



REPORT
ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL
PROGRAMME AND THE ACTIVITY OF THE NATIONAL
STATISTICAL INSTITUTE IN 2015

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INTRODUCTION

The 135th anniversary of the establishment of the statistical institution in Bulgaria was celebrated in 2015. The Bulgarian statistics has gone through many challenges and changes during this long period and today it occupies a worthy place in the world and the European Statistical System (ESS).

The Report on implementation of the National statistical programme (NSP) and the activity of the National statistical institute (NSI) in 2015 is developed in compliance with Art. 9 (6) of the Law on statistics.

The report is structured into five sections and presents implementation of the tasks of the NSP 2015 and the NSI activities in the past year.

Section one contains surveys and activities performed for the first time in 2015.

The second section includes the results achieved on implementation of horizontal priorities within the current Strategy for development of the National statistical system of the Republic of Bulgaria 2013 – 2017.

The third section presents the implementation of activities on the production of statistical information in the different thematic areas - demographic and social statistics, macroeconomic statistics, business statistics, statistics on agriculture, forestry and fisheries, multi-domain statistics, information technologies, statistical infrastructure and other activities.

The Fourth section presents the resources needed to implement the activities of the NSI in 2015.

The fifth section introduces the audit assignments performed by the Internal Audit Unit and the activities implemented by the Inspectorate and the Finance Controller in 2015.

Main events in 2015:

The main directions in activity of the National Statistical Institute during the past 2015 were related to:

- the successful completion of four projects under Operational Programme "Administrative Capacity";
- implementation of the new European Law on Statistics;
- celebration of 135 years since the establishment of the statistical institution in Bulgaria.

The project "Modernizing the organization and functioning of the NSI" was launched under Operational Programme "Administrative Capacity" in implementation of the objectives set out in the Strategy for Development of the National Statistical System (NSS) 2013-2017. **Restructuring of the regional statistical offices** was carried out as a result of the project, which aimed to improve the administrative capacity, flexibility in the allocation of tasks, optimizing the performance and effective organization of resources. This structural reform led to the elimination of duplicate functions of some units and created prerequisites for the development and introduction of a new work approach, which envisages:

- Reallocation of responsibility for creation of the information product
- Reallocation of the control and verification of the work in the process of immediate receipt of the primary information
- Search of internal resources - creating employees with potential of professional thinking and working
- Concentration of resources in the implementation of specific tasks of management and creation of information.

As a result of the successful test restructure of the regional structures of NSI in Southwest Bulgaria in the spring of 2015, the 28th regional statistical offices of NSI were reduced to 6:

- RSO - Severozapad situated in the city of Pleven
- RSO - Sever situated in the city of Ruse
- RSO - Severoiztok situated in the city of Varna
- RSO - Yugoiztok situated in the city of Burgas
- RSO - Yug situated in the city of Plovdiv
- RSO - Yugoiztok situated in the city of Sofia.

After the structural reform, the regional statistical offices are organized into unified general administration and statistical departments in the respective regional centers.

Another projects within the Operational Programme "Administrative Capacity" completed successfully. They were related to the development and implementation of:

- Information System "Infostat" which allows online definition and implementation of requests for statistical information through the website of the National Statistical Institute from citizens, businesses and administrations by processing information from NSI surveys, generating tables and verification of data confidentiality. The visits of users reached 5 263 within 24 hours after the presentation of the system.

- Quality management system according to ISO 9001:2008 standard for electronic

services in the National statistical institute. The NSI received a certificate of quality of electronic services according to ISO 9001: 2008 as a result of external certification audit carried out.

- Information system "Enterprise groups register" as an integral part of Information system "Register of statistical units". The main results of the project are to improve the scope and quality of data in the Register of statistical units, as well as improving data quality in the field of business statistics.

Regulation (EU) № 2015/759 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) № 223/2009 on European statistics was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 19 May 2015. The new European Law on Statistics entered into force on 8 June 2015.

The main objective of the Commission proposal laid down in the adopted act is to adapt the existing basic legal framework of the European statistics in line with the needs of EU policies and the challenges to the European statistics set by the global economy. The Regulation aimed at strengthening the management within the European Statistical System in order to maintain a high degree of confidence in it and to satisfy the need for data and the realization of economic policy of the European Union.

The four more specific tasks set out in the Regulation, which contribute to the achievement of the main objective, are:

- Strengthening the professional independence of national statistical authorities, the heads of national statistical institutes and the head of Eurostat
- Clarification of the coordinating role of the national statistical institutes within national statistical systems under the exclusive responsibility of the European Statistical System and considering the independence of the European System of Central Banks
- Strengthening the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice through the establishment of "commitments on confidence in statistics"
- Improvement of access to administrative data and their use for statistical purposes.

The National statistical institute celebrated **135 years** since the creation of the statistical institution in Bulgaria. International scientific conference "**Modern statistics: new challenges for development**" was organized on this occasion with participation of representatives of the national statistical institutes of Romania, Serbia, Hungary, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The main topics in the presentations and discussions were:

- The role of modern statistics for the state governance
- NSI in the European Statistical System: position, role and perspectives
- The vision for modern statistics after 2020.

At the closing session of the conference and later at the celebration in the NSI building, President Mr. Sergey Tsvetarski awarded former heads of the statistical institution, representatives of the scientific community and employees of NSI and RSO with a significant contribution in the field of statistics with a diploma and an a plaque of honor.

At the end of the celebration, a tree was planted in the courtyard of the NSI and a message for future generations was integrated in its roots.

In 2016, the National Statistical Institute will continue to work in the following directions:

1. Ongoing implementation of the tasks related to structural reform in the part of the restructuring of statistical activities in the broadened RSOs and assigning national tasks to

RSOs.

2. Active involvement in the implementation of projects under the Operational Programme "Good Governance" related to the improvement and organizational development of the NSI system, including: aligning of the NSI information assets and certifying the information security in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 27001: 2013 Standard; development and construction of statistical database and information system for monitoring European and national strategies and regional policies; joining the Registry Agency to the single entry point developed between the NSI and NRA.

3. Preparation of Bulgaria for the presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2018 - WG "Statistics".

I. DONE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 2015

The National Statistics Institute implemented a total of 244 statistical surveys and activities in 2015. Some of the **new surveys and activities** are:

- “Structure of Earnings survey” conducted once per four years in accordance with Regulation № 530/1999 of the Council and Commission Regulation № 1738/2005.
- “Household consumption of energy products” survey in order to collect information on energy consumption by kind of products used by households.
- Quarterly survey on calculation of housing price indices and owner occupied housing indices.
- Quarterly survey on producer prices in forestry with calculated quarterly average prices and price indices of production in forestry of Lasper type.
- Quarterly survey on producer prices in “Architectural and engineering activities; technical testing and analysis (NACE.BG-2008 - 71)” in accordance with Regulation (EC) № 1158/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council.
- Implementation of System of health accounts, 2011.
- Development and implementation of Quality management system according to ISO 9001:2008 standard for the electronic services in the National Statistical Institute.
- Online entry of annual reports of insurance enterprises, investment enterprises and pension companies and funds in Information System "Business Statistics".
- Reassessment of all the major macroeconomic indicators (MEI) based on the implemented improvements in the work on the Bulgarian national accounts and withdrawal of reservations by the European Commission (EC) for the period 1995 - 2014.
- Implementation of methods in the estimates of gross domestic product (GDP) and gross national income (GNI) in respect of the relevant reserves set by the European Commission: income in kind related to rail transport services; VAT fraud; stratification method and the method of calculation of intermediate consumption used in the assessment of notional and actual housing rents; permanent inventory method for consumption of fixed capital; evaluation of the originals of entertainment, literary and artistic works.
- Implementation of methodological improvements in the estimates of GDP and GNI: improving the assessment of capitalization of expenditure on research and development; improving the assessment for the distribution of insurance services; improving the assessment for reinvestment of foreign direct investment - holding gains and losses; improving the assessment for mutual funds; improving the assessment for compensation of employees to and from abroad.
- Preparation of data for Eurostat on deaths and stillbirths by causes for 2013 at the level of the fourth sign of the International Classification of Diseases, X revision, pursuant to Regulation (EU) № 328/2011 of the Commission with regard to statistics on the causes of deaths.
- Preparation of data on quarterly housing price indices, change in market prices of new and existing dwellings in accordance with Regulation (EU) № 93/2013 of the Commission.
- Publication and submission to Eurostat of quarterly producer price indices in “Advertising and market research”.

- Development and presentation to Eurostat of various information on day-tourist trips in implementation of Regulation (EU) № 692/2011 of the European Parliament and the Council on European statistics on tourism.
- Providing to Eurostat quarterly and annual data on maritime transport according to the new SDMX format for sending data, as Bulgaria was the first country provided data in this format.
- Providing to Eurostat annual data in the field of inland waterways transport: Data series A4, goods carried by port of loading and unloading; Data series A5, goods carried by region of loading and unloading and type of carriage in accordance with the nomenclature of carriage; Broaden data series A1, goods carried by region of loading and unloading and type of goods carried at 3-digit code in accordance with the Unique Classification for transported goods NST 2007.
- Implementation of trial tests in the field of foreign trade statistics for micro data exchange between 20 EU member states. The exchange of data on exports within the European Union (EU) was implemented by a Eurostat ESSnet project which is connected with SIMSTAT¹.
- Publication of digital collections "Census in the Kingdom of Bulgaria on 31 December 1926", "Foreign Trade Statistics of Bulgaria" for the period 1880-2009, and the "Household budgets" for the period 1925-2010.
- Pilot implementation of combined method of data collection in “Survey on Income and Living Conditions” – paper questionnaires (PAPI) and electronic devices (CAPI).
- Pilot implementation of combined method of data collection in “Households Budget Survey” - paper questionnaires (PAPI) and online questionnaires (CAWI).
- Collection of information by Households Budget Survey on type of sales premises from which households purchase, and availability of cash receipt when purchasing goods and services.

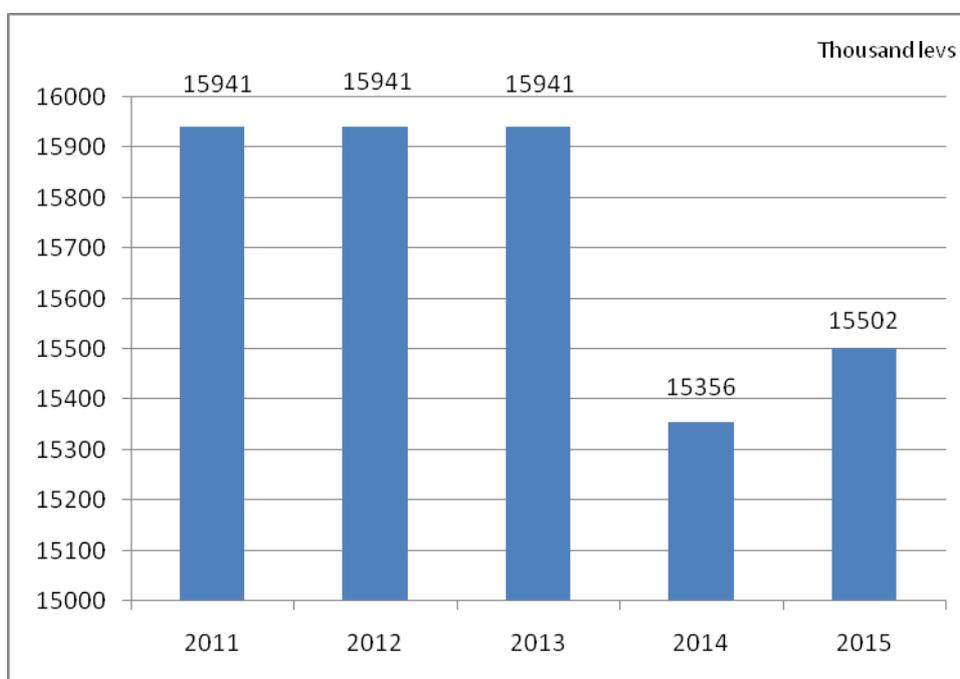
¹ SIMSTAT - (Single Market Statistics) – system that will result from the reform of Intrastat.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF HORIZONTAL PRIORITIES OF THE STRATEGY 2013 – 2017

Main direction in the activity of the National statistical institute in 2015 was realization of the horizontal and specific priorities of the Strategy for development of the National statistical system of the Republic of Bulgaria 2013 – 2017.

The activity of the Institute in 2015 continued to be very difficult because of restrictions imposed on the NSI budget. Despite the difficulties, the activities on implementation of the horizontal priorities laid down in the Strategy for development of the NSS, 2013 - 2017 were largely accomplished (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Current expenditures of the National Statistical Institute in the period 2011 – 2015



The Action plan for implementation of the Strategy for development of the National statistical system of the Republic of Bulgaria 2013 – 2017 was updated in pursuance of Recommendation 15 of the Peer Review held in October 2014. The document was published on the website of the National Statistical Institute in the section devoted to Peer Review. The Action plan contains a total of 257 directions, activities and tasks as 238 of them are intended to be realized by the NSI. Currently, the NSI realized 26% of the total number of directions, activities and tasks (figure 2). Their distribution by thematic areas is presented in Figure 3.

