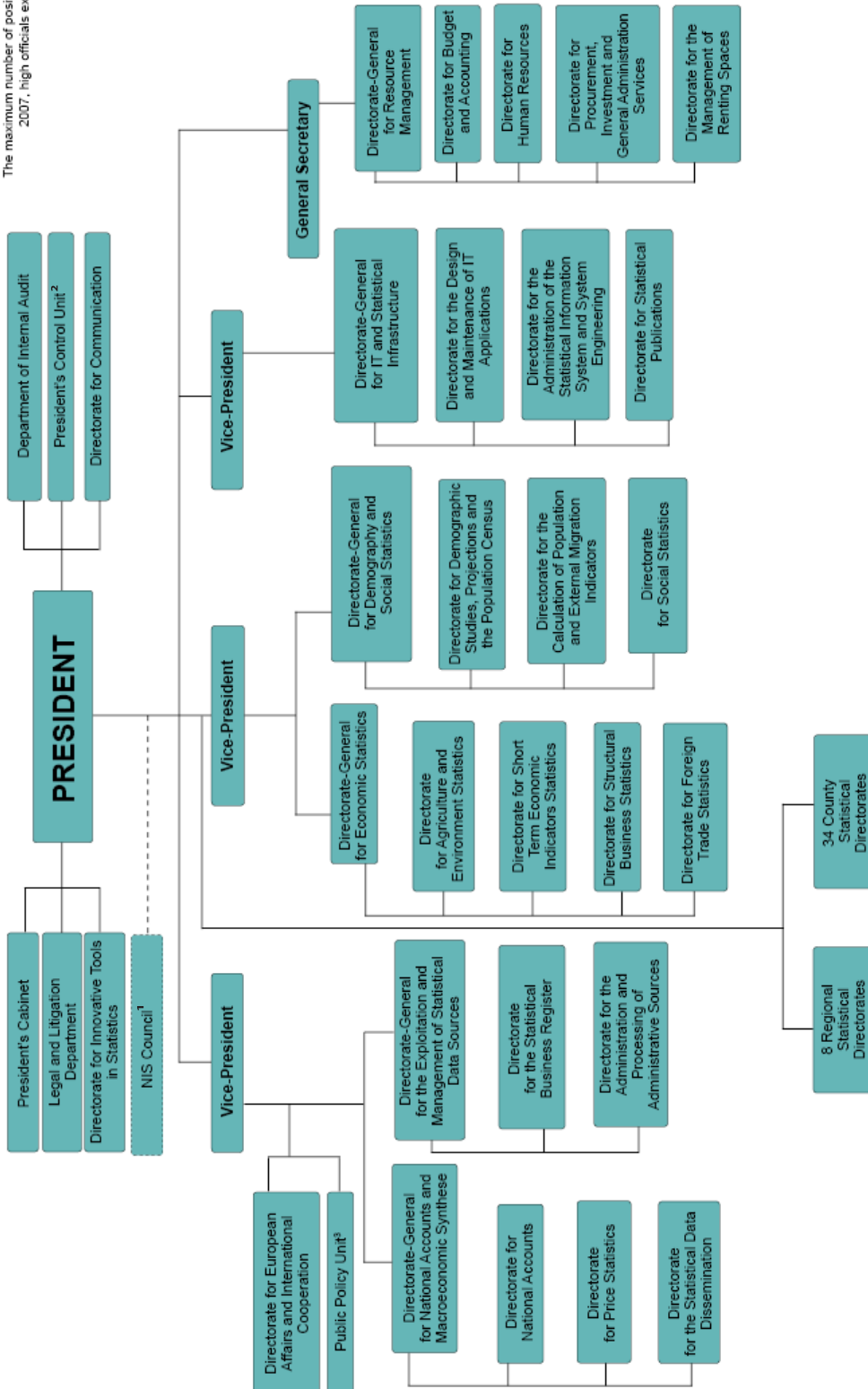
In its capacity of the National Statistical System coordinator, the National Statistical Council envisages for 2019 to step up its activities by prioritising their objectives and tasks, in order to meet the needs of the statistical society to the utmost extent.

The NIS shall involve the NSC members in the future development and improvement of statistics, in close correlation with the European Union rules and standards and in the improvement of statistical methods and procedures meant to entail an efficient and complex use of statistical tools.

The National Statistical Council, composed of authorised representatives of the main suppliers, producers and users of official statistical data and information, had an exemplary collaboration well with the National Institute of Statistics, demonstrating its responsiveness to the relevant observations and recommendations made by the NSC members when discussing and endorsing the work plans of the NIS.



