

ROMANIA



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS

## STRATEGY

**for the development of the  
National Statistical System and of  
Romanian official statistics  
during 2015-2020 \*)**

— Public policy document —

\*) activities for 2014 were included in the Annual National Statistical Programme 2014

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## MISSION, VISION AND VALUES OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

**Mission** The National Institute of Statistics' mission is to meet the information needs of all official statistics users by producing reliable statistical data, provided on impartial and non-discriminatory basis for substantiating the decisions on the country's economic and social development and for the general public understanding of the Romanian society realities.

**Vision** At the end of 2020, the National Statistical System will function as an integrated, coordinated, efficient and innovative structure, fully aligned with the statistical acquis communautaire and the European Statistics Code of Practice.

**Values** The National Institute of Statistics' values, based on the fundamental principles of official statistics, the European Statistics Code of Practice and the Statistician's Code of Ethics define how the statistician is firmly committed to work within the National Statistical System and to set up relationships with internal and external partners in order to achieve the mission and vision objectives. Thus, the values of the statistician acting within official statistics are:

1. trust and mutual respect, both in internal relations and in those with partners;
2. professional integrity ensured through high qualification, theoretical and practical training, moral and ethics standards;
3. innovative thinking, to further improve the statistician's labour;
4. communication and collaboration with providers of primary statistical information, other producers of official statistics and data users, in an efficient and transparent manner, contributing to the awareness, understanding and the credibility of official statistics in Romania.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The Strategy for the development of the National Statistical System during 2015-2020 (further on called the Strategy) is the second of a series of programmatic documents relating to official statistics, drawn up after Romania's accession to the EU in 2007. The new Strategy contains, on the one hand, the continuity dimension entailed by the need to ensure the data series consistency and to strengthen the results achieved in earlier stages. On the other hand, it includes the foresight dimension determined by the need for the National Statistical System to be able to respond as efficiently and promptly possible, with high quality statistical data and information, to the knowledge needs of all statistical data user categories.

The time horizon of the Strategy is overlapping the multiannual framework of the European Union statistical system, allowing for encompassing a set of new concepts, undertakings and actions envisaging the coherent development of the National Statistical System. It is primarily aiming at implementing in the statistical system of large-scale strategic priorities and objectives and of the action lines resulting from legal framework contained in basic documents at European level and at national level, such as:

- a) Communication from the Commission **Europe 2020 — A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth** (COM(2010) 2020 final) in connection with national programmes to meet the **Europe 2020** targets;
- b) Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council "Towards robust quality management for European statistics" (COM(2011) 211 final);
- c) Regulation (EU) No 99/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 January 2013 on the **European statistical programme 2013-2017, with the prospect of extension to 2020**;
- d) Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on **the production method of EU statistics — a vision for the next decade** (COM(2009) 404 final);
- e) Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the production method of EU statistics — joint strategy paper presented at the 5th meeting of the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC 2010/05/6/EN);
- f) European Commission Decision of 17 September 2012 on the role and functions of Eurostat (2012/504/EU);
- g) National reforms for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth by 2020 — Department for European Affairs, March 2011;
- h) The 2014-2016 Governance Programme of the Romanian Government;
- i) The Partnership Agreement proposed by Romania for the programming period 2014-2020 — Ministry of European funds, adopted by the European Commission on 6 August 2014.

## 2 Relevant background information

By acting as an indispensable component of knowledge process, official statistics appears as one of the essential pillars of sound governance, as support of substantiating the decisions at micro and

macro-economic level. This statute, through the associated characteristics, imposes to official statistics the condition of rigorous compliance with the fundamental principles of official statistics in a democratic State, as well as with the essential criteria of objectivity, quality and performance, conferred by the alignment with international methodologies, standards and practice in this field.

## **2.1 Outcomes of the Strategy 2008-2013**

### ***2.1.1 In the field of the National Statistical System***

The Strategy for the development of the National Statistical System — Horizon 2008-2013 concerned six objectives:

1. Increasing and strengthening the confidence in statistics of both information providers and statistical data users.
2. Bringing together in a coherent and coordinated framework the statistical services and activities of public administration authorities, other authorities and public institutions, through the establishment, implementation and consolidation of the National Statistical System.
3. Achieving full integration of Romanian statistics in the European Statistical System.
4. Widening the scope of statistical surveys programmes and adapting the survey programmes to the current and prospective requirements of statistical data users.
5. Improving the quality of statistics at a level comparable with other European countries, implementing and monitoring the quality management in statistics.
6. Improving the management within the National Institute of Statistics; strengthening the technological infrastructure and human resources organisation and development.

Monitoring the achievement of the 2008-2013 Strategy objectives revealed the following positive aspects:

- a) Romanian statistics has achieved significant progress and, in several areas, has reached the quality, compatibility and comparability of the data it produces compliant with EU norms and standards and with statistical performance of other EU Member States;
- b) The pace of alignment and compliance, in terms of compatibility, consistency and coherence of the National Statistical System with the European Union's Statistical System was maintained as a condition for fulfilling the obligations incumbent in the context of achieving the strategic objectives of national official statistics, in general, and of European statistics in particular;
- c) The National Institute of Statistics has met to a large extent the role and functions foreshadowed in the Strategy, ensuring the information base needed for the adoption of decisions on economic and social policies and for the functioning, on the appropriate parameters, of the National Statistical System;
- d) The regulatory framework for the functioning of the National Statistical System has been implemented through the establishment of the National Statistical Council (CSN) and the National Statistical System Committee (COMSTAT), on the basis of the Law on the organisation and functioning of official statistics in Romania No 226/2009, with subsequent amendments;

- e) The 2010 General Agricultural Census and the 2011 Population and Housing Census were completed according to the expected schedule;
- f) The *eSOP* portal for online collection of statistical data for business surveys was implemented;
- g) The free access of statistical data users, via the *TEMPO* portal, was extended to the full range of available statistical indicators, also increasing the number of electronic publications that can be downloaded from the INS website [www.insse.ro](http://www.insse.ro) as well as their addressability area;
- i) Romanian statisticians participated regularly in activities and actions meant for preparing and implementing the EU official statistical documents, including decision-making rules and provisions for Member States, statistical methodologies, standards, methods and techniques applicable throughout the European Statistical System;
- j) The National Institute of Statistics has benefited from Structural Funds, through the EU operational programmes and grants, for projects aiming at the improvement of the National Statistical System;
- k) The programmes aiming at the continuous professional training of statisticians have grown in number and widened the spheres of competence;
- l) The National Institute of Statistics has managed to preserve a qualified staff dedicated to the complex and demanding work required by the technical nature and practice of official statistics.