Figure 2. Distribution of directions, activities and tasks included in the Action Plan for implementation of the Strategy for Development of the National Statistical System, by level of implementation – NSI

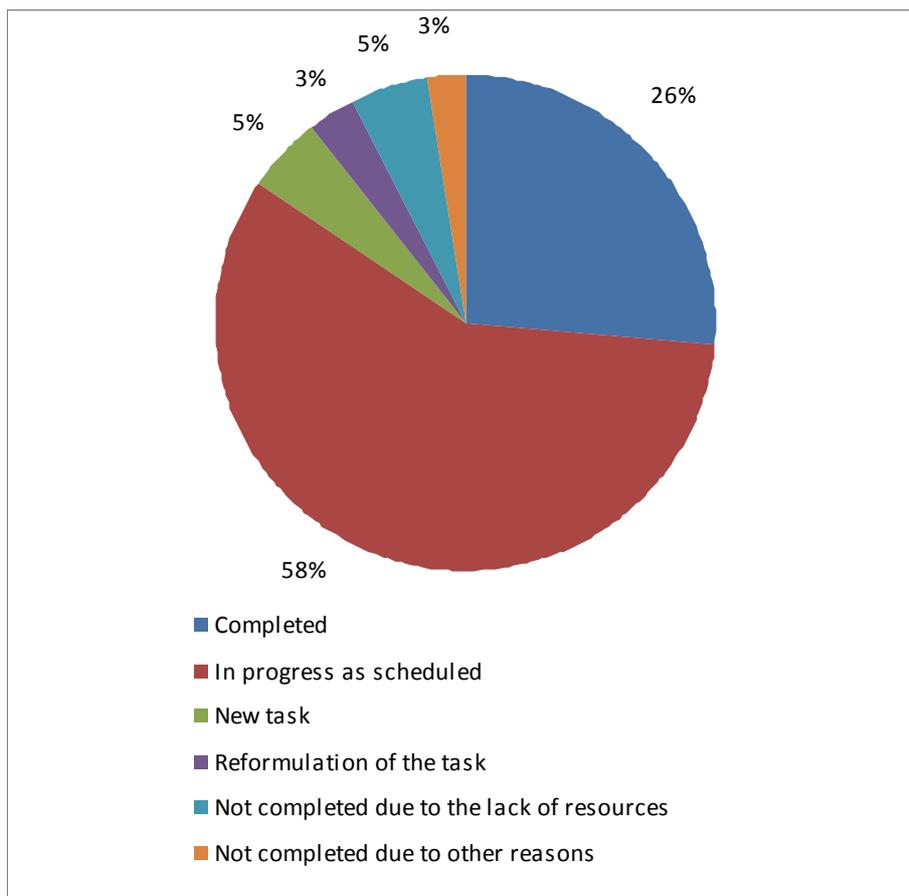
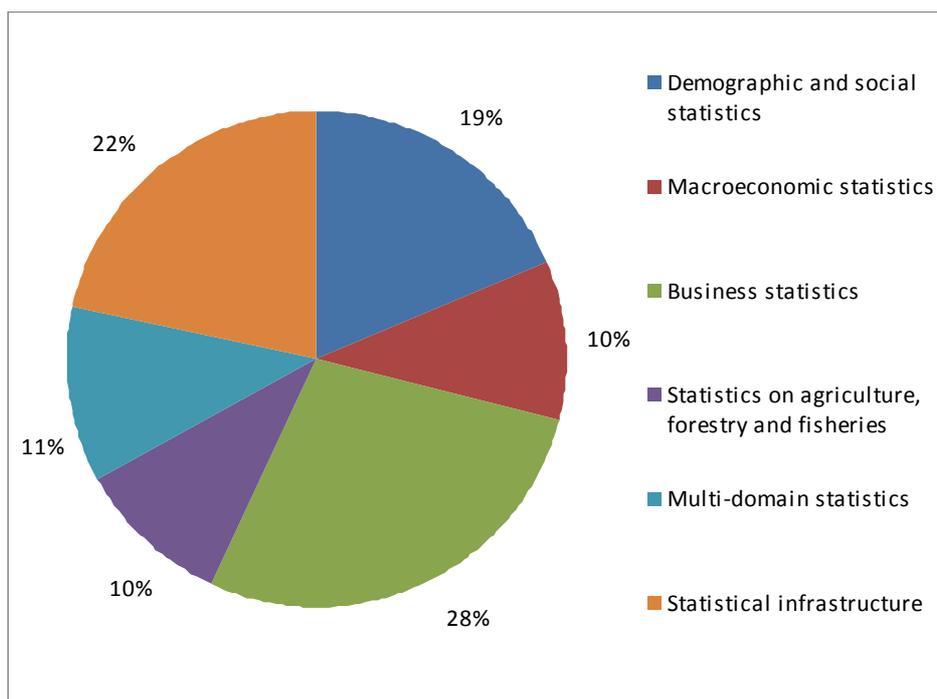
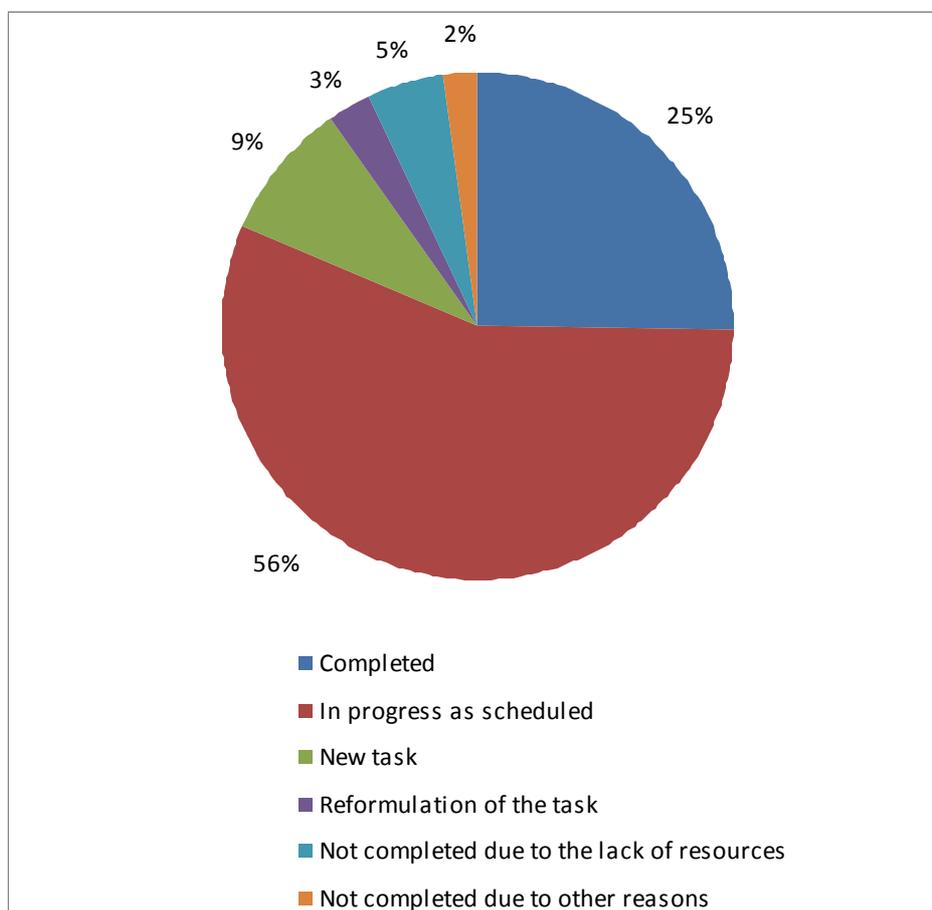


Figure 3. Distribution of directions, activities and tasks included in the Action Plan for implementation of the Strategy for Development of the National Statistical System, by thematic areas – NSI



A quarter of the total number of directions, activities and tasks planned by the NSI and other bodies of statistics for the period 2013 – 2017 are fulfilled, 56% are in progress, and 9% are new (figure 4). The activities not fulfilled due to lack of resources in 2015 amounted to 5% and 2% of the activities and tasks did not fulfill due to other reasons.

Figure 4. Distribution of directions, activities and tasks included in the Action Plan for implementation of the Strategy for Development of the National Statistical System, by level of implementation – NSI and other Bodies of statistics



II.1. PROVISION OF OBJECTIVE, TIMELY AND RELIABLE STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL

Priority 1.1. Provision of statistical indicators for development, monitoring and evaluation of European, national and regional policies

Statistical data was developed and provided in 2015 for monitoring and evaluation of national strategies with the thematic scope of the data from all statistical areas.

NSI representatives participated actively in the work of all thematic working groups on the development and implementation of the OP and in monitoring committees of the operational programs.

Task Force was formed in the NSI in order to prepare the monitoring of operational programs in implementation of the principle of partnership. In connection with the obligations under Regulation № 1303/2013 and responsibility in the process of monitoring of implementation of the result indicators in the new programming period, the NSI in coordination and cooperation with managing authorities of the operational programs

participates in the activities on the development of indicators by providing methodological support and submitting statistical data. The NSI developed a methodological document for metadata in accordance with European Structure of Metadata Standard. The development of meta information on each indicator has created a sustainable basis for the statistical system of the result indicators. The developed metadata are part of methodological documents of the operational programs and documents when announcing the programming procedures.

The work on the provision of indicators included in the scoreboard for the establishment of macroeconomic imbalances continued in 2015. The indicators are part of the package consisting of six legal acts (five regulations and one directive) to strengthen economic governance in the EU. According to regulations, the process of early identification of macroeconomic imbalances begins with the publication of the scoreboard accompanied by report of the European Commission containing an economic and financial evaluation. The scoreboard is an instrument for early warning of the emergence of macroeconomic imbalances, and includes a narrow set of indicators: Current account balance as a percent of GDP; Net international investment position as a percent of GDP; Real effective exchange rates based on HICP deflators; Export market shares; Nominal unit labour cost; House prices relative to a Eurostat consumption deflator; Private sector credit flow in % of GDP; Private sector debt in % of GDP; General government sector debt in % of GDP; Unemployment rate.

Priority 1.2. Updating the existing ones and development of indicators for surveys on new phenomena and processes

The production of statistical indicators on business characteristics of enterprises by using the information available in the Business Register continued in 2015. Due to the increased interest in this type of data, the NSI experts fulfilled many custom requests according to specific user needs.

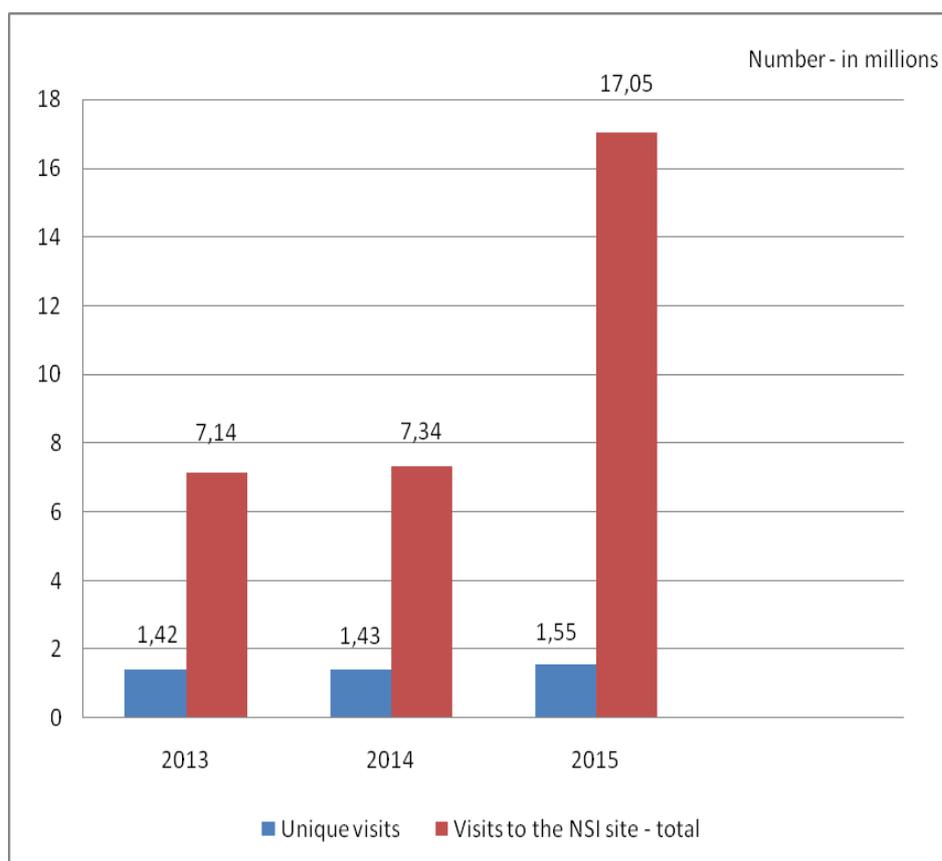
The main indicators of the educational system were recalculated for the past six school years under the revised International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) and were published on the website of the NSI, which enabled users of statistical information to track changes in dynamics.

Priority 1.3. Extending the scope of provided statistical products and services and active dialogue with users

In 2015 the internet site of the NSI was visited 17 057 210² times and the unique visits were 1 549 589 (Figure 5).

² Data on the internet site visits and number of the published materials are as of 26.10.2015, since December 2014 the NSI has been using the AWStats system which works with different methods of analysis of user attendances on the site.

Figure 5. Visits to the NSI internet site



There were 5 271 visits average per day and the most visits (21 776) were on 30 March 2015.

At the end of the year, there were 2 154 time series, 1 636 latest data, corresponding metadata and 705 methodological documents and quality reports in 42 statistical sections available to users in Bulgarian and English. During the year other materials were also published – 360 press releases, (185 in Bulgarian and 175 in English), 80 news (50 in Bulgarian and 30 in English), 13 versions of EKATTE, 41 competitions, 39 lists of admitted/not admitted competitors, 8 public contracts, 11 public invitations, 2 preliminary notices and others.

During the year, the NSI website has been updated with a new design and parts of the contents of sections in the site have been restructured.

The following new sections and subsections were created on the website:

- Sections „135 years Bulgarian statistics” and „October 20 – World Statistics Day”
- Subsection „Housing price statistics” of Section „Economic statistics”
- Subsections „Annual data on liabilities of public corporations” and „Annual data on participation of government in the capital of corporations” of Section „Government Finance Statistics”
- Subsection „Open Government” of Section „About NSI”.

A number of electronic questionnaires in the field of demographic and social statistics, business statistics, and statistics on agriculture, forestry and fisheries were published for the first time on the NSI website.

