PEER REVIEW REPORT

ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE AND FURTHER IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

ROMANIA

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With a history that stretches back to 1859, the Romanian National Institute of Statistics was established in its current statutory form in 2001 and is the main producer of the state's official statistics. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics acts as coordinator of the national statistical system in accordance with Law no. 226/2009 (the statistical law) on the organisation and functioning of official statistics in Romania. It functions as an independent, specialised body of central government with legal status, coordinated by the Secretary General of the Government and financed from the state budget through the budget of the Secretariat General of the Government. The regional statistical directorates and county statistical directorates corresponding to Romania's territorial structure are subordinate to the Romanian National Institute of Statistics and are financed through its budget.

Along with the Romanian National Institute of Statistics, there are 14 other producers of official statistics (Other National Authorities) and five of these Other National Authorities develop, produce and disseminate European statistics. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics leads the work of the national statistical system to develop the responsiveness and efficiency of statistical production, collaborating with these other producers to support the modernisation of statistical products and services. The agreed framework for the development of the national statistical system is the Strategy for the Development of the National Statistical System 2022-2027 that is endorsed by the National Statistical Council and approved by the Romanian Government. The delivery of the Strategy is managed through the Annual and Multi-annual National Statistical Programmes for the national statistical system.

The Romanian National Institute of Statistics is very active in monitoring administrative data sources that are newly developed or amended, and the use of administrative and other new data sources is a clear strength of the national statistical system. Currently 20 formal Collaboration Conventions are in place with the suppliers of administrative data, and they are regularly updated. Additionally, the Romanian National Institute of Statistics has formal processes for assuring the quality of administrative data sources with findings on data quality regularly fed back to administrative data providers. Most innovatively, privately held data on fixed and mobile telephony was provided to the Romanian National Institute of Statistics (via the National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications) for the purposes of the 2021 Population and Housing Census.

The culture of performance, professionalism and commitment to official statistics is deeply embedded in the workforce of the Romanian National Institute of Statistics and in the statistical teams of the Other National Authorities, and the staff across the organisations have demonstrated a strong ability to innovate and adapt to change. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics recognises the importance of collaborating with external bodies and of using shared solutions to meet its key strategic objectives despite its limited resources and is an active participant in ESSnet projects. It has also collaborated with the World Bank on electronic data capture solutions and on the drafting of new national statistical legislation.

To further build capacity for innovation and development, the Romanian National Institute of Statistics established the Directorate of Innovative Tools in Statistics at the end of 2016. This small Directorate is focused on exploring the potential of new data sources and methodologies and their suitability for incorporation into the production chain. Notable work of the Directorate includes a successful collaboration with the compilers of price statistics to incorporate web-scraped and scanner data into their production processes, the development of a machine-learning solution for categorisation of these data and the development of a new methodological framework to compute population statistics based on mobile phone data.

The integrated planning system for the national statistical system is a clear strength, with good coordination and cooperation between the Romanian National Institute of Statistics and the Other National Authorities on the development of the Strategy for Development of the National Statistical System 2022-2027 and on the implementation plans for the Strategy that are set out in the Annual and Multi-annual national statistical programmes.

Overall, there is good compliance with the principles of the ES CoP throughout the national statistical system. Many of the principles, including professional independence and objectivity, the right to collect data, confidentiality, transparency and the use of sound methodology, are underpinned by the national statistical legislation and the legislation extends equally to all parts of the national statistical system. However, the peer review team identified 21 recommendations, two of them compliance-relevant and nineteen of them improvement-related, grouped under the five main issues listed below.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Strengthening the National Statistical System

The President of the Romanian National Institute of Statistics is appointed by the Prime Minister and there are no provisions in the current statistical law regarding the criteria for the selection or appointment of the President or for termination of the incumbency. The need for greater transparency in the procedure governing the appointment of the President and in the termination of the incumbency was a main driver for the revision of the statistical law which is currently in the legislative work programme and is due for adoption in 2024.

To comply with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

1. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics and the relevant government authority should adopt and implement legislation which provides transparency in the procedure governing the appointment of the President of the Romanian National Institute of Statistics and the termination of the incumbency, notably through the timely adoption and implementation of new legislation. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicator 1.8)

Article 15 of Law no. 226 / 2009 sets out the requirement for implementation of the ES CoP across the national statistical system and gives the Romanian National Institute of Statistics the responsibility for ensuring its implementation by the Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating official statistics. To demonstrate the Other National Authorities' compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team identified a need to appoint a statistical head for each Other National Authority to ensure that there is a clear, formal line of reporting to the Romanian National Institute of Statistics on issues related to the compilation of official statistics.

To comply with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

2. The relevant government authorities, with the assistance of the Romanian National Institute of Statistics, should appoint a statistical head for each Other National Authority developing, producing and disseminating European statistics to comply with the professional independence requirement of the ES CoP. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicators 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4)

Currently, the statistical teams in the Other National Authorities are not identified as distinct statistical units in the structures of their institutions. The establishment of distinct statistical units in each Other National Authority would greatly enhance the visibility of their statistical work and would demonstrate their distinct role as producers of European Statistics. The peer review team recognised an opportunity to strengthen the national statistical system through the organisation, where possible, of the Other National Authorities' statistical functions into separate statistical units.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

3. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics and the relevant government authorities should build on the current statistical activities of all Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics to organise the statistical functions of the Other National Authorities into distinct statistical units, where possible. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1.3, 1.2 and 1.4)

Currently, there is no single logo for the official statistics published by the Romanian National Institute of Statistics and the Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics. The peer review team identified an opportunity to strengthen the independence and brand of official statistics through the introduction of a shared logo.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

4. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics and all Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics should introduce the systematic use of a common logo to clearly identify official statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1.6)

The close bilateral coordination by and the collaboration between the Romanian National Institute of Statistics and the Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics were very evident to the peer review team. To further strengthen this coordination in order to continue the development of a national statistical system that is responsive to growing user needs, the peer review team identified an opportunity for the expansion of multilateral engagement between the Romanian National Institute of Statistics and the Other National Authorities on common opportunities and challenges such as the use of new data sources and the adoption of new methodologies and technologies.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

5. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics should extend its engagement and collaboration with all Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics on areas including, but not limited to, methodology, new data sources, privacy enhancing technologies, joint research projects and joint publications in order to address common opportunities, issues and challenges for the national statistical system. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1bis.2)

II. Ensuring adequacy and sustainability of human and financial resources

Delivering the Strategy for the Development of the National Statistical System 2022-2027, meeting emerging user needs and access to adequate and sustainable levels of human and financial resources were key challenges identified by the peer review team. The adequacy of funding for the recruitment of the necessary talent and skills, particularly in respect of the skills needed to exploit new data sources, methodologies and technologies, was an issue that arose repeatedly during the discussions between the peer review team, the Romanian National Institute of Statistics and the Other National Authorities.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

6. The relevant government authorities should ensure allocation of adequate human and financial resources to the Romanian National Institute of Statistics and all Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics, to allow them in particular to deliver the Strategy for the Development of the National Statistical System 2022-2027 and to further embrace new data sources and technologies. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 3.1 and 10.2)

Staff recruitment and retention were identified by the peer review team as significant issues for the Romanian National Institute of Statistics and for the Other National Authorities. These challenges were acknowledged by the external stakeholders contributing to the peer review as key risks for the delivery and development of the official statistics needed to meet the needs of policy- and decision-makers, researchers and analysts. Additionally, a misalignment of the remuneration for the staff of the Romanian National Institute of Statistics when compared with other government authorities, which is acknowledged by the relevant authorities, was raised repeatedly during the discussions between the peer review team, the Romanian National Institute of Statistics and the external stakeholders.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

7. The relevant government authority should resolve the misalignment of remuneration between the staff of the Romanian National Institute of Statistics and the staff of other government authorities in order to support the recruitment and retention of skilled staff. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 3.1)

The vacancy rate for the Romanian National Institute of Statistics stood at 12% at the time of the peer review and there can be long periods of time between recruitment contests as a result of legislative or budgetary restrictions. To further develop staff and deepen their skills, and as one way of addressing staff recruitment and retention challenges, the peer review team identified an opportunity for the Romanian National Institute of Statistics and the Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics to extend and promote formal training and education schemes. Additionally, a formal staff mobility process and increased flexibility in working arrangements were identified by the peer review team as further opportunities to support staff upskilling and retention.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

8. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics and all Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics should investigate and implement non-financial incentives, particularly through training and skills development, staff mobility and, where possible, by the extension of flexible working arrangements. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 7.6 and 3.1)

III. Extending the Use of Administrative & New Data Sources

Use of administrative data by the Romanian National Institute of Statistics continues to grow, with a clear focus on using new data sources to minimise the statistical burden of data collection operations on enterprises and citizens, as well as supporting the development of new statistical indicators. However, apart from the specific case of the legal right of access to mobile and landline phone data for the purposes of the 2021 Population and Household Census, the peer review team noted that there is currently no legal basis for access to privately held data.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

9. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics and the relevant government authority should ensure that future updates of the statistical law will enable wider access to privately held data and new data sources for the investigation of statistical potential and for use in the compilation of official statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 2.4 and 2.2)

Considering the long time required to update legislation and recognising the need to gain further experience on the statistical potential of privately held data, the peer review team recognised the opportunity for the Romanian National Institute of Statistics and the Other National Authorities

developing, producing and disseminating European statistics to further develop partnerships and relationships with key stakeholders to investigate how these data can help meet growing user needs.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

10. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics and, where applicable, the Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics, should actively engage with private data holders to investigate opportunities for official statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 2.4)

Right of access to administrative data for the Romanian National Institute of Statistics and the Other National Authorities is provided for in Article 22 of the statistical law in accordance with the activities set out in the Annual National Statistical Programme. However, the peer review team identified an opportunity for high-level engagement, where necessary, to highlight this legal right of access and to ensure effective cooperation on the provision of administrative data by the relevant government authorities.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

11. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics should engage with the relevant government authorities to ensure that the importance of effective access to administrative data is understood and supported at the highest level by the government authorities. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 2.2)

IV. Strengthening Quality Monitoring and Standardising Statistical Processes

Under Article 15 of the statistical law, the Romanian National Institute of Statistics has the responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the concepts regarding the management of quality in statistics and those of the ES CoP by the Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating official statistics. The peer review team was informed that the Romanian National Institute of Statistics is developing a quality assessment tool to measure the compliance of the Other National Authorities with the ES CoP. The peer review team identified an opportunity for the Romanian National Institute of Statistics to develop a formal plan, facilitated by the new assessment tool, to monitor the progress of the Other National Authorities on compliance with the ES CoP.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

12. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics should develop a plan to monitor compliance with ES CoP by all Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics, assisted by the documentation developed for the peer review. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1bis.2 and 4.1)

A new version of the Quality Guidelines for Romanian Official Statistics, using the Generic Statistical Business Process Model, has been developed and is being tested with the production directorates of the Romanian National Institute of Statistics. The peer review team identified the need to incorporate input from the Other National Authorities as part of the finalisation of the updated Quality Guidelines for Romanian Official Statistics.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

13. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics should ensure that the Quality Guidelines for Romanian Official Statistics are relevant for all Other National Authorities developing, producing

and disseminating European statistics and should monitor and review its implementation. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1bis.2 and 4.2)

The metadata database of the Romanian National Institute of Statistics provides information on the sources, concepts and methods for each statistical survey in the Annual National Statistical Programme, including the surveys of other producers of official statistics. Acknowledging the ongoing work to improve metadata, the peer review team believes that the Romanian National Institute of Statistics should investigate the possibility of streamlining the systems and processes for populating and updating the metadata database, ideally using automation where possible.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

14. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics should improve the integration and automation of its metadata systems to facilitate the central management of metadata that meets all purposes. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 8.4)

To support the management and dissemination of metadata related to outputs according to European standards, and in recognition of the importance of clear and accessible metadata for users, the Romanian National Institute of Statistics has partly implemented the Single Integrated Metadata Structure for the description and public dissemination of metadata reports for most of its statistical surveys, available in the metadata database on its website. The peer review team identified an opportunity for the Romanian National Institute of Statistics to continue developing standardised metadata on outputs in its dissemination and quality reporting systems.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

15. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics should continue to develop and disseminate standardised metadata in its dissemination and quality reporting systems. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 15.5)

To ensure that quality reports on statistical output are used comprehensively to continuously drive quality improvements in its statistical processes, the peer review team noted an opportunity for the Romanian National Institute of Statistics to develop and introduce a systematic approach to monitoring and reviewing the quality of statistical production processes based on the information and documentation available from the quality reports.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

16. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics should introduce the systematic review of statistical processes and outputs, building on the documentation gathered in the quality reports. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 4.2)

A Methodological Endorsement Committee has been established within the Romanian National Institute of Statistics. It has a consultative role and consists of 10 members who are selected from the National Statistical Council. Acknowledging the role of the Methodological Endorsement Committee in the development and improvement of methodologies, the peer review team identified a need for further efforts by the Romanian National Institute of Statistics to ensure that standard, best-practice methodologies are implemented across all statistical areas.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

17. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics should ensure the development of standard methodology approaches for implementation by the statistical production areas. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 7.2)

V. Meeting Evolving User Needs

The peer review team observed that the National Statistical Council provides the various user groups represented on the Council with opportunities to bring up their needs for new statistical outputs with the Romanian National Institute of Statistics and the Other National Authorities. A user survey is also conducted every three years. However, given the three-year gap between the user survey and the importance of identifying needs across the widest possible number of users, the peer review team identified the need for a more frequent and coordinated procedure of consultation and prioritisation of user needs across all stakeholders and sectors.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

18. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics should organise a more systematic and comprehensive consultation with users to improve the identification of future user needs and new users, building on the current three-yearly user survey. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 11.1, 11.2 and 11.3)

The Romanian National Institute of Statistics promotes statistical literacy through seminars and conferences and has held information sessions with the media in the past, which the attendees found very helpful for improving their understanding of official statistics. Recognising the importance of outreach initiatives to all types of users, the peer review team encourages the further development of statistical literacy outreach programmes.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

19. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics and all Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics should continue to develop and implement communications to improve the profile of official statistics, including engagement with users to promote statistical literacy. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 15.2, 15.6 and 15.7)

The peer review team noted that, while the timetable of outputs by the Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating official statistics is available in the Annual National Statistical Programme for the national statistical system, the Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics do not publish formal release calendars. To demonstrate their independence in the dissemination of official statistics, the peer review team considered that they should develop and publish release calendars for their official statistical outputs.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

20. All Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics should implement a formal release calendar for official statistics, coordinated by the Romanian National Institute of Statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 6.5)

The Romanian National Institute of Statistics is well aware of the principle of equal access to data for all users and does not provide pre-release access to its results, while awareness about the important principle of no pre-release may not be sufficiently present at all levels in the Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating official statistics. To clearly demonstrate their independence as disseminators of official statistics, the peer review team considered that the Other National

Authorities should review and clearly publicise their pre-release access policy and practices or state that there is no pre-release to data to any user, also not inside the supervising authority.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

21. All Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics should develop and implement pre-release access policies, where pre-release access occurs. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 6.7)

In the spirit of continuous improvement integral to the European Statistical System (ESS), the NSI will interpret the recommendations, formulated in this report, into improvement actions for implementation within the national statistical system (NSS).

2. INTRODUCTION

It is recognised that quality is one of the European Statistical System's (ESS) comparative advantages in a world experiencing a growing trend of instant information and new challenges, driven by exceptional circumstances or the continuous need for faster but quality-assured data. The European Statistics Code of Practice (ES CoP) is the cornerstone of the ESS common quality framework, and the ESS statistical authorities have committed themselves to adhere to it.

In this context, it is crucial for the ESS to be equipped with a review mechanism, the peer reviews, supporting with credible evidence this self-commitment to adhere to the ES CoP. The objective of this review mechanism is to enhance the integrity, professional independence and accountability of the ESS statistical authorities. The first round of peer reviews was carried out in 2006-2008, followed by a second round in 2013-2015.

In 2017, the ES CoP was reviewed and extended and now encompasses 16 principles. This revised version of the ES CoP triggered a third round of peer reviews, being carried out in the Member States of the European Union and of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), and Eurostat from 2021 to mid-2023. This round of peer reviews aims at improving the quality and trust in European statistics by assessing the compliance of the ESS with the principles of the revised ES CoP. The peer reviews cover the ESS statistical authorities (Eurostat, the National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) and selected Other National Authorities (ONAs)) developing, producing and disseminating European statistics. The peer reviews will be followed by a period of annual monitoring of the implementation of the improvement actions developed by the NSIs to address the recommendations laid down in the peer review reports.

The third round of peer reviews has the following two objectives:

- To review the compliance/alignment of the ESS with the ES CoP, in order to demonstrate to the ESS and to external stakeholders that the ESS is a system based on the principles of the ES CoP;

- To help NSIs, ONAs and Eurostat in their further improvement and development by indicating future-oriented recommendations; at the same time, they should stimulate government authorities to support the implementation of these recommendations.

Each peer review is conducted by a team of four statistical experts (both from inside and outside the ESS). The peer review has four phases: completion of the Self-Assessment Questionnaires (SAQs) by a country; analysis of these SAQs by the peer review team; a country visit by the peer review team; and the preparation of the final report and ensuing recommendations by the peer review team. These recommendations are of two types:

- Compliance-relevant (ensuring compliance/alignment with the ES CoP);

- Improvement-related (less critical/technical supporting improvements).

A combination of an audit-like and a peer review approach is used when assessing the NSS in the countries to benefit from the positive aspects of both approaches. The audit-like approach requires the provision of documents as evidence, the ownership of the recommendations by the peer review expert team, and the right for the NSIs to express diverging views on the recommendations and to formulate the corresponding improvement actions. Whereas the peer review approach allows for common agreement within the ESS on the methodology, the objectives, scope and implementation arrangements, the focus on improvements and a peer learning process.

Although all principles of the ES CoP will be reviewed for all countries through the SAQ, the peer review experts are free to customise the country visit to concentrate on those principles where more clarification/explanation is needed. However, certain principles such as those concerning professional independence and coordination and cooperation, as well as principles including elements of modernisation, will be assessed during the peer review visit for every member of the ESS.

In addition to the common principles to be addressed for every member of the ESS, the peer review team also placed an emphasis on relevance and on adequacy of resources. Relevance (ES CoP, Principle 11) was identified as an important principle for review, given the focus on modernisation and innovation in this round of peer reviews, and because of the challenges emerging during the COVID-19 pandemic and the response of the NSS to meeting existing and new user needs. Adequacy of Resources (ES CoP Principle 3) was raised repeatedly by the external stakeholders, as well as by the Romanian National Institute of Statistics, and along with the core principles and with Relevance, was an area of focus for the peer review team in the context of emerging and expanding user needs and developing the skills needed as data sources and methodologies evolve.