**The main failures and dysfunctions** of the National Institute of Statistics and of the National Statistical System as a whole are:

1. The National Institute of Statistics still has limited resources in coordinating the work of the other producers of official statistics, in particular as regards assisting them in applying the Law on official statistics in Romania and the European Statistics Code of Practice, as well as in the continuous monitoring of this process, meaning:
  - a) inconsistent implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice within the National Statistical System,
  - b) duplication of data collection efforts,
  - c) maintaining a still high burden,
  - d) inadequate assessment of the statistical data quality.
2. Statistical quality management and total quality management have been partly implemented, as reflected by the insufficient coverage of the quality reports and documentation of the statistics produced;
3. The legal framework — Law No 226/2009, as amended, harmonised with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 **on European statistics and repealing Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1101/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the transmission of data subject to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European Communities, Regulation (EC) No 322/97 on Community Statistics, and Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom establishing a Committee on the Statistical Programmes of the European Communities**, has not proved fully applicability as regards:

- a) difficult and sometimes completely blocked access to administrative sources, in particular to the individual data of persons for the construction of social indicators by giving up classical statistical surveys, intensive consumers of time and resources;
  - b) lack of statistical departments within the public authorities identified as producers of official statistics, as well as of decentralised structures with responsibilities in the field of official statistics, and by default of the necessary human resources; in this context is also included the lack of a legal framework establishing the statistical competences of the central public authorities for the statistical domain,
  - c) insufficient cooperation with suppliers, users and other producers of official statistics.
4. Inability, in early stages, to cooperate with media and other stakeholders, particularly in the context of initiating and conducting the data collection operations related to the Population and Housing Census — 2011;
  5. Very high turnover of the statistical staff, due to poor possibilities for keeping in the system young and highly qualified professionals. At the end of 2013, there were 485 vacancies in the INS, almost 30 % of the total number of staff positions at that date;
  6. Data requests, in terms of scope, particularly at local level, went beyond the institutional capacity and capability, relating both to resources and making use of data complementary to the classical system of data collection through sample statistical surveys;
  7. The operation, in parallel, of the data collection systems, online and classical systems was not entirely avoided thus leading to inconsistencies, confusion and uncertainty regarding the validity of data provided.

### ***2.1.2 State of play in the National Statistical Information System***

Modern statistics cannot operate under quality, efficiency and effectiveness conditions without a modern IT system, adapted to the information and communication technologies pace of development.

Currently, the statistical information system of the National Institute of Statistics uses in its current activities a computer network in its headquarters and computer networks in each of the Territorial Statistical Directorates. These networks are connected with the INS headquarters through a Wide Area Network (WAN).

Under the 2008-2013 strategy, the National Statistical Information System operation envisaged the following benchmarks:

- a) Ensuring the maintenance of the entire National Statistical Information System architecture;
- b) Ensuring the interconnection between the premises of the regional and county statistical directorates and the INS headquarters through the Virtual Private Network (VPN) of the National Statistical System;
- c) Increasing the calculation capacity in the INS headquarters, by continuing server virtualisation and by developing and implementing a central data warehouse using the existing, centralised system for data storage; processing the entire volume of data from the National Statistical System relies on the existing equipment (servers) in the National Institute of Statistics headquarters;



- d) Implementation of **eSOP — web portal for online takeover of statistical data** directly from statistical data providers, statistical project carried out and completed in December 2010 based on European funds; this project supported the strategic task of introducing electronic questionnaires at large scale, through which statistical data are reported directly by reporting units;
- e) At regional and county statistical directorates level were secured computer hardware equipments (PCs) required to access the various applications used in the statistical system, especially by acquiring them on the occasion of various types of elections at national level and of the 2 censuses, the General Agricultural Census 2010 and Population and Housing Census 2011;
- f) Designing and implementing IT solutions for efficient processing of statistical data resulted from large scale statistical surveys, such as censuses;
- g) Expanded use of statistical analysis system (SAS);
- h) Some operating systems for workstations (Windows XP), servers (Windows Server 2000, 2003) or applications (Windows exchange) are out of service, so that they will no longer benefit of any update and technical support (since 2014 for Windows XP).

The IT system functioning faced a number of failures and precariousness:

1. physical and moral degradation of domain servers in the headquarters and the need of shifting to Active Directory Windows 2008 domain in order to implement new security technologies and to ensure effective support for the management of Active Directory objects and other functionalities which depend on them;
2. serious physical and moral degradation of local area network (LAN) in the headquarters. Although a modernisation project exists since 2008, repeated annually, the lack of funding prevented the implementation of this project so far. The fact that major projects based on structural funds are implemented on this network, using new technologies, leads to worsening problems, which are sharpening and may soon lead to the damage of statistical data production;
3. the difficulty of opening the files received from various national and international bodies which on a day-to-day basis, are using the latest versions of office software, benefitting of compatible and updated hardware support. Due to the heterogeneous structure of available hardware, this issue is difficult to get solved, since our institution has in use not only equipment that stand for the installation of new versions of the software used by the other institutions;
4. chronic staff shortages in the IT department of the National Institute of Statistics, in particular of highly qualified specialists and a permanent reduction in the number of IT staff. Only in the year 2013 were removed 20 such positions;
5. the acute shortage of budgetary funds allocated for the maintenance of the National Statistical Information System; the IT budget within the INS is yearly diminished.

### **3 Policies, priorities and legal framework in place**

The National Institute of Statistics and the other producers of official statistics generate the highest volume of information in the Romanian public administration. The data produced within the National Statistical System is a public asset that addresses a highly diverse range of users, each with their own information requirements: policy makers, economic operators, researchers, university-academic environment, representatives of media and the public at large. The adequacy of the statistical process and dissemination tools to this generous goal is a constant challenge for all national statistical offices around the world, since resources are always inadequate. This reality imposes an obvious necessity: the prioritisation of activities and of the multiannual and annual programmes depending on the requirements of the statistical data on the one hand and on the available resources, on the other hand, in view to reach increased efficiency of statistical processes. Finding a balance between user requirements and the capability to meet these requirements requires a constant and intensive inter-institutional dialogue, both within the National Statistical Council and the National Statistical System Committee, as the main surveillance bodies on the proper functioning of the National Statistical System and beyond. The prioritisation effort raises other challenges, from the improvement of the legal and institutional cooperation framework to the increased standardisation of processes and information infrastructure.

#### **3.1 Priorities for 2015-2020**

The statistical priorities for 2015-2020 define the general framework of activities proposed for achieving the strategic goals in line with our mission, vision and values. Those priorities are as follows:

1. Developing the capacity for statistical data provision needed for the substantiation, monitoring and evaluation of the national policies and of those related to the implementation of EU regulations, in accordance with the national statistical programmes and with the European Statistical System ones;
2. Enhancing the governance of the National Statistical System and the cooperation within its framework, based on the fundamental principles of official statistics and the European Statistics Code of Practice, to safeguard the professionalism, credibility, relevance, timeliness, confidentiality, transparency and quality of the official statistics information and data, as a fundamental pillar of government decisions, decision-making process, governance and management at micro- and macroeconomic levels;
3. Upgrading the National Statistical System in terms of structure, operation, methods, processes, technologies and IT infrastructure so as to be able to capture, assess, quantify and describe, through statistical means adapted to technological progress, the increasingly complex and sophisticated phenomena and processes specific to economic and social areas, in unpredictable succession and with increasing frequencies;
4. Substantial improvement of cooperation and communication with the National Statistical System stakeholders – statistical data suppliers, producers and users – in order to reduce the response burden, to promote the role and importance of official statistics, to better respond to societal demands and, ultimately, to better prioritise activities;
5. The National Institute of Statistics turning into the node of administrative data sources integration in the statistical process, in support of:
  - a. reducing the response burden in statistical surveys, in particular, and the administrative burden, in general;

- b. increasing the coverage with statistical data of the regional structures and small geographical areas;
  - c. meeting new user needs in areas such as globalisation, migration and sustainability;
6. Creating the necessary prerequisites for resolving this dilemma of diminished material and human resources for official statistics and the enhanced requirements in terms of data volume needed to the users and increased quality of information, entailing by default the improved credibility of official statistics;
  7. Developing the skills and qualification level of the statistical staff, matching the income level with the efforts and complexity of their work;
  8. Strengthening the capacity of regional and county statistical directorates to enhance the quality of data collected and to better meet the requirements of statistical data coming from local communities;
  9. Improving the cooperation with national statistical institutes at European level and with other international institutions and organisations;
  10. Improving the legal framework and the INS organisational structure.