“Document registry point” was formed in the Information corridor in 2015 in order to optimize the activities on acceptance of an application, preparation of response / provision of information, payment and invoice, which significantly facilitated the process of serving the users of statistical information.

According to the Editing Plan for 2015, the National statistical institute presented to the users of statistical information a total of 21 publications – 3 printed (with electronic version on CD) and 18 electronic. All electronic publications as well as the electronic versions of printed publications are available free of charge in .pdf format on the NSI internet site. Most of the publications are available in two languages – Bulgarian and English.

The National statistical institute continued publication of traditional general statistical publications - Statistical Yearbook, Statistical Reference Book, "Statistics" Magazine as well as Catalogue of Statistical Publications.

In 2015, the NSI also prepared printed advertising information leaflets „Bulgaria 2015”, „Labour force survey” and „Household budgets survey”.

The NSI published a collection of anecdotes, aphorisms and epigrams about statistics and statisticians, which caused great interest among users. It was dedicated to the 135th anniversary of the establishment of the statistical institution in Bulgaria. The leaflet „135 years Bulgarian statistics”, printed in Bulgarian and English, presented a brief history of the statistical institution in Bulgaria and most important statistical publications.

The NSI publishes on its website press releases containing the results of main statistical surveys according to the Release calendar. Monthly average press releases published in English and Bulgarian in 2015 was about 26 in number. The Regional Statistical Offices disseminated 299 press releases with up to date regional data.

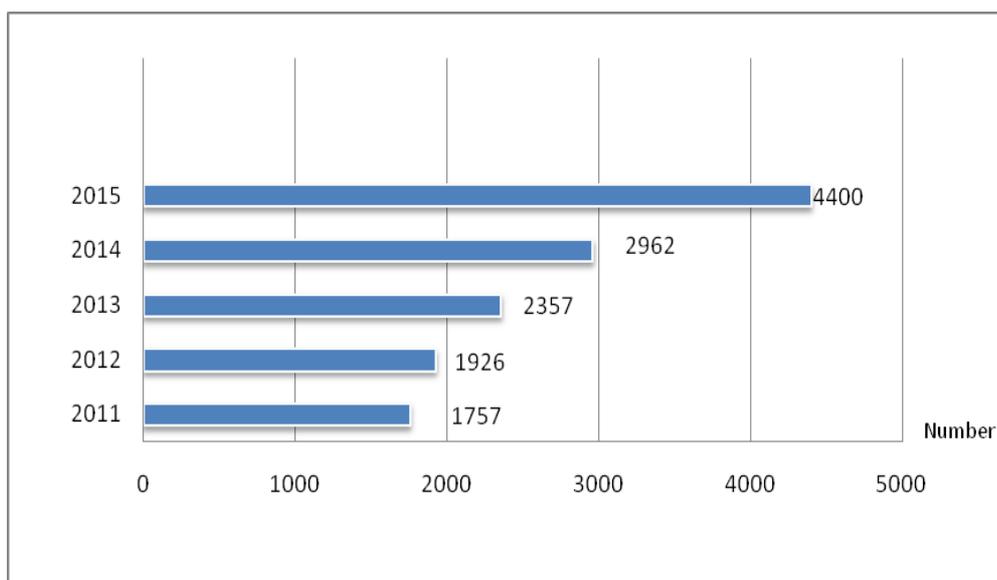
Priority in the activity of the NSI library in 2015 was the provision of free online access to the digital library information resources. 67 346 digital PDF pages were converted through software processing. At present the library successfully manages an impressive volume of almost 1 million pages of digital information.

During the year, the digital library of the NSI recorded 7 286 visits and 17 861 references in the digital database. One hundred and forty three users of statistical information were served and consulted in the reading room and 953 library units were used. A national and international book exchange was made with scientific and university libraries in the country, as well as libraries of statistical offices abroad and international organizations.

In 2015, the NSI satisfied over 4 400³ single requests for statistical information (Figure 6).

³ Number of the requests as of 26.10.2015 is 4 426.

Figure 6. Single user requests



In 2015, statistical information was also provided to users from the country and from abroad who requested by a letter that they want to receive data from a particular survey immediately after their official announcement (table 1). Ten single requests of statistical users from abroad were fulfilled during the year.

Table 1. Responses to requests for regularly provision of information

	(Number)
Requests from the country	28
Responses with monthly data	262
Responses with quarterly data	62
Requests from abroad	3
Responses with monthly data	36

The survey on user satisfaction with the produced statistical information continued in 2015. Users filled in online over 120 questionnaires.

Priority 1.4. Establishing conditions for production and integration of spatial (georeferenced) information with statistical information

The National statistical institute works on its commitments in the field of integration of statistical data, when applicable, in order to create an infrastructure with multiple sources of information to provide spatial-temporal analysis and to expand the use and dissemination of regional georeferenced statistics.

In 2015, the NSI continued to work on the EC Project “Merging statistics and geospatial information”. The project aims to improve the process of statistical data production through the integration of spatial information and basic statistical data on health, following the specifications of the data laid down into INSPIRE with respect to the human health.

II.2. IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW DATA SOURCES AND INSTRUMENTS FOR IMPROVING THE PRODUCTION AND INCREASING THE QUALITY OF STATISTICAL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Priority 2.1. Expanding the use of administrative registers and information systems for statistical purposes

The use of administrative sources continued in the field of labor market statistics in order to improve the scope and quality of statistical data from enterprises and to reduce the impact of non-response.

Data from administrative registers (National Revenue Agency (NRA) and National Social Security Institute (NSSI) and results from the NSI survey “Annual statistics on employment and labour cost” were successfully used in improving the completeness and reliability of the information in the "Survey on Income and Living Conditions".

In order to improve the coverage and quality of the statistical data on income in 2015, the NSI continued to use data from the National Social Security Institute. These data were on the size of retirement pension, pension supplements and additional benefits and allowances in kind and by months from the "Pensions" register as well as annual data on persons receiving benefits and allowances under the Social Security Code (Register of benefits). **The National Revenue Agency** provided information on persons who have submitted annual tax form, as well as data on insured persons, in order to supplement and validate missing information on income for the purposes of "Survey on Income and Living Conditions".

In the field of social protection statistics - European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS), **The National Social Security Institute** provided data on revenue and expenditure by schemes from 01 to 06 (main module) as well as data on the number of pension beneficiaries by schemes and functions (module on pension beneficiaries).

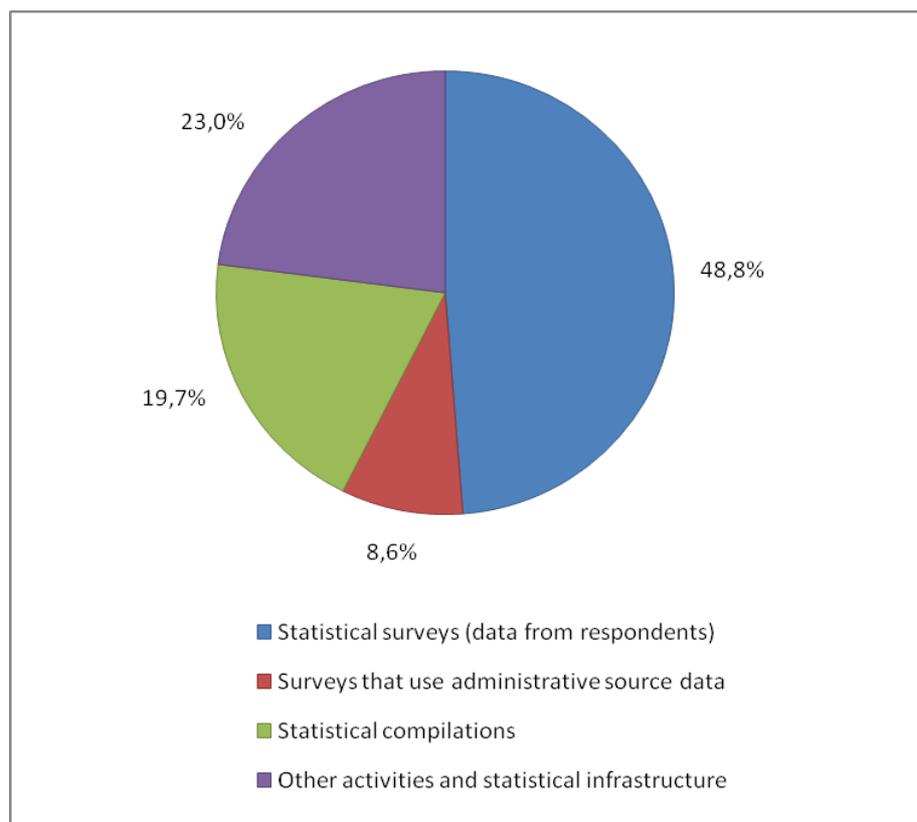
In the field of statistics on crime and justice, two automated work stations with permanent connection to the core of the Unified Information System Against Crime (UISAC) entered into operation and significantly facilitated the process of statistical production. This provided an opportunity for NSI to work on improving the compatibility of data for dropping the paper questionnaire and the use of administrative data source as a single.

In the area of foreign trade statistics in 2015, the NSI experts continued to work on one of the main directions connected with orientation of the statistical production to the growing needs of users through broader use of data already collected by other administrations or other departments of NSI, without an increase in the respondent burden.

For the purposes of improving production and increasing the quality of statistical products and services in the field of environmental and energy statistics in 2015 efforts were aimed at improving the system of data collection, identification of new administrative sources of information and improvement of procedures for statistical validation of environmental information. Along with the administrative data obtained based on existing agreements on exchange, the Executive Environment Agency collected during the year detailed data on the amount of waste remaining after recycling operations, composting and incineration.

The share of surveys conducted by the National Statistical Institute that use administrative source data was 8,6% in 2015 (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Distribution of statistical surveys by type conducted by the NSI according to NSP 2015



Priority 2.2. Using innovative ICT and instruments for collection of primary data

The update and extension of Information System "Business Statistics" (ISBS) continued in 2015 by including new surveys or new questionnaires to the existing surveys that facilitated the data transfer between enterprises and NSI, increased the quality of statistical information by strict arithmetic and logic input control of the data and provided timely, relevant and widely accessible information upon protection of statistical confidentiality. The NSI employees provided methodological support to respondents during the campaign on reports for 2014. The ISBS provided an opportunity for respondents to enter electronically in real time the annual reports of insurance companies, investment companies, pension companies and funds. This contributed to reduce the respondent burden. Terms of reference was elaborated in 2015 aimed at inclusion of four new surveys online in Information System "Business Statistics" ("Consolidated annual report on activities of insurance companies", "Consolidated annual report on activities of specialized investment companies", "Consolidated annual report on activities of pension companies" and "Consolidated annual report on activities of non-financial enterprises"). The aim is to collect information about the new statistical unit "Enterprise Group", which will be maintained in the Statistical Business Register.

New questionnaire for sales revenue by product type in trade in motor vehicles and motorcycles was developed pursuant to the requirements of Regulation (EU) № 251/2009 in the part of the multiannual research. This questionnaire was included in the Annual report on activity of non-financial enterprises, compiling balance sheet for 2015.

The development of the Information System "Short-term Business Statistics" (ISSBS) continued in 2015 by inclusion of new subsystems and improvement of the existing applications. The ISSBS provides an easier and convenient way to provide information from the reporting units, while the quality of information from short-term business statistics is

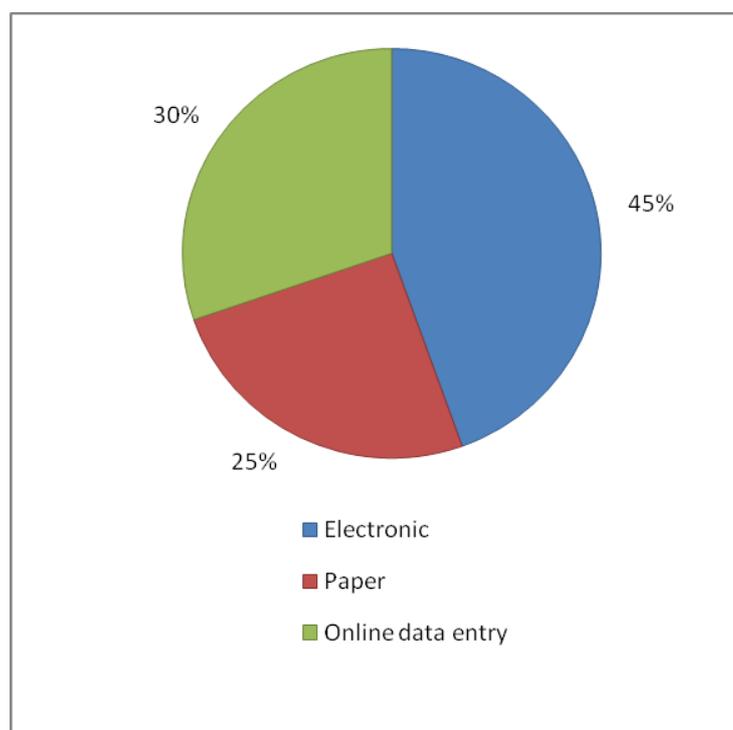
improving.

The update of the Information System "Register of statistical units" has created conditions for the exchange of data on the multinational enterprise groups between the statistical business register of the NSI and the European register of enterprise groups of Eurostat.

Information System "Structure of Earnings" was developed and implemented in order to reduce the respondent burden and improve the quality of the received information. The system allows direct online submission of data from respondents for the four-year "Structure of Earnings survey".

In 2015, almost two-thirds of the surveys conducted by the National Statistical Institute via data collection from respondents were entered online and by electronic questionnaires (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Share of electronic questionnaires for statistical surveys conducted by the NSI via data collection from respondents



In implementation of the Strategy for Development of the National Statistical System of the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2013 – 2017, new paper and electronic questionnaires have been developed for the Household Budgets Survey and an experiment was carried for implementation of mixed method of collection of information in the survey. CAPI interview with electronic devices performed in 2015 as a part of long-term strategy for the use of new technologies to accelerate and facilitate the process of data collection and processing and providing good quality in the "Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC)".