Also, although the reports should not be used to compare one country to another, much effort has been made to ensure the harmonisation of the reports and the ensuing recommendations across the countries so that all countries are treated equitably.

The peer review of Eurostat was conducted by the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB).

3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

Legislation

The legal basis for official statistics in Romania is Law no. 226/2009 (the statistical law) on the organisation and functioning of official statistics in Romania, issued by the Parliament and published in Official Journal no. 397 of 11 June 2009 (updated with subsequent amendments). It defines the national statistical system (NSS) and provides a comprehensive legal framework for the organisation, production and dissemination of official statistics in Romania. The statistical law has played a central role in the transition of official statistics in Romania towards a mature NSS in which all actors demonstrate a high level of awareness and adherence to the principles of the ES CoP. An update of the statistical law is currently underway and is expected to be adopted in 2024. Additionally, in 2015 the Romanian Government adopted a commitment on Confidence (the Commitment to Support the Credibility of National Official Statistics) to ensure confidence in official statistics by guaranteeing and defending with its authority the professional independence of the Romanian National Institute of Statistics (NIS) and other producers of official statistics.

Organisation

The composition of the national statistical system (NSS) is defined in Article 6 of the statistical law and includes:

a) the Romanian National Institute of Statistics (NIS), its territorial directorates and other subordinated institutions

b) the statistical offices of central and local government

c) the statistical offices of other public authorities and institutions (other than those within the structure of the National Bank of Romania)

d) the National Bank of Romania.

Statistical offices (a) to (c) above are authorised as producers of official statistics, provided the activities they perform fully observe the provisions of the statistical law and are included in the Annual and Multi-annual National Statistical Programmes approved by Decisions of the Romanian Government. Within the NSS, the National Bank of Romania (an independent public institution) is a producer of official statistics and has statistical competences and responsibilities only in the fields in which it performs tasks according to its own organisation and operating law.

The NIS is organised and functions as a specialised body of central government with legal status, subordinate to the Government and coordinated by the Secretariat General of the Government. The NIS is managed by a President, acting as Secretary of State (not a member of the Government) and assisted by three Vice-Presidents.

To ensure that the Annual and Multi-Annual National Statistical Programmes of the NSS reflect the requirements of all the categories of data users, the statistical law establishes a National Statistical Council (NSC) as an advisory body to the Romanian National Institute of Statistics. The NSC represents the highest forum promoting and developing official statistical activity at national level and its structure provides for the involvement of authorised representatives of the main categories of suppliers, producers and users of official statistics. The Council has representatives from academia and research, government authorities, the National Bank of Romania, trade unions and employers' associations and from the media, and serves to assure the objective, transparent and scientific nature

of the methodologies, indicators, nomenclatures and classifications used in the production of official statistics. The president of the Romanian National Institute of Statistics is a member by right.

For the organisation and functioning of the national statistical system and in view of implementing and monitoring the Strategy for the Development of the National Statistical System 2022-2027 and the corresponding national statistical programmes, the Committee of the National Statistical System (COMSTAT) was set up. COMSTAT is an advisory body, made up of representatives of the producers of official statistics and is chaired by the President of the Romanian National Institute for Statistics.

Within the framework of COMSTAT, the representative of the National Bank of Romania is consulted for adopting and using the concepts and classifications, the best collection, processing and dissemination methods and techniques, and for ensuring increased coherence and comparability of the statistics produced.

Appointment Procedure for the Head of the NSI

The President of the Romanian National Institute of Statistics is appointed by the Prime Minister and the appointment procedure is the same as for any secretary of state level position as set out in Government Ordinance no. 57/2019. There are no provisions in the current statistical law regarding the criteria for the selection or appointment of the President of the Romanian National Institute of Statistics or for termination of the incumbency. The need for greater transparency in the procedure governing the appointment of the President of the Romanian National Institute of Statistics and in the termination of the incumbency was a main driver for the revision of the statistical law which is currently in the legislative work programme and is due for adoption in 2024.

Statistical Programmes

The NIS draws up Multi-annual National Statistical Programmes for a maximum period of four years, taking into account the objectives of the Strategy for the Development of the National Statistical System 2022-2027 (Strategy for Development), as well as the Statistical Programme of the European Union and the outcome of a consultation with the users, producers and providers of data. Similarly, and in cooperation with the other producers of official statistics, the NIS develops an Annual National Statistical Programme setting out plans to collect, store, process, analyse and disseminate official statistical data, and makes it publicly available. The Multi-annual and Annual National Statistical Programmes are formally endorsed by the National Statistical Council (NSC) and approved by Government Decision.

During the first half of the year following the reference year, the NIS - together with the other producers of official statistics - draws up and makes publicly available a report on the implementation of the Annual National Statistical Programme (with the prior endorsement of the NSC).

Resources

The NIS has a total of 1,625 permanent staff across its headquarters and the 42 territorial statistical directorates, with approximately 30% of staff located in the headquarters. Additionally, 645 people were hired for the 2021 Population and Housing Census. Approximately 800 field staff are deployed in the country to conduct household surveys.

In August of each year, the NIS makes the request for its annual budget allocation to the General Secretariat of the Government and the final allocation depends on Parliament's approval of the annual state budget laws. In 2022, the NIS budget allocation was 285,463,000 Lei (approximately 57,742,783 Euro), including the amount dedicated to implementing the Population and Housing Census, while the budget allocation in 2021 was 269,389,000 Lei (approximately 54,445,118 Euro). The difference

between the two years is explained by the higher expenditure in 2022 for the Population and Housing Census operations.

Coordination of the National Statistical System

The NIS has a formal coordination role across the NSS as stipulated in Article 7 of the statistical law. The peer review team confirmed that the coordination role of the NIS is effectively exercised in practice, and this coordination is highly appreciated by the other producers and stakeholders of the NSS.

Effective coordination of the NSS is strengthened by a combination of formal and informal processes, structures and procedures established over the years including:

- the signing of Collaboration Conventions and Protocols with the main sectoral partners of the NSS, covering both cooperation and coordination;

- the existence of a Public Policies Unit within the NIS tasked with managing and developing the coordination role;

- the establishment of national thematic expert groups composed of representatives from all relevant bodies that are producers of official statistics. Examples include the Transparency Council in the case of the Population and Household Census and the group on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.

There are 14 other producers of official statistics, with five of them producing specific European statistics which are transmitted directly to Eurostat via eDamis in accordance with European Regulations or sent to the NIS for supplementary processing and subsequent transmission to Eurostat.

The NSS Committee ([COMSTAT](#)) is the advisory body established by the statistical law. COMSTAT plays a central role in the planning and endorsement of the Strategy for the Development of the National Statistical System and in the monitoring of the implementation of this Strategy through the Annual and Multi-annual National Statistical Programmes. It provides an important contribution to the functioning and effective coordination of the NSS.

Other National Authorities participating in this peer review

1. The **General Inspectorate for Immigration (GII)** has responsibility for policies in the areas of migration, asylum and integration of aliens in Romania, and for implementing the relevant legislation in these fields. The three-person statistical team is located within the Risk Analysis Unit at the GII and is responsible for the statistical processing of administrative and other data used for the development, production and dissemination of European Statistics on migration and international protection as set out in Regulation (EU) No 862/2007. Results are transmitted to Eurostat, but statistics are not currently published for the national audience.

2. The **Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)** is responsible for statistical data on agriculture other than those collected by the NIS and the results (including land use, crop production and organic farming) are published on the MARD website and in the NIS's Tempo-online database. The Ministry's organisation chart includes the Agricultural Statistics Department within the Research-Innovation, Upper Secondary Education and Farm Advice Service, under the authority of the Directorate-General for Agricultural Policies. Officials of the Agricultural Statistics Department are also entrusted with activities which do not relate to the production of official statistics. There are currently six permanent officials working at the Statistics Department.

3. The **National Agency for Environmental Protection (NAEP)** has responsibility for the implementation at national level of policies, strategies and legislation in the field of environmental protection. The relevant statistical outputs (waste generation and management, indicators on municipal waste) are published on the NAEP and Eurostat websites. There is no dedicated statistical team within NEPA. The reporting on the generation and management of waste to Eurostat is done by the 14 personnel from the Waste Department who perform a mixture of statistical and administrative activities.

Data Access

In accordance with the statistical law, the Romanian National Institute of Statistics is authorised to request and obtain statistical data free of charge from all natural and legal persons residing in Romania or carrying out their activity on Romanian territory.

The use of administrative data for statistical purposes is stipulated in the statistical law. There are currently 20 formal Collaboration Conventions in place between the Romanian National Institute of Statistics and administrative data holders. Privately held data on fixed and mobile telephony was provided to the NIS (via the National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications) for the purposes of the 2021 Population and Housing Census.

The other producers of official statistics, organised as distinct entities within their respective authorities, are authorised to collect, produce and disseminate official statistical data in line with the Annual and Multi-annual National Statistical Programmes.

Relations with Users / Dissemination of Statistical Products and Services

The Romanian National Institute of Statistics disseminates outputs using both traditional and modern channels, including:

- statistical publications - 90 titles per year covering all social and economics themes;

- press releases - 300 press releases per year on a variety of statistical topics, listed in the calendar of statistical publications; press releases are available on the NIS website and are freely distributed in hard copy;

- a primary online statistical database - the Tempo-online database disseminates data and metadata for approximately 1,500 time series from 2010, and another 600 additional time series are under construction in the database.