### **3.2 Legal framework for Romanian official statistics and the institutional responsibilities of the National Institute of Statistics**

The Romanian official statistics is organised and operates pursuant to Law No 226/2009, with subsequent amendments, in which are laid down the principles, rules and modalities for the exercise of its functions, to meet the increasingly diverse and complex demands of society in economic and social areas. The National Statistical System consists of the following structures:

1. *The National Institute of Statistics (INS)*, specialised body of central public administration, with legal personality, reporting to the Government, financed from the State budget, whose organisation and rules of procedure are regulated by Government Decision No 957/2005, republished with subsequent amendments. The INS operates under the direct coordination of the Secretariat General of the Government;
2. Alongside the INS, the main producer of official statistics, a number of structures with statistical or with mixed profile operate within certain ministries or central government authorities, which also perform statistical activities. They are included under the generic name of “other producers of official statistics”;
3. According to the statistical law, official statistics as a whole, comprising by default the compartments mentioned above, is under the technical and methodological coordination of the INS.

INS carries out activities meant to entail the strengthening and consolidation the whole National Statistical System functions and tasks by:

- a) coordinating the National Statistical System, as comprehensive and integrated structure for the organisation and functioning of official statistics in Romania;
- b) harmonising and aligning national statistics to the statistical acquis communautaire in all statistical domains and its translation into specific national legislation and practice;

- c) developing, on the basis of EU documents (regulations, directives, decisions, agreements and informal conventions of *gentlemen agreements* type) and of national documents with statistical specificity, the statistical indicators system, methodologies, procedures, quality standards, methods and techniques for the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of statistical data and information;
- d) ensuring the compatibility of the National Statistical System with the statistical systems used in the other EU Member States, as well as with the recommendations of UN statistical bodies, such as the UN Statistical Commission, the Conference of European Statisticians and other UN bodies, as well as with the recommendations of the OECD Statistical Commission;
- e) monitoring the application of statistical quality standards based on the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice and of regulations, norms and guidelines deriving from national legislation;
- f) organising and conducting statistical surveys on the socio-economic phenomena and processes, in accordance with the Strategy, the annual and multi-annual statistical programmes approved by the Government, through decisions;
- g) collaborating and cooperating with primary information providers and the institutions holding registers and administrative databases to ensure a coherent and effective system of data collection and use, through transfer and/or access, of all administrative data sources for statistical purposes;
- h) organising the own databases and statistical registers, as well as the corresponding metadata, to facilitate users access to the data series and to current statistical data;
- i) capturing the requirements of all user categories in view to meet their needs for data and statistical information, as well as promoting the methodologies, methods and techniques used in the compilation of statistical indicators.
- j) participating, as representative of Romania, in international meetings organised under the aegis of the EU and of other international organisations on statistical matters and acting as a single contact point for the Commission (Eurostat);
- k) collaborating with all central government institutions and, through its territorial units, with the local bodies, to ensure the proper functioning of the National Statistical System, to assess the official statistics contribution to the substantiation of economic and social policies at national and sectoral level and to point out, through high quality and operative statistical data the results of these policies.

The legal framework for official statistics in Romania requires a number of adaptations and developments. In this respect, the Romanian statistical law is to be amended by the end of 2015, mainly envisaging three purposes:

1. adaptation to the amendments brought to the law of European statistics (Regulation (EC) No 223/2009);
2. reflection of national development strategies, with impact on official statistics;
3. introduction of new regulatory provisions revealing new objectives and tasks resulting from the economic and social development of Romania and of European and global statistical issues in the period elapsed since the adoption of the latest amendments to the Romanian statistical law (Law No 226/2009, as amended).

In particular, the changes envisage, according to European statistical law amendments, the reinforcement of official statistics role among the national public authorities by highlighting the principles of transparency, visibility and professional independence of Official Statistics. Moreover,

the INS unhindered access to administrative data sources in order to improve the efficiency of the statistical process; the strengthening of the INS coordinating role in relation to the optimal functioning of the National Statistical System are also envisaged. Ensuring the human, material and financial resources to meet the increasing demands of statistical data users for high quality statistical information, timely and suited to the society development are also in focus. At the same time, the changes in the law aims to remove the provisions which no longer reflect the current situation of the legal framework in force on administration and to add provisions to reflect the new rules of the legal framework and specificities of the process of economic and social development.

## **4 Problem definition**

The overall mission of official statistics, essential for a democratic society, is to provide reliable and relevant statistical data and information and to disseminate them to the society, at the appropriate time. Its role is becoming increasingly important by assuming the obligations and responsibilities of measuring the impact of major challenges society is facing and of supporting the efforts of those responsible for taking the relevant decisions based on knowledge and on the availability of statistical data. To this end, official statistics play a leading role in ensuring appropriate responses to monitor the changes in the society, stemming from globalisation, demographic pressures, climate change, cultural interference, all associated with the need for Romanian statistics to keep the pace with the development of information and communication technologies.

More than ever, knowledge is indispensable in decision-making, where statistical information is a major component. With this in mind, it is important, on one hand, to develop projects enabling the quantification and assessment, by statistical indicators, of the increasingly complex phenomena and processes of the economic, social and environmental evolution. On the other hand, official statistics will also get involved intrinsically in research, with its components of development and innovation, related to the societal needs of measuring competitiveness, the interaction between economic and social development and the environment, social cohesion, distribution of material and human resources, as well as the effects of policies in all areas. Here lies the need for a continued progress of Romanian official statistics.

## **5 Objectives**

### **5.1 Overall objective**

**The overall objective of the Strategy is that the National Statistical System would meet, to the largest possible extent, the needs of statistical data and information of all user categories, further improving the quality of statistical processes and products based on full compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice and implementing total quality management in statistics in line with the support document “European Statistical System vision until the Horizon 2020”.**

## 5.2 Specific objectives

In order to achieve the overall strategic objective and in line with the mission, vision and values promoted in the National Statistical System, seven specific objectives have been identified.

### 1. Reinforcing the structure and coordinated functioning of the National Statistical System

This objective envisages the increased effectiveness of inter-institutional cooperation and the capacity building of public authorities that are part of the National Statistical System to respond with greater openness to the new information requirements, in accordance with the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice. In this respect, it is necessary to refine the legal framework of Romanian official statistics, the mechanisms for cooperation and governance of the National Statistical System, as well as strengthening the INS coordinating role for the integration of official statistics and for stimulating the development of departmental statistics produced by the ministries and other public authorities, aiming at achieving scale savings and reducing the response burden.

### 2. Modernising and increasing the efficiency of the National Statistical System

The INS will continue the implementation of projects aiming to develop processes and methods of collecting and processing data, in line with the Joint Strategy of the European Statistical System for implementing the Commission's Communication on the production methods of EU statistics.<sup>1</sup>

In these projects, information technology, technical infrastructure and statistical methodologies are in focus, particularly as regards: the harmonisation and standardisation of production processes; the integration and re-use of data sources; processing of big data; the extended use of econometric models for estimating the missing data; the optimisation of sample statistical surveys with direct impact on increasing data quality and labour productivity and on reducing the response burden and operational costs.

