

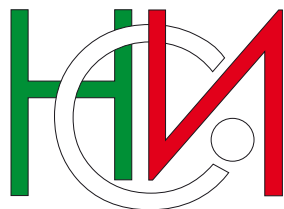
REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA  
NATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE



# STRATEGY

FOR DEVELOPMENT  
OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA  
2008 - 2012

REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA  
NATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE



## STRATEGY

for Development  
of the National Statistical System  
of the Republic of Bulgaria,  
2008 – 2012

SOFIA, 2008



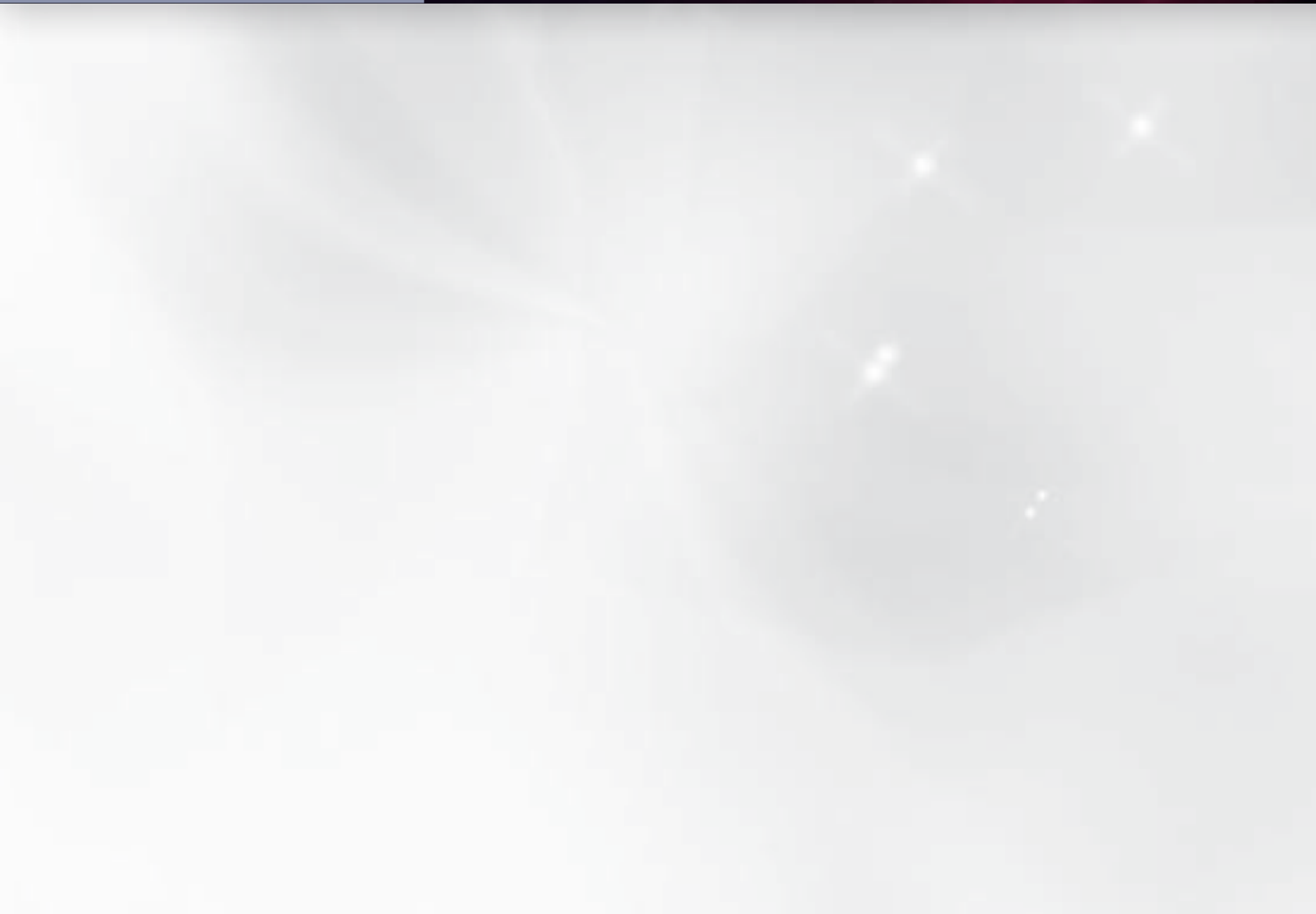
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PREFACE



The National Statistical System (NSS) carries out activities related to collecting, processing, analyzing and storing of statistical data, as well as provision and dissemination of official statistical information in the country. Its mission is to provide objective, timely and accurate information about the state and directions for development of the economic, social, demographic and environmental fields. In the preface to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, adopted by the UN Statistical Commission, it is stated that “Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society”.

The National Statistical Institute (NSI) plays the leading methodological and coordinating role in the NSS. The NSS includes also other Bodies of Statistics (specified in Art. 2, para 3 of the Law on Statistics) – the respective structural units within ministries, institutions and other central and territorial bodies of the executive power, which carry out statistical activity.

The Strategy for Development of the National Statistical System, 2008–2012 is elaborated in pursuance of Art. 7, para 1, p. 3 of the Law on Statistics. It is a main document, which outlines the vision, the objective and priorities of development of NSS up to 2012 by building up on the Strategy for Development of Statistics for the 2000–2006 period and further proceeding with the work under the conditions of Bulgaria’s full EU membership. The Strategy outlines also the concrete directions for development of the different fields of statistics, as well as the tasks related to the speeded implementation of contemporary information and communication technologies in the production and dissemination of statistical information.

The Strategy is elaborated on the basis of an analysis of the state-of-art, the directions for development and the problems of NSS. Characteristics of the environment, in which NSS functions as an element of the European Statistical System, are taken into account.

The Strategy is elaborated in compliance with the legal basis of statistics. The priorities set out in the national strategic documents, which directly or indirectly affect the contents and coverage of activities conducted by NSS are also considered, in particular: the National Strategic Reference Framework; the Operational Programme “Human Resources Development: 2007–2013”; the National Strategy for Regional Development of the Republic of Bulgaria for the 2005–2015 period; the National Strategy for Demographic Development of the Republic of Bulgaria, 2006–2020; the National Strategy for Environment, 2005–2014; the Innovation Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria and Measures for its Implementation, 2005–2013; the Strategy for E-government; the Strategy for Development of Information Society in the Republic of Bulgaria; the National Strategy for Continuing Vocational Training for the 2005–2010 period.

The objective and priorities of development laid down in the Strategy give an answer to the new challenges facing the Bulgarian statistics: increasing demand of statistical information and emerging new information needs; necessity of speeded implementation of new information and communication technologies in the field of production and dissemination of statistical information; increased requirements to the quality of the provided information in combination with a reduction of response burden.

The Strategy for Development of the National Statistical System, 2008–2013 reflects and further develops in national aspect the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice and the priorities of the Community Statistical Programme 2008 to 2012.

The Strategy is put into practice through the annual National Programmes for Statistical Surveys (NPSS) and annual Operational plans for its implementation. The NPSS, the Operational Plans and the Reports for their implementation are produced by NSI, discussed and adopted by the National Statistical Council and approved by the Council of Ministers.

The Strategy is an open document and its contents could be updated in answer to the emerging new necessities and tasks. The Strategy serves also as a basis on which policies and tasks concerning different fields of statistics are built up.

Key prerequisites for the successful implementation of the Strategy are active participation and strengthening the coordination between NSI and all remaining bodies of NSS, increasing the action effectiveness and improving the NSS legal framework and functional environment.

