Statement provided by:
The President of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT), Athanasios C. Thanopoulos

Statement:
The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) welcomes the report of the World Health Organization (WHO) on health statistics reflecting the work carried out during the last year and the developments that are underway.

In particular, ELSTAT considers that the restructuring of the Department of Data and Analytics will have a positive impact on the modernization of its work, the monitoring of health inequality and the establishment of routine health information systems across WHO member states.

ELSTAT acknowledges the work accomplished by the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics and agrees with its dissolution, as the anticipated new International Conference on Health Statistics will take the lead in providing a forum where international standards for health statistics will be further developed.

However, ELSTAT expresses its discontent for the fact that the WHO COVID-19 excess mortality estimates have not been published yet, two months after their scheduled announcement as stated in the report of WHO on health statistics.

The WHO COVID-19 excess mortality estimates are going to provide a valuable set of comparable country estimates covering member states with effective health reporting systems and member states with developing mortality surveillance capacity.

Therefore, ELSTAT urges WHO to publish the soonest possible the WHO COVID-19 estimates and to inform the statistical community about the time of their dissemination.

Submitted on: 2/15/2022