### 3. Expanding the use of administrative data sources in the statistical process

The achievement of this objective shall contribute to reduce the response burden, the statistical information costs and the duplication in collecting primary data, in the context of strengthening the coordinated functioning of the National Statistical System and the effective cooperation with public authorities. The INS will expand the use of administrative sources in the statistical system, thus joining the European and national initiatives in this area. In this process, the INS should be directly involved in designing and developing the administrative sources managed by public authorities.

### 4. Developing the statistical products and services

INS, alongside public authorities producing official statistics, devotes most of resources to ensure the continuity of statistical production, by addressing the needs of national, European and international statistical programmes. However, statistical data requirements are increasing constantly, thus requiring a rational and appropriate approach for matching them with the available resources, particularly in the short and medium term. In this context, for instance, it is necessary to develop, in cooperation with

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<sup>1</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the production method of EU statistics — joint strategy paper presented at the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC 2010/05/6/EN)

the profile institutions, the indicators meant to ensure the monitoring of smart and sustainable policies implementation, laid down in the Europe 2020 strategy on: R & D, innovation, education, employment, energy and climate change, development of the information society, competitiveness, combating poverty and promoting social inclusion, as well as the production of quality statistics to support the development, monitoring and evaluation of national and Community policies and programmes.

An important aspect is the INS participation, with specific activities, in the construction by the authorities responsible for the institutional and operational architecture required for setting up the statistical systems for monitoring and assessing the fulfilment of ex ante thematic conditionality and of the general conditionality 7 on statistical systems and result indicators, established by Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) N°1083/2006

In view to achieve the objective of statistical products and services development, the directions of strategic development concern all areas of statistical production, alongside all processes and across the entire National Statistical System, with concrete actions to be detailed in annual and multi-annual statistical programmes.

#### **5. Improving the quality of statistical products and services**

This specific objective highlights the importance of implementing Total Quality Management in statistics, with the aim to increase the confidence of all user categories on the quality of data and information disseminated to the public by Romanian official statistics.

The priorities in the field of improving quality in statistics will be reflected in a programme of actions aimed at the organisation, conceptualisation and implementation of mechanisms tracking the process of improving the quality of statistical processes and products for the effective implementation of Total Quality Management in statistics using the EFQM excellence model (European Foundation for Quality Management). The implementation of this programme will require a broad approach and sustained efforts in the whole National Statistical System for the gradual and full alignment to the European Statistics Code of Practice.

#### **6. Human resources development**

The development of the INS human resources is crucial to achieving the objectives of the strategy, in line with its mission, vision and values. The National Institute of Statistics has succeeded to become a more attractive workplace making necessary continued efforts to improve the planning and organisation processes, performance management, vocational training programmes and incentive schemes to facilitate the recruitment and retention of staff in the various areas of official statistics: statistical production and methodological development, information technology and electronic communication, dissemination, internal and external communication, internal and international cooperation and, last but not least, human resources policies.

In the field of human resources development, the priorities are focusing on five main areas:

- a) enhancing the anticipatory approach of human resources policies;

- b) quick and effective integration of newly-employed staff in the INS structure and objectives;
- c) continuous vocational training of staff;
- d) keeping and developing the staff and streamlining its work;
- e) INS involvement, according to its tasks, in the extension of support programmes aiming at the development of the public administration capacity to create, maintain and develop its own management information systems, notably from the perspective of the statistical functionalities.

## **7. Enhancing the promotion of statistical products and services**

The products and services provided by official statistics represent public assets. Meeting to the highest extent the information needs of the various user categories, providing high quality statistical data and increasing the accessibility of statistical outputs require an integrated approach of the entire statistical processes flow, both on “product” and “user” sides. In order to achieve this specific objective, the National Institute of Statistics will seek, as a matter of priority:

- a) increasing and improving the supply of statistical publications, mainly those in electronic format, available on the INS website, with an increasingly wide addressability;
- b) intensifying and diversifying the dialogue and consultation with representatives of the media, business, analysts and researchers for presenting the statistical results and the methodological aspects to facilitate better understanding and interpretation of statistical data and to improve the statistical services;
- c) integrating the online databases TEMPO and eDemos<sup>2</sup> in the Open Data policy promoted at national level to increase the accessibility and usability of official statistical data;
- d) implementing actions aimed at developing the cooperation with economic and social research environment and the statistical culture.

## **6 General principles**

The concept of a Strategy for the development of the National Statistical System is based on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics of the United Nations and on the European Statistics Code of Practice. The fundamental principles underpinning the official statistics are the following:

a) professional independence — statistics must be developed, produced and disseminated in an independent manner, particularly as regards the selection of techniques, definitions, methodologies and sources to be used, and the timing and content of all forms of dissemination, and the performance of those tasks free from any pressures from political or interest groups or from the Union or national authorities, without prejudice to institutional requirements, such as budgetary provisions for the Union or national institutions or the definition of statistical needs;

b) impartiality — statistics must be developed, produced and disseminated in a neutral manner and all users must be given equal treatment;

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<sup>2</sup> eDemos: Statistical information system at territorial level.



c) objectivity — statistics must be developed, produced and disseminated in a systematic, reliable and unbiased manner; it implies the use of professional and ethical standards, and that the policies and practices followed are transparent to users and survey respondents;

d) reliability — statistics must measure as faithfully, accurately and consistently as possible the reality that they are designed to represent and implying that scientific criteria are used for the selection of sources, methods and procedures;

e) statistical confidentiality — ensuring the protection of confidential data related to single statistical units which are obtained directly for statistical purposes or indirectly from administrative or other sources and implying the prohibition of use for non-statistical purposes of the data obtained and of their unlawful disclosure;

f) cost-effectiveness — costs of producing statistics must be in proportion to the importance of the results and the benefits sought, resources must be optimally used and the response burden minimised. The information requested shall be readily extractable from available records or sources where possible.

## **7 Lines of action**

In order to achieve the general objective and the specific objectives, improvement and refinement measures and actions are to be taken in each of the official statistics fields, as follows:

### **7.1 Reinforcing the structure and coordinated functioning of the National Statistical System**

To achieve this objective, the following are envisaged:

1. Improving the legal and operational framework of official statistics for widening and strengthening the role of the National Statistical Council and of COMSTAT in the process of substantiating, monitoring and evaluating the results of the development strategy and of the multiannual and annual statistical programmes;
2. Improving the tools and mechanisms for the National Statistical System governance in view to align the actions to the strategic development objectives, based on priorities and in relation with the available resources, envisaging the inclusion in the multiannual and annual statistical programmes of new national and European issues;
3. Restructuring the National Statistical System through total or partial transfer of specific statistics in the fields social and economic statistics, currently managed by the INS, such as agricultural, education, health, environment statistics, etc., by assigning them to other producers of statistical data, according to the amendments foreseen in the context of adapting Law No 226/2009, with further amendments, and by assisting the producers of official and departmental statistics during the formation and accumulation of skills leading to the enhancement of these authorities capacity in the field of official statistics;
4. Making an inventory of processes, methods and technological tools envisaging the identification of the statistical production flows' components, either standardised or under standardisation, that could be implemented in the National Statistical System;

5. Redesigning the statistical processes in view to increase the work efficiency both in the headquarters and at territorial statistical directorates' level, based on a strategic prioritisation;
6. Regular assessment of the cooperation with institutional partners, with a particular focus on attracting administrative sources in official statistics processes, identifying strengths and weaknesses, best practices and measures necessary for improving inter-institutional cooperation mechanisms;
7. Enhancing the role and structure of territorial statistical directorates, by taking into account the new data sources and the statistical data requests at the level of administrative territorial units.