Amongst the other publicly available databases the metadata database, the statistical classifications and nomenclatures database and the eDemos (Statistical Information System at territorial level) are worth noting.

The modern channels used by the NIS are primarily the social media platforms Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, with a focus on Facebook as the most active channel in Romania.

User satisfaction surveys are carried out every three years.

Article 35 of the statistical law sets out the conditions under which microdata access is possible for scientific purposes and since the last peer review, the NIS has set up a dedicated centre for microdata access in order to facilitate scientific research.

4. PROGRESS/ADVANCEMENT IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS

Governance of the National Statistical System

A new statistical law for the NSS, prepared with the help of the World Bank and following the Generic Law on Official Statistics set out in the UN Guidance of Modernising Statistical Legislation, is expected to be put forward by the Government to the Romanian parliament for final adoption in 2024. As in the current statistical law, the new legislation on the organisation and functioning of official statistics in Romania will guarantee full professional independence for the NIS and the ONAs and will additionally specify a transparent procedure governing the appointment of the President of the NIS and the termination of the incumbency.

Administrative Data Developments

Right of access to administrative data is provided for in the statistical law and expanding the use of administrative data sources has been a priority for the NIS. Since the previous peer review, significant progress has been made on using administrative data sources to meet current and evolving user needs, while reducing primary data collection and statistical production costs and reducing respondent burden. The increased use of administrative data has also been a strong driver for coherence and comparability checking across primary and secondary data sources feeding into the statistical production processes.

There are currently 20 formal Collaboration Conventions in place between the NIS and the administrative data holders, setting out the data to be supplied, the frequency, the timetable for access, format, metadata and the technology to be used for the data transfer.

Key examples of progress in the use of administrative data are the 2021 Population and Housing Census and the 2020 General Agricultural Census. The legislation for the censuses (Law no. 178/2020 and Law no. 177/2020, for population and housing, and the agriculture census, respectively) reinforced the right of access to administrative data sources. Along with a move to electronic data capture, this use of administrative data ensured successful outcomes for the censuses.

Quality Developments

The commitment of the NIS and the ONAs to the provision of high-quality statistics was clear to the peer review team. The quality policy for the NIS is based on two documents: a Quality Declaration and Quality Guidelines for Romanian Official Statistics, both available on the NIS website.

At the NIS, the unit managing the quality function is located in the General Directorate of Exploitation and Management of Statistical Data Sources with responsibilities that include:

- implementation of methods across the NIS that enable the review and measurement of the quality of statistical data;

- monitoring the process to review the compliance of statistical methodologies with European standards;

- managing the procedures for approval of the methodologies elaborated by the NIS and other producers of official data.

As part of the work of the quality unit and with an increased focus on quality since the previous peer review, a new version of the Quality Guidelines for Romanian official statistics, aligned with the Generic

Activity Model for Statistical Organisations (GAMSO) and the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) framework, is currently being finalised and tested by the production directorates of the NIS.

Additionally, for each statistical domain, guidelines and handbooks in line with European methodology have been developed and implemented and are published on the NIS metadata database on the NIS website.

Overall, the NIS metadata database provides information on the sources, concepts and methods for each statistical survey in the Annual National Statistical Programme, including the surveys of other producers of official statistics. The metadata database also contains definitions of the outputs and indicators as well as theoretical statistical information. The NIS has partly implemented the Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS) for the description and public dissemination on its website of metadata reports related to statistical surveys.

In the context of its recent CONRENA project[1] the NIS has captured standardised information on the methods and applications used for each statistical survey in line with the phases of the GSBPM. This standardised format supports verification of the methodologies used across the NIS and is an effective means of assessing and reviewing costs, technologies and quality indicators across surveys. The NIS plans to incorporate this documentation, which is currently held in Excel, into its metadata database.

As part of a cross-Government project in Romania, the NIS and the ONAs have prepared an evaluation based on the Common Self-Assessment Framework and are now in the process of implementing the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System. The objective of this national initiative is to implement a common evaluation framework for quality and performance management systems by the end of 2023, demonstrating a cross-Governmental commitment to consistently provide products and services that meet customer and regulatory requirements. The initiative also provides professional training opportunities for the NIS staff on quality and performance management systems.

Accessibility and Communications

Since the last peer review, there have been important developments in granting researchers access to microdata and the NIS now provides free-of-charge access to business and social research microdata files. To streamline and facilitate researchers' access to microdata, a transparent process was introduced in 2019 and information on the application procedure and on the conditions for access are available on the NIS website in Romanian and English. A Contract for Access forms the basis of the agreement between the researcher and the NIS and a safe centre for access to microdata has been created at the NIS headquarters.

There has also been progress in dissemination and communication since the last peer review, with the introduction of an error treatment policy in 2016 and the removal of pre-release access as from the 4th quarter of 2015. Additionally, the use of infographics and videos to support greater accessibility for users has been increasingly implemented by the NIS, and a focus on the use of visualisation was an important success factor for the 2021 Population and Household Census and the 2020 General Agricultural Census.

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[1] Project for the consolidation of the national statistical system and modernisation of the production processes for carrying out the national censuses (CONRENA), see CONRENA | National Institute of Statistics (insse.ro)

5. COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE AND FUTURE ORIENTATION

5.1 STRENGTHS OF THE NSI AND THE PARTICIPATING ONAs IN RELATION TO THEIR COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE

Legal Mandate and Coordination of the National Statistical System

Overall, there is a good level of awareness of the principles of the ES CoP throughout the NSS. Many of the principles, including professional independence and objectivity, the right to collect data, confidentiality, transparency and the use of sound methodology, are underpinned by the national statistical legislation and the legislation extends equally to all parts of the NSS.

The statistical law establishes the Romanian National Institute of Statistics as a national statistical authority with responsibility for the production and dissemination of official statistics and for the supervision and coordination of the NSS. The NIS has established written agreements (protocols) with the ONAs on the scope of their responsibility in developing, producing, and disseminating official statistics and on compliance with the ES CoP. (ES CoP, Principles 1 and 1bis)

The integrated planning system for the NSS is a clear strength, with good coordination by and cooperation between the NIS and the ONAs on the development of the Annual and Multi-annual National Statistical Programmes and the Strategy for the Development of the National Statistical System 2022-2027 facilitated through an NSS-wide committee, COMSTAT. (ES CoP, Principle 1bis)

Use of Administrative and Other New Data Sources

There are currently 20 formal Collaboration Conventions in place between the NIS and the administrative data holders, setting out the data to be supplied, the frequency, the timetable for access, format, metadata and the technology to be used for the data transfer. The NIS is very active in monitoring newly developed or amended administrative data sources, and the Collaboration Conventions with the suppliers of administrative data are regularly updated. Additionally, the NIS has formal processes for assuring the quality of administrative data sources and findings on data quality are regularly fed back to administrative data providers. (ES CoP, Indicators 2.4, 8.6, 8.7)

As well as confirming access to administrative data for use in the 2021 Population and Housing Census, the provisions of Law no. 178/2020 granted access to privately held data on fixed and mobile telephony (via the National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications, ANCOM) solely for the purposes of the census. (ES CoP, Indicators 2.4, 8.7)

In general, gaining access to privately held data has been challenging for the NIS. The use of phone data to ensure a successful Population and Housing Census strongly supports the granting of access to such data in national legislation and also provides an excellent business case for building collaborations with private holders of data in parallel with the progress of the legislative process. (ES CoP, Indicators 2.1, 2.4, 8.6, 8.7)

A Committed Workforce that Recognises the Importance of Collaboration and Innovation

A culture of performance, professionalism and commitment to official statistics is deeply embedded in the staff of the NIS and in the ONA teams, and the staff across the organisations demonstrated a strong ability to innovate and adapt to change.

To best manage cooperation with providers of administrative data and with other institutes (such as research initiatives with universities), the NIS has developed an extensive set of formal protocols. There are currently over 80 protocols and conventions signed between the NIS and other institutions which formalise the practical cooperation for exchange of data and for other types of collaboration. (ES CoP, Indicator 8.6)

The NIS recognises the importance of collaborating with external bodies and of using shared solutions to meet its key strategic objectives. The NIS is an active participant in ESSnet projects, including the two ESSnets on Big Data. For the 2021 Population and Household Census and for the 2020 General Census of Agriculture, the importance of providing an online collection platform was identified and to ensure progress on meeting this objective, the NIS collaborated with the World Bank on using Survey Solutions (SuSo), a free software developed in the Data Group of the World Bank. Roll out of SuSo continues at the NIS for sample surveys in the areas of agriculture and price statistics. (ES CoP, Indicator 2.4)

To build capacity for innovation and development, the NIS established the Directorate of Innovative Tools in Statistics at the end of 2016. This small Directorate is focused on exploring the potential of new data sources and methodologies and their suitability for incorporation into the production chain. To date, notable work of the Directorate includes a successful collaboration on new data sources with the compilers of price statistics. In close cooperation with the Directorate for Demography and Social Statistics Directorate, the Directorate of Innovative Tools has also developed a new methodological framework to compute population statistics based on mobile phone data together with the implementation of a pilot software. (ES CoP, Indicators 2.4, 9.4, 10.3, 10.4)

Innovative Practices

The peer review team identified innovative practices that are noteworthy and possibly applicable in some way in other national settings. The peer review team would like to highlight the following important initiatives:

- For the 2021 Population and Housing Census, the provisions of Law no. 178/2020 granted access to privately held data on fixed and mobile telephony (via the National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications, ANCOM) solely for the purposes of the census, supporting important coverage and quality improvements for the census and serving as a strong case for the benefits of access to privately held data. (ES CoP, Indicators 2.1, 2.4, 8.6, 8.7)

- The Directorate of Innovative Tools in Statistics at the NIS, in collaboration with the compilers of price statistics, has successfully incorporated web-scraped and scanner data into its production processes. Furthermore, it has developed artificial intelligence and machine-learning solutions for the categorisation of these data. (ES CoP, Indicators 9.4, 10.2, 10.3)

5.2 ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.2.1 Strengthening the National Statistical System

The President of the NIS is appointed by the Prime Minister and there are no provisions in the current statistical law regarding the criteria for the selection or appointment of the President of the NIS or for termination of the incumbency. The need for greater transparency in the procedure governing the appointment of the President of the NIS and in the termination of the incumbency was a main driver for the revision of the statistical law which is currently in the legislative work programme and is due for adoption in 2024. Recognising the progress made with the drafting of new national statistical legislation, and to comply with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends that all possible efforts are made to ensure the timely adoption and implementation of the new legislation.

