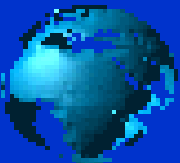


The Challenges of the Romanian Statistical System Development

Authors: **Gabriela POPA**, director, Public Policies Unit
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and Environment Statistics Department



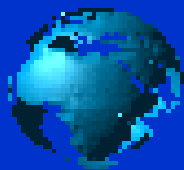
Mission and Vision of the National Institute of Statistics (NIS)

Mission:

- to satisfy the information needs of all users of official statistics, through the production of reliable statistical data, provided on impartial and non-discriminatory basis for supporting decisions on the country's economic and social development

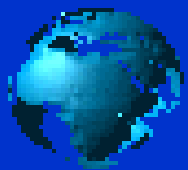
Vision:

- at the end of 2020, the National Statistical System (NSS) will function as an integrated, coordinated, efficient and innovative structure, fully aligned with the European acquis in statistics and the European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP)



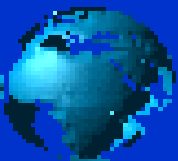
Legal framework

- Statistical law no. 226/2009, on the organization and functioning of official statistics in Romania
- based on the Regulation (EC) no. 223/2009 and on the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
- reflect the principles stipulated in the European Statistic Code of Practice
- NIS is preparing for amending the statistical law, mainly to reflect the amendments to Regulation (EC) no. 223/2009 and to be fully in accordance with the Cop



Structure of the National Institute of Statistics

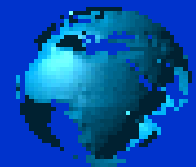
- specialized body of central government
- subordinated to the General Secretariat of the Government
- headed by a President acting as secretary of state, assisted by three Vice-Presidents, appointed by Decision of the Prime Minister
- has 42 territorial offices around the country corresponding to Romania's territorial structure (8 regional offices and 34 county offices)



Co-ordination and functioning of the National Statistical System

National Institute of Statistics:

- main producer of official statistical data of the country
- coordinates the statistical activities of NSS
- plays the role of the single contact point for statistical matters for EU bodies
- NIS (member of the ESS) and the National Bank of Romania (member of the European System of Central Banks) co-operate and co-ordinate their activities in order to increase efficiency, to reduce the response burden, to improve the quality of statistical data and disseminate them at national and international level



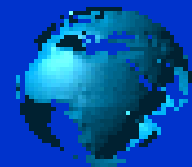
Advisory bodies

National Statistical Council (NSC)

- the highest forum -promote and develop official statistical activity at the national level
- made up of representatives of the main data providers, producers and users of official statistics
- ensure objective, transparent and scientific methodologies, indicators, nomenclatures and classifications
- members of the NSC may also be involved in different NIS activities, in particular in the Methodological Endorsement Committee (MEC) and in working groups within the MEC framework

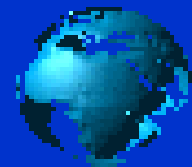
Committee of the National Statistical System (COMSTAT)

- consulting body made up of representatives of official statistics producers, belonging to the NSS, which collect statistical data, process and disseminate official statistics.
- the main role - to support the NIS in the coordination process of the NSS



Strengths of the NIS

- a comprehensive statistical law
- 2 cooperation and coordination operational bodies within the NSS and the NIS (NSC and COMSTAT)
- official statistics in Romania are implemented in accordance with the annual statistical programme corresponding with Eurostat Annual Work Programme
- enjoys full professional independence, autonomy, integrity, impartiality
- a well trusted body
- an excellent openness to users and good communications with media
- good working relations with the academic community
- runs an extensive dissemination programme
- uses modern facilities for data collection from businesses statistics (web portal)

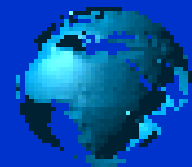


Challenges of the National Institute of Statistics

1. Legal framework

To amend the statistical law no. 226/2009 with the following provisions:

- to strengthen the authority of the National Institute of Statistics and other national institutes
- obligations for holders of administrative records and registers used for statistical purposes, to inform and consult the institute on planned changes to registers and on the design and specific methods
- to strengthen the operational effectiveness of the National Statistical Council



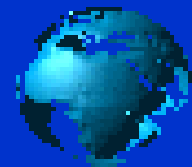
Challenges

2. Coordination of the official statistical system

- review the division of labor with the other producers of official statistics
- strengthen its efforts as a coordinator and provider of technical assistance to other authorities, considered as producers of official statistics

3. Use of administrative data for statistical purposes

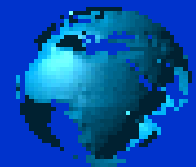
- strengthen the authority of the NIS to access and use microdata from administrative registers and records
- match and link data from different sources based on ID numbers while fully respecting obligations of confidentiality and protection of individual data
- make mandatory for holders of administrative records and registers to inform and consult the NIS on planned changes to registers and on the design and specifications of registers in order to make them more suitable for statistical usage