## **7.2 Modernising and increasing the efficiency of the National Statistical System**

### ***7.2.1 Improving, enhancing and upgrading the IT&C infrastructure of the INS***

The following are envisaged in view to achieve this objective:

1. Developing and maintaining in service the entire IT&C architecture of the National Statistical System;
2. Standardising the IT processes, implementing within the National Statistical Information System the best practices in order to improve the performance of the National Statistical Information System;
3. Developing and improving the communication system between the INS headquarters and the territorial statistical directorates, increasing the number of electronic mail and internet users;
4. Improving the management of IT infrastructure: configurations management, incidents and problems management, IT operations management and the management of hardware procurement;
5. Ensuring, as far as possible, an integrated hardware structure of personal computers used in the National Statistical System by gradually replacing worn-out equipment with upgraded ones, supporting the latest operating systems software, for which technical support is still provided;
6. Ensuring the use of a single operating system in the National Statistical System (possibly Windows 8), replacing the Windows XP operating system, for which technical support period has expired in April 2014;
7. Rehabilitation of the low-voltage network for electronic communications and IT equipment, at the INS headquarters; presumably, this activity initiated about 5 years ago is to be finalised as soon as possible;
8. Further improving the **eSOP — web portal for online statistical data collection directly from statistical data providers**, increasing the number of users, maintenance and technical support for the eSOP application; extending the (hardware) capacity for processing and storage of statistical data, using the **eSOP — web portal for online statistical data collection**, including the extended guarantee for hardware equipment;
9. Achieving a virtual library (design and purchase of scarce books copying equipment), its integration into the National Digital Library system, coordinated by the National Library of Romania, as part of the European Digital Library;

10. Developing an integrated solution for statistical data entry, validation and processing for household surveys, with the use of portable equipment for recording statistical data and enhanced reporting of statistical data from households based on web solutions, via Internet; such an integrated solution will set up the background for changing the statistical data collection technology at the next population and housing censuses, 2020-2021 round;
11. Developing an integrated solution for uploading and processing statistical data from the Population Register.

### ***7.2.2 Statistical processes and methodologies***

In this field are envisaged the following:

1. Continuation and expansion of projects aiming at redesigning and standardising statistical processes and at automatic data processing under GSBPM<sup>3</sup> and GSIM<sup>4</sup> models on the common cooperation platform at European level in this area;
2. Redesigning the questionnaires for data collection online and on paper;
3. Modernising the data collection methods using mobile solutions;
4. Integrating the data sources and re-using statistical and administrative sources, focusing on the implementation of data linking methods;
5. Developing econometric methods to estimate the missing data;
6. Improving the sampling plans for the reduction of response burden.

### **7.3 Expanding the use of administrative data sources in the statistical process**

The effective integration of administrative data sources in the statistical process requires certain activities to be carried out in the short term, 1 to 3 years, and on medium term, with a horizon of 5 or 7 years. Sequencing is considering the progress pace of administrative sources in Romania, the inter-institutional cooperation environment and the experience in other EU Member States. The specific objectives in this area concern:

1. Setting up and strengthening within the INS a competence centre for the identification and integration of administrative sources in the statistical system, designing and implementing common services for the collection and processing of data from administrative sources, integrated into the GSBPM and GSIM and for increasing the use of administrative sources in the statistical process;
2. Reinforcing the cooperation with national authorities responsible for the management of administrative sources, in order to include relevant variables in the production of statistical data;
3. Enhancing the INS role and functions in the quality assurance of administrative data sources, by adapting the general and operational legal framework which aims to create the necessary tools for inter-institutional cooperation within public administration in Romania;

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<sup>3</sup> Generic Statistical Business Process Model

<sup>4</sup> Generic Statistical Information Model

4. Designing the architecture of administrative sources in the National Statistical System and setting up a databases system as a single coherent information support for statistics in all areas of socio-economic life, which store longitudinal information on the statistical units;
5. Designing and implementing the tools necessary to further extend and refine the collection of primary information and data from the owners of administrative sources (databases & registers), to raise the quality and coverage of administrative data;
6. Setting up the legal and technical conditions for data exchange with owners of administrative sources;
7. Setting up and implementing a transparent and effective mechanism to ensure the protection of the primary data confidentiality;
8. Developing a system for highlighting the costs and benefits of using administrative sources for the cost-efficiency assessment;
9. Creating a flexible infrastructure (database) as support for the provision of spatial-temporal analysis, by integrating the relevant statistical data with the spatial ones, from multiple sources, at the administrative territorial units level.

#### **7.4 Developing the statistical products and services**

To achieve the strategic goal of meeting as much as possible the information needs of users, INS, alongside the other producers of official statistics, ensures the achievement of current production on “domains” whose continuous functioning is essential in ensuring inputs for the national statistical data funds. Accordingly, the fulfilment of this specific objective relies on defining and implementing lines for action on statistical areas, outlined below.

##### ***7.4.1 National accounts; macroeconomic indicators***

1. Implementing the new standards (ESA 2010) until 2020. This horizon will enable Romania to adapt the statistical system to the new requirements thus reaching the compliance with Regulation (EU) 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 European Union;
2. Updating the framework, mechanisms and instruments of cooperation between the INS, the Ministry of Public Finances, the National Bank of Romania, the National Commission for Prognosis related to the development of the national system for government finance statistics according to ESA 2010 requirements;
3. Integrating the statistical system with the IT system for reporting the financial statements of public institutions (FOREXBUG) in view to use detailed information broken down by appropriate budgetary classification COFOG level III, starting with 2015;
4. Providing the indicators and quality reports for the Macroeconomic Imbalances Procedure;
5. Updating the inventory of sources and methods for public deficit and debt, according to the new international standards (ESA 2010, Handbook on deficit and debt) by mid-2015.

#### **7.4.2 Price statistics**

1. Implementing the European legal framework for price statistics and adapting the national legal framework so as to reflect the changes at European level;
2. Improving the collection system by adopting the tools adapted to the new information technologies (use of electronic devices, data scanner and web technologies for data collection);
3. Setting up an integrated system for the information takeover, results compilation and data dissemination;
4. Redesigning the statistical tools and rethinking the statistical survey methodologies in the field of price statistics, in compliance with the directions of the price statistics modernisation at European level;
5. Adopting the international standards on the development of statistical data and metadata in the field of prices;
6. Developing the monitoring tool of food goods prices;
7. Timely providing the indicators on prices to domestic and international decision-makers and the public.

#### **7.4.3 Statistics on population, demography and international migration**

1. Promoting the legislative changes enabling the INS to access personal individual records (based on the personal ID number) available in the administrative sources managed by public institutions of central and local government;
2. Preparing the legislative, administrative and organisational framework of the Population and Housing Census in Romania for the 2020/2021 round;
3. Launching the preparatory works for the Population and Housing Census 2020/2021 round under the conditions of the rethinking the data collection system in order to improve the operations of data collection, processing and aggregation and the dissemination of the Census results in accordance with the new rules and standards to be jointly adopted by Eurostat and the Conference of European Statisticians (body of the United Nations/Economic Commission for Europe).