To comply with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R1. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics and the relevant government authority should adopt and implement legislation which provides transparency in the procedure governing the appointment of the President of the Romanian National Institute of Statistics and the termination of the incumbency, notably through the timely adoption and implementation of new legislation. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicator 1.8)

Article 15 of the Law no. 226 / 2009 sets out the requirement for implementation of the ES CoP across the NSS and gives the NIS the responsibility for ensuring its implementation by the ONAs. To demonstrate the ONAs' compliance with the ES CoP, with particular regard to the implementation of the principle of professional independence, the peer review team identified the need to appoint a statistical head for each ONA to ensure that there is a clear, formal line of reporting to the NIS on issues related to the compilation official statistics.

To comply with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R2. The relevant government authorities, with the assistance of the Romanian National Institute of Statistics, should appoint a statistical head for each Other National Authority developing, producing and disseminating European statistics to comply with the professional independence requirement of the ES CoP. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicators 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4)

Currently, the ONAs' statistical functions are allocated to teams within the government authorities and are not visible as producers of European Statistics that must adhere to the ES CoP. The peer review team recognised an opportunity to strengthen the NSS through the organisation, where possible, of the statistical functions of each ONA into separate statistical units. The establishment of distinct statistical units in each ONA would greatly enhance the visibility of the statistical work of the ONAs and would demonstrate their distinct role as producers of European Statistics while also demonstrating a commitment to a strong, well-structured NSS.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R3. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics and the relevant government authorities should build on the current statistical activities of the Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics to organise the statistical functions of the Other National Authorities into distinct statistical units, where possible. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1.3, 1.2 and 1.4)

Currently, there is no single logo for the official statistics published by the NIS and the ONAs developing, producing and disseminating European statistics. The peer review team identified an opportunity to strengthen the brand of official statistics through the introduction of a shared logo. The logo would also underline the independence of official statistics from other outputs and the strong adherence to the ES CoP by the Romanian National Institute of Statistics and the Other National Authorities.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R4. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics and all Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics should introduce the systematic use of a common logo to clearly identify official statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1.6)

The close bilateral coordination by and collaboration between the NIS and the ONAs developing, producing and disseminating European statistics were very evident to the peer review team, including the formal coordination through COMSTAT and the regular informal collaboration between the NIS statistical areas and their ONA colleagues on compilation and development matters. To further strengthen this coordination and continue developing a national statistical system that is responsive to growing user needs, the peer review identified an opportunity for the expansion of multilateral engagement across the NIS and the ONAs. This should encompass common opportunities, challenges related to methodology developments, new data sources (including access to privately held data) and privacy enhancing technologies to increase access to new data sources. Joint research and output opportunities will also be required to meet user needs for more analyses and details in support of an evidence-based approach to policy development and decision-making.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R5. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics should extend its engagement and collaboration with all Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics on areas including, but not limited to, methodology, new data sources, privacy enhancing technologies, joint research projects and joint publications in order to address common opportunities, issues and challenges for the national statistical system. (Improvement-related: ES CoP Indicator 1bis.2)

5.2.2 Ensuring adequacy and sustainability of human and financial resources

Ensuring the adequacy and sustainability of human and financial resources to implement the Multi-Annual and Annual National Statistical Programmes and to build the skills and capacity to meet increasing user needs for official statistics as a critical input to policy- and decision-making was one of the main challenges for the NIS and the ONAs identified by the peer review team. Furthermore, achieving the objectives of the Strategy for the Development of the National Statistical System 2022-2027 is critically conditional on the timely provision of resources. The Romanian Government, through its Commitment on Confidence, has an explicit commitment to support the credibility of Romanian official statistics by providing adequate and stable financial resources to improve the quality of official statistics and meet the requirements of the ES CoP. The urgency of the situation with regard to skills shortages and salary incentives for talent recruitment was an issue raised repeatedly during the discussions between the peer review team, the NIS, the ONAs and the General Secretariat of the Government.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R6. The relevant government authorities should ensure allocation of adequate human and financial resources to the Romanian National Institute of Statistics and all Other National Authorities

developing, producing and disseminating European statistics, to allow them in particular to deliver the Strategy for the Development 2022-2027 and to further embrace new data sources and technologies. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 3.1 and 10.2)

Staff recruitment and retention were identified by the peer review team as significant issues for the NIS and for the ONAs, considering that the vacancy rate for the NIS stood at 12% at the time of the peer review and that there can be long periods of time between recruitment contests as a result of legislative or budgetary restrictions. These challenges were acknowledged by the external stakeholders contributing to the peer review as key risks for the delivery and development of the official statistics needed to meet the needs of policy- and decision-makers, researchers and analysts. Contributing to the recruitment and retention challenge, a misalignment of the remuneration of NIS staff when compared with other government authorities, which is acknowledged by the relevant authorities, was raised repeatedly during the discussions between the peer review team, the NIS and the external stakeholders. To further support an improved environment for the recruitment and retention of the necessary skills, the peer review team identified a recommendation on remuneration levels for NIS staff.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R7. The relevant government authority should resolve the misalignment of remuneration between the staff of the Romanian National Institute of Statistics and the staff of other government authorities in order to support the recruitment and retention of skilled staff. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 3.1)

The NIS's commitment to staff training and skills development was evident during the peer review and the peer review team was informed about some formal and informal training options available for the staff of the NIS and the ONAs. To further develop their staff's skills, and to address staff retention challenges in particular, the NIS and the ONAs could extend and promote formal training and education schemes. Additionally, increased flexibility in working arrangements was identified as a further opportunity to support staff retention.

Moreover, there is currently no formal process for staff mobility at the NIS. A formal mobility process would give the NIS the opportunity to further increase employee engagement, develop staff competencies and exchange and share innovations, practices and methodologies across teams. Staff could also gain new perspectives on their roles and on the varied work of the NIS. The development and implementation of a policy on staff mobility could provide another incentive for staff retention.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R8. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics and all Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics should investigate and implement non-financial incentives, particularly through training and skills development, staff mobility and, where possible, by the extension of flexible working arrangements. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 7.6 and 3.1)

5.2.3 Extending the Use of Administrative & New Data Sources

Use of administrative data by the NIS continues to grow, with a very clear focus on using new data sources to minimise the statistical burden of data collection operations on enterprises and citizens, as well as supporting the development of new statistical indicators. With these objectives in mind, the NIS liaises with both public and private entities on access to data. However, apart from the specific case of the legal right of access to mobile and landline phone data for the purposes of the 2021

Population and Housing Census, the peer review noted that there is currently no legal basis for access to privately held data. The benefits and learnings from the 2021 Population and Housing Census present a strong case for strengthening the legal mandate in the statistical law for access to privately held data to enable the NIS to meet the growing needs of users and decision-makers for more timely, frequent and detailed information from these new data sources.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R9. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics and the relevant government authority should ensure that future updates of the statistical law will enable wider access to privately held data and new data sources for the investigation of statistical potential and for use in the compilation of official statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 2.4 and 2.2)

Considering the long time required to update legislation and recognising the need for the NIS to gain further experience on the statistical potential of privately held data, the peer review team recognised an opportunity for the NIS and the ONAs to further develop partnerships and relationships with key stakeholders to investigate how these data can help meet growing user needs.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R10. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics and, where applicable, the Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics, should actively engage with private data holders to investigate opportunities for official statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 2.4)

Right of access to administrative data for the NIS and the ONAs is provided for in Article 22 of the statistical law in accordance with the activities set out in the Annual National Statistical Programme. However, this access can sometimes be difficult to achieve in practice and high-level engagement may be needed, where necessary, to highlight this legal right of access and to ensure effective cooperation on the provision of administrative data by the relevant government authorities.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R11. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics should engage with the relevant government authorities to ensure that the importance of effective access to administrative data is understood and supported at the highest level by the government authorities. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 2.2)

5.2.4 Strengthening Quality Monitoring and Standardising Statistical Processes

The NIS has a formal coordination role across the NSS as stipulated in Article 7 of the statistical law. The peer review team confirmed that the coordination role of the NIS is effectively exercised in practice, and this coordination is highly appreciated by the other producers and stakeholders of the NSS. The Annual and Multi-annual National Statistical Programmes of the NIS and the ONAs are coordinated through COMSTAT, and ONA representation and participation in the work of the NSC to coordinate on meeting user needs was also very evident to the peer review team.