The maximum number of positions is 2007, high officials excluded



1. It is organised and operates by order of the President

2. It is organised and operates as a department

3. It is organised and operates as a directorate

ANNEX 2 - Structure of staff

Situation of the positions in 2018

NIS	Max number of positions	Number of occupied positions	Number of vacancies	Occupancy rate (%)
Headquarters	661	533	128	80.6
STD	1,350	1,257	93	93.1
Total NIS	2,011	1,790	221	89.0

Structure of the NIS staff, by age group, in 2018

Total number of occupied positions		Age groups (years)							
		<=30		[31 - 45]		[46 - 55]		>=56	
		number of positions	%	number of positions	%	number of positions	%	number of positions	%
Headquarters	533	26	4.9	220	41.3	196	36.8	91	17.1
STD	1,257	17	1.4	379	30.2	525	41.8	336	26.7
Total NIS	1,790	43	2.4	599	33.5	721	40.3	427	23.9

ANNEX 3 – NIS staff turnover

Causes of leaves from the NIS

Total number of occupied positions		Total number of leaves	%	Retirement	Agreement of the parties	Transfer	Death	Expiry of secondment	Resignation	Other reasons
Headquarters	533	47	8.8	12	13	8	2	11	1	0
STD	1,257	57	4.5	35	6	11	3	1	1	0
Total	1,790	104	5.8	47	19	19	5	12	2	0

NIS staff turnover in 2018

	Recruitment	Leaves
Headquarters	49	47
STD	58	57
Total	107	104

ANNEX 4 – Structure of staff by educational attainment

Structure of NIS staff by education

Total number of occupied positions		Studies			
		Secondary education		Tertiary education	
		number of positions	%	number of positions	%
Headquarters	533	33	6.2	500	93.8
STD	1,257	123	9.8	1,134	90.2
Total	1,790	156	8.7	1,634	91.3

Structure of the NIS staff with tertiary education by field of specialisation

Total number of positions		Tertiary education													
		economic sciences		administrative sciences		legal sciences		other social sciences		engineering sciences		humanities		other core areas	
		persons	%	persons	%	persons	%	persons	%	persons	%	persons	%	persons	%
HQ	500	220	44	45	9	48	9.6	21	4.2	102	20	32	6.4	32	6.4
STD	1,134	714	63.0	53	4.7	56	4.94	46	4.06	213	19.0	40	3.5	12	1.06
Total	1,634	934	57	98	6	104	6.36	67	4.1	315	19	72	4.4	44	2.69

Structure of the NIS staff with tertiary education by post-graduate attainment

Total number of positions		Post-graduate studies					
		Master's degree		Post-graduate students		Staff holding a doctoral degree	
		persons	%	persons	%	persons	%
Headquarters	500	121	24.2	132	26.4	33	6.6
STD	1,134	216	19.0	240	21.2	10	0.9
Total	1,634	337	20.6	372	22.8	43	2.6

ANNEX 5 – NIS budgetary execution	2017					2018					- RON thousand -
	Annual provisions 2017		Payments as on 31.12.2017	Payments compared to final provisions	% Payments compared to final provisions	Annual provisions 2018		Payments as on 31.12.2018	Payments compared to final provisions		
	Initial	Definitive				Initial	Definitive				
Total EXPENDITURE of which:	157,989	162,717	153,158	94.13		182,635	176,314	171,121	97.05		
Financed from the State budget											
Staff costs	151,794	156,522	148,316	94.76		170,926	164,605	160,995	97.81		
Goods and services	115,200	118,900	118,572	99.72		128,768	127,593	127,043	99.57		
	23,545	25,785	24,587	95.35		26,000	25,762	24,258	94.16		
Transfers	52	52	52	100.00		54	54	53	98.15		
Post-accession projects with non-reimbursable external funds	12,997	11,607	5,051	43.52		932	572	223	38.99		
Projects with non-reimbursable external funds under the 2014-2020 Financial Framework	0	28	5	17.86		1,699	1,522	463	30.42		
Other expenditure	0	50	37	74.00		83	776	649	83.63		
Capital expenditure	0	100	12	12.00		13,390	8,326	8,306	99.76		
Financed from non-reimbursable external funds	6,195	6,195	4,842	78.16		11,709	11,709	10,126	86.48		
Projects with non-reimbursable external funds (other post-accession facilities and instruments)	6,195	6,195	4,842	78.16		11,709	11,709	10,126	86.48		