#### **7.4.4 Labour market statistics**

1. Organising and actively participating in the development of the National Statistical System in the field of labour force statistics so as to meet the new requirements at European level;
2. Redesigning the statistical tools and rethinking the statistical survey methodologies in view to reach the correlation with the strategy for the modernisation of social statistics at European level and with the new lines for action in this field;
3. Turning into account data from administrative sources to enable the production of statistical indicators for the statistics on wages in order to reduce the response burden on economic operators.

#### **7.4.5 Education and health statistics**

1. Adapting the methodologies so as to be consistent with the new European rules and classifications;
2. Redesigning the tools for the statistical surveys so as to reduce response burden;
3. Redesigning the statistical health information system with a view to improving the quality of statistics and ensuring the primary data sources needed for the production of European statistics in the field.

#### **7.4.6 Statistics on income and living conditions**

1. Updating and improving the infrastructure needed to carry out the households surveys;
2. Improving the small areas estimates for the poverty and social exclusion indicators through the development of dedicated econometric models;
3. Refining the quality of estimates obtained from statistical surveys on population income and quality of life whilst reducing the response burden and increasing the use of data from administrative sources;
4. Producing comparable statistics based on the implementation of methodologies harmonised at European level and correlated with the strategy for the modernisation of European social statistics.

#### **7.4.7 Agricultural statistics**

1. Strengthening the current agricultural statistical system by improving the data quality of agricultural statistics so as to meet the new assessment requirements of the Common Agricultural Policy from 2014 onwards and of the national policy in this vital area of the economy and improving the living conditions of the population;
2. Carrying out the farm structure survey 2016 and attracting external funding for its implementation, REXA updating and calculation of the Typology and the economic size of agricultural holdings based on its results;
3. Preparing the 2020 General Agricultural Census under a new approach, consistent with those laid down at European level that would lead to results that are more efficient.

#### **7.4.8 Environmental statistics**

1. Enhancing the quality of environmental accounts in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 691/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2011 on European environmental economic accounts (air emissions account, environmentally related taxes by economic activity account and economy-wide material flow account) and Regulation (EU) No 538/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 amending Regulation (EU) 691/2011 on European environmental economic accounts (environmental protection expenditure account, environmental goods and services sector account and physical energy flows account), environmental and forestry statistics;
2. Providing information for the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy as regards resources use and climate change;

3. Developing new indicators to measure the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development;
4. Developing and implementing methodologies for the areas:
  - a) forestry accounts;
  - b) water flows accounts;
  - c) expenditure of natural resource management accounts.

#### **7.4.9 Structural Business Statistics**

1. Implementing the new concepts and methods of the general framework for the business statistics integration, by rethinking the whole process of statistical data collection, processing, validation and dissemination. This process will be applied to Structural Business Statistics, information society statistics, short-term statistics and transport and communications statistics;
2. Developing new statistical information and improving the existing statistical information to meet the political objectives of economic development and impact of economic globalisation. Consideration is to be given to new statistical surveys on global value chain, when this will be a requirement of a new European regulation or of an existing Regulation.
3. Providing information for the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy on sustainable growth by developing statistical indicators to measure the improvements in the business environment for small and medium enterprises, entrepreneurship development, infrastructure, smart transport and broadband internet access.

#### **7.4.10 Short-term economic indicators**

1. Providing information for the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy on sustainable growth by developing statistical indicators to monitor the targets of the “Innovation Union” and “European Research Area” (ERA) in which researchers, scientific knowledge and technology circulate freely and openly;
2. Testing and evaluating the impact of the new concept of statistical unit that will be used in the context of the implementation of the new FRIBS<sup>5</sup> Regulation for business statistics;
3. Developing high quality statistics on energy and climate change as a support for EU and national policies; providing the information required for monitoring energy and climate change statistics;
4. Developing the energy accounts in the context of environmental accounts statistics.

#### **7.4.11 International trade in goods statistics**

1. Implementing the SIMSTAT<sup>6</sup> statistical system by creating an integrated secure infrastructure for the exchange of micro-data of intra-Community trade in goods between EU Member States; carrying out the SIMSTAT pilot project on the exchange of

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<sup>5</sup> FRIBS: Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics.

<sup>6</sup> SIMSTAT: Single Market Statistics

micro-data for the flow of intra-Community dispatches of goods between European Union Member States;

2. Improving the consistency between the international trade in goods statistics (intra and extra-EU) and balance of payments statistics;
3. Illustrating the degree of economic globalisation by using statistical data on international trade in goods;
4. Implementing the new legal framework for business statistics (FRIBS); adapting the national legal framework on the international trade in goods statistics to the changes in FRIBS;
5. Integrating business statistics and international trade in goods statistics in order to create and develop new statistical indicators by using micro-data and additional administrative sources.

#### ***7.4.12 Integrated systems of statistical indicators***

1. INS participation, depending on the available resources, together with the producers of official statistics and other institutional partners in projects aimed at developing statistical indicators on thematic areas, based on spatial data integrated with social, economic and environmental statistical data;
2. Developing the functionalities, coverage and timeliness of territorial statistical data available in eDemos system, under the conditions of extending the use and improving the quality of administrative sources with data at local level;
3. Continuing, in partnership with the institutions concerned and in the light of the requirements, the development and maintenance of the database with indicators on sustainable development and on the Digital Agenda for Europe;
4. Expanding the cooperation and technical support granted to institutional partners for the creation and development of integrated systems of indicators, as part of official statistics and departmental statistics, required for the implementation of ex ante thematic conditionality and of general conditionality 7 on statistical systems and result indicators set by Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

### **7.5 Improving the quality of statistical products and services**

Quality in statistics is the central topic of interest both at national and international level for the national statistical offices or for the European Union or worldwide organisations. A more rigorous system of quality management in statistics is intended to guarantee not only to national statistical offices, but also especially to suppliers and users that official statistical data are reliable and relevant, coherent, consistent, timely and targeted.

The improvement of quality in statistics will focus on the following lines of action:

1. preparing a plan of actions in the field of quality, involving both the management and the staff of the INS ("fresh ideas") and the representatives of the various institutions, members of the National Statistical Council and COMSTAT in view to implement the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice and continued monitoring of strategic lines identified;



2. regularly scheduling the various activities to be accomplished and precisely determining the specific responsibilities of each statistical domain, including the design of activities meant to improve quality in the various statistical domains, aiming as a matter of priority to:
  - a) designing statistical questionnaires so as to eliminate double registration of data and information required, to reduce the response burden,
  - b) reducing the response burden through extended use of administrative data sources, through proactive efforts (involving stakeholders) and monitoring of performance indicators/quality indicators,
  - c) drawing up and integrating user-oriented quality reports with those product oriented,
  - d) regularly carrying out user satisfaction surveys and including them in quality reports,
  - e) standardising the processes for non-responses follow-up, for measuring and reducing the errors identified in the various stages of statistical processes and products, for monitoring the internal consistency of the data disseminated, for reviewing data, documentation and methodological rules on imputation and estimation methods used, seasonal adjustments, encoding of the data, etc.
  - f) monitoring and reporting the indicators on human and financial resources (staff opinion survey);
3. developing/improving the procedures for the description of statistical production processes and identifying the specific documents for each stage, including the description of methods for monitoring the quality of each phase of statistical production processes;
4. drawing up procedures for monitoring the quality of statistical outputs;
5. periodically reviewing the documentation on quality in official statistics;
6. developing a plan for reviewing the quality in statistics (internal and/or external audit on quality – audit reports or quality self-assessments – questionnaires filled in by producers, respondents/users);
7. conducting training courses for interviewers, on the basis of a manual developed for each statistical survey;
8. implementing training programmes in statistics, made available to those categories of users interested in understanding the calculation methodologies, tools and standards used in official statistics.