The Strategy contains **four** main parts:

**Part I** contains an analysis of the state-of-art, the directions and functional environment of NSS development. On this basis the main challenges, outlining the directions for development of the Bulgarian statistics up to 2012, are given.

**Part II** presents the vision, principles and priorities of development of the National Statistical System for the 2008–2012 period.

**Part III** of the Strategy contains concrete tasks and activities to be undertaken in achieving the NSS objectives and priorities of development for the 2008–2012 period.

**Part IV** is devoted to the resources of the Strategy and the mechanisms for monitoring and control on meeting the priorities and tasks laid down in the Strategy.







PART I

STATE-OF-ART AND CHALLENGES  
TO DEVELOPMENT  
OF THE NATIONAL  
STATISTICAL SYSTEM

## 1.1. LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

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The statistical activity of the country is regulated by the Law on Statistics (promulgated, State Gazette, 1999) and a considerable number of EC Regulations in the field of statistics.

The NSS carries out statistical activities of the state by conducting periodic and single statistical surveys included in the National Programme for Statistical Surveys and/ or other surveys, financed by separate Bodies of Statistics. The statistical surveys cover all areas of the public life, which could be observed by using statistical methods. The concrete scope of the statistical surveys is defined according to their necessity and usefulness for society. The surveys conducted by NSS comply with the contents, methodology, periodicity and publication deadlines, set out for ESS by Eurostat. Annually NSS conducts statistical surveys on obligations to EU, financed through grants from Eurostat and other EC authorities. When financing the surveys from the respective grants the principles of co-financing and pre-financing from the State Budget are applied.

The leading methodological and coordinating role is rendered by the National Statistical Institute. It has a status of a state agency with Head Office and 28 Statistical Offices located in the district centers. The NSS includes also 14 Bodies of Statistics – structural units within ministries, institutions and other central and territorial bodies of the executive power, which carry out statistical activity. A detailed list of the Bodies of Statistics, which set up NSS, is given in Attachment 1.

The National Statistical Council and the High Statistical Council are attached to NSI President and function by law. The first is a body responsible for drafting and implementing the NPSS. It consists of representatives of all Bodies of Statistics appointed by Order of the Prime Minister based on a proposal made by the respective institutions. The High Statistical Council is a consultative body, which gives opinions and recommendations on the NSI plan for statistical surveys, on drafts of legal acts in the field of statistics, national statistical standards, classifications, nomenclatures and methods. It consists of representatives of different groups of users of statistical information in the country: the government, the business, the academic society, non-government organizations and the mass media.

The legal framework, existing at the moment, creates prerequisites for political independence and impartiality in carrying out NSS activity. At the same time an amendment of the Law on Statistics – the main legal document, regulating the statistical activity of the country – is needed. Changes are indispensable for meeting the obligations on data provision, imposed by Bulgaria's EU membership; for absorption of the European funds in the field of statistics (Grants on EC surveys); for observing the European Regulations and policies on protection of the statistical confidentiality and improvement of quality statistical information.

The analysis of the NSS state-of-art outlines the necessity to strengthen the coordination between NSI and other bodies of official statistics and for more effective functioning of the National and High Statistical Councils when making decisions, related to NSS development. **Both improvement of the legal framework and coordination within NSS will contribute to the adequate and effective functioning of NSS as an element of ESS in observing the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice.**

## 1.2. STATISTICAL SURVEYS AND ACTIVITIES

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During the 2000–2006 period a significant part of the efforts were directed to harmonization of the national statistics with the European one in the field of legislation and methodologies used in statistical surveys. The number of statistical surveys, included in NPSS shows a clear annual upward tendency. This refers both to the surveys, conducted by NSI and to the surveys conducted by other Bodies of Statistics. Main reason for increasing the volume of NSS statistical activities are the obligations on data provision imposed by Bulgaria's EU membership.

Regardless of the significant progress achieved in improving the methodology and production of statistical information and its compliance with the European and international standards, NSS is facing serious challenges, the meeting of which is a condition for the successful accomplishment of the mission of official statistics. The highlights are as follows:

- provision of the statistical tools (forms, instructions, methodologies and methodological guidelines) to the respondents, mainly on paper;
- limited application of contemporary information and communication technologies in production as well as in storage and dissemination of statistical information;
- lack of a methodological unit at NSI to provide uniformity and standard of applied methodologies (e.g. in the design and organization of sample surveys) and to create prerequisites for developing and mastering the most recent achievements of the statistical science and practice;
- insufficient coordination and interaction between NSI and the Bodies of Statistics;
- disunion of statistical data, stored in separate and isolated databases, which hamper the process of their storage and adequate use for production of statistical information;
- ineffective and often formal functioning and duplicating the work of the National and High Statistical Councils.

A small part of approximately 400 administrative registers, created and maintained by the state administration on the basis of a legal or administrative act, are used by NSI as a source of statistical data.

Not using administrative sources for production of statistical information is due to:

- unsettled institutional interrelations concerning the mode and forms of access to the administrative registers data, necessary for production of statistical information;
- changes in the coverage and contents of the registers, as well as structural changes in the state institutions, that create and maintain these registers;
- incomplete information in some registers, related to licensing and permission regimes – they do not contain other information than identification data;
- inappropriateness of the information for statistical purposes – incompleteness of the scope and contents; insurmountable differences in the definitions of the administrative data and the respective statistical indicators or the lack of basic identifier that enables matching data from different sources to be made;
- untimely data provision from the administrative sources in relation to the deadlines for production and dissemination of statistical information, regulated by EC (mainly for the purposes of the short-term statistics).

Due to the above-mentioned reasons the administrative data are used mainly for setting up the framework of the statistical survey, having control over the included units, further estimating and verifying the statistical data. Still they are not used directly for production of statistical information. **Main challenge to NSS in the coming five years is the amendments of the legislation framework, which should regulate the mode and forms of access to the administrative registers data, necessary for the production of statistical information.**

### 1.3 NSS RESOURCES

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The analysis of the state of NSS human resources shows that competent and educated experts work in the system. A large part of them are employees with many years of service and valuable practical experience, gained in concrete statistical fields. At the same time, during the last ten years negative tendencies are noticed, such as ageing and rising turnover of the staff. At NSI Head Office, for instance, the share of employees aged 50 and over is 43%. One of the basic reasons for the observed disturbing tendencies is the low wage, especially for those working at NSI – as of the present moment, the average basic salary within NSI system is 500 BGN, while at NSI Head Office – 617 BGN. Within the overall NSS there is no time reporting system, concerning labour input in a concrete statistical survey or activity, as well as a system for incentives and a policy for career development of statisticians.

**An overall strategy for development of NSS human resources is necessary to be worked out, bearing in mind the state and the problems, related to human resources during the 2008–2012 period.**

The state of the necessary equipment is unsatisfactory at NSI and mainly at the Regional Statistical Offices (RSOs). The equipment is from the 70-ies, and most of the Statistical Offices' premises have not been repaired for 10–15 years. It is necessary to improve labour conditions immediately.

## 1.4 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

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### INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

All Bodies of the National Statistical System have their own information environment and maintain own web-sites. The institutions are connected on central level through the network of the state administration and on local level through corporative or local networks. At this stage it is necessary to continue making efforts to provide operational compatibility in terms of technical, semantic and organizational aspects. This process is supported by measures on creation of an e-government environment.

The NSI has a built-up corporative network, which connects the NSI Head Office and RSOs. The network is built on the basis of the optical environment, provided by the Ministry of State Administration and Administrative Reform (for 14 RSOs) and BTK rented lines (for 14 RSOs). The capacity of the rented lines is insufficient and the use of centralized data is very limited at this stage.