Challenges

4. Organisation and process management

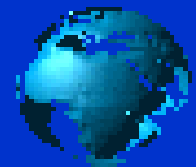
- to continue to modernize data collection by extending online data collection to new surveys and by using new technology and tools for household surveys
- to review to what extent there is a need to plan and use more standardized methods and tools for data processing, especially for data control, editing and imputation
- to gradually implement the Generic Statistical Business Process Model in order to improve process management, standardization, documentation and efficiency
- to adapt the organizational setup and competences in order to support the implementation of the Generic Statistical Business Process Model and improve the workflow within the organization



Challenges

5. Quality management

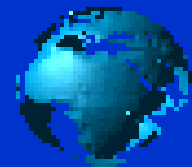
- design a plan for developing and implementing quality management with clear priorities and a timetable for the key tasks related to the possible adoption of a quality framework, quality documentation, quality reviews and reporting
- review training programme with a focus on quality issues - targeted at all staff needs, including territorial offices
- implement quality reviews and quality audits, utilizing the experience of other countries, through pilot projects



Challenges

6. User engagement

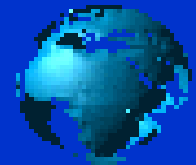
- strengthen the operational effectiveness of the National Statistical Council, including securing sufficient resources and appropriate appointments to meet its objectives
- increase activities to raise statistical awareness and ensure more widespread use of official statistics within public administration and among decision makers at local, regional and national level
- develop the capacity to provide customized data analysis, on a charging basis, and publish the details of the analysis



Challenges

7. Dissemination

- the release calendar covering official statistics produced by the NIS should include the exact time and date of all statistical releases, be flexible and searchable by theme and be regularly updated during the year
- to extend the release calendar to cover all official statistics produced by other national authorities
- to make a clear distinction between the processes for correction of errors in statistics that have already been published and planned revisions due to other reasons, preferably in two separate policies that are published on the website
- to release within Romania all statistics supplied directly to Eurostat
- to develop a programme to promote and facilitate safe access to microdata, improve the current arrangements for access to microdata and establish a safe center



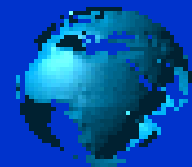
Challenges

8. Implementation of the sustainable development indicators within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Towards 2030 - No one left behind

The revolution of data - A world that matters

- Keys recommendations
- Keys principles
- Data we need:
 - Data for all
 - Data for now
 - Data for future
- Why we need data?
 - Unused or unusable data
 - Poor quality data



Challenges

Monitoring process: NIS – coordinator role

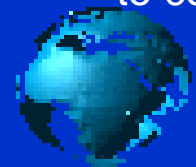
- 17 sustainable development objectives
- 169 goals
- 229 indicators
- standardized data and metadata
- indicators elaborated at national level

In progress – August 2016

- to establish the reporting mechanism
- standards should be agreed internationally and should be respected at national level
- finalizing metadata for indicators
- to establish the reporting date

Our challenges:

- to review the national Strategy for sustainable development – Horizons 2013-2020-2030
- to define the objective and goals
- to establish the monitoring indicators
- to collect and transmit data



Challenges

9. Big Data

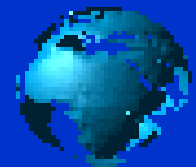
- ESSNet pilot project at European level
- Duration – 18 months
- Consortium: 20 national institutes of statistics and 2 authorities in the statistical fields

- NIS is engaged in the WP 5 – the use of mobile phone data for calculation the population statistics. Based on those data, it can be calculated statistics on: population density, population density by day/week period, population mobility, tourism;

Issues to be solved: - legal framework regarding the data access, data representativeness, technology used (hardware / software)

Implemented objectives at present:

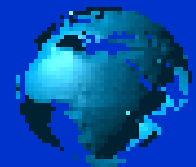
- letters sent to the most important providers of mobile phones services
- a meeting with the representatives of a mobile phone company with discussion on:
 - investigating the legal framework regarding the use of mobile phone data for statistical purposes
 - the benefits of the company being part of the such project
 - the concrete approach in carrying out the project
 - data will be provided to NIS for processing – does the necessary technology exist? Or data will be processed directly by the company in cooperation with the NIS experts?



Challenges

10. Setting up the new *Innovative statistical tools Department within NIS*

- will implement the new and innovative statistical tools to be used with the aim to integrate new alternative data sources and methodologies in the statistical production process, based on advanced econometric modeling and statistical data analyzing in order to compile statistical indicators
- will assure the support for developing the National Statistical System
- will harmonize with the academic environment and research institutes in the field, in order to achieve the latest official statistics knowledge in collecting and processing data for producing relevant statistical indicators





THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