## **7.6 Human resources development**

The recruitment, selection and preservation of well- trained and motivated staff are for the INS key elements for achieving the strategic goals aiming at the development of the National Statistical System and its integration in the continuous process of the society transformation and modernisation.

In view to develop the competences of both executive and top-management staff, the following lines of action are envisaged:

1. A pro-active approach of human resources management specific activities, avoiding the discontinuity or the mass influx in staff recruiting, by:

- a) annual forecasts on staff needs;
  - b) optimising the staff structure at the level of each Directorate depending on the INS ongoing and future tasks and the necessary level of competence;
  - c) staff recruitment closely in line with turnover of staff;
  - d) broadening the target groups in order to attract new, competitive staff, consisting of capable young people.
2. Quick and effective integration of new recruits to the INS structure and objectives by:
- a) strengthening the role of the tutors and mentors to new staff;
  - b) implementing the programme for the new staff training in view to get acquainted with the INS fields of activity, specific tasks, processes and working procedures;
  - c) updating and dissemination within the INS and the National Statistical System manuals and guidelines for vocational and career development;
  - d) high motivation and incentive measures to encourage career development by involving the new employees in collective work and projects for the development of the National Statistical System.
3. Continuous vocational training of staff, by:
- a) developing vocational training programmes in line with the needs for development of skills within the INS and with prospects for career development, particularly in areas relating to data analysis and modelling, processing of big data, new information technologies and electronic communications, redesign and optimisation of processes;
  - b) a flexible and efficient policy of vocational training and specialisation;
  - c) diversifying the internship and training courses, as well as exchanges of experience;
  - d) involving the new staff with managerial positions in special training schemes regarding knowledge of decision-making processes and procedures for their specific tasks;
  - e) drawing up a Manual for “new managers”;
  - f) setting up an in-house team of competent and motivated trainers;
  - g) developing training programmes for the public administration staff, especially in institutions producing official statistics.
4. Maintaining and developing staff and streamlining its work, by:
- a) permanent orientation of staff towards results, combining raising standards of performance with an appropriate motivational system;
  - b) periodically carrying out staff opinion survey;
  - c) stressing the role of periodic assessments in individual development and career guidance;
  - d) diversifying the motivation methods and introducing specific arrangements for rewarding staff;
  - e) improving working conditions and environment;

- f) identifying more efficient ways of internal cooperation, consultation, dialogue and communication via Intranet, appropriate documentation, thematic meetings to facilitate knowledge sharing, working in project teams;
- g) developing a policy of flexible and encouraging internal mobility supported by common standards, tools and documentation systems for standardising processes and by vocational development policies.

At the same time, the development of the National Statistical System supposes the existence and the development of public authorities -producers of official and departmental statistics- capacity to build up, maintain and develop their own information systems with statistical functionality. The lines of action envisaged in this area are the following:

- a) extending the programmes of continuous vocational training and specialisation in key areas of official and departmental statistics, provided through the National Centre for Training in Statistics;
- b) drawing up a guide setting out the procedures for the collection, aggregation, analysis and interpretation of statistical data for the staff with statistical responsibilities of central government, with a focus on ensuring the quality of statistical data;
- c) building up the INS internal capacity of granting technical assistance to the central government authorities in the production of official and departmental statistics.

## **7.7 Enhancing the promotion of statistical products and services**

### ***7.7.1 Dissemination of statistical data***

1. Increasing the volume of available statistical information in the online databases (TEMPO, eDemos) in order to meet the various requirements of data users and to encourage other producers of official statistics to disseminate statistical data by using these instruments;
2. Ensuring the quality and completeness of statistical information from the INS databases and statistical metadata publicly available through online services;
3. Extending the dissemination of data according to the users information needs, including those paid;
4. Digitisation of the INS statistical publications and facilitating the access of central government institutions to their digitised form.

### ***7.7.2 Statistical Publications***

1. Redefining and implementing an editorial policy with the following principal objectives:
  - a) improving the quality and the content of hard-copy statistical publications, considering the inclusion of qualitative statistical analysis; the statistical publications presenting mainly annexes with detailed data will be disseminated in electronic format and the products with low demand will be ceased;
  - b) increasing the dynamics of publishing activities, through continuous adjustment of the publications to market requirements, including the development of electronic publications;

- c) improving the structure, the content and the coverage of press releases using Web technologies, to facilitate the access to and the understanding of statistical data and information.
2. Modernising the conception of statistical publications will seek as a priority the following lines of action:
    - a) releasing publications in line with European standards;
    - b) setting up a common system of publications at regional level;
    - c) shortening the deadlines for publications drafting, printing and dissemination;
    - d) improving the image of the institution through raising the quality of publications.
  3. Providing technical assistance to producers of official and departmental statistics in view to implement systems of thematic publications, targeted at the needs for monitoring and evaluation of sector policies and programmes.

### **7.7.3 Electronic dissemination**

1. Diversifying and increasing the efficiency, through the assimilation of modern methods and techniques allowing for the direct access to aggregated statistical databases for all users in the country and abroad;
2. Restructuring the INS website so that to ensure that the access to information is faster, easier and more complex.

### **7.7.4 Marketing and statistics communication**

1. Increasing the confidence of statistical data users in the information produced by the INS through the organisation of explanatory thematic workshops with users and particularly with the media representatives;
2. Targeting the production of data and statistical services through the implementation of tools for quick detection of optimal outputs for the users and of the best ways enabling them to enter swiftly into their possession;
3. Improving the dissemination channels by:
  - a) developing the tools for providing users with quick and comprehensive information;
  - b) profiling of users to better targeting their needs;
  - c) improving the access to aggregated databases accessible to the public via Internet;
4. Standardising the content of data and publications, with greater emphasis on a user friendly graphic presentation;
5. Designing search facilities for existing publications and developing the on-line consultation of products;
6. Using the Geographical Information System in publishing statistical data and for the preparation of publications;
7. Closely cooperating with “information multipliers” — specialised media, professional associations, including those of statisticians, non-governmental organisations, academic environment — in view to guide the development of new products and services, to issue joint statistical publications and to reach a positive image of statistics in the society.

### **7.7.5 Public statistical culture**

1. Extending the cooperation with academia for the development of “statistical literacy” for specific groups of users;
2. Enabling the free access to information and knowledge for all the INS staff;
3. Placing the communication with all the stakeholders (either primary statistical data providers or producers of statistics, processors, owners of administrative sources for statistical and data users) in the core of activities aiming at designing, implementing and making operational the data dissemination system, meant to raise the reliability of official statistics;
4. Enhancing the data dissemination process by setting up a proper dissemination architecture comprising components of restructuring and modernisation, streamlining of procedures for the circulation of statistical data (press releases, hard-copy or electronic publications, press conferences) and ensuring the permanent direct contact with media representatives and other stakeholders, including those from scientific research and academic environment;
5. Organising communication sessions and thematic meetings in view to acknowledge and understand official statistics.