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACAV	= Quality of Life Survey
ACTR	= Survey on tourist demand of residents
AHM	= Attribute hierarchy method
ANCP	= National Agency for Cadastre and Land Registration
ANSP	= Annual National Statistical Programme
APL	= Local government authorities
ARIMA	= Auto Regression Integrated Moving Average
BPM6	= Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6)
BNR	= National Bank of Romania
BUES	= Bucharest University of Economic Studies
CAM	= Committee for Methodological Endorsement
CANE	= Classification of Activities in National Economy
CAPI	= Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing
CAWI	= Computer Assisted Web Interview
CDIS	= Culture for Development Indicators
CFR	= Romanian Railways
CIS	= Community Innovation Survey
CMFB	= Committee on Monetary, Financial and Balance of Payments Statistics
CNAS	= National Health Insurance House
CNP	= Personal Identification Number (Personal Numeric Code)
COFOG	= Classification of the Functions of Government
CPA	= Statistical classification of products by activity
CPI	= Consumer Price Index
D112	= Declaration on payment obligations for social contributions, income tax and nominal accounts of insured persons
D300	= Value Added Tax declaration
DG GROW	= Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs — Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
DGINS	= Meeting of the Directors General of the National Statistical Institutes
DJS	= County Statistical Directorate
DMES	= Directors of macroeconomic statistics
EC	= European Commission
ECP	= European Comparison Programme
e-Damis	= electronic Dataflow Administration and Management Information System
eDEMOS	= online collection system for data from local public administrations
EDP	= Excessive deficit procedure
EFTA	= European Free Trade Association.
EGR	= Euro-Groups Register
ESA	= European System of Accounts
e-SOP	= e-Survey Online Portal
ESQRS	= Euro-Standard for Quality Reports Structure
ESS	= European Statistical System
ESSC	= European Statistical System Committee
ESSnet Big Data	= is a project within the European Statistical System (ESS), jointly undertaken by 28 partners. Its objective is to

integrate important data into the regular production of official statistics, by pilots exploring the potential of large selected data sources and by building and implementing concrete applications.

ESSPROS = European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics

ESST = Environmental Subsidies and Similar Transfers

EU = European Union

Eurostat = Statistical Office of the European Union

Extra-EU = Extra-comunitar

FRIBS = Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics

GAC = General Agricultural Census

GAMSO = Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organisations

GNI = Gross National Income

GNI-MNE = Gross National Income —Multi-National Enterprises

Grant = projects with non-refundable external financing

GSBPM = Generic Statistical Business Process Model

HBS = Household Budget Survey

HLFS = Household Labour Force Survey

HTML = Hypertext Markup Language

ICCS = International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes

ICT = household survey on Information and communication technology

IESS = Integrated European Social Statistics

IFS = International Food Standard

IgA = Integrated Global Accounts

IGPR = General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police

NIS = National Institute of Statistics

Intra-EU = Intra-comunitar

JDemetra = software application used for the seasonal adjustments

JSON = JavaScript Object Notation

KAU = Kind of Activity Unit

LAG = list of generic activities

LAN = Local Area Network

LFS = Labour Force Survey

MAE = Ministry of Foreign Affairs

NAWG = National Accounts Working Group

NC = Combined Nomenclature

NRDP = National Rural Development Programme

NRME = National Reference Metadata Editor

NSC = National Statistical Council

NSS = National Statistical System

NUTS = Nomenclature of statistical territorial units

OECD = Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

OJEU = Official Journal of the European Union

PA = NIS Activity Programme

PALG = Government Annual Work Programme

PESTIM = Population estimation using mobile phone data

PHC = Population and Housing Census

POCA = Operational Programme Administrative Capacity
 PRODCOM = nomenclature of products for production statistical surveys
 PRODROM = Romania's nomenclature of industrial products and services
 R software = a system for statistical and graphic analysis created by Ross Ihaka and Robert Gentleman
 RAR = Romanian Automotive Register
 REGIS = Statistical Register of Enterprises
 RSA = is a public key cryptographic algorithm, used for both encryption and electronic signature
 SDMX = Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange
 SGG = Secretariat General of the Government
 SHA = System of Health Accounts
 SIET = Integrated tourist evidence system
 SILC = Statistics on income and living conditions
 SIMSTAT = Single Market Statistics; information system facilitating the exchange of micro-data (at company level) on goods exports between the Member States of the European Union
 SMP = Single Market Programme
 SORS = Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia
 STD = Territorial Statistical Directorates
 STS = Short Term Statistics
 TEC = Trade by Enterprise Characteristics
 TEMPO = Statistical database
 TEU = Statistical measure unit complying with the ISO standard for 20-feet containers (6.10 m)
 TF COFOG = Task Force - Classification of the Functions of Government
 TF GFS = Task Force - Government Finance Statistics
 TRAMO/SEATS = time series regression with ARIMA noise and Signal Extraction in ARIMA Time Series
 TSA = Tourism Satellite Account
 UN = United Nations
 UNESCO = United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
 UNWTO = United Nations World Tourism Organisation
 uRos = Use of R in Official Statistics
 VAT = Value added tax
 VIES = VAT Information Exchange System
 WAN = Wide Area Network
 WE-MFA = Environmental-Economic Material Flows Account
 WHO = World Health Organisation



Compiling Romania's official statistics since 1859