A computing center has been established at NSI Head Office, in which servers that ensure centralized services (e-mail, fire wall, Intranet and Internet) are installed, as well as servers that maintain the basic registers and information systems. A center for storing classified data and a specialized network for access to classified information were also established. Information about the basic registers and databases is archived, but only the necessary minimum has been achieved in the case of reservation of the systems and the information respectively. A significant part of the information resources are allocated on different personal computers and are not centrally archived.

The personal computers are basic means for information processing. All employees at NSI Head Office and a good part of the Bodies of Statistics have personal computers at their disposal. Still the number of computers at NSI regional offices is insufficient. Only 70% of the employees have personal computers at their working place. Fifty per cent (50%) of the available computers are technologically outdated and cannot be used in work with contemporary operational systems and software.

The development of IT environment requires consecutive centralization and consolidation of information resources.

## INFORMATION SYSTEMS

In 2005, a Report on the State of the Statistical Information System and Applied Information Technologies at NSI was prepared with the assistance of foreign and local experts within the National Phare Programme 2000. Following the conclusions and recommendations of the Report, the NSI Top management took a decision to develop an Integrated Statistical Information System (ISIS) on the basis of contemporary achievements of information technologies, by observing the recommendations of Eurostat Regulations on the statistical information systems.

Four information systems are being developed by funds from Phare Project BG00.06.04, i.e:

- register of the statistical units;
- statistical classifications;
- demography;
- planning and design of the statistical survey.

The applications of these systems are being developed with modern information technologies by observing the architecture and functional components of the statistical information system (SIS), according to Standard 51, recommended by UNECE. Two systems are under development – “Intrastat” system, which will update the activities in the field of foreign trade statistics and “Data Collecting and Primary Data Editing” system.

Irrespective of the availability of the described information systems, the state of NSI hardware and software is far from the requirements for developing a modern statistical system. More important are the following problems:

In the first place, only a part of the information systems have centralized databases. In practice, the individual data and the statistical information about most of the surveys are outside the computing center. In this way preconditions are being created for suspicions whether NSI can protect the statistical confidentiality and about the reliability of data storage.

Second, irrespective of the availability of modern hardware and the described software, it is necessary to increase the effectiveness of their use. The new equipment is not in line with the outdated software. Still, a part of the processing is done under DOS.

Third, the licensed specific software for statistical processing, for instance SPSS, SAS, etc. is inadequate. Besides, a limited number of statisticians could use in full the opportunities of these applied packages of statistical programmes.

Fourth, a limited number of computers have Internet connection in most of the Statistical Offices, due to insufficient resources for carrying out the policy on protection of the information environment and the limited possibilities of the computer network.

Fifth, the Internet speed used at NSI Head Office is not enough for implementing the current tasks related to work with EC (Eurostat) on-line data bases.

The analysis of the state of the available information technologies and software necessitates the draw of the following conclusion: it is necessary to update the Strategy for Development of ISIS and the IT Strategy and to undertake their speeded implementation in the production and dissemination of statistical information within NSS.



PART II

VISION, PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES  
OF DEVELOPMENT  
OF THE NATIONAL  
STATISTICAL SYSTEM



## 2.1. VISION AND MAIN DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE

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The NSS development for the 2008–2012 period is founded on the vision, that NSS is a system, which produces and disseminates objective, timely and accurate statistical information by using in full the possibilities of contemporary information and communication technologies and observing the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

**The main objective** of NSS development during the 2008–2012 period is to improve the development, production and dissemination of statistical information about all user groups by improving the institutional capacity of the system and speeded implementation of contemporary information and communication technologies under the conditions of Bulgaria's full EU membership

The official statistical information – product of NSS – is intended for analyses and scientific studies, planning, prognosis and taking managerial decisions on micro and macro level. The statistical information products and services are directed to the:

- bodies of state administration and local authorities;
- business and non-government organizations;
- scientific and academic society;
- mass media;
- EC, UN, IMF and other international organizations;
- individual citizens.

The vision of NSS development implies observance of the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the principles laid down in the European Statistics Code of Practice. The following **principles** play a leading role in the system's activity for the 2008–2012 period:

- political independence and impartiality of statistical activities;
- active collaboration and cooperation within NSS and with the statistical systems of other European countries;
- high professional knowledge;
- high quality of provided information products and services;
- respect for respondents.

## 2.2. BASIC GOALS:

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The main objective of NSS development for the 2008–2012 period implies achievement of the following basic goals:

- developing the methodology, extending the contents of the existing statistical surveys and introducing new surveys and indicators in conformity with users' needs and priorities of the Community Statistical Programme, 2008–2012;
- improving the production, dissemination and storage of statistical information;
- improving NSS environment, information infrastructure and resources.

The information needs undergo constant changes. The statistical science regularly develops the methodology of statistical surveys. Everyday information and communication technologies provide new opportunities for speeding up and making easier the processing and analysis of statistical data. All this necessitates constant extension of the contents of the existing statistical

## PART II: VISION, PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

surveys and implementation of new surveys and indicators in conformity with users' needs. During the 2008–2012 period, the Bulgarian statistics, being a full ESS member, will fulfill the engagements stemming from the Community Statistical Programme, 2008–2012 and the newly adopted EC Regulations relevant to conducting pilot statistical surveys within the Community and improving the statistical methodology in concrete thematic fields.

Production of statistical information is impossible without the timely and quality provision of primary data from the business, households and citizens. From the view point of society, an effective NSS is the system, which produces useful and important information about management on micro and macro level at the lowest costs possible. Crucial condition for the successful dissemination of statistical information is its provision in a form easy to interpret and convenient to access. Under the present-day conditions of utmost importance attached to the information about management and everyday life, NSI is also facing the necessity of providing additional statistical products and services, differentiated by user groups. All this puts in the foreground of NSS development the objective for the improvement of all stages of production of statistical information – from the methods, forms and organization of primary data collection, through the methods of data processing and data storage, and compilation of concrete statistical indicators up to the contents, coverage and ways of dissemination of produced statistical products and services.

The NSS sustainable development is impossible without an appropriate legal framework and functional environment. Since 2007, NSS has been working under the conditions of full EU membership of the country. With regard to this, extending the cooperation with Eurostat and the national statistical systems of the remaining Member States is a crucial condition for full integration of the national statistics within ESS. Well-trained and motivated human resources are the key factor of carrying out the NSS mission and achieving the main development objective, laid down in the Strategy for the 2008–2012 period. An integral part of the development of human resources and improvement of the system's effectiveness is the issue of reconsidering the functions within NSI Head Office and RSOs units and thus reorganize the structure of staff in compliance with the new priorities and objective realities of the development of official statistics. Last but not least is the provision of an appropriate information infrastructure needed for the production and dissemination of statistical information.

The main objectives of NSS development, formulated in this way, are predetermined by the following:

- users' needs;
- priorities of the Community Statistical Programme, 2008–2012;
- importance of the results of statistical surveys for development, application and monitoring of different policies;
- degree of response burden;
- expenditure for conducting surveys.

### 2.3. PRIORITIES

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Priorities of NSS development, important for implementation of the basic goals for the 2008–2012 period, are as follows:

- reduction of response burden on reporting units;
- improvement of statistical information quality;
- improvement of statistical information storage and dissemination;
- speeded implementation of new ICT and integration of IT activities within NSS;
- development of human resources and improvement of labour conditions;
- development of European partnership and international cooperation;
- achievement of more effective interaction and coordination within NSS;
- promotion of confidence in official statistics.