## **8 Results of public policies**

The results of public policies conducted in line with strategic objectives and priorities during 2015-2020 will reveal the increased capacity of the National Statistical System, through the implementation of a coherent set of procedures for data use, ensuring at the end of the period a sustainable statistical system. The use of administrative sources, promoted through public policies and cooperation with other ministries and institutions involved in the statistical process will entail high performance in terms of reducing the information providers’ response rate, avoiding duplication of data collection and reducing the costs of statistical information. Targeted towards statistical data users, the results of public policies will entail the expansion and diversification of databases, the enhanced free access, improved metadata and presentation format, as well as the data series content.

## **9 Outputs**

As a result of implementing the actions aimed at achieving the overall objective and specific objectives by efficiently turning into account the available resources, the INS will have a consistent and flexible system of statistical production, able to meet at the highest possible extent the information requirements at national, European and international level, in line with the European Statistics Code of Practice.

## **10 Indicators**

The indicators on the evaluation of the strategy results are to be defined and used under the programmes for monitoring national multiannual and annual statistical programmes.

Monitoring and evaluation indicators will serve the Strategy's goals, particularly envisaging:

- a) Reducing the response burden on data providers by 5% on average annually;
- b) Increasing the coverage of sampling bases to at least 80 %;
- c) Increasing the use of administrative sources for each statistical domain, starting from a reference level of 2014;
- d) The number of press releases disseminated without major errors would be above 98 %;
- e) The number of press releases timely disseminated according to the release calendar would be above 98 %.

Result indicators will follow the lines of action materialised in products/services obtained by implementing of the actions provided for in this strategy.

## 11 Budgetary implications

The budgetary provisions for the period covered by this Strategy include large-scale activities of multi-annual nature, such as the General Agricultural Census (GAC 2020), the Farm Structure Survey (FSS 2016) and the Population and Housing Census (PHC 2020 round).

The annual budgets for 2015-2020 for current statistical surveys and other activities are drawn up and approved according to the rules in force on setting up the State Budget.

### Estimated budget for 2015-2020, to accomplish the INS strategy from the IT perspective

Ref.	Activity	Estimated budget (Euro, VAT included)	Deadline
<b>1</b>	<b>Farm Structure Survey (FSS 2016)</b>	<b>6 700 000</b>	<b>2015 – 2017</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>General Agricultural Census (GAC 2020)<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>12 800 000</b>	<b>2019 – 2020</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Population and Housing Census (PHC 2021)<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>15 000 000</b>	<b>2018 – 2020</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Extending and enhancing the INS IT system</b>		
4.1	Gradual replacement of worn-out equipment with new generation one supporting the latest versions of operating systems software for which technical support is still ensured	2,000,000	2015-2018
4.2	Ensuring the use of a single operating system in the National Statistical System (possibly Windows 8), replacing the Windows XP operating system, for which technical support period has lapsed in April 2014	1,000,000	2015
4.3	Rehabilitation of low-voltage network for electronic communications and IT equipment in the headquarters of the National Institute of Statistics	1,700,000	2015-2016

<sup>7</sup> The total volume of expenditure amounts to EUR 35000 thousand for the period 2019-2022.

<sup>8</sup> The total volume of expenditure is around EUR 50000 thousands for the period 2018-2022.

Ref.	Activity	Estimated budget (Euro, VAT included)	Deadline
4.4	Maintenance and technical support, further improvement of <b>eSOP – web portal for online statistical data collection directly from statistical data providers</b> , increasing the number of users	200,000 (annually)	2015-2020
4.5	Extending the (hardware) capacity for processing and storage of statistical data, using the <b>eSOP – web portal for online statistical data collection</b> , including the extended guarantee for hardware equipment	1,000,000	2016-2017
4.6	Ensuring technical support and maintenance: ORACLE licenses, rental of SAS licenses, annual extension of the contract for anti-virus overall solution under the terms laid down in the framework contract, maintenance of the solution for monitoring the statistical IT infrastructure	400,000 (annually)	2015-2020
4.7	Acquisition of licences for Microsoft Windows 2008 Datacenter covering the licenses for servers on virtual machines – 8 pieces for the 8 virtualisation servers	60,000	2015
4.8	Purchasing backup disks for the storage device Netapp progressively coming out of warranty, hardware support for acceleration equipment	100,000	2015
4.9	Developing and implementing a plan to restore IT services and activities in case of disaster – Disaster Recovery	1,000,000	2017-2018
4.10	Achieving a virtual library (design and purchase of scarce books copying equipment), its integration into the National Digital Library system, coordinated by the National Library of Romania, as part of the European Digital Library;	50,000	2015
4.11	Extending the videoconferencing network at the level of statistical territorial directorates; extending the training topics dedicated to the staff of statistical territorial directorates using videoconferencing network	450,000	2017-2018
4.12	Developing an integrated solution for statistical data entry, validation and processing for household surveys, with the use of portable equipment for recording statistical data and enhanced reporting of statistical data from households based on web solutions, via Internet	5,000,000	2016-2019
4.13	Integrated IT solution (hardware, software) for uploading and processing of statistical data from the Population Register	2,000,000	2016-2017
4.14	Integrated IT system (hardware, software) for the processing of statistical data of the Population and Housing Census, 2020 round	5,000,000	2019-2020

Ref.	Activity	Estimated budget (Euro, VAT included)	Deadline
4.15	Integrated It system (hardware, software) for the processing of statistical data of the General Agricultural Census, 2020 round	4,000,000	2018-2019
4.16	Maintenance and technical support for eDemos	200,000 (annually)	2015-2020
	<b>TOTAL IT budget, 2015-2020</b>	<b>27,360,000</b>	

## 12 Legal implications

At the time of drafting this Strategy, the following actions are envisaged to amend the existing official statistics legal framework or for developing and promoting for approval new legislation, respectively:

1. revising Law no. 226/2009, with subsequent amendments, in order to adapt it to Regulation (EU) No 759/2015 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2015 amending Regulation (EC) N° 223/2009 on European statistics;
2. amending Government Decision No 957/2005, republished, as amended, in line with the amendments to Law No 226/2009, as amended;
3. amending Law No 422/2006 on the organisation and operation of the statistical system of international trade in goods, following the implementation of the new legal framework for European business statistics.

## 13 Monitoring and evaluation procedures

The 2015-2020 Strategy and the multi-annual programme for the same period are transposed in line with the practice of EU Member States defined by the European Union's overall policies in annual statistical programmes which take over and detail objectives and actions foreseen, providing them with the necessary monitoring framework: stages, deadlines, responsibilities, resources and means and evaluation of results through annual reports. At the same time, one of the most important elements of statistical work, i.e. quality in statistics and quality management in statistics will be ensured through the measures taken by the EU based on background documents and decisions of the Commission (Eurostat) and by taking over and implementing the joint actions by the National Statistical System, respectively by the National Institute of Statistics.

## 14 Further steps and responsible institutions

The implementation of the Strategy is reflected in the multiannual statistical programmes and national annual statistical programmes which will include concrete delivery of actions and the essential elements contributing to definition of tasks, activities, results, inputs, interoperability between relevant institutions and between the INS compartments, deadlines, responsibilities and manner of implementation, as well as the time horizon in which a number of actions — in particular



the General Agricultural Census 2020 and the Population and Housing Census round 2020 — will continue beyond 2020.

Besides the INS, as coordinator of the National Statistical System, the implementation of the Strategy requires the participation of ministries and other central government bodies provided for in the EU as “other producers of official statistics”<sup>9</sup>, as well as of those contributing to the completion of statistical programmes based on the protocols and agreements concluded with the INS and in accordance with national annual statistical programmes endorsed by the National Statistical Council and approved annually by Government Decision.