In order to facilitate the respondents, to ease the data processing and to improve the quality and timeliness of statistical data, electronic questionnaires were developed and implemented for surveys in the field of statistics on education, culture, health, housing statistics, energy, environmental and agricultural statistics.

The activities in the field of energy statistics focused on developing new instrumentarium and updating of existing statistical tools for annual, semi-annual and monthly surveys regarding current changes in European legislation and liberalization of the energy market in the country.

The work on the project ESS.VIP SIMSTAT completed at the beginning of the year and

the exchange of data on intra-Community trade was performed by using common hardware and software products for ESS (CCN / CSI). Based on the existing connectivity, a test exchange of microdata conducted during the year within **the EESnet project** coordinated by France. The test exchange performed by applying common standards and formats to transfer data which represents a new approach to Eurostat in collecting and producing data on trade between Member – States. The main objective of the project was to significantly reduce the burden on respondents and to achieve high data quality. An analysis of the results and ways to use the exchanged data performed within the project.

Terms of reference prepared and statistical tools improved in the field of environmental statistics.

Priority 2.3. Implementing a systematic approach for quality management and control in NSS

The stable quality management of European statistics is a priority direction in the development of the European Statistical System. Quality management of European statistics requires all Member States to implement effectively the legislation in the field of statistics and principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

At the beginning of the year, a team of the European Commission prepared a report on the Peer Review conducted in 2014. The report contained recommendations on implementation of the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice in the National Statistical System. The report was translated into Bulgarian and published on the NSI web site for the purpose of publicity and transparency of the results of Peer Review. "Action Plan for implementation of the recommendations of the Peer Review in the NSI" was prepared on the base of this report, at the request of Eurostat. The plan was developed by the directors of the NSI and contains specific actions and deadlines according to the recommendations of the report. The document is publicly available on the NSI website under section "Quality".

Quality management system according to ISO 9001: 2008 for electronic services at the National Statistical Institute was developed and implemented in 2015.

Council on Quality Management (CQ) was established as an advisory coordination body to the President of the NSI, which provides operation, maintenance and improvement of the Quality Management System according to ISO 9001: 2008 implemented in the NSI.

A specialized training for internal quality auditors and induction training of 100 employees of the NSI and RSO – Yugozapad was organized in connection with the basic parameters of the ISO 9001: 2008.

An internal audit was performed and recommendations were made for adjustments to implemented tool for Quality Management System.

External certification audit was carried out and the NSI received a quality certificate of electronic services according to ISO 9001: 2008.

In 2015, work continued on the assessment, quality improvement and maintenance of comparability of the time series (since 2000), which is one of the main advantages of the short-term business statistics. The samples of enterprises were updated with a view of sufficient representativeness and reflecting the changes in the structure of non-financial enterprises. The methods of seasonal adjustment applied to certain short-term indicators have been constantly improving to meet the requirements set out in the ESS Guidelines for the seasonal adjustment of the time series.

During the year, the NSI continued to develop and provide to Eurostat quality reports for statistical surveys.

Annual quality reports on the Labour Force Survey, quarterly index of labor costs and statistics of employed and vacancies were prepared in the field of demographic and social

statistics. Microdata and quality reports on the EC Project “Labour market situation of migrants and their immediate descendants - LFS ad hoc module” were sent to Eurostat.

Quality reports were prepared on: European Health Interview Survey, Survey on Income and Living Conditions, Survey on learning mobility, data on GNI for 2002 - 2014, data on structural business statistics and foreign affiliates in 2012, Environmental accounts, data on research and development (R&D) for 2013, data on information and communication technologies (ICT) usage in households and enterprises in 2015.

II.3. ENHANCING THE PROFESSIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

The improvement in the development, production and dissemination of statistical information for users, laid down as a leading objective in the development of the National Statistical System, is impossible without the participation of the key organizational resource, namely human. In this sense, the improvement of qualifications, flexibility and capacity of the NSI employees is an important precondition towards successful implementation of the priorities set out in the Strategy for Development of the National Statistical System of the Republic of Bulgaria, 2013 – 2017. Specific needs related to the development of methodology and the extension of contents of the existing surveys by introducing additional modules and indicators were taken into account in the development of the Annual plan for specialized training of the NSI employees in 2015.

In this connection, a total of 13 trainings to training institutions within the EU (Table 2) were envisaged to support the development of partnership and cooperation with other statistical offices through the exchange of best practices and experiences.

Table 2. Trainings, seminars and courses of employees of the National Statistical Institute in 2015

	(Number)	
Trainings, seminars, courses	Conducted trainings, seminars, courses	Employees trained
Trainings to training institutions within the EU	13	12
Seminars related to the modernization of surveys included in the National Statistical Programme	16	492
Seminars on improving the professional capacity of the NSI employees	7	148
Seminars on projects	7	348
Trainings on the forthcoming Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU	4	8
Other courses and trainings outside the Annual Training Plan	32	69
IPA obligatory training	10	22
Total	89	1099

The trainings contributed to production of internationally comparable and reliable high quality statistical data in accordance with the international standards. National accounts, combining data from different sources, implementation of IT tools, government finance statistics and energy accounts were among the affected areas.

Outside of the annual training plan, at the invitation of the Energy Community Secretariat, one expert from the NSI participated in the 11th regional training seminar in Vienna, Austria.

The seminar on "Joint initiative for data collection on oil, petroleum products and natural gas" was dedicated to improvement of transparency of data and harmonization of methodologies for the collection of monthly data on oil, petroleum products and natural gas.

Sixteen seminars related to the modernization of surveys included in the National Statistical Programme conducted during the year, which involved a total of 492 employees of Head Office and RSO of the NSI.

The focus in conducting the seminars in the field of demographic and social statistics was placed on data collection with electronic devices (CAPI interview in "Survey on Income and Living Conditions EU-SILC"), methodological issues for improving the households survey and implementation of new questionnaire and diary in the Household Budgets Survey (paper and electronic versions).

Priority thematic areas in the seminars in the field of business statistics were modernising Intrastat, conduction of surveys on ICT usage and e-commerce in enterprises as well as improving the scope and quality of primary data from enterprises in construction, industry, transport, trade and services.

The seminars in the field of macroeconomic statistics were connected with methodological issues for the improvement of the national accounts data and improvement of the surveys in agriculture and forestry in 2016. The consumption of energy products in households was also a subject to the seminars.

In connection with the implementation of the Strategy for Development of the NSS of the Republic of Bulgaria, 2013 - 2017, part of the seminars to enhance the professional capacity were conducted by a lecturer of University of National and World Economy in accordance with the Vision for scientific research prepared during the year. The specialized statistical seminars included the following thematic aspects:

- "Introduction to statistics"
- "SPSS for beginners"
- "Introduction to sample surveys"
- "Presenting the results of statistical surveys by using MS Power Point".

The rest of the seminars to enhance the professional capacity were focused on current issues and practice of applying the Public Procurement Act and work with the specialized statistical software product SAS.

A total of 148 employees were trained in seminars carried to enhance the professional capacity.

Participation of the NSI in the implementation of European projects on development of statistical methods and conduction of new surveys determined seven trainings on projects in the Annual plan. As a result, 348 employees were trained.

Four trainings organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) were held in the context of the forthcoming Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2018 and in connection with the implementation of the Strategy for development of the NSS. Junior employees with less experience and experienced employees were among the participants attended the trainings. One of the trainings was intended entirely to the high officials of the central administration.

The trainings were focused on negotiation process and techniques, communication skills, the EU institutional framework in the context of the presidency, dealing with procedures during the presidency and others.

In addition to trainings, the NSI employees participated in various courses outside the

Annual Training Plan in 2015. These courses were aimed primarily at the administrative services and activity of the general administration. Organizer of the majority of the courses was the Institute of Public Administration in implementation of the project "Building the IPA capacity for the research, training and application of innovative European practices in good governance".

There was a very useful cooperation between the NSI and the Centre for Human Resource Development and Regional Initiatives to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP) in sharing of best practices in the human resources management and the implementation of corresponding legislation in the various administrations.

Mandatory trainings of experts employed for the first time as a government official were conducted in pursuance of the Civil Servant Act. The aim of these trainings is to support the acquiring of new roles and responsibilities, ensuring a rapid and successful adaptation in the public administration. In 2015, mandatory trainings were conducted by the Institute of Public Administration for civil servants in expert positions - 19 participants from the Head Office and RSO, and for civil servants in managerial position - three participants from the Head Office.

Priority 3.1. Establishing a motivating work environment and development of professional capacity of the employees in the NSS

In the dynamically changing conditions in the labor market, development of the employees is an essential prerequisite for the implementation of organizational objectives and tasks. The search and hiring talented people is not a less challenge. The reason is the discrepancy between knowledge, skills and experience that candidates are expected to have, and what they demonstrate in practice.

Overcoming this imbalance is possible by the joint efforts of the academic community and employers. The NSI is a good example in this respect. In implementing the Strategy for Development of the NSS of the Republic of Bulgaria, 2013 - 2017, the NSI annually attracts trainees from various universities (Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, University of National and World Economy, University of economics – Varna, Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar", Academy of economics D. A. Tsenov – Svishtov).

The participation of students in organized trainings/practices enabled them to get acquainted with the method of work at the NSI and to acquire valuable skills and work habits. On the other hand, they saw the practical application of knowledge accumulated so far and were able to build valuable professional contacts with their mentors.

In 2015, the NSI accepted a traineeship of 68 young people (Table 3).

Table 3. Traineeships conducted at the National Statistical Institute

University/Organization	(Number)	
	Head Office of the NSI	RSOs
University of national and world economy – Sofia	23	3
University of economics – Varna	-	8
Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar"	30	
Academy of economics D. A. Tsenov – Svishtov	-	2
Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski	1	-
Statistical Office of Albania	1	-
Trainees total	55	13

The duration of traineeships was different depending on the needs of students. The longest traineeship lasted one month and was organized jointly with the Council of Ministers

(Programme for summer student traineeships in public administration). The difference herein was that the initial stage of the application and the subsequent administration of the program were performed by using an online platform.

An information meeting with students from Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar" held once again in June at the Press center of the NSI.

In the field of statistics on education, a trainee specialist by the Statistical Office of Albania was enrolled for a period of three months under the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA) of the European Commission.

The above described activities were very useful for the NSI as an organizer since the participants were innovative people with good theoretical training who may prove as potential employees in the future.

Component 1 of Operational Programme "Career Start" was successfully implemented in the NIS in connection with the stimulation of youth employment. The target group consisted of persons of 29 years of age who do not have professional experience in the completed specialty. As a result of selection, 25 junior experts (one expert at the NSI Head Office and 24 - at RSOs) under labour contract were recruited for a period of nine months.

Priority 3.2. Adapting the organization of work in NSS towards contemporary information and communication technologies

The process on implementation of advanced technology products and resources continued in 2015. Some of them were: geospatial information software - ArcGIS; expanding the use of web-based questionnaires through LimeSurvey, VB.NET and others; innovative methods in surveys conducted by inquiry (CATI, CAPI, CAWI); extended application of SDMX standard for transmission and dissemination of statistical data as well as the Demetra+ software for seasonal adjustment of data. Information resources of the NSI library are available on the Internet through specialized software and technical equipment.

Basic analytical platform in the NSI is SPSS Statistics Server, which provides acceleration of the statistical process and improvement of data quality. Along with SPSS, the specialized statistical software product SAS is used for data processing and statistical analysis in social statistics and foreign trade.

Priority 3.3. Cooperation and partnership between institutions of NSS and users

In order to achieve greater coordination of actions and deadlines for the production of statistical information, the NSI, bodies of statistics and other state institutions continued in 2015 their joint work on the concluded agreements.

In July, the National Statistical Institute and the State Agency for Child Protection signed an Agreement on cooperation and strategic partnership in exchanging information between the two institutions.

In August 2015, the NSI and the Ministry of Interior signed an Agreement on cooperation and interaction in exchanging information between the two institutions in the field of demographic and business statistics.

In the field of transport statistics, efforts continued to achieve more effective interaction with the following institutions providing primary data for the production of official statistics:

- Directorate General "Civil Aviation Administration" to the Ministry of transport, information technology and communications – data on activities of the civil aviation in the Republic of Bulgaria
- Executive Agency "Maritime administration" to the Ministry of transport, information technology and communications – data on activities of maritime ports and inland waterway ports

- Ministry of Interior:
 - “Security and traffic police” Directorate – data on road traffic accidents, persons killed and injured; data on motor vehicle registrations
 - “Communication and information systems” Directorate - data on registered motor vehicles needed to conduct sample survey on freight road transport
- Road Infrastructure Agency – data on national road network by road category and by type of pavement
- National Railway Infrastructure Company – data on the length of railway network - total for the country and by region
- Executive Agency "Automobile Administration" to the Ministry of transport, information technology and communications - data on licensed carriers of passengers and goods for domestic and international transport; data on the number of licensed taxis and cars owned by them
- Communications Regulation Commission – data on licensed operators of universal and non-universal postal services.

Considerable attention in the field of macroeconomic statistics was paid to the activity on coordination and cooperation with other institutions. The National Statistical Institute and the Bulgarian National Bank continued the process of data consistency for annual and quarterly financial national accounts with Notification tables for debt and deficit of General Government sector.

In the field of statistics on R&D, innovations and information society, the NSI employees actively participated in the activities of joint working groups with the Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Finance, the Bulgarian Institute for Standardization and the “Applied Research and Communications Fund”.

Priority 3.4. Establishment of the NSS as an active member of the European Statistical System and the international statistical community

In 2015, the NSI as a part of the National Statistical System continued the good tradition in the field of international cooperation in the following areas:

NSI in the European Statistical System

Regulation (EU) № 2015/759 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2015 amending Regulation (EC) № 223/2009 on European statistics was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 19 May 2015.