Beside the mentioned general priorities, NSS has specific priorities of development relevant to elaborating the methodology, extending the contents of the existing statistical surveys and implementing new surveys and indicators in each thematic field:

- demographic and social statistics;
- macroeconomic statistics;
- business statistics;
- agriculture, forestry and fishery statistics;
- multi-domain and regional statistics.



PART III

TASKS AND ACTIVITIES  
BY PRIORITIES

### 3.1. REDUCTION OF RESPONSE BURDEN

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The response burden is related to the obligations of profit and non-profit organizations, households and citizens to provide primary data to NSS. Reduction of response burden will be achieved mainly by:

- wider use of administrative data sources (administrative registers and information systems of other institutions);
- improving efficiency of statistical tools.

The use of administrative sources for statistical purposes is directly related not only to reduction of response burden of business and the citizens but also to reduction of the costs of statistical data collection. Combining statistical and administrative data provides additional possibilities for compiling different statistical indicators and for obtaining detailed information on regional level.

#### 3.1.1. TASKS AND ACTIVITIES SET TO REDUCE RESPONSE BURDEN BY WIDER USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SOURCES:

- amendments of the Law on Statistics, which should regulate the access to individual data of NSI and the Bodies of Statistics in all administrative registers, when it is necessary for development and production of statistical information;
- development of means for coordination of activities on building-up, maintaining and using administrative sources for statistical purposes within NSS;
- development of means for NSI conducting continuous monitoring of used methodologies and changes of the national registers and information systems and for estimating the possibilities of using data derived from them for statistical purposes;
- usage of administrative data sources for production of concrete statistical indicators at NSI;
- continuation of activities on improving and updating the Statistical Business Register, which is a basic instrument of combining information about economic agents from different administrative sources;
- usage of administrative data sources for improvement of the methodology of statistical surveys, conducted by NSS;
- creation of an appropriate infrastructure for using administrative sources for statistical purposes, in which basic component is the physically “protected environment” of these administrative data, object of tax and other kind of secrecy;
- implementation of contemporary information and communication technologies for data exchange between NSI, the Bodies of Statistics and the institutions maintaining administrative sources.

### 3.1.2. TASKS AND ACTIVITIES SET TO REDUCE RESPONSE BURDEN BY IMPROVING EFFICIENCY OF STATISTICAL TOOLS:

- optimization of the size and structure of samples, so as to provide a minimum number of participation of respondents in statistical surveys within the calendar year;
- examination of the contents of forms and questionnaires of the existing statistical surveys with a view to remove surveys or separate components, which no longer ensure information resources significant for society or management;
- wider use of electronic forms for statistical surveys;
- simplification of questionnaires and forms for primary data collection with the aim to save time and minimize incompleteness and errors in filling them;
- provision of conditions for strict application of statistical classifications and nomenclatures in production of statistical information by all Bodies of Statistics within NSS;
- optimization of the ratio between different forms of primary data collection – by telephone, personal interview, filling-in printed or electronic form /questionnaire;
- combination of data from different statistical surveys in production of concrete statistical indicators;
- studying the possibilities for consolidating the statistical surveys of households;
- examination of the terms of provision of business data with the aim to optimize them and the search of possibilities for complying statistics with the general system of accounting, financial and tax reporting in the country.

The activities on reduction of response burden will be carried out under constant estimation of the degree of response burden of different user groups and the findings of regular surveys on difficulties the respondents find when filling-in inquiries and questionnaires.

### 3.2. IMPROVEMENT OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION QUALITY

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Quality assessment of statistical information is one of the priority directions for ESS development. Quality measuring within NSS is based on criteria for statistical information quality set by Eurostat, namely:

- **relevance** – meaning the degree, to which statistical information meets current and potential needs of users on national and international level;
- **reliability** – meaning that statistical information must measure accurately the material world;
- **timeliness** – meaning the time lag between the critical moment of the survey and the date of providing statistical information to users;
- **punctuality** – meaning the strict observance of the date, announced in advance, on which the statistical information should be published;
- **accessibility** – meaning that the statistical information must be objective and provided in a way easy to interpret;
- **accessibility of the methodology to users** – meaning that each published statistical information is accompanied by explanatory notes concerning the methodology of surveys and the possible statistical errors;
- **comparability** – refers to provision of comparable data within timing and spatial limits on national and international level;
- **coherence** – refers to combination of statistical information from different sources in order to form a full picture of the studied reality.

The statistical information is of quality when it satisfies all quality criteria, above-mentioned. Hence, quality improvement is a process which requires constant work on each of the criteria. At the same time it is necessary to stress that quality improvement of the statistical information, produced by NSS, is to be put into practice by looking for the lowest possible costs and reporting on response burden.

**The concrete tasks and activities on quality improvement of statistical information cover the following:**

- implementation of standard quality assessment reports of statistical products, services and processes in the production of statistical information;
- creation of mechanisms for monitoring, control and management of quality;
- implementation of external methodological audits on quality of statistical products;
- implementation of the best practices in the field of statistical surveys and quality management of statistical products and services;
- training the staff of NSI and the Bodies of Statistics in applying the methods and standard quality reports of statistical products, services and activities;
- introduction of a system for annual self-assessment of quality, based on the model of the European Foundation of Quality Management.

### 3.3. IMPROVEMENT OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION STORAGE AND DISSEMINATION

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Dissemination of statistical information is a main NSS activity, which is based on the principles of:

- equal access of all users to supplied information products and services;
- objectivity and impartiality of disseminated information;
- timeliness and punctuality in provision of information;
- protection of statistical confidentiality;
- accessibility and clarity of information;
- provision of the possible biggest number of free-of-charge standard publications and services;
- maintenance of constant contact with users;
- increase of the number of publications in English.

**The concrete tasks and activities on dissemination of statistical information cover the following:**

- development of an overall strategy for dissemination of statistical information;
- development of common corporative design of NSI information products and service, including products and services disseminated by the statistical offices on regional level;
- conducting regular studies and analysis on users' demand of new information products and services;
- enrichment of the contents and improvement of the design and structure of NSI web-site;
- widening the list of indicators, data on which are provided through electronic subscription;
- publishing the Regional Statistical Offices heading on NSI web-site;
- continuation and maintenance of the good traditions in NSI publishing activity and creation of new and up-to-date issues oriented towards the users of different user groups;
- widening the set of specialized statistical products and services, provided to users from the country and abroad;
- shortening the time limit when implementing the information orders by users from the country and abroad, concerning specific statistical products and services not included in the list of standard statistical indicators;
- widening the list of standard statistical indicators on regional level, provided by the bodies of local self-management;
- provision of anonymized micro data for scientific purposes in compliance with the legislation of EC and the Republic of Bulgaria;
- improvement of users' service at NSI library;
- making active the links with mass media;
- strengthening the role of the Regional Statistical Offices as integral part of the system for dissemination of statistical information within NSS on regional level.



The storage of statistical data and protection of statistical confidentiality is a priority task for statistics within EU. The concrete tasks along this line include the following:

- increased requirements to protection of statistical confidentiality duly reflected in the legal framework;
- establishment of a unified system for reliable archiving and storage of the state statistical information resources;
- updating the NSI Nomenclature of documents, dated back to 1996.

