

12th of July – Official Statistics Day

“If numbers do not govern the world, they at least show how it is governed” – wrote Mihai Eminescu, citing Goethe

Today we celebrate a special anniversary – 164 years since the establishment of official statistics in Romania. It is an important moment in our history, in which we are remembering the progress and significant contributions of official statistics to the development of Romania.

It is essential to comprehend that statistics are the basis of all the informed decisions that we make. Without precise and up-to-date data, we would face uncertainty and we would make decisions based on suppositions and subjective opinions. Statistical data provide substance to our actions, while also giving us the assurance that, through them, our rights are protected.

As Walter Radermacher, former Director-General of Eurostat, said, “official statistics fulfil an essential role in the functioning of democratic societies”. Through them, three of our fundamental rights are respected: the right of living in a civilised society, the right of protecting one’s private life and, last but not least, the right of being informed.

The establishment of official statistics in Romania 164 years ago was a remarkable achievement. This moment marked our commitment to obtaining accurate and relevant information about population, economy, health, education and many other key domains. Over time, we have witnessed a continuous evolution of statistical methods and techniques, adapting to the requirements and challenges of modern society.

Official statistics have become a reliable source for everyone involved in the decision-making process. Politicians utilise statistical data to develop efficient public policies, while economists use this information to evaluate economic performance and to identify opportunities for economic growth. Researchers and sociologists utilise statistical data to comprehend the tendencies and behaviour of our society in an objective and rigorous manner.

In recent decades, we have witnessed an outburst of data and an evolution of digital technologies that allowed us to collect and process information in a more efficient and rapid way. Concepts such as artificial intelligence and big data analytics have given us a new viewpoint and, in the future, they will offer us new methods of interpreting and utilising statistical data.

Nevertheless, we must not forget that official statistics are not just numbers and graphics. They represent people – each digit means a story and a real impact on our lives. Through a correct understanding and an adequate utilisation of this information, we can make better choices and build a more prosperous and equitable society.

Today, we are proud of the statistical heritage of Romania and we are grateful to each and every person that contributed to the development of this discipline in our country. We are committed to continuing the efforts in this domain and to ensuring that official statistics remain a reliable and updated source for all those that need precise and relevant information.

The quality of this information proves the professionalism and dedication of today's statisticians, those from the National Institute of Statistics and its territorial directorates, as well as those from the other institutions that compose the National Statistical System – in short, all those that, as providers or users of data, participate in the statistical process.

As president of the National Institute of Statistics, at this time of celebration, I am sending regards to everyone mentioned, wishing them health and a long life full of prosperity and success.

Happy anniversary!

President
Tudorel Andrei