The main objective of the Commission proposal laid down in the adopted act is to adapt the existing basic legal framework of the European statistics in line with the needs of EU policies and the challenges to the European statistics set by the global economy. The Regulation aimed at strengthening the management within the European Statistical System in order to maintain a high degree of confidence in it and to satisfy the need for data and the realization of economic policy of the European Union.

The four more specific tasks set out in the Regulation, which contribute to the achievement of the main objective, are:

- Strengthening the professional independence of national statistical authorities, the heads of national statistical institutes and the head of Eurostat
- Clarification of the coordinating role of the national statistical institutes within national statistical systems under the exclusive responsibility of the European Statistical System and considering the independence of the European System of Central Banks

- Strengthening the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice through the establishment of “commitments on confidence in statistics”
- Improvement of access to administrative data and their use for statistical purposes.

The new European Law on Statistics entered into force on 8 June 2015. Working Group 12 "Statistics" at the Council for European Affairs took active participation in the process of drafting the Regulation.

The Director General of Eurostat Mr. Walter Radermacher, accompanied by the Deputy Director General of the European institution Mrs. Mariana Kotzeva made a daylong visit to the National Statistical Institute on July 6, 2015.

Mr. Radermacher focused exactly on the changes in Regulation (EC) № 223/2009 on European statistics in his speech to employees of the NSI and representatives of the bodies of statistics. He drew attention to the main objectives of the new Regulation and the consequences for national statistical institutes related to the "commitment of confidence" in the production and dissemination of European statistics.

During the year, ten framework positions were prepared on comitology items of the agenda of meetings of the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC), which under CM Decree № 85/2007, were agreed in the Working Group 12 "Statistics" and endorsed by the Council for European Affairs (CEA).

The National Statistical Institute, representing the Working Group 12 "Statistics", regularly participates in weekly meetings of the CEA where the positions of the Republic of Bulgaria are considered in relation with the obligations deriving from membership in the European Union.

In 2015, the Council of the European Union is chaired by Latvia and Luxembourg (Latvian and Luxembourg Presidency). Eight meetings of the Working Group "Statistics" to the Council were held, of which five during the Latvian Presidency and three during the Luxembourg Presidency. Through the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Bulgaria to the European Union (PRRBEU) in Brussels, the NSI was involved in the decision-making in the field of statistics by sending instructions to the sectoral diplomat at PRRBEU.

The President of the NSI participated in the 101 Conference of the Directors-General of the National Statistical Institutes in Europe which was held on 23 to 24 September 2015 in Lisbon, Portugal. The main topic of the conference was “Indicators for decision making and monitoring”.

The President of the National Statistical Institute, Mr. Sergey Tsvetarsky, took part and made a presentation in a High Level Seminar for the Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asian Countries (EECCA seminar on the Bulgarian National Statistical System - achievements and challenges. The seminar entitled “Quality in Statistics: The National Statistical System” took place on 1 - 3 June 2015 in Riga, Latvia.

Three NSI employees realized their professional skills as seconded national experts in Eurostat in 2015 which is international recognition for Bulgaria.

During the reporting period, seventy experts of the NSI participated in the meetings of Eurostat working and target groups developing strategic documents, legislation and new methodologies in the particular statistical domains, eighteen experts participated in international project meetings, fourteen experts in trainings, five experts in events financed by the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument (TAIEX), two experts in twinning projects, seventeen experts in international conferences.

Regional cooperation

In 2015, the National Statistical Institute continued to work in the spirit of good

cooperation in the region.

The National statistical institute celebrated **135 years** since the establishment of the statistical institution in Bulgaria and organized on this occasion an international scientific conference entitled "Modern statistics: new challenges for development" with participation of representatives of the national statistical institutes of Romania, Serbia, Hungary, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Representatives of the NSI leadership took part in the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the official Macedonian statistics in the city of Skopje, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as well as in the final conference held in Belgrade on a direct grant project for compliance of the Republic of Serbia with the European Statistical System. Issues related to strengthening and deepening of bilateral cooperation were discussed during the meetings.

In 2015, an initiative to sign an Agreement on cooperation in the field of statistics has launched in order to renew the cooperation between the National Statistical Institute and the National Statistics Office of Georgia.

The NSI in international organizations in the field of statistics

For more than thirteen decades the Bulgarian statistics collects, processes, produces and disseminates strategic information important to the public and is constantly expanding its contacts with various organizations in the region, Europe and the world. Bulgaria became an elected member of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) in January 2013 and the NSI has the status of "participant" in the Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The President of the National Statistical Institute took part in the forty-sixth regular session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, which was held from 3 to 6 March 2015 at UN Headquarters in New York. The forum discussed a range of issues of global importance for the development of statistics worldwide.

In April a representative of the NSI took part in a workshop organized in Geneva by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and dedicated to the modernisation of statistical production.

The President of the NSI took part in the 63rd plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) held in the period 15 - 17 June, 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland. Immediately after the session there was the 12th meeting of the Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy of the OECD. The meeting discussed issues related to economic growth and the measurement of well-being and progress.

Participation of the NSI in European Projects

The National Statistical Institute successfully continued to perform the tasks associated with participation in projects of the European Commission, as well as projects on a bilateral and multilateral basis with the statistical offices of the Member – States, implementation of projects under the EC programs in the Western Balkans, European Neighborhood Policy and Eastern Partnership.

In 2015, the NSI successfully completed the implementation of **12 projects** and continued implementation of the **10 European projects** funded through grants by the European Commission and co-financed by the state budget in the area of macroeconomic statistics, demographic and social statistics, business statistics and multi-domain statistics. During the year, the NSI applied and signed contracts with the European Commission for **17 new projects**, which are intended to be implemented in the period 2015-2017.

The projects are included in the Annual Programme of Eurostat for 2015 and are in pursuance of Regulation (EU) № 99/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Statistical Programme for the period 2013-2017.

The National Statistical Institute received approval to be a partner and to participate actively in two work packages of an ESSnet project related to methodology, quality and information technologies for collection and processing of the Big Data sources.

In 2015, the NSI signed an agreement for joint participation with the Statistical Office of Lithuania and the Spanish consultancy company Devstat in a consortium for providing statistical training of experts from the Member - States for the period 2016-2020 in the framework of the “European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP), Lot 1 Statistical Methodology”.

In 2015, the NSI signed a contract on implementation of **Twinning Project “Support to the State Statistical Committee in Modernisation of the National Statistics System of the Republic of Azerbaijan in line with European standards”**. Parties to the project are the Federal Statistical Office of Germany - DESTATIS (Lead Member State Partner) and the Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria is Junior Member State Partner. Statistical experts from Slovenia, Netherlands, Denmark, Croatia and Latvia also participate in the project. Bulgaria participates in the implementation of the project in all five components by ten experts in the field of quality management, geographic information systems (GIS), statistics on income and living conditions, statistics on disabled people and tourism statistics. The NSI has been actively involved in project management through its Resident Twinning Advisor and Junior Project Manager. The implementation period of the Twinning project is 24 months. The implementation of activities started in October 2015. This project follows the successfully completed in 2012 first twinning project in Azerbaijan and it is a proof of the good cooperation between the partners and the continuity in the transfer of knowledge and experience with a view to implementation of European standards in the production of statistics in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

A delegation from the Committee on Statistics of **the Republic of Kazakhstan** was on a visit to the National Statistical Institute in the beginning of June 2015. The visit was held within the framework of the **Twinning Project** led by the Federal Statistical Office of Germany with beneficiary – the Committee on Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The aim was to acquire theoretical and practical knowledge to implement the preparatory and basic work on organization and implementation of the Census 2020 in Kazakhstan based on the experience of advanced countries in this field. The experts from Kazakhstan was acquired with the legislative framework of Census, its organization, conduction and methodology, methods of data registration, quality and dissemination of census data as well as the organization at regional level - RSO – Varna. Information System "Census 2011" and Information System "Demography" were presented on the meeting.

In 2015, NSI was actively involved in a number of events - seminars, expert missions funded by the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument - **TAIEX**.

- At the end of March 2015, the NSI participated in multinational seminar in **Brussels** entitled “Improving the business statistics and policy on monitoring small and medium enterprises in Eastern Partnership and countries in pre-accession procedure”, organized jointly by the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, Eurostat and the OECD.
- At the end of May 2015, two experts from the NSI conducted a consultation mission in the Ministry of economic development of **Kosovo**. The aim was to acquaint the colleagues from Kosovo with the Bulgarian experience in the implementation of European legislation in the field of statistics on the information society.
- In early June 2015, two experts from the NSI provided technical assistance to the State Statistics Service of **Ukraine** and acquainted the Ukrainian colleagues with the best practices of Bulgaria on the methods to assess the level of the gray economy and the

implementation of activities to prevent events of the gray economy in the EU.

In 2015, the National Statistical Institute participated in a number of activities in the form of trainings and consultations funded by the Instrument for Pre-Accession of the European Commission (IPA 2012).

- In March and September 2015 the NSI provided technical assistance to **the State Statistical Office of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)** in the area of the harmonized consumer price index. During the two visits to Skopje, two experts from the NSI reviewed the methodology and evaluated the current progress of the Macedonian colleagues in this field as well as the application of best practices.
- In June 2015, the NSI hosted a four-day study visit of experts from **the State Statistical Office of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**. The Bulgarian experience in the field of consumer price statistics was presented and the main topics were devoted to: review and implementation of the legislation in the field of consumer price statistics; establishing a pilot production system for HICP-CT indices; establishing the compilation system of the HICP - administered prices (HICP-AP); experimental implementation of the concept of consumption segments and the HICP standards for particular products, and others.

At the end of April 2015, the National Statistical Institute provided technical assistance to **the State Statistical Office of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** in the framework of Energy Community project "Improvement of conducting survey on energy consumption in households". Within the two days study visit, Macedonian colleagues were acquainted with the Bulgarian experience in the field of surveying the energy consumption in households by type of use, which was based on the project "Development of detailed statistics on energy consumption in households" conducted in 2010.

Participation of the NSI in projects under operational programmes

In 2015, the National Statistical Institute participated in several projects implemented with the financial support of the **Operational Program "Administrative Capacity"** co-financed by the European Union through the European Social Fund:

- The NSI successfully developed and implemented a Quality Management System (QMS) of the electronic services as a result of the completed project "**Improving the quality of services for citizens and businesses, establishment and implementation of clear, credible and unified procedures for development of electronic services through the implementation of a system for quality management according to the ISO 9001:2008 standard**". Other benefits of the project were: an analysis of the current state of the administrative and statistical processes in the NSI to determine the scope and applicability of QMS; implemented internal audit and performed recommendations for adjustments of the implemented tool for Quality Management System; an external certification audit, as a result of which the NSI received a certificate for quality of electronic services according to ISO 9001: 2008 standard. The main target groups are citizens and business representatives, Bodies of statistics, government and other institutions - users of electronic services of the National Statistical Institute as well as the RSOs and the NSI Head Office.
- The main objective of the successfully completed one-year project "**Modernizing the organization and functioning of the NSI**" was to improve the efficiency of the National Statistical Institute by stimulating the modernization of its organization and functioning. Functional analysis of the current situation in the NSI performed for the first time in accordance with main stages of the Unified methodology for functional analysis in the state administration. The prepared recommendations on the functional

and organizational development of the NSI took into account in the structural reform completed in October 2015, which led to the elimination of duplicate functions of some units and reorganization of the work of the RSOs.

- Implementation of the project **“Development of Information system "Enterprise groups register" as an integral part of Information system "Register of statistical units" successfully completed in 2015.** The NSI employees trained to work with the new information system. The main results of the project were: improvement of the scope and quality of data in the Register of Statistical Units – content, relevance, timely update, comparability and consistency of the data, building new statistical units of "Enterprise groups" type as well as improvement of the data quality in the field of business statistics.
- The NSI completed implementation of the project entitled **“Development of instruments for possibilities of on-line definition and fulfillment of requests for statistical information by the BNSI website for citizens, businesses and administration through compilation of information from the BNSI surveys, tables’ generation and check of data confidentiality”.** The project is an element of the implementation of the Strategy for development of the National Statistical System of the Republic of Bulgaria 2013 – 2017. Its main objective is to improve the quality and reliability of services to citizens and businesses, to accelerate the process of providing data to users and to improve the quality of the final product. In parallel, the statistical data processing was improved. The implementation of the project enabled a wide range of users (citizens, businesses, professional organizations, societies and associations, state administration) to define online requests for statistical information through the NSI website.

The cooperation between **the NSI and the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (MRDPW)** continued in 2015 on implementation of **the project “Bulgarian Border Dialogues. Developing a Regional Database for Cross-Border Cooperation”.** The project was funded by BG 11 programme “Capacity Building and Institutional Cooperation” within the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009 – 2014. The project activities were related to statistical capacity building by exchanging of experience and carrying out regular meetings and discussions between experts from the NSI and statistical institutes of the neighboring countries - Turkey, Serbia and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Statistical data (at NUTS3) and metadata for key indicators in the field of demographic and social statistics, business statistics and environmental statistics were collected and analyzed in 2015. All available data are now integrated in the online platform with open access to enable users to extract and visualize data in different ways according to their own interests in the respective regions. Annual conference to promote the results of the project held in November 2015. The conference was attended by statistical experts and journalists from Bulgaria, Turkey, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia.

Priority 3.5. Active cooperation with the academic society in the development of new statistical methods, products and services

In 2015, the NSI established Scientific - Expert Council as an advisory body to the President of the NSI. Members of the council include representatives of the academic community as well as leading experts from the NSI. Four meetings held within the year according to the annual program approved by the President of the NSI. In 2015, the SEC discussed and solved a number of tasks related to scientific and research activity of the NSI. Some of the important tasks were as follows: discussion and adoption of the Vision for scientific and research work in the NSI, Action plan on implementation of the vision, inclusion of additional formulations and approval of the statute and the Rules of the Status

and Structure of the Statistics Journal, discussion and adoption of the concept for training of the NSI employees, development and discussion of the “Key concepts used in the NSI statistical work” published on the NSI website.