### 3.4. SPEEDED IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW ICT AND INTEGRATION OF IT ACTIVITIES WITHIN NSS

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The analysis of the state of the available information techniques and software and the dynamics of processes along this line require the following:

- updating the Strategy for Development of an Integrated Statistical Information System and the IT Strategy in compliance with the changes set out in the communications, servers, basic software, personal computers and other technical means, as well as in reporting the peculiarities of production and dissemination of statistical information within the entire NSS;
- reconsidering the terms, stages and the overall policy of integration of the available information systems and development of new technological and software decisions aiming at quick and effective integrated information servicing of activities relevant to the development, production and dissemination of statistical information at NSI;
- development of a project, ensuring additional information resources needed for the implementation of servers' service, and their backup and setting of server configuration, which carries out standard centralized server services;
- replacing the outdated workstations, which do not satisfy the contemporary criteria and gradually making them equal as configuration, possibilities, operating system and applied software at NSI without disturbing the activity relevant to the development, production and dissemination of statistical information;
- development of a communication infrastructure and usage of the information environment for e-government;
- development of a system and environment for data and documents on regional level.

### 3.5. DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENT OF LABOUR CONDITIONS

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Accomplishment of the mission of the Bulgarian statistics to produce and disseminate impartial, timely and accurate information about the state and the directions for development of the economy, the social sphere, demography and environment requires staff that is well-trained and constantly improving its competencies. The analysis of the state of NSS human resources defines clearly the necessity of improving staff management and turning the development of human resources and labour conditions into priority for the 2008–2012 period. The following tasks and activities are expected in particular:

- elaborating NSI strategy for development of human resources, which includes three basic components: selection and career development of staff, continuous training and a system for reward and incentive bonus;
- introducing a system for time reporting and labour costs and placing it at the base of NPSS budget planning;
- ensuring continuous training of staff in order to improve its qualification in basic fields of statistics, information communication technologies, dissemination of information and foreign language proficiency;
- improving efficiency of the organization and management structure of NSI Head Office and SOs, in conformity with the nature and volume of concrete activities, aiming at more effective interaction between the components of the system and the development of communications;
- improving the work conditions by renovating the working premises, new furniture, gradual introduction of new information communication technologies;
- completion and full use of Intranet system aiming at better informed staff and coordination within the system;
- developing a staff programme in medium term prospective and a staff recruitment policy.

### 3.6. DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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As an EU Member State, Bulgaria and the National Statistical System in particular will continue the good traditions in the field of international cooperation along the following lines:

- active participation in the process of EU decision taking within the framework of the meetings of the Statistical Programme Committee and other Committees in the field of statistics;
- active participation in the work of the National Council of European Issues to the Council of Ministers on discussing and approving framework positions and instructions to different EU bodies, taking part in the legal drafting process in the field of statistics;
- development and implementation of projects under the Multi-beneficiary Phare Programme 2006 and grants of Eurostat and other EC Directorates General;
- development of European partnership by taking part in Eurostat thematic statistical programmes, as well as in bilateral and multilateral projects with the Official Statistical Offices and the Bodies of Statistics in the EU Member States;
- creation of a mechanism for management of European projects within the field of statistics;
- participation in the work of other international organizations in the field of statistics – UNSC, UNECE/ CES and other within the United Nations;
- NSI participation, as a partner of other statistical offices of EU Member States, in implementing projects under programmes CARDS, TACIS in the countries of West Balkans and the New Independent States;
- studying and implementation of good practices in the field of official statistics and exchange of experience;
- participation in international forums and scientific conferences;
- exchange of experience in improving the methodology of concrete statistical surveys and quality management.

### 3.7. ACHIEVEMENT OF MORE EFFECTIVE INTERACTION AND COORDINATION WITHIN NSS

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In the first place, the NSS legal framework of activities should be improved including the following:

- amendment of the Law on Statistics, which should ensure conditions for meeting NSS obligations on the annual European statistical programmes, strict observance of the policy on reduction of response burden through effective and multi-purpose use of the administrative data sources by NSS and increased requirements to protection of statistical confidentiality duly reflected in all NSS Bodies of Statistics;
- bringing the internal legislation of NSI and other Bodies of Statistics in line with the amendments of the Law on Statistics;
- updating the agreements with other Bodies of Statistics and state administration that develop and maintain administrative data sources.

In the second place, for more effective interaction and coordination within NSS the following is to be done:

- making the role of the National Statistical Council more active;
- developing a strategy and coordinating mechanism for using administrative sources in production of official statistics in the country;
- outlining and conducting a series of measures for reaching higher agreement of activities and deadlines, concerning production of statistical information on the basis of primary data use from different institutions – Bodies of Statistics;
- developing and applying a programme for continuous exchange of experience and training on issues related to the changes and recent achievements in the methodology, production and dissemination of statistical information;
- joint preparation and participation of NSI and the Bodies of Statistics in European programmes and projects, related to the development of statistical methods, conducting new surveys and development of new statistical indicators;
- active cooperation between NSI and the Bodies of Statistics for satisfying newly emerged information needs to avoid unnecessary input of additional statistical surveys in case of all available data;
- developing and implementing in all NSS bodies a system for self assessment and monitoring of the observance of the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice;
- strengthening NSI leading methodological and coordinating role in the development, production and dissemination of statistical information within NSS.

### 3.8. PROMOTION OF CONFIDENCE IN OFFICIAL STATISTICS

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The confidence in official statistics is a result of the overall activity and conditions, in which statistical information is produced and disseminated. Key importance is attached to strict observance of the scientific principles and adopted international and European methodologies, assurance of transparency in production of statistical information and application of an effective policy on the dissemination of information and users' service.

In order to strengthen NSS confidence the following concrete measures and tasks are envisaged for the 2008–2012 period:

- developing methods for assessment and analysis of the degree of confidence in official statistics and the factors subject to it;
- conducting periodic surveys on specifying the degree of users' confidence in NSS;
- providing more information about the nature, methodology and purpose of basic statistical surveys and indicators in accessible and void of technical details way, in order to achieve wider transparency in production of statistical information;
- having more active dialogue with all user groups and building up a user-oriented approach in provision and publication of statistical information;
- undertaking active mass media campaign for making popular and approving the meaning of official statistics in society;
- strict observance of the principles of official statistics and the European Statistics Code of Practice and providing information about achieved results to the public;
- developing a strategy for forming statistical culture among the coming generation ever since secondary education.

### 3.9. PRIORITY TASKS BY THEMATIC FIELDS

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#### 3.9.1. DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL STATISTICS

The demographic and social statistics covers a number of statistical surveys on different aspects of the social status and tendencies of development of society. Key importance for the production of social statistical information is attached to the current demographic statistics, Labour Force Survey, Household Budgets Survey and the Survey of Income and Living Conditions, conducted by NSI. Some surveys in the field of social statistics are conducted by other Bodies of Statistics.

Social statistics is the information basis for applying the Open Method of Coordination of EU Policies and achieving the Lisbon Strategy objectives, concerning social and economic upturn of Europe.

The necessity of monitoring and control of the implementation of objectives laid down in national and European strategic documents, the shift of the social policy focus from process to outcome indicators, the increase of importance of inter-discipline and inter-institutional social demographic surveys, as well as the necessity of extending the coverage of social statistics by studying new phenomena and processes put a number of challenges to the development of the European and national social statistics. Satisfying these challenges is related to all thematic directions and refers to the following:

- reconsidering the coverage, structure and contents of the social statistics, produced by different Bodies of Statistics, aiming at its consolidation and bringing in line with the new methodological requirements of Eurostat and the needs of social statistics;
- improving the methodology of concrete statistical surveys;
- streamlining data collection by consolidation of households statistical surveys (participation in EU project “European Household Survey” – pilot survey of the new European System of Social Modules (E4SM));
- extending the set of indicators for defined target social groups, priority of the European social policy;
- developing indicators for the new fields of social statistics – statistics of equal opportunities, statistics of industrial relations, statistics of social exclusion, family statistics and other.