Under Article 15 of the statistical law, the NIS has the responsibility for monitoring the ONAs' implementation of the concepts regarding the management of quality in statistics and the concepts of the ES CoP. The peer review team was informed that the NIS is developing a quality assessment tool to monitor the ONAs' compliance with the ES CoP. It should also develop a formal plan to monitor such

adherence, building on the strong coordination arrangements and on the documentation and preparation undertaken with the ONAs as part of the peer review process.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R12. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics should develop a plan to monitor compliance with ES CoP by all Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics, assisted by the documentation developed for the peer review. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1bis.2 and 4.1)

The NIS's quality policy is based on two documents: a Quality Declaration and Quality Guidelines for Romanian Official Statistics, both available on the NIS website. Additionally, each statistical domain has developed and implemented guidelines and handbooks in line with European methodology and these documents are available in the externally accessible metadata database. A new version of the Quality Guidelines for Romanian Official Statistics, using the Generic Statistical Business Process Model framework, has been developed and is being tested with the production directorates of the NIS. It is important for the NIS to receive input from the ONAs to finalise these updated quality guidelines.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R13. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics should ensure that the Quality Guidelines for Romanian Official Statistics are relevant for all Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics and should monitor and review its implementation. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1bis.2 and 4.2)

The NIS's metadata database provides information on the sources, concepts and methods for each statistical survey in the Annual National Statistical Programme, including the surveys of other producers of official statistics. This database also contains definitions of the outputs and indicators as well as theoretical statistical information. The NIS plans to further improve the content of its metadata database using the methodology documents developed for each statistical area as part of the CONRENA project. Acknowledging the ongoing work to improve metadata, the peer review team believes that the NIS should investigate the possibility of streamlining the systems and processes for populating and updating the metadata database, ideally using automation where possible.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R14. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics should improve the integration and automation of its metadata systems to facilitate the central management of metadata that meets all purposes. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 8.4)

The NIS has partly implemented the Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS) for the description and public dissemination of metadata reports for most of its statistical surveys, available in its metadata database on the NIS website. The peer review team was informed that the NIS plans to develop a comprehensive internal quality reporting guide. The peer review team recommends that in this guide, and in future updates of the metadata database, the NIS continues this work to implement SIMS as fully as possible across its systems for gathering, collating and reporting metadata.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R15. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics should continue to develop and disseminate standardised metadata in its dissemination and quality reporting systems. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 15.5)

The peer review team noted that quality reports are systematically drawn up as part of the NIS's obligations towards European regulations. These reports have a great potential to contribute in a cost-effective way towards building a system for the systematic quality review of statistical processes and outputs. To ensure that statistical quality reports are used comprehensively to continuously drive quality improvements in its statistical processes, over and beyond EU reporting obligations, the peer review team noted an opportunity for the NIS to develop and introduce a systematic approach to monitoring and reviewing the quality of statistical production processes based on the information and documentation available from the quality reports.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R16. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics should introduce the systematic review of statistical processes and outputs, building on the documentation gathered in the quality reports. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 4.2)

A Methodological Endorsement Committee (MEC) has been established within the NIS. It has a consultative role and consists of 10 members who are selected from the NSC. The MEC is responsible for approving the methodological projects related to statistical surveys, statistical classifications, nomenclatures and statistical instruments, as well as other statistical work. While acknowledging and commending the MEC's role in the development and improvement of the methodologies used by the NIS, the peer review team identified a need for the NIS to ensure that best-practice methodologies are implemented across its statistical areas, as standards are currently not automatically implemented and applied.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R17. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics should ensure the development of standard methodology approaches for implementation by the statistical production areas. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 7.2)

5.2.5 Meeting Evolving User Needs

The peer review team observed that the NSC provides the various user groups represented on the Council with opportunities to bring up their needs for new statistical outputs with the NIS and the ONAs. Additionally, the NIS conducts a user survey every three years and users also have the opportunity to make contact regarding their needs at any stage via the NIS website. However, given the three-year gap between the user survey and the importance of identifying needs across the widest possible number of users, the peer review team identified the need for a more frequent and coordinated procedure of consultation and prioritisation of user needs across all stakeholders and sectors.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R18. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics should organise a more systematic and comprehensive consultation with users to improve the identification of future user needs and new users, building on the current three-yearly user survey. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 11.1, 11.2 and 11.3)

The NIS promotes statistical literacy through seminars and conferences and has held information sessions with the media in the past, which the attendees found very helpful for improving their understanding of official statistics. Recognising the importance of outreach initiatives to all types of

users, the peer review team encourages the NIS to continue to further develop statistical literacy outreach programmes.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R19. The Romanian National Institute of Statistics and all Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics should continue to develop and implement communications to improve the profile of official statistics, including engagement with users to promote statistical literacy. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 15.2, 15.6 and 15.7)

The peer review team noted that, while the timetable of outputs by the ONAs is included in the Annual National Statistical Programme for the NSS, the ONAs do not publish formal release calendars. To clearly demonstrate their independence in the dissemination of official statistics, the peer review team considered that each ONA should develop a release calendar for their official statistical outputs and that their calendar should be made public.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R20. All Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics should implement a formal release calendar for official statistics, coordinated by the Romanian National Institute of Statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 6.5)

The Romanian National Institute of Statistics is well aware of the principle of equal access to data for all users and does not provide pre-release access to its results, while awareness about the important principle of no pre-release may not be sufficiently present at all levels in the Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating official statistics. To clearly demonstrate their independence as disseminators of official statistics, the peer review team considered that the Other National Authorities should review and clearly publicise their pre-release access policy and practices or state that there is no pre-release to data to any user, also not inside the supervising authority.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

R21. All Other National Authorities developing, producing and disseminating European statistics should develop and implement pre-release access policies, where such pre-release access occurs. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 6.7)

5.3 VIEWS OF THE NSI, AS THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR OF THE NSS AND THE PEER REVIEW, ON THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS WHERE THEY DIVERGE FROM PEER REVIEW EXPERTS' ASSESSMENT

None

ANNEX A – AGENDA OF THE VISIT

Time	Topic	Participants
Day 1- 13 February 2023		
09:00 – 09:45	**Preparatory meeting**	**Peer Review Expert Team:** All **NIS:** Gabriela POPA, Director Lucia SINIGAGLIA, General Director Daniela ȘTEFĂNESCU, Director Bogdan PĂTÂRLĂGEANU, Deputy Director
09:45 – 10:00	**Welcome and programme introduction**	**Peer Review Expert Team:** All **NIS:** Tudorel ANDREI, President Marian CHIVU, Vice-president Beatrix GERED, Vice-president Ilie DUMITRESCU, President counsellor Gabriela POPA, Director Lucia SINIGAGLIA, General Director Daniela ȘTEFĂNESCU, Director Bogdan PĂTÂRLĂGEANU, Deputy Director Laurențiu GAVRILĂ, Director Florentina GHEORGHE, General Director Silvia PISICĂ, General Director Bogdan OANCEA, Director Bogdan DRĂGHIA, Senior counsellor Radu Mugur OPREA, General Director Florinel SGĂRDEA, General Director Mariana MIHALACHE, Executive Director Mihaela ȘERBAN, Executive Director
10:00 – 11:00	**Presentation of the National Statistical System**	**Peer Review Expert Team:** All **NIS:** Tudorel ANDREI, President Marian CHIVU, Vice-president Beatrix GERED, Vice-president Ilie DUMITRESCU, President counsellor Gabriela POPA, Director Lucia SINIGAGLIA, General Director

		Daniela ȘTEFĂNESCU, Director
		Bogdan PĂTÂRLĂGEANU, Deputy Director
		Laurențiu GAVRILĂ, Director
		Florentina GHEORGHE, General Director
		Silvia PISICĂ, General Director
		Bogdan OANCEA, Director
		Bogdan DRĂGHIA, Senior counsellor
		Radu Mugur OPREA, General Director
		Florinel SGĂRDEA, General Director
		Mariana MIHALACHE, Executive Director
		Mihaela ȘERBAN, Executive Director
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee Break	
11:15 – 12:30	**Professional Independence - Mandate for Data Collection and Access to Data**	**Peer Review Expert Team:** All **NIS:** Tudorel ANDREI, President Marian CHIVU, Vice-president Beatrix GERED, Vice-president Ilie DUMITRESCU, President counsellor Laurențiu GAVRILĂ, Director Florentina GHEORGHE, General Director Silvia PISICĂ, General Director Bogdan DRĂGHIA, Senior counsellor Aurel Flaviu RAITMAIER, Data protection officer Gabriela POPA, Director Lucia SINIGAGLIA, General Director Daniela ȘTEFĂNESCU, Director Bogdan PĂTÂRLĂGEANU, Deputy Director
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 14:30	**Coordination and Cooperation**	**Peer Review Expert Team:** All **NIS:** Tudorel ANDREI, President Marian CHIVU, Vice-president Beatrix GERED, Vice-president Ilie DUMITRESCU, President counsellor Gabriela POPA, Director Lucia SINIGAGLIA, General Director Daniela ȘTEFĂNESCU, Director Bogdan PĂTÂRLĂGEANU, Deputy Director Bogdan DRĂGHIA, Senior counsellor

14:30 – 15:30	**Impartiality and Objectivity - Accessibility and Clarity**	**Peer Review Expert Team:** All **NIS:** Silvia PISICĂ, General Director Florentina GHEORGHE, General Director Mariana BREBULEŢ, Director Bogdan DRĂGHIA, Senior counsellor Maria RĂDULESCU, Director Radu Mugur OPREA, General Director Aurel Flaviu RAITMAIER, Data protection officer Gabriela POPA, Director Lucia SINIGAGLIA, General Director Bogdan PĂTÂRLĂGEANU, Deputy Director
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee Break	
15:45 – 17:00	**Statistical Confidentiality and Data Protection – Methodology - Statistical procedures and secondary data sources**	**Peer Review Expert Team:** All **NIS:** Maria RĂDULESCU, Director Aurel Flaviu RAITMAIER, Data protection officer Silvia PISICĂ, General Director Florentina GHEORGHE, General Director Laurenţiu GAVRILĂ, Director Mihaela IORDACHE, Director Mariana BREBULEŢ, Director Radu Mugur OPREA, General Director Gabriela POPA, Director Lucia SINIGAGLIA, General Director Bogdan PĂTÂRLĂGEANU, Deputy Director Bogdan DRĂGHIA, Senior counsellor
17:00 – 18:00	Peer review expert team discussion	

Time	Topic	Participants
	Day 2 – 14 February 2023	
09:00 – 10:30	**Quality - Coherence and Comparability**	**Peer Review Expert Team:** All **NIS:** Silvia PISICĂ, General Director Florentina GHEORGHE, General Director Laurențiu GAVRILĂ, Director Radu Mugur OPREA, General Director Alin MĂRICUȚ, Junior expert Gabriela POPA, Director Lucia SINIGAGLIA, General Director Bogdan PĂTÂRLĂGEANU, Deputy Director Bogdan DRĂGHIA, Senior counsellor
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee Break	
10:45 – 12:00	**Relevance - Accuracy and Reliability - Timeliness and Punctuality**	**Peer Review Expert Team:** All **NIS:** Silvia PISICĂ, General Director Florentina GHEORGHE, General Director Laurențiu GAVRILĂ, Director Radu Mugur OPREA, General Director Bogdan DRĂGHIA, Senior Counsellor Gabriela POPA, Director Lucia SINIGAGLIA, General Director Bogdan PĂTÂRLĂGEANU, Deputy Director
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	
13:00 – 13:45	**Non-excessive Burden on Respondents - Adequacy of Resources and Cost Effectiveness**	**Peer Review Expert Team:** All **NIS:** Florinel SGĂRDEA, General Director Mihaela IORDACHE, Director Anda FINȚI, Director Marius LUCAN-ARJOCA, Director Silvia PISICĂ, General Director Florentina GHEORGHE, General Director Laurențiu GAVRILĂ, Director Radu Mugur OPREA, General Director Gabriela POPA, Director Lucia SINIGAGLIA, General Director

		Bogdan PĂTÂRLĂGEANU, Deputy Director Ilie DUMITRESCU, President counsellor Daniela ȘTEFĂNESCU, Director Bogdan DRĂGHIA, Senior counsellor
13:45 – 14:45	**Progress and plans for the future - Innovations**	**Peer Review Expert Team:** All **NIS:** Tudorel ANDREI, President Ilie DUMITRESCU, President counsellor Bogdan OANCEA, Director Silvia PISICĂ, General Director Florentina GHEORGHE, General Director Laurențiu GAVRILĂ, Director Radu Mugur OPREA, General Director Gabriela POPA, Director Lucia SINIGAGLIA, General Director Daniela ȘTEFĂNESCU, Director Bogdan PĂTÂRLĂGEANU, Deputy Director Bogdan DRĂGHIA, Senior counsellor
14:45 – 15:45	**Meeting with Statistical Council**	**Peer Review Team:** All **NIS:** Gabriela POPA, Director Lucia SINIGAGLIA, General Director Bogdan PĂTÂRLĂGEANU, Deputy Director Bogdan DRĂGHIA, Senior counsellor **Statistical Council:** Marian PREDA, President of the Statistical Council, rector of the University of Bucharest, Valentina VASILE, Vice-president of the General Association of Economists from Romania Constantin ANGHELACHE, Vice-president of the Romanian Statistical Society
15:45 – 16:00	Coffee Break	
16:00 – 17:00	**Meeting with junior staff**	**Peer Review Expert Team:** All **INS:** Mihaela MIHAI, Senior counsellor - Directorate for Statistical Data Dissemination Senior expert - GIS Compartment

		Simona BRATU, senior counsellor - European Affairs and International Cooperation Department
		Ruxandra PRISĂCARU, Principal expert - Directorate for National Accounts
		Radu PĂUNESCU, Principal expert - Directorate for National Accounts
		Alin MĂRICUȚ, Junior expert - Directorate for Administrative Source Management and Processing
		Georgiana BACIU, Junior expert - Directorate for Agricultural and Environmental Statistics
		Andrei Romulus RAICU, Junior counsellor - Directorate for External Trade Statistics
17:00 – 18:00	Peer review expert team discussion	

Time	Topic	Participants
Day 3 – 15 February 2023		
09:30 – 11:00	**Meeting with ONA - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development**	**Peer Review Expert Team:** All
		NIS: Florentina GHEORGHE, General Director
		Ioana DIMA, Director
		Gabriela POPA, Director
		Lucia SINIGAGLIA, General Director
		Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development:
		Viorel MORĂRESCU, Director - Directorate of Policies in the Vegetable Sector
		Dana-Mihaela OLTEANU, Counsellor - Agricultural Statistics Department
		Ramona POPA, Counsellor - Organic Farming Department
		Counsellor - Organic Farming Department
		Counsellor - Directorate of Livestock Policies
		Counsellor - Directorate of Livestock Policies
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break	
11:30 – 13:00	**Meeting with ONA -National Environmental Agency**	**Peer Review Expert Team:** All

		NIS: Florentina GHEORGHE, General Director Ioana DIMA, Director Carmen ROMANIUC, Deputy Director Gabriela POPA, Director Lucia SINIGAGLIA, General Director **Național Environmental Protection Agency:** Brîndușa PETROAICA, Director - Directorate of Waste, Chemicals, Soil and Subsoil Mihaela OLARU, Head of Waste Department Stela VĂLU, Counsellor - Waste Department Codrina BUJANCĂ, Counsellor - Waste Department
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 15:30	**Meeting with ONA – General Inspectorate for Immigration**	**Peer Review Expert Team:** All **NIS:** Silvia PISICĂ, General Director Lavinia BĂLTEANU, Director Gabriela POPA, Director Lucia SINIGAGLIA, General Director **General Inspectorate for Immigration:** Ștefan MAZILU, Expert - Risk Analysis Department
15:30 – 16:30	Peer review expert team discussion	

Time	Topic	Participants
	Day 4 – 16 February 2023	
09:00 – 09:30	**Closing meeting with all ONAs**	**Peer Review Expert Team:** All **NIS:** Florentina GHEORGHE, General Director Ioana DIMA, Director Carmen ROMANIUC, Deputy Director Silvia PISICĂ, General Director Lavinia BĂLTEANU, Director Gabriela POPA, Director Lucia SINIGAGLIA, General Director **Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development:** Viorel MORĂRESCU, Director - Directorate of Policies in the Vegetable Sector Dana-Mihaela OLTEANU, Counsellor - Agricultural Statistics Department Ramona POPA, Counsellor - Organic Farming Department Counsellor - Organic Farming Department Counsellor - Directorate of Livestock Policies **Național Environmental Protection Agency:** Brîndușa PETROAICA, Director - Directorate of Waste, Chemicals, Soil and Subsoil Codrina BUJANCĂ, Counsellor - Waste Department **General Inspectorate for Immigration:** Stefan MAZILU**,** Expert - Risk Analysis Department
09:30 – 10:30	**Meeting with private data providers and providers of new data sources**	**Peer Review Expert Team:** All **NIS:** Silvia PISICĂ, General Director Florentina GHEORGHE, General Director Laurențiu GAVRILĂ, Director Bogdan OANCEA, Director Mihaela ȘERBAN, Executive Director

		Mariana MIHALACHE, Executive Director Gabriela POPA, Director Lucia SINIGAGLIA, General Director **Main data providers:** Mariana GHEOROAE - SC TOYOTA ROMANIA SRL Representative of SC PORSCHE Romania SRL Representative of SC REWE ROMANIA SRL Mihaela DUMITRESCU - Vodafone Romania Andreea BRÎNZOIU - Romanian Railway Group
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee Break	
10:45 – 11:45	**Meeting with providers of administrative data**	**Peer Review Expert Team:** All **NIS:** Laurențiu GAVRILĂ, Director Florentina GHEORGHE, General Director Silvia PISICĂ, General Director Lucia SINIGAGLIA, General Director Gabriela POPA, Director Senior expert, GIS Compartment **Providers of administrative data:** Corneliu VASILE, Head of the Administrative Cooperation Office - National Agency for Fiscal Administration Simona STOIAN - Councellor National Agency for Fiscal Administration Police Chief Commissioner - Directorate for the Registration of Persons and the Administration of Databases Counsellor - National Cadastre and Real Estate Advertising Agency Ioan MĂRGINEAN, Director - Trade Registry Data Valorisation Directorate/National Trade Register Office
11:45 – 12:45	**Meeting with main users – Media**	**Peer Review Expert Team:** All **NIS:** Bogdan PĂTÂRLĂGEANU, Deputy Director Bogdan DRĂGHIA, Senior counsellor

		Gabriela POPA, Director
		Lucia SINIGAGLIA, General Director
		Media:
		Dan POPA, Editor - Hotnews
		Expert Human Resource Department - Romanian Television
		Mădălina CHIȚU, Journalist - Romanian Television
		Nicoleta GHERASI**,** Editor – AGERPRESS
12:45 – 13:45	Lunch	
13:45 – 14:45	**Meeting with main users – Ministries and other public/private institutions (including Central Bank as a user)**	**Peer Review Expert Team:** All **NIS:** Laurențiu GAVRILĂ, Director Florentina GHEORGHE, General Director Silvia PISICĂ, General Director Gabriela POPA, Director Lucia SINIGAGLIA, General Director Bogdan PĂTÂRLĂGEANU, Deputy Director **Main users:** Dumitru PÎRVU, Head of Statistical Unit - National Bank of Romania Director - National Institute of Public Health/Ministry of Health General Secretary - Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration Head of Public Policies Unit - Ministry of Education Secretary of State - General Secretariat of the Government
14:45 – 15:45	**Meeting with main users – Business associations and federations and trade unions, as well as representatives of committee of users**	**Peer Review Expert Team:** All **NIS:** Florentina GHEORGHE, General Director Silvia PISICĂ, General Director Laurențiu GAVRILĂ, Director Gabriela POPA, Director Lucia SINIGAGLIA, General Director Bogdan PĂTÂRLĂGEANU, Deputy Director

		Main users:
		Project manager - National Council of Small and Medium Sized Private Enterprises of Romania
		Executive President - National Association of Importers and Exporters from Romania
		Bogdan ȘCHIOP, President - National Federation of Trade Unions in Administration
15:45 – 16:00	Coffee Break	
16:00 – 17:00	**Meeting with main users – Scientific community**	**Peer Review Expert Team:** All **NIS:** Florentina GHEORGHE, General Director Silvia PISICĂ, General Director Laurențiu GAVRILĂ, Director Bogdan OANCEA, Director Gabriela POPA, Director Lucia SINIGAGLIA, General Director Bogdan PĂTÂRLĂGEANU, Deputy Director **Main users:** PhD. Constanța MIHĂESCU, Vice Dean - Bucharest University of Economic Studies PhD. Claudiu HERȚELIU, Professor, Bucharest University of Economic Studies Chief economist Raiffeisen Bank and Professor at Bucharest University of Economic Studies
17:00 – 18:00	Peer review expert team discussion	

Time	Topic	Participants
Day 5 – 17 February 2023		
09:00 – 11:00	Peer review expert team discussion	
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break	
11:30 – 13:00	**Meeting with senior management; conclusions and recommendations**	**Peer Review Expert Team:** All **NIS:** Tudorel ANDREI, President Beatrix GERED, Vice-president Ilie DUMITRESCU, President counsellor Gabriela POPA, Director Lucia SINIGAGLIA, General Director Daniela ȘTEFĂNESCU, Director Bogdan PĂTÂRLĂGEANU, Deputy Director Laurențiu GAVRILĂ, Director Florentina GHEORGHE, General Director Silvia PISICĂ, General Director Bogdan OANCEA, Director Bogdan DRĂGHIA, Senior counsellor Radu Mugur OPREA, General Director Florinel SGĂRDEA, General Director Mariana MIHALACHE, Executive Director Mihaela ȘERBAN, Executive Director

ANNEX B – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Peer Review Team
Ms Jennifer BANIM, Chair, PR expert
Mr Pierre BISCHOFF, PR expert
Mr Michail SKALIOTIS, PR expert
Ms Tina STEENVOORDEN, PR expert

NIS management
Mr Tudorel ANDREI - President
Mr Marian CHIVU - Vice-president
Ms Beatrix GERED - Vice-president

National coordinator team
Gabriela POPA - Director Public Policies Unit - national coordinator
Bogdan PĂTÂRLĂGEANU - Deputy Director, Directorate for Communication - Communication officer
Ilie DUMITRESCU - President counsellor
Lucia SINIGAGLIA - General Director, Directorate General for Statistical Data Source Exploitation and Management
Lucian HÎRȘU - Senior counsellor, Directorate for European Affairs and International Cooperation
Nicoleta JALBĂ - Senior counsellor, Directorate for European Affairs and International Cooperation

Other NIS staff members
Florentina GHEORGHE - General Director, General Directorate of Economics Statistics
Silvia PISICĂ - General Director, Directorate General for Demography and Social Statistics
Radu Mugur OPREA - General Director, Directorate General for IT and Statistical Infrastructure
Florinel SGĂRDEA - General Director, General Directorate of Resource Management
Daniela ȘTEFĂNESCU - Director, Directorate for European Affairs and International Cooperation
Bogdan OANCEA - Director, Directorate of Innovative Tools in Statistics
Laurențiu GAVRILĂ - Director, Directorate of Price Statistics
Mariana BREBULEȚ - Director, Directorate for Administrative Source Management and Processing
Maria RĂDULESCU - Director, Directorate for Statistical Data Dissemination
Mihaela IORDACHE - Director, Directorate of Human Resources
Anda FINȚI - Director, Directorate of Budget and Accounting
Marius Lucan ARJOCA - Director, Directorate for Acquisitions, Investments and General Administration Services
Lavinia BĂLTEANU - Director, Directorate for the Calculation of Population and External Migration Indicators
Ioana DIMA - Director, Directorate for Agricultural and Environmental Statistics
Carmen ROMANIUC - Deputy Director, Directorate for Agricultural and Environmental Statistics
Bogdan DRĂGHIA - Senior counsellor, Directorate for Communication
Aurel Flaviu RAITMAIER - Data protection officer, Personal Data Protection Compartment
Mariana MIHALACHE - Executive Director, County Statistical Directorate - ILFOV
Mihaela ȘERBAN - Executive Director, Regional Statistical Directorate - BUCHAREST

Junior staff of the NIS
Mihaela MIHAI - Senior counsellor, Directorate for Statistical Data Dissemination
Senior expert, GIS Compartment
Simona BRATU - Senior counsellor, European Affairs and International Cooperation Department
Ruxandra PRISĂCARU - Principal expert, Directorate for National Accounts
Radu PĂUNESCU - Principal expert, Directorate for National Accounts
Alin MĂRICUȚ - Junior expert, Directorate for Administrative Source Management and Processing

Georgiana BACIU - Junior expert, Directorate for Agricultural and Environmental Statistics
Andrei Romulus RAICU - Junior counsellor, Directorate for External Trade Statistics

Representatives of main users

A. Ministries and other public/private institutions (including Central Bank as a user)

Dumitru PÎRVU, Head of Statistical Unit - National Bank of Romania
Director - National Institute of Public Health/Ministry of Health
General Secretary - Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration
Head of Public Policies Unit - Ministry of Education
Secretary of State, General Secretariat of the Government

B. Business associations and federations and trade unions, as well as representatives of committee of users

Project Manager - National Council of Small and Medium Sized Private Enterprises of Romania
Executive President - National Association of Importers and Exporters from Romania
Bogdan ȘCHIOP, President - National Federation of Trade Unions in Administration

C. Scientific community

PhD. Constanța MIHĂESCU, Vice Dean - Bucharest University of Economic Studies
Chief economist Raiffeisen Bank and Professor at Bucharest University of Economic Studies
PhD. Claudiu HERȚELIU, Professor, Bucharest University of Economic Studies

Representatives of ONAs

A. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development:

Viorel MORĂRESCU, Director - Directorate of Policies in the Vegetable Sector
Dana-Mihaela OLTEANU, Counsellor - Agricultural Statistics Department
Ramona POPA, Counsellor - Organic Farming Department
Counsellor - Organic Farming Department
Counsellor - Directorate of Livestock Policies
Counsellor - Directorate of Livestock Policies

B. Național Environmental Protection Agency:

Brîndușa PETROAICA, Director - Directorate of Waste, Chemicals, Soil and Subsoil
Mihaela OLARU, Head of Waste Department
Stela VĂLU, Counsellor - Waste Department
Codrina BUJANCĂ, Counsellor - Waste Department

C. General Inspectorate for Immigration:

Ștefan MAZILU, Expert - Risk Analysis Department

Statistical Council
Marian PREDA, President of the Statistical Council, Rector of the University of Bucharest
Valentina VASILE, Vice-president of the General Association of Economists from Romania
Constantin ANGHELACHE, Vice-president of the Romanian Statistical Society

Representatives of data providers/respondents

A. Private data providers and of new data sources

Mariana GHEOROAE - SC TOYOTA ROMANIA SRL
Representative of SC PORSCHE Romania SRL
Representative of SC REWE ROMANIA SRL
Mihaela DUMITRESCU - Vodafone Romania
Andreea BRÎNZOIU - Romanian Railway Group
Valentin FLOREA - KMG Rompetrol SRL

B. Providers of administrative data

Corneliu VASILE, Head of the Administrative Cooperation office - National Agency for Fiscal Administration
Simona STOIAN, Counsellor - National Agency for Fiscal Administration
Police Chief Commissioner - Directorate for the Registration of Persons and the Administration of Databases
Counsellor - National Cadastre and Real Estate Advertising Agency
Ioan MĂRGINEAN, Director - Trade Registry Data Valorisation Directorate/National Trade Register Office

Representatives of mass - media
Dan POPA, Editor - Hotnews
Expert Human Resource Department - Romanian Television
Mădălina CHIȚU, Journalist - Romanian Television
Nicoleta GHERASI, Editor - AGERPRESS