II.4. IMPLEMENTATION OF INNOVATIVE AND EFFECTIVE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES AND E-SERVICES

Priority 4.1. Development of information systems and e-services in order to reduce the respondents’ burden, increase the quality of statistical information and improve the methods of its dissemination

Data on foreign trade statistics are one of the important components in the compilation of Balance of payments and national accounts of Bulgaria. In order to provide a complete coverage of exports and imports to / from third countries and to ensure the provision of reliable and timely data, the NSI continued to obtain and input customs declarations received from the Customs Agency only on paper under “emergency procedure”.

The development of main information systems of the NSI and implementation of the new information system for dissemination of information (IS "Infostat") continued in 2015. A new module was added in the IS “Short-term business statistics”.

New software was developed for the following surveys: “Structure of Earnings“, “Producer prices in forestry“, “Report on natural gas supplies“, “Activity of agricultural farms“, “Report on schools – primary and secondary“, “Questionnaire of the NSI employees“ and others.

Priority 4.2. Implementation of unified European IT tools, products and standards in order to ensure conditions for integration and harmonisation of statistical production process in the framework of ESS

The application of technical and statistical standards of the European statistical system is a fundamental principle in activities of the NSI. The scope of data sets exchanged between the NSI, the Bodies of statistics and international institutions continuously expanded.

In 2015 the development of the established SDMX reference infrastructure continued. The published data are available on the Internet (incl. via a link from the site of the NSI) as the platform allows dynamic reports in various breakdowns on the published indicators for all countries of the European Union.

The use of SDMX standard for data exchange and specialized web application eDAMIS for exchange of statistical data to Eurostat expanded. A new channel for secure exchange of microdata on intra-EU trade between 20 EU MS participating in ESSnet project SIMSTAT was established.

Priority 4.3. Increasing the effectiveness and allocation of resources in the data center by implementation of best practice and technologies for infrastructure management

In 2015 the process of server virtualization in the data center of the NSI completed. Hereby the reliability and quality of the information resources management significantly increased. A migration of the Register of statistical units (RSU) in the new virtual environment was carried out, as the operational environment is based on a new version of the server for applications. In 2015 the work on ensuring high quality maintenance of servers and communication infrastructure, personal computers and system services continued.

Priority 4.4. Development and upgrading of server and communication infrastructure and personal equipment in order to ensure the ICT development and provision of new services

In 2015 additional equipment for extension of the virtual platform was delivered. Thus the

process of server virtualization of the NSI completed with virtualization of larger part of information systems. A segmentation of the communication network was performed, which contributed to its better work and to enhancement of reliability and security of access.

III. REPORT BY THEMATIC DOMAINS

III.1. Demographic and social statistics

Demographic statistics

In 2015 the main priority in the field of demographic statistics was conducting statistical surveys included in the National Statistical Programme. The regular processing and production of data from the surveys on fertility, mortality, migration, marriage and divorces, continued. They provided the necessary information for calculation of the number and structures of population and main demographic indicators.

A procedure for preparation of data according to Art. 6 of Regulation № 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council on “Statistics on residence permits and residents of third countries” was developed.

The work on the next phase of the project "Urban audit 2014", in which Bulgaria participated since 2004 proceeded. The aim of the project is to provide reliable, complete and comparable in geographic and temporal aspect information on urban areas on the European continent through collection of large data volumes from different statistical surveys. The NSI prepares bilingual publication, which is going to be published in early 2016 as part of the data dissemination and promotion of the survey.

Labour market

In 2015 the work on the additional module to the Labour force survey – “Labour market situation of migrants and their immediate descendants” completed. Revised data were produced from the Labour Force Survey for 2010. They were based on 2011 Census data and improved methodology for weighting of results.

In the field of statistical information provided by enterprises on wages and labour costs the NSI started work on the four-yearly “Structure earnings survey”.

The work on regular annual and short-term surveys on the employment and labour costs continued. In 2015 recalculated data on the index of labour costs with base year 2012 were produced and published.

The deadlines for the disclosure of the results of statistical surveys in the field of labour market statistics set out in the 2015 NSP were met.

Education and Lifelong Learning

The regular exhaustive statistical surveys on educational institutions in Bulgaria were carried out in 2015 in accordance with the requirements of national and European legislation under Commission Regulation (EU) № 912/2013 concerning the production and development of statistics on education and lifelong learning.

In 2015 the NSI has successfully completed a pilot survey in households entitled “Survey on learning mobility” conducted by harmonized methodology of Eurostat.

Culture

In 2015 the regular exhaustive annual surveys in the field of culture were carried out ((libraries, museums, community clubs, performing arts, film production, cinemas, radio, television and publishing activity) on the base of methodology corresponding to the

requirements of Eurostat and UNESCO.

In the field of culture the NSI continued work on updating the national methodological system of statistics on culture as well as implementing the priorities in the work plan for culture 2015 – 2018 proposed by Cultural Affairs Committee to the Council of the European Union.

Public health and health and safety at work

In implementation of the NSP 2015 and Regulation (EC) № 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on statistics on public health and health and safety at work in 2015 the NSI conducted statistical surveys providing information in three areas of public health statistics - resources of the health system, deaths by causes and European Health Interview.

Data were provided by joint questionnaires of Eurostat, OECD and World Health Organization (WHO) for the financial and non-financial indicators in the field of health statistics.

After the expiry of two year derogation period for Bulgaria in accordance with Regulation (EU) № 328/2011 of the Commission the data on deaths and stillbirths by cause for 2013 were sent to Eurostat at the level of the fourth character of the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth revision.

The NSI participated in annually consultations conducted by the World Health Organization on selected indicators in the field of infant and maternal mortality.

In 2015 microdata from the European Health Interview Survey were submitted. The survey was conducted under the Regulation (EU) № 141/2013 of the Commission by a common methodology and a single questionnaire.

The application EDIT developed and applied by Eurostat in order to shorten the process of data validation of the Member States was used in preparation for data reporting from the European Health Interview Survey in the field of deaths by cause.

National health data and e-health directorate at the National center of public health and analyses (NCPHA) fulfilled all the tasks included in the NSP for 2015. The following planned surveys were conducted through the network of regional health inspectorates: out-patient and in-patient health establishments, psychiatric establishments, dermato-venereal establishments, emergency healthcare centers, oncological establishments, pneumophtiziatic establishments, centers for transfusion hematology, centers for hemodialysis, registered cases of active tuberculosis and chronic non-specific lungs diseases, malignant neoplasms, venereal diseases, registered cases of infectious diseases, hospitalized cases in health establishments with stationary and persons with loss of capacity to work.

Incomes and living conditions

From April 2015 the Household Budget Survey is conducted in accordance with the requirements of Eurostat and the recommendations of the European Commission, which guarantees the implementation of the gentlemen's agreement to provide a five-year comparable data from the Household Budget Survey in all EU Member – States.

In 2015, the NSI continued the regular collection and publication of quarterly and annual data on Bulgarian household income, expenditure and consumption and providing quarterly and annual weights to calculate the harmonized and national consumer price index and national accounts.

In 2015 additional surveys were included to the Household Budget Survey, which were related to:

- Kind of trade premises from which the households are shopping and availability of cash receipt for the purchase of goods and services;
- detailed study of energy consumption in households.

Poverty indicators were calculated – national level and by specific groups according to algorithms developed under adopted by the Council of Ministers (CM) methodology for calculating the official poverty line. The poverty line for the country for 2016 was established on the base of these indicators.

The NSI conducted regular panel survey "Statistics on Income and Living Conditions" (EU-SILC 2015) in implementation of Regulation (EC) № 1177/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council. In 2015 module "Social and cultural participation and material deprivation" was included to the survey under Commission Regulation (EU) No 67/2014. The module collects information on personal time, social contacts, meetings with friends and relatives, participation in sports activities and events, participation in charitable activities and issues of material deprivation and mobility. The main data files from the survey in 2014, the accompanying indicators for poverty and social exclusion and longitudinal component 2010-2014 were finalized and submitted to Eurostat during the year.

In 2015 the NSI continued work under a Grant agreement with the European Commission entitled "Action plan for EU-SILC improvements". In accordance with the objectives of the project following activities were completed during the year:

- Conducting pilot data collection using CAPI interview
- Using data from administrative registers for loading programme for electronic interview
- Tracing of households from the 4th wave and their inclusion in the 5th wave of survey
- Transmission of the early material deprivation, economic strain and ad-hoc modules variables at the end of the reference year.

Social protection

In 2015 the production of statistical data for 2013 under the Core system and the Module on pension beneficiaries completed in accordance with Regulation (EC) № 458/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the European system of integrated social protection statistics. The Core system contains data on revenue and expenditure by social protection schemes as well as expenditure on benefits by function. The NSI followed the requirements of Regulation (EU) № 110/2011 of the Commission on the appropriate formats for data transmission, results to be transmitted and criteria for measuring quality in relation to the ESSPROS module on net social protection benefits. The information systems and registers of ministries and institutions governing social protection schemes are data source for social protection statistics. The National Social Security Institute provided annual data on pension beneficiaries by scheme, pensions by type and by sex in accordance with the format for transmission of information on Module on pension beneficiaries.

Crime and justice

In 2015 the NSI continued activities related to conducting the regular statistical survey on the crimes, accused and persons convicted (incl. convicted juveniles) continued.

The representative of the NSI participated in the activities of Interinstitutional council for management and control of the Unified Information System against Crime (UISAC).

The NSI, in close cooperation with the Central commission for prevention of juvenile delinquency, conducted regular annual survey on the activities of Local commissions for prevention of juvenile delinquency. The representative of the NSI participated in organized during the year training seminars for secretaries of local commissions on issues related to the filing and processing of data through electronic form.

In 2015, the NSI continued to fulfill its commitments as a national coordinator in the field of crime and criminal justice in the collection and transmission of national data and metadata from Ministry of Interior, Supreme Cassation Prosecution Office, Ministry of Justice, Supreme Judicial Council and other responsible institutions at the request of European Commission, Eurostat, United Nations, UNICEF and other international organizations.

The regular survey of crime trends and operations of criminal justice systems by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Eurostat was carried out by jointly developed an updated questionnaire for the period 2009-2014..

The NSI jointly with the Ministry of Justice, the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Supreme Judicial Council participated in the process of collecting and validating data and metadata on corruption at European level for the period 2011 – 2013.

At the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Commission for Protection against Discrimination (CPD) data on crimes committed by hate, accused and persons convicted of such crimes in the period 2006 – 2013 were produced and submitted. The representative of the NSI participated in the meeting organized by CPD dedicated to the prevention of crimes committed by hate or xenophobic motives.

III.2. Macroeconomic statistics

Annual economic accounts and quarterly accounts

The main tasks in the field of national economic accounts were related to the development and implementation of European Commission's recommendations for data on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Gross National Income (GNI). The work on methodological development and improvement of data quality as well as for increasing the degree of harmonization with EC regulations and shortening of the deadlines for data provision proceeded. NSI continued regular production of annual data on GDP and its components by three methods - production method, method of income and method of final consumption expenditure. Data on employment and hours worked were developed and published.

The National Statistical Institute took active part in joint projects with Eurostat and EU Member States in order to provide optimum methodological compliance of the indicators of national accounts between MS.

The NSI implemented methodological improvements in the estimates of GDP and GNI in terms of relevant reserves set by the European Commission:

- Inclusion in the data on GDP - GNI income in kind related to rail transport services - additional study on ticket prices and discounts received by employees in the railway transport was carried out in accordance with recommendations and reservation.
- Inclusion in the data on GDP - GNI VAT fraud - in compliance with the Commission Decision on the treatment for national accounts purposes of VAT fraud (98/527/EC, Euratom) additional evaluation of VAT fraud was carried out in order to ensure exhaustiveness of data on national accounts.
- Revision of stratification method and the method of calculation of intermediate consumption used in the estimation of contingent and actual rentals for housing in accordance with the Commission Regulation (EC) № 1722/2005.
- Assessment of consumption of fixed capital using the method of permanent inventory for data on institutional sectors "Government" and non-profit organizations serving households as non-market producers.
- Assessment of the originals of entertainment, literary and artistic works included in the calculation of production and gross fixed capital formation in accordance with recommendations and reservations of European Commission for data on GDP-GNI.

- Revision of gross fixed capital formation of the software for own account as a result of the application of the method recommended by Working Group of the European Commission.
- Improvement of the assessment of capitalization of costs for R&D in calculating consumption of fixed capital using the method for permanent inventory.
- Revised assessment of the distribution of insurance services in accordance with the recommendations and reserves of the European Commission for data on GDP-GNI.
- Improvement of the assessment for reinvestment of foreign direct investment - holding gains and losses.
- Improvement of the assessment for mutual funds.
- Improvement of the assessment for compensation of employees to and from abroad.

The calculations of the weighted average VAT rate were developed.

In 2015, the work on development and improvement of national financial accounts continued. Data for 2014 were developed and provided in pursuance of Eurostat's programme on data provision in the field of national accounts.

The National Statistical Institute continued work in EC project "Supporting Quality Measures for Statistics used in the context of the Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure".

In 2015 the NSI finalized work in EC project entitled "Actions to support specific improvements in national accounts" and started work in new EC project „Progress towards full implementation of the ESA 2010 and its transmission programme for quarterly and annual National Accounts and lifting of respective derogations, full implementation of SDMX for National Accounts, development and implementation of quality framework for National Accounts data".

Government finance statistics

The efforts in the field of government finance statistics were orientated towards further methodological development and improvement of data quality.

The NSI continued work on reporting notification tables on deficit and debt of General Government sector semiannually – preliminary and final data. According to ESA 2010 data for the period 1995 – 2014 were developed and provided.

Monthly, quarterly and annual data on the deficit of EU Member States were developed and published on the basis of the obligations in accordance with the Council Directive 2011/85/EU.

According to the requirements to provide additional data pursuant to Directive 2011/85/EU information on an annual basis was provided for: non-performing loans to sector "General Government"; obligations of state-owned enterprises and government involvement in the capital of enterprises as a percentage of GDP.

An additional information on the table 9 "Taxes and social contributions by sectors of Government" of Eurostat's programme on data provision in the field of national accounts for 2014 was provided based on the joint work of the NSI and NSSI. The work on the coordination of coming joint actions for the implementation of the table 29 for pension rights according to the ESA 2010 continued.

In accordance with the Eurostat's programme on data provision in the field of national accounts revised data were developed and submitted according to ESA 2010:

- Table 2 "Main macroeconomic indicators for the General Government sector" for 2014
- Table 9 "Taxes and social contributions by sectors of Government" for 2014
- Table 11 "General Government sector costs by functions" total and by subsectors at second level according to COFOG classification for 2014
- Table 25 "Quarterly non-financial accounts for General Government sector" for the

period 1999 - 2014.

Monitoring own resources

According to Art. 2, § 2 of the Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) № 1287/2003 of 15 July 2003 on the harmonization of Gross National Income at market prices each year before 22 September, Member States are obliged to provide the Commission (Eurostat) in the context of national accounting procedures with figures for GNI and its components. The main tasks in the field of monitoring own resources refer to data provision on gross national income, report on data quality and description of the sources and methods used to develop the data. Based on these documents, Eurostat assesses the quality and exhaustiveness of data on GNI and their compliance with the ESA 95 and ESA 2010.

The data on weighted average VAT rate were developed for 2014. They are based on the developed methodology and calculation of the weighted average VAT rate in accordance with Art. 4 of Council Regulation (EEC, Euratom) № 1553/89 on the definitive uniform arrangements for the collection of own resources of the EU on the basis of value added tax and “Manual of administration of the European Communities’ own resources in the Republic of Bulgaria” by the Ministry of Finance.

Consumer prices

In 2015 the main work priority was conducting monthly statistical surveys on consumer prices, which provided necessary information for calculation of National consumer price index (CPI), Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICPs) and Price Index of a Small Basket (PISB) of 100 goods and services considered as socially useful and vital for living for the lowest income 20% of the persons in the households, and the HICP at constant tax rates (HICP-CT) and HICP administered prices (HICP-AP).

The work on improving the methodology, design and production of consumer price indices in relation to compliance with European and international standards proceed. In 2015 the sample of outlets for monitoring was updated, the selection of goods and services included in the consumer basket was improved and the scope of some sub-indices was expanded. Some goods and services with harmonized characteristics were included in consumer basket.

The statistical weights system for the construction of consumer price indices was improved. The use of information from additional sources in accordance with the requirements of Commission Regulation (EU) № 1114/2010 as regards minimum standards for the quality of HICP weightings was extended.

In 2015 the work on two priority directions in the field of consumer prices continued: the development of housing price statistics and the implementation of the Strategy for multi-purpose statistics on consumer prices.

From 2015 the survey on market prices of existing dwellings was conducted according to harmonized methodology and scope. During the year the activities on constructing price indices of houses occupied by their owners continued as follows: constructing price indices of houses, which are new for “Households” sector; constructing price indices of services associated with the acquisition and ownership of dwellings; constructing price indices of insurance related to the dwelling; and constructing price indices of major repairs and maintenance of dwellings. These indices were regularly sent to Eurostat. Within the European Commission pilot projects the NSI started work on development of methodology for design and calculation of quarterly indicators of housing sold and on establishment of a pilot system for regular production of indicators of housing sold.

In relation to the implementation of the Strategy for multi-purpose statistics on consumer prices the list of products with harmonized descriptions was expanded and the sample of surveillance products in 2015 was defined. Monthly surveys of products with harmonized descriptions were conducted. Data on detailed average prices of products with harmonized descriptions for 2014 were produced and submitted to Eurostat in March 2015. A pilot survey

for automated registering of detailed prices for selected products on the Internet. For that purpose specific IT software was developed. The work on introduction of detailed classification of COICOP of the fifth level of aggregation for HICP administered prices started.

Republic of Bulgaria as a full EU member, represented by the NSI continued its participation in the European Comparison Programme of purchasing power parities (PPP), the comparative price levels and GDP per capita, which is a part of the current statistical program of the European Commission and is coordinated by Eurostat/OECD.

The NSI's activity is organized and implemented according to Regulation (EC) №1445/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing common rules for the provision of basic information on purchasing power parities and for their calculation and dissemination. As regards the system of quality control used for purchasing power parities the NSI applied Commission Regulation (EU) № 193/2011. In 2015, the NSI started using the detailed European classification of individual consumption by purpose (ECOICOP-5) in accordance with the newly adopted Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/1163.

The National Statistical Institute is achieving the goals laid down in the European work plan for calculating PPPs in 2015, which is annually approved by the Eurostat PPP Standing Working Group.

In 2015 the NSI conducted required 6 price surveys of goods and services in a coherent European consumer basket: E15-1 „Food, drinks and tobacco”, E15-2 „Clothes, shoes and personal belongings” and „Healthcare in hospitals”. Also three special price surveys “Residential rents in selected real estate agencies in the capital”, “Investment goods” (machinery and equipment) and “Contingent selected construction sites” were carried out.

The necessary additional national statistical information: questionnaires on CPI/HICP - PPP, on housing services (in kind and in value), on wages and compensation of employees in Government by selected professions and occupations and on GDP by 250 main groups of final consumption expenditure was prepared and promptly transmitted to Eurostat according to work schedule.

Using developed by Eurostat specialized software tools for online work in database PPP the quality and protection of transmitted individual information continuously improve due to improvement of methods for data control during prior surveillance and four sequential stages of analysis and validation both of input and results.

The report on the sources and methods used for compiling PPPs was updated and provided to Eurostat within a period.

III.3. Business statistics

Structural Business Statistics

All regular surveys from the NSP in the field of structural business statistics, statistics of non-financial enterprises, statistics of financial enterprises and non-profit organizations, foreign direct investments, expenditure on acquisition and the acquired tangible fixed assets, the receipts from construction enterprises by kind of construction, wholesale and retail sales by group of goods and retail sales premises by kind and by commodity specialization, output and sales of main industrial products on the domestic market were carried out with high quality, in time and in accordance with national and European legislation requirements. All individual requests for providing statistical information from these surveys were performed.

Parallel control, analysis and comparison with results from the survey on foreign trade in goods were implemented in order to improve the quality, objectivity and reliability of statistical information in the field of structural business statistics.

In 2015, for monthly survey “Output and sales of main industrial products on the domestic market” included in Information System “Short-term Business Statistics” the attention was mainly paid at improving the scope and quality of primary data, as well as reducing the burden of RSOs’ employees and respondents. The measures undertaken included: update the ToR for data processing towards increasing of input control, additional control and output tables, comparative data control for the previous year at enterprise level by loading data from ISBS (a corrective to data quality), as well as optimization of the sample towards reducing the number of reporting units.

In 2015, the opinions were prepared at expert level on Eurostat's proposals for amendments to the regulations in the field of structural business statistics, foreign affiliates and PRODCOM.

The NSI’s experts participated in the meetings of Eurostat on structural business statistics foreign affiliates, survey “Output and sales of industrial products” (PRODCOM).

During the year, the NSI’s employees actively participated in the development and testing of Information System “Infostat”, which provides an opportunity for online definition and implementation of requests for statistical information on the Internet site of the NSI for citizens, business and administration.

In 2015, the cooperation on Instruction for interaction between the National Revenue Agency and the National Statistical Institute continued in order to implement their functions in accordance with Art. 22, para. 5 of the National Revenue Agency Act in connection with the submission of the annual reporting declarations. The procedure, method and timing for submission of the Annual Report of obliged persons, as well as approved models of relevant forms are regulated by joint order of the executive director of the NRA and the President of the NSI. For straight year the users can choose the place for submission their documents (NRA or NSI). On the basis of fruitful cooperation and joint actions of both institutions duplicate visits to the offices of the NRA and the NSI have been removed for users.

Short-term Business Statistics

The main work priority was carrying out monthly and quarterly statistical surveys covering sectors “Industry”, “Construction”, “Trade” and other services, as well as specific surveys on transport and communications, which provide necessary information for the calculation of all indicators in the implementation of European Commission Regulations.

According to the Regulation (EC) № 1158/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council the work on extending the scope of the “Producer prices indices in services” continued. The regular submission of quarterly indices for this section to Eurostat and their publishing under “Services” on the Internet site of the NSI started. The survey on producer prices for “Architectural and engineering activities; technical testing and analysis” was online included in the Information System “Short-term business statistics”. Data from the survey will be published for the first time in early 2016.

In 2015 the NSI finalized the work on the EC project “Improvement of methodology and calculation of producer prices indices on the domestic market for production of food and drinks at a more detailed level under NACE.BG-2008”. The main objective of the project was to support the data collection and data transmission for the purposes of the Mechanism for monitoring of food prices (FPMT), by encouraging the use of new data sources, improving the methodology, extending the scope and increasing the quality of statistical information on food prices and it was achieved. As a result of the implementation of project activities the NSI started to calculate and submit to Eurostat producer prices indices on the domestic market for production of food and drinks at a more detailed level (fourth digit) under NACE.BG-2008. Detailed analysis describing the methodology for calculating detailed price indices and the

possibility of calculating average prices using the existing processes for collecting prices was made.

In 2015 the work on the implementation of tasks within the pilot project for the inclusion of owner occupied housing (Owner-Occupied Housing) in HICP was successfully finalized:

- improvement of statistical survey on producer prices in major repairs and maintenance of dwellings and residential buildings;
- successfully conducting of pilot surveys, foreseen into the project;
- analysis of the results, data validation;
- calculating the series of price indices in major repairs and maintenance of dwellings and residential buildings used to calculate price index of owner occupied housing, part of HICP.

In September 2015 the work on EC project on development of methodological basis for a new indicator for production in services was finalized. The project objective was improvement of efficiency and productivity of statistical production process and provision of statistical data in key areas related to enterprises. The main activity within the project covered three areas: development of a common deflator for trade and an overall index of the volume for sector G under NACE.BG-2008; Production of monthly data on turnover and calculation of monthly index of production in services; development of reliable and representative producer prices indices in services, which will be used as deflators for calculating the indices of production in services.

Energy Statistics

In 2015 the work on the specialized statistical surveys included in the NSP 2015 continued. On their basis the energy balances and overall energy balance of the country are developed, presenting aggregated data on production of primary energy, transformation of energy, final energy and non-energy consumption of energy products.

All monthly and annual surveys on energy statistics are conducted in accordance with Eurostat methodology, the requirements of Regulation (EC) № 1099/2008, Commission Regulation (EU) № 147/2013 on energy statistics, Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources, Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency and Commission Regulation (EU) № 431/2014 as regards the implementation of annual statistics on energy consumption in households.

The collection of semi-annual data on the prices of electricity and natural gas for households and industry continued in accordance with the Directive 2008/92/EC for improvement of the transparency of gas and electricity prices charged to industrial endusers.

As regards the initiative of Eurostat, the NSI participated in the voluntary data reporting on energy consumption in households by type of use for the period 2010 - 2013.

The NSI prepared and submitted detailed data on gas and electricity prices delivered to endusers. Prices include information on the following components: price of energy, price of network services and taxes and excises paid. In respect to the upcoming preparation of report on prices and energy costs in the EU an extraordinary data collection was carried out at the request of DG “Energy”.

More detailed information to develop accounts of physical energy flows included in Annex VI to Regulation № (EU) 691/2011 of the European Parliament and the Council on European environmental economic accounts was provided.

The NSI’s experts took part in consultations on:

- The proposal to amend Directive 2008/92/EC for improvement of the transparency of gas and electricity prices and adoption of new draft Regulation.
- The content of the quality report on energy statistics, which will be prepared based on

the requirements of Regulation (EC) № 1099/2008 on energy statistics.

- The methodology laid down in future Revision policy for energy statistics.
- The form and content of the questionnaires for reporting energy consumed in households by type of use and combined production of electricity and heat
- Eurostat's position on the upcoming changes in five annual questionnaires on energy statistics, namely: the inclusion of new indicators and new energy products, update existing methodologies, harmonizing definitions and instructions between annual and monthly questionnaires, etc.

Transport Statistics

In 2015 the work on regular annual and short-term surveys in the field of transport and communications continued.

The NSI with the assistance of Bodies of statistics: **Directorate General “Civil Aviation Administration”** and **Executive Agency “Maritime Administration” (EAMA)** at the Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications conducted surveys in the field of air transport and activities of inland waterway ports and maritime ports. Fruitful cooperation between NSI and two agencies led to increased quality of the data obtained by more detailed data verification.

During the year EAMA continued the work on regular preparation and provision of statistical information on the activities of inland waterway ports and maritime ports. The data collection and data transmission to Eurostat is in accordance with the specific nomenclatures and reporting forms of the following regulations and directives: Regulation (EC) № 1365/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council; Commission Regulation (EC) № 1304/2007; Commission Regulation (EC) № 425/2007 and Directive 2009/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council. The information submitted by ports and port terminals covers the whole activity of inland waterway ports and maritime ports of the Republic of Bulgaria related to treatment of goods and passengers.

The work of EAMA on improvement of the new Statistical Information System "PORTSTAT" for data collection and data processing continued. The system reports passenger traffic and goods passing through the maritime ports and inland waterway ports in Bulgaria and is fully consistent with the latest Eurostat's recommendations to collect new data in this field. The NSI assisted the EA “Maritime Administration” in this field, which led to improved quality of statistical information due to enshrined internal controls for data validation.

In 2015 the discussions on the proposed amendments to two regulations in the field of transport statistics continued. The regulations concern inland waterway transport statistics and rail transport statistics. The objective is updating, simplification and optimization of the existing legal framework for European Statistics and ensuring its compliance with new institutional context in the field of transport statistics, as well as to ensure full and continuous provision of statistical data. Finalization of the procedure for amendments to the Regulation in the field of rail transport will be completed by year-end.

Tourism Statistics

All monthly and quarterly surveys on tourism statistics are conducted according to World Tourism Organization's recommendations and in accordance with Regulation (EU) № 692/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning European statistics on tourism and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1051/2011 implementing Regulation (EU) No 692/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning European statistics on tourism, as regards the structure of the quality reports and the transmission of the data.

In 2015 all tasks related to the organization and conduction of statistical surveys on tourism were implemented in time. They provided information on development of tourism in the country for trips of Bulgarian residents in abroad and arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria, on the activities of the accommodation establishments, tourist trips, tourism-related expenditure of the population and tourism satellite accounts.

Business register

For the first half of 2015 the main work priority was the development of Information system “Enterprise groups register”. The Information system “Register of statistical units” was updated.

During the year the work on testing and updating of the EuroGroup register on enterprise groups of Eurostat continued. The NSI provided population of Bulgarian legal entities, members of enterprise groups at European level and the foreign legal entities participating in the multinational enterprise groups at the national level were identified.

In 2015, the methodological work on defining statistical units “enterprise”, „local unit” and “enterprise groups” in the Register of statistical units continued. The scope of the register concerning kind of statistical units and their obligatory features was studied. All data from Inquiry on enterprise groups included in the Annual Report on the Enterprise in 2014 were processed. The characteristics of statistical units in the Register of statistical units were regularly updated using information from annual statistical surveys and external administrative sources. The Register of statistical units continues to provide full coverage of the population of active statistical units “enterprises” or “local units” as well as provides conditions for sample design by certain criteria for statistical surveys.

The Register of statistical units has been used as the main source of information in preparing the business demography of enterprises, which describes the life cycle of enterprises and presents data on the number of active enterprises, the number of newly born enterprises, the share of survived enterprises, the number of dead enterprises as well as data on change in employment at specific time.

In 2015, the work on projects started in 2014 and related to testing activities on profiling of large and complex statistical units - “enterprise groups” and applying the methodology to introduce new definitions of statistical units continued.

Statistics of foreign trade

The main objective in the field of foreign trade statistics was the improvement of activities related to monthly production and dissemination of information on movement of foreign trade commodity flows. The main activities under the priority directions related to the implementation of this objective were as follows: provision of timely and reliable statistics and improvement of data quality; better use of administrative data sources; adaptation of the National System for production and dissemination of foreign trade statistics in accordance with the changed requirements of EU legislation and with the users’ needs of foreign trade data; involvement in Eurostat’s work on discussion of strategic issues concerning the future development of international trade in goods statistics.

During the year the NSI continued its work on improving the quality of primary data declared by traders. The NSI’s experts have made direct contacts with Intrastat operators, as well as contacts in cooperation with the NRA. As a result some inaccuracies in submitted Intrastat declarations were corrected. Methodological assistance to the respondents in declaring data in specific cases was provided, which contributed to facilitating business in carrying out monthly obligations for submission of Intrastat declarations.

In 2015, the regular implementation of the obligation of the NRA on application of the Intrastat system and collection of data at national level on intracommunity trade carried out

between Bulgaria and other EU member states in Community goods which are not subject to customs declaration in accordance with the Law on Statistics of Intra-community trade in goods continued. All 12 monthly campaigns for the submission of Intrastat declarations, quality checks and corrections of the data obtained from Intrastat operators or their assignees were successfully implemented. Collected data and data on intracommunity trade of VAT registered persons for intracommunity acquisition, intracommunity delivery and under system VIES were provided to the NSI in accordance with the European regulations and the current “Instruction for submitting data on intracommunity trade in goods by NRA and NSI and interaction between both institutions concerning the operation of the Intrastat”. The main operational indicators on the implementation of the Intrastat system, calculated on an annual basis for the past 12 months for which data are available, indicate the following:

- Average number of Intrastat operators per calendar month - 12 741, of which for arrivals - 7 301, for dispatches - 5 440.

- Total number of submitted Intrastat declarations (in Thousands) - 158.52, of which for arrivals - 91.14, for dispatches - 67.37.

- Total number of declared intracommunity transactions (in Millions) - 5.66, of which for arrivals - 4.04, for dispatches - 1.62.

In order to facilitate users of statistical information in disclosure of new monthly data two press releases were prepared and published on a monthly basis, respectively for trade with third countries and for trade within the EU. The maintenance of means for storage and dissemination of data on external trade statistics by Information System “Foreign Trade” continued. The system gives to users direct access to more detailed data than those published in the press releases.

Through participation in target groups and working groups the NSI’s experts contributed to the overall innovation in the field of foreign trade statistics at European level. The NSI’s employees participated actively in the meetings of the Steering Group on Statistics of International trade in goods, of the Working Group “Methods in Statistics of International trade in goods” and of the Target group under SIMSTAT project of Eurostat for exchange of microdata on trade between EU Member States.

During the first quarter of 2015 activities of projects related to SIMSTAT programme – “Modernising Intrastat” and “Preparation for exchange of micro-data on intra-EU trade between Member States” were finalized.

The work on ESSnet project “SIMSTAT – implementation of trial tests for micro data exchange” was finalized. The activities included testing the technical condition and security of IT systems, CCN portals and networks in participating Member States, conducting test exchange of microdata on dispatches for the period 2013 - 2015, pursuant to agreed directions and deadlines, analyzing data exchange in accordance with predefined procedures and assessment of the activity of the system SIMSTAT, as well as usability of data obtained.

III.4. Statistics on agriculture, forestry and fisheries

In 2015 the **Agrostatistics Department** at the Agriculture and Regional Policy General Directorate at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food as the Body of statistics carried out 20 statistical surveys in the field of crop products, livestock, processing industry, land use and farm income statistics.

In the field of crop products statistics information on the area under cultivation and harvested area, average yield and crop production of main agricultural crops, vegetables, vineyards and fruit trees was collected. The survey on yield forecast for the main crops was carried out (early estimates for wheat and barley production 2015). Also the survey on processing of fruits and vegetables in 2014 was carried out.

Within the period from June to August the survey on land cover and land use of the territory of Bulgaria (BANCIK 2015) was conducted. The collected information covered data on agricultural area, including main crops by six statistical regions (NUTS2).

In the field of livestock statistics statistical survey on livestock number in Bulgaria as of 01.11.2015 was carried out. Within the survey on livestock information on the number of bovine animals, pigs, sheep and goats, by species and by animal categories as well as on the production and realization of the products - milk and animals for slaughter was collected. The surveys on the status of poultry and bee-keeping in Bulgaria in 2014 were conducted.

Monthly and annual information was collected on the activities of slaughterhouses, milk processing establishments and hatcheries. Within the surveys on the activity of slaughterhouses for red and white meat in 2014 information on the meat production from specific animal species and categories in accordance with the EU legislation was collected. The surveys on the activities of milk processing establishments and production of dairy products in 2014 provided information on processed milk, dairy products and their sale (in kind and in value).

In 2015 the efforts on the optimization of the samples, the use of other methods for data collection (by phone, letters or via Internet) continued.

Activities on sample survey on structure of agricultural holdings in 2013 were finalized. The survey, included in the NSP 2015, was carried out according to Regulation (EC) No 1166/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council and the Eurostat's grant agreement. Final processings, analyses and control of data prior to their submission to Eurostat were carried out. According to the timetable for carrying out the survey at the beginning of the year the National methodological report was prepared and sent to Eurostat. A quality report was prepared, adopted and validated along with the microdata. The final results were published on the Internet site of the MAF and they will be printed on paper. An external audit of the project for the implementation of Eurostat's grant agreement was conducted. Announced public procurement for building-up of an Information system for data entry, control and data processing of the survey on structure of agricultural holdings was cancelled. The building-up of the system has been postponed until next year.

In 2015 through the Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN) the individual data on agricultural holdings for 2014 were collected. The current information on agricultural holdings without bookkeeping for 2015 was collected. The data for 2013 were validated and preliminary results were published. The final results also will be published. A questionnaire for data collection was developed according to the revised Commission Regulation (EU) No 385/2012 and was tested on field by the MAF's experts and regional offices to the Department of Agriculture. The form for collecting information for 2014 was endorsed by the Minister of Agriculture and Food and was approved by the order of the President of the NSI. Announced public procurement for building-up of an integrated information agricultural accounting system for data entry, control, data validation and analysis of the results at national and regional level was terminated.

In the field of statistics of agri-environmental indicators the control of the collected information was carried out in early 2015. The information reflects the use of plant protection products in wheat, barley, maize, sunflower and rape in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1185/2009 of European Parliament and of the Council. In September 2015 the results were submitted to Eurostat.

The implementation of European project "Pilot surveys within the connecting of Integrated system for administration and control (ISAC) with other administrative registers and statistics" under grant agreement contributed to connectivity between MAF and Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (BFSA). Five specialized reports from Information system of BFSA – VetIS were developed about the need for data for statistical purposes. An Agreement on

cooperation for the provision of information exchange between MAF and BFSA was concluded. Within the implementation of the project the software “Vineyard statistics” was developed, which allows data extracting from the Integrated Information System for Vine and Wine administered by Executive agency on Vine and Wine (EAVW). Thereby the project guarantees sustainable development concerning the improvement of quality of statistical information in the field of vineyard, shortening of deadlines for receiving and processing of primary data, reducing respondents’ burden and volume of the activities of experts at central and regional level involved in agricultural statistics, as well as reducing financial burden on MAF. An Agreement on information exchange was concluded between MAF and EAVW in order to increase efficiency and optimal organization and coordination of the interaction. An Agreement on information exchange between MAF and State Fund Agriculture will be concluded with stemming obligation of the Fund to grant the necessary information from administrative information systems and registers to Agrostatics Department in accordance with Art. 29, para 2 of the Law on Statistics.

The renovation of the MAF’s website continued in 2015, as metadata and methodological notes to the surveys in the field of agricultural statistics conducted by the Agrostatics Department were supplemented and updated. Release calendar presenting the results of the statistical surveys in 2015 carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food by themes and by dates was updated on the MAF’s website.

The results of the surveys conducted by the Agrostatics Department are published regularly in specialized bulletins on the MAF’s website, in the NSI’s annual publications - Statistical Yearbook, Statistical Reference book, in the electronic review of the statistical information and in the Eurostat’s spreadsheets.

In 2015, the NSI produced annual data for 2014 (preliminary and final) and quarterly for 2015 (including for the flash estimates of GDP) for production account of national non-financial accounts for economic activity “Agriculture, forestry and fisheries” at current and constant prices.

According to Regulation (EC) № 138/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council annual data on satellite economic accounts for agriculture were developed and transmitted to Eurostat – first and second estimation of income in agriculture for 2014, preliminary data for 2014 and final data for 2013. Data on regional economic accounts for agriculture for 2013 at level NUTS1 and NUTS2 were submitted to Eurostat, as well as for statistics on unit values for 2014.

In accordance with the current Gentleman's agreement between Eurostat and MS in the field of agricultural prices and indices quarterly data for 2015 and annual data for 2014 were calculated and transmitted to Eurostat: on prices and indices of agricultural production, of goods and services currently consumed in agriculture and of goods and services contributing to agricultural investment base year 2010 = 100 (base of Eurostat), the previous year = 100 and the relevant quarter of the previous year = 100.

Data on the average price of agricultural land and rents for 2014 at national level and regional level NUTS1 and NUTS2 were calculated and transmitted to Eurostat.

Tables with data and texts for press releases were prepared for publishing on the Internet site of the NSI and for printed/electronic publications of the NSI in accordance with the Calendar presenting the results of the statistical surveys carried out according to the NSP of the NSI.

Data on production in forestry for integrated economic accounts "Forestry - Environment" for 2013 were calculated and provided to Eurostat in the format of the new questionnaire.

According to the Regulation (EU) № 691/2011 on European environmental economic accounts data on material flows for 2014 were calculated.

A new version of the Nomenclature of agriculture, forestry and fishing production - PRODAGRO 2015 was developed.

The NSI's experts participated in:

- Activities on Operational Programme Administrative Capacity projects related to improvement of quality of service for citizens and business;
- Coordination of activities on production and dissemination of statistical information on agriculture, forestry and fisheries within the National Statistical System of Bulgaria;
- Meetings of Working groups in Eurostat in the field of agro-monetary statistics.

III.5. Multi-domain statistics

Business Trends

In 2015 with the financial assistance of the European Commission monthly surveys on business trends were conducted according to “The Joint Harmonised EU Programme of Business and Consumer surveys”. The objective of this Programme is to provide timely information on economic analysis and short-term forecasting as a key complement to official statistics. Business surveys show how managers assess the present and future economic situation in the country and Consumer surveys - intentions of major purchases and savings. Indicators of these surveys could be used as components of composite leading indicators for analysis and detection of turning points in the economic cycle. Users of these data are public institutions, scientific institutes, the Bulgarian National Bank, the European Commission, the European Central Bank and other.

Indicators for monitoring national and European policies

In relation with the preparation and implementation of activities under operational programmes for the programming period 2014-2020 new demands on complex and multidimensional statistical information are formulated and set as requirements for development, monitoring and assessment of national strategic documents and operational programmes for the period 2014-2020.

In 2015, the NSI in coordination with the managing authority of operational programmes fulfilled its obligation for ensuring the implementation of prior general condition of the Partnership Agreement concerning the availability of statistical data base and validation of result indicators for operational programmes. Methodologies, metadata and result indicators were developed and approved in accordance with the conditions under Partnership Agreement and operational programmes for the period.

The representatives of the NSI participated in working groups on all operational programmes and in working group under Partnership Agreement and carried out operative interaction at expert level.

Statistical data on performance indicators of the priority objectives of the Strategy “Europe 2020” and on the system of indicators for sustainable development were provided.

Environmental Statistics and Accounts

In 2015, the work on all statistical surveys in the field of Environmental statistics and accounts included in the National Statistical Programme continued.

In 2015 according to the requirements of Regulation (EU) № 691/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European environmental economic accounts data on modules “Taxes and fees related to the environment by economic activities” and “Air emissions accounts” were developed and reported to Eurostat. The reporting on third module of regulation – “Economy-wide material flow accounts” is in