In each thematic direction the following concrete tasks and activities are being envisaged:

#### DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS

- ongoing activities on providing exhaustive set of data and analyses, needed for the impact evaluation of the demographic processes in the country by ensuring the necessary technological and methodological conditions for operation of the Demography IS and applying measures for better quality data, used from administrative sources;
- applying new methodological approaches and innovation technologies when preparing and carrying out the Population and Housing Fund Census in 2011:
  - combination of traditional methods of data registration at the census with the information from registers, available in the country and other administrative sources;
  - development of measures for quality management of census data, ensuring balance between data quality, costs for conducting and timeliness of data processing and dissemination;
  - provision of the necessary technological potential and infrastructure of the bodies that conduct the census by collection, input, processing and dissemination of the census information.
- developing a system of international migration statistics and granting asylum in compliance with Regulation (EC) No 862/2007:
  - development of a module on statistics of international migration in Demography IS, based on administrative data sources;
  - conducting specialized surveys on evaluation of the structure of international migration flows;
  - production and dissemination of statistical information about the socio-economic integration of migrated population, via implementation of ad hoc LFS module on the labour market situation of migrants and their descendents inclusive;
  - development of a methodological framework for ensuring migrants data in the EU Member States Population Censuses Programme in 2011.

### STATISTICS OF CRIMINALITY, VICTIMS OF CRIME AND SENTENCED FOR CRIME

It is expected that this new field should be developed in compliance with the EU Action Plan, 2006–2010. NSS concrete tasks in this field for the 2008–2012 period cover the following:

- participation in exploring the possibilities and the expedience of introducing EU legislation in this statistical field;
- participation in setting up common European new sources of statistical data and coverage of organized criminality, in particular;
- improvement of the comparability and quality of the statistical information about criminality, victims of crime and sentenced for crime;
- improvement of the coverage and contents of the statistical information about registered criminality and about persons convicted with sentences in force.

### LABOUR MARKET STATISTICS

The EU Labour Market Statistics for the 2008–2012 period will be directed to monitoring the implementation of the revised Lisbon Strategy objectives and, in particular, to EU increase of employment. NSS concrete tasks in this field for the 2008–2012 period cover the following:

- NSS participation in improvement of the EU legal framework and introduction of new thematic modules to the Labour Force Survey (LFS), driving at a more detailed labour market survey, namely:
  - 2008 “Ad hoc Module on the Labour Market Situation of Migrants and Their Descendants”,
  - 2009 “Ad hoc Module on Entry of Young People into the Labour Market”,
  - 2010 “Ad hoc Module on Reconciliation between Work and Family Life”
  - 2011 “Ad hoc Module on Employment of Disabled People”
  - 2012 “Ad hoc Module on Transition from Work to Retirement”;
- quality improvement of labour market statistics and achievement of greater consistency between data from LFS, employment data from the national accounts and other surveys on business and agriculture;
- introduction of the revised classification of occupations (ISCO) in 2011 from the point of view of better presentation of the structure of employment and improvement of the international data comparability;
- Full application (implementation) of Council Regulation on statistics of job vacancies.

### STATISTICS OF EDUCATION AND LIFE LONG LEARNING

NSS concrete tasks in this field for the 2008–2012 period cover the following:

- implementation of Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council on the production and development of statistics of education and life long learning and also the Adult Education Survey (persons aged 24–65);
- quality improvement of the existing statistics on education and life long learning through wider use of administrative data sources.

### STATISTICS OF HOUSEHOLDS BUDGET, LIVING CONDITIONS AND SOCIAL PROTECTION OF POPULATION

NSS concrete tasks in this field for the 2008–2012 period cover the following:

- further development of Statistics of Income and Living Conditions (SILC) project by conducting longitudinal surveys;
- development of regional poverty indicators and child poverty indicators at NUTS2;
- application of Regulation on the European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS) as of 2007, with the aim to improve the coverage, comparability and timeliness of social protection data, received from administrative sources;
- quality improvement of Household Budgets Survey (HBS) data used for calculating the official line of poverty in the country, analysis of the efficiency of income and social protection policies, and for calculating CPI and GDP;
- establishment of unity and coherence between HBS, SILC and ESSPROS.

### CULTURE STATISTICS

As far as culture statistics is concerned the following is being envisaged for the reference period:

- re-establishment of the annual periodicity of statistical surveys in the field of culture;
- provision of additional information about the participation of population (persons aged 25–64) in cultural events through thematic surveys and wider use of administrative sources.



## PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICS

The tasks for the 2008–2012 period are as follows:

- implementation of Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on public health and health and safety at work, after its adoption;
- strengthening the infrastructure of the basic system of public health statistics, paying special attention to the evaluation, consolidation and implementation of the respective methodologies of the European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) and the System of Health Accounts (SHA);
- improvement of availability, comparability, timeliness and adequacy of the public needs of public health statistics, including statistics of disabled persons;
- development and improvement of SHA methodology, conducting EHIS and quality improvement of causes of death data.

## TOURISM STATISTICS

The concrete tasks for the 2008–2012 period are as follows:

- achievement of greater degree of comparability of the existing statistical data with the other EU Member States;
- development and implementation of harmonized satellite accounts in tourism;
- development of a methodology and implementation of a tourism survey in compliance with Directive 95/57 EC, ensuring international comparable statistical data on international migration.

## STATISTICS OF CONSUMER PRICES

In the field of statistics of consumer prices the following concrete tasks and activities are being envisaged:

- improvement of the sampling procedures and quality adjustment methods of the Index of Consumer Prices (ICP) and Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) in relation to the amendment of Eurostat Regulation in this field;
- further improvement of the systems of statistical weights for production of national ICP and HICP;
- including Owner Occupied Housing (OOH) in HICP;
- construction and production of HICP at constant tax rates (HICP-CT).

### 3.9.2. MACROECONOMIC STATISTICS

Macroeconomic statistics covers the system of national accounts, statistics of balance of payment, statistics of energy, statistics of employment and earnings, government finance statistics, statistics of finance corporations, statistics of non-profit institutions and foreign trade statistics. In spite of the overall progress of adopting the European standards in the field of macroeconomic statistics a number of challenges remain, which necessitate the implementation of the following concrete tasks and activities, determined to a great extent by Regulations and requirements laid down by Eurostat and the European Central Bank.

#### NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

In the field of national accounts the following concrete tasks and activities are being envisaged:

- shortening the deadlines for preparation of quarterly and annual data in compliance with the revised Eurostat data transmission programme ESA'95 ;
- preparation of comparable SNA methodological time series since 1995 in compliance with the revised Eurostat data transmission programme ESA'95;
- introducing new modules in the system of national accounts in compliance with new EC Regulations, for instance, quarterly accounts of institutional sectors, indices of prices and volume, including supply-use tables in comparable prices and balances of non-financial assets by institutional sectors;
- preparatory work on implementing the revision of SNA'93;
- implementation of NACE Rev.2, concerning the units in sector "Finance corporations", sector "General government" and sector "Non profit institutions, servicing households";
- development of a methodology for preparation of regional national accounts -employment, primary and secondary distribution of income of sector "Households" for the purposes of EU structural policy;
- development and implementation of satellite accounts, related to indicators on specific socio-economic fields (education, health care, environment, tourism and etc.) in conformity with the general methodological principles of SNA;
- development of the statistics of national accounts for elaboration, application and monitoring of concrete EU policies.

### STATISTICS OF EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS

In the field of statistics of employment and earnings the following concrete tasks and activities are being envisaged:

- ensuring consistency of short-term and annual employment statistics;
- extending the contents of the statistical survey on labour demand through:
  - implementation of Regulations on job vacancy statistics;
  - information about the state of immigrants on the labour market;
  - extending the structure of earnings survey for all economic activities.
- wider use of administrative information from the register of insurers and insured persons about the statistical evaluation of employment and labour costs, aiming at reduction of response burden.

### STATISTICS OF ENERGY

In the field of energy statistics the following concrete tasks and activities are being envisaged:

- implementation of EC Regulation on data quality of energy statistics;
- implementation of a methodology and tools for collection of statistical information about electricity and gas prices, paid by households;
- implementation of a methodology and tools for statistics of liquid bio fuels;
- establishment of a system of indicators concerning energy efficiency, in compliance with EC Directive 2006/32.

### STRUCTURAL INDICATORS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS (SDI)

In the field of structural indicators and sustainable development indicators the following concrete tasks and activities are being envisaged:

- extension of the set of structural indicators and SDI for reporting on the country progress in implementing the Lisbon Strategy and EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2006);
- improvement of the quality and timeliness of publishing structural indicators and sustainable development indicators;
- taking actions on acquainting the public with the contents of structural indicators and sustainable development indicators and the opportunities of their interpretation and use for comparative analyses;
- development of regional structural indicators and sustainable development indicators and publishing.

### FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS

In order to make timely and reliable evaluation of the foreign trade statistics of the country the following is being envisaged for the 2008–2012 period:

- establishment of a contemporary Information System “Foreign Trade” to the main database, where information is stored about trade in goods of Bulgarian traders with their EU partners (Intrastat system) and about transactions with third countries (Extrastat system);
- provision of automated data exchange with the systems of the National Revenue Agency and the Customs Agency, which supply information about foreign trade transactions and the economic units that finalize them;
- provision of a possibility for verification and validation of data, data editing, application of statistical models for estimation, as well as making analyses in real time;
- automation of the procedures for preparation and submission of foreign trade information to other administrative structures on the country – the Ministry of Economy and Energy, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Bulgarian National Bank and etc.;
- automation of the processes concerning monthly transmission of Bulgarian aggregated and detailed data on turnover to the COMEXT database, and also to UN databases COMTRADE and FAO;
- improvement of users’ service by applying contemporary technologies, via Internet; inclusive;
- timely implementation of the changes of EC Regulations in the field of foreign trade.

### 3.9.3. BUSINESS STATISTICS

Improvement of the methodology of statistical surveys covering all economic activities will continue during the 2008–2012 period in the following directions:

- improvement of the degree of compliance of business statistics with the requirements of Eurostat Regulations;
- final implementation of the new version of the classification of economic activities – NACE Rev. 2;
- extension of the use of data from administrative sources aiming at reduction of response burden;
- elaboration of indicators for more detailed and accurate coverage of new phenomena and processes, such as globalization, statistics on foreign affiliates and multi-national companies, out-sourcing, new business services and other;
- active participation in the European Programme for Modernization of European Enterprise and Trade Statistics, 2008–2013 (MEETS).

The following concrete tasks are being envisaged according to the theme of the surveys:

#### **STRUCTURAL BUSINESS STATISTICS (SBS)**

- producing and disseminating data on business demography of enterprises in compliance with the requirements of Annex 9 to Council Regulation 58/97/EC;
- conducting pilot statistical surveys of market and non-market services in economic sectors M, N and O – “Education”, “Health” and “Other Community, social and personal service activities”;
- conducting single (ad hoc) statistical surveys for collecting new non-traditional information about different SBS directions in conformity with the amendments of Regulation 58/97/EC.
- enriching the set of statistical indicators and extending the survey coverage by including new economic activities in sector “Services”;
- developing a methodology and methods for calculation of producer price indices in construction, transport, communications and business services;
- evaluation of indicators, concerning the activity of foreign affiliates in compliance with the methodological requirements of the new Regulation (EC) 716/2007 on Community statistics on the structure and activity of foreign affiliates (FATS).

### SHORT-TERM STATISTICS

- re-calculating the time series by short-term economic indicators back to year 2000 (or to 1998, if possible), including calendar and seasonal adjustment of the re-calculated series in conformity with the new classification of economic activities – NACE Rev. 2;
- quality evaluation of the revised short-term indicators, under the conditions of double calculation by NACE Rev. 1.1 and NACE Rev. 2;
- implementing Council Regulation 1165/98 and amending Council Regulation 1158/2005, concerning short-term business statistics;
- conducting a new survey on producer prices of import;
- developing a methodology and methods, and calculating a monthly index of construction and quarterly indicators of orders in construction;
- implementing a methodology for seasonal and calendar adjustment of the monthly and quarterly indices of production in industry and construction, and of the turnover in trade and other services.

### STATISTICS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATIONS AND INFORMATION SOCIETY

- extension and improvement of the R&D survey by including new indicators in compliance with the requirements of EC Regulation 735/2004, with respect to statistics on government budget appropriations and outlays on R&D (GBAORD);
- organization and conducting of a national statistical survey on innovation activities in enterprises on the basis of a defined list of basic obligatory indicators set out by Eurostat, according to Commission Regulation 1450/2004/EC;
- conducting regular ICT usage surveys by enterprises and households;
- preparation of methodologies and methods and conducting new ICT usage surveys by financial corporations and on ICT investments of enterprises.

### TRANSPORT STATISTICS

- improvement of the statistical tools aiming at better quality data of regularly conducted surveys on goods and passengers carried by the Executive Agency “Port Administration” according to Council Directive 95/64/EC, EC Regulation 1365/2006 and EC Regulation 425/2007;
- quality improvement of air transport statistics of regularly conducted surveys by the Directorate General “Civil Aviation Administration”, implementing the obligations of the country on Council Regulation (EC) 437/2003;
- organization and conducting of a national survey on passenger mobility in the Republic of Bulgaria in 2010.

### 3.9.4. STATISTICS OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

The basic part of statistics of agriculture, forestry and fisheries is implemented by Agro-statistics Department at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. For the 2008–2012 period the following is being envisaged:

- improvement of the methodology of surveys in the field of agro-monetary statistics by improving the efficiency of selection of samples, statistical tools and data use from other statistical surveys and administrative sources;
- production of a data set of rural area statistics in Bulgaria (within the framework of Phare Programme, NPSS and other);
- integration of agriculture, forestry and fisheries economic activities in the Register of statistical units;
- development of the methodology of price statistics in agriculture in compliance with Eurostat requirements.

### 3.9.5. MULTI-DOMAIN STATISTICS AND REGIONAL STATISTICS

#### REGIONAL STATISTICS

The concrete tasks related to the development of regional statistics are as follows:

- establishment and maintenance of a database, containing chronological comparable data on territorial and administrative-territorial units at NUTS1-3 and LAU1-2;
- strengthening the control over statistical confidentiality when providing data on lower regional levels;
- implementation of contemporary methodologies for combining data from sample and exhaustive statistical surveys, and also data from different sources for making estimates of indicators on district and municipal level;
- extension of users access to regional statistical information on NSI web-site ;
- wider use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in the production and dissemination of regional statistical information.

### ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS

The development of environment is laid down by the EU priorities and outlining trends towards making the economic development dependent on ecological grounds.

### BUSINESS TENDENCIES

The tools, deadlines for processing and the necessary indicators, concerning the business tendencies survey are fully compliant with Eurostat requirements.

The tasks, to be solved during the period, are as follows:

- survey of indicators to be included in the composite indicator for analysis of the business cycle in Bulgaria;
- continuous analysis of the degree of correspondence between the business indicators and short-term statistical indicators on the basis of increase of the dynamic series, aiming at quality assessment of the two types of business information.





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## PART IV

# RESOURCES, ORGANIZATION AND MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY

The Strategy should be implemented by annual NPSS, and by operational annual plans. These documents and reports for their implementation are prepared by NSI, discussed and approved by the National Statistical Council and adopted by the Council of Ministers. The Strategy is an open document and its contents could be updated in answer to the emerging new necessities and tasks. The Strategy will serve also as a basis, on which policies and tasks concerning different fields of statistics are built up.

The financial resources, necessary for the implementation of the Strategy should be ensured on an annual basis, in conformity with the budget of NSI and the other institutions – Bodies of Statistics and from EC grants in the field of statistics.

Among the set out strategic priorities there are two the implementation of which, during the 2008–2012 period, will have a decisive meaning for the overall development of the Bulgarian statistics in the coming decades, namely:

- speeded implementation of contemporary information and communication technologies;
- preparation and creation of technological and organization preconditions for using administrative sources in the production and dissemination of statistical information.

Concerning the implementation of these two priorities, additional target means are necessary from the Republican budget at the amount of 7.5 mln BGN (preliminary estimates). Detailed description of the purpose and structure of these means is given in the financial justification to the Strategy, submitted to the Minister of Finance.

Key factor for implementation of the Strategy is human resources. For the last 7 years NSI staff has decreased by 20% approximately (from 1883 to 1494) while the volume of statistical surveys is up by almost one third. The NSI plan for 2008 includes 263 surveys and activities compared to 190 in year 2000. Under these circumstances qualification, flexibility and capacity building of the staff working in official statistics becomes a serious challenge to the implementation of annual engagements on the production of national and European statistics as well as to the implementation of strategic priorities laid down for the 2008–2012 period.

#### PART IV: RESOURCES, ORGANIZATION AND MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY

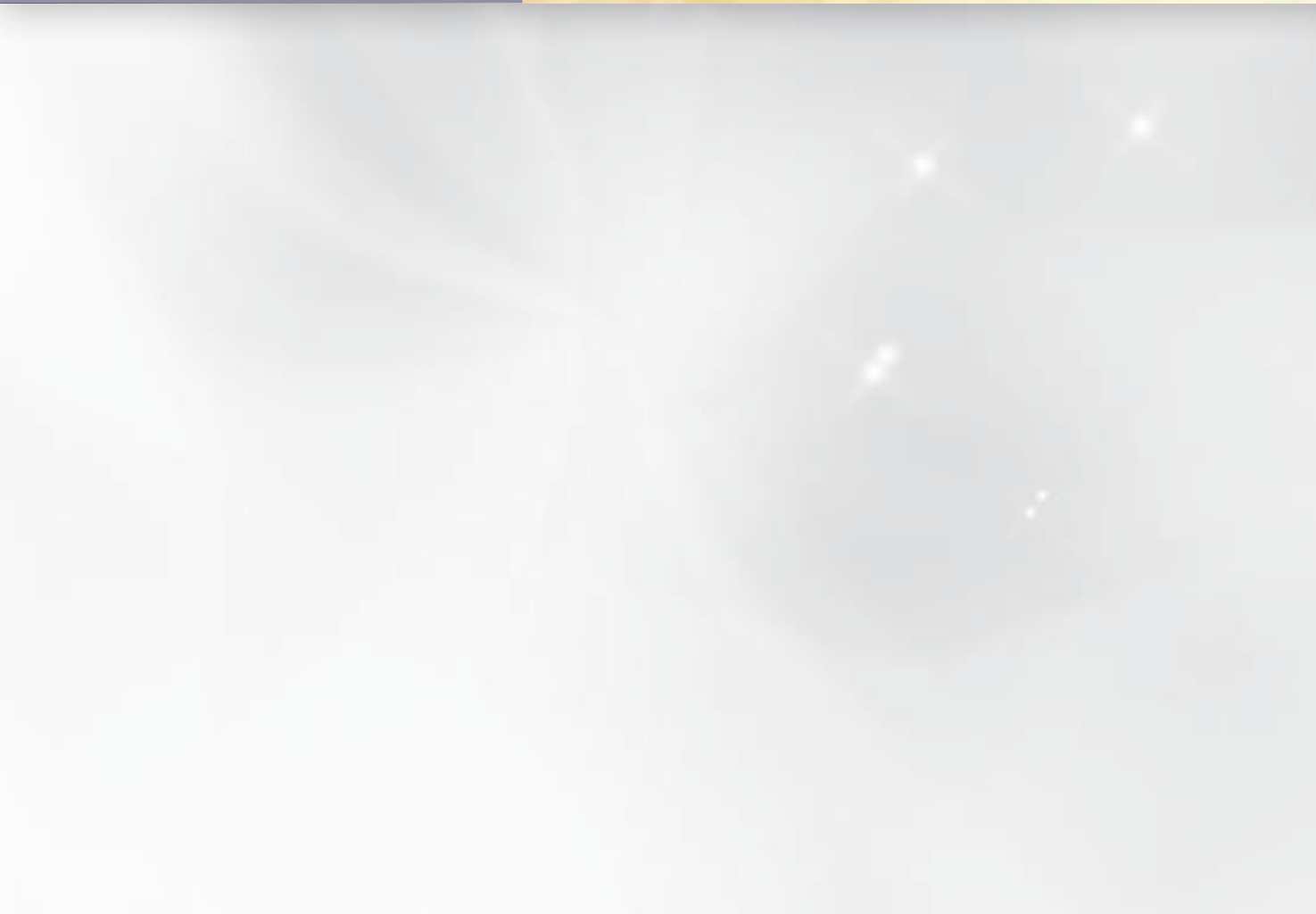
Important preconditions for the successful implementation of the Strategy are active participation and strengthening the coordination between NSI and all remaining bodies of NSS, heightening the action effectiveness and improving the NSS legal framework and functional environment. In this respect, the leading role is rendered by NSI and the National Statistical Council.

In order to control and monitor the implementation of the Strategy it is necessary to develop a system of process and outcome indicators. The implementation of the set out objectives and priorities by using the system should be reported and discussed annually by the National Statistical Council and announced in public.





ATTACHMENT





## ATTACHMENT I

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### LIST OF THE STRUCTURAL UNITS, WHICH ARE DEFINED AS BODIES OF STATISTICS IN PURSUANCE OF ART. 3 OF THE LAW ON STATISTICS

Bodies of Statistics	Institution
Statistics Directorate	BULGARIAN NATIONAL BANK
Treasury Directorate, Government Finance Statistics Division	MINISTRY OF FINANCE
Intrastat Directorate National Revenue Agency	
Customs Statistics and Analyses Division Customs Statistics and Automatization Directorate Customs Agency	
Department "Agrostatistics"	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
National Center for Health Information (NCHI) Regional Centers for Health Services (RCHS)	MINISTRY OF HEALTH
Port Registers and Control Directorate Executive Agency "Port Administration"	MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT
Registers and Statistics Department Financial and Administrative, Legal and Information Directorate, Directorate General "Civil Aviation Administration"	
Directorate General "Analyses, Planning and Projections"	NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY INSTITUTE
Social Analyses, Prognosis and Policies Directorate	MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL POLICY
Information Services Division Information and Communication Services Directorate	MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND ENERGY
Coordination, Information and Analyses Directorate	MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
Monitoring of Environment Directorate	EXECUTIVE AGENCY ON ENVIRONMENT
Investment Analyses and Statistics Division Investment Marketing and Statistics Directorate	INVEST BUGARIA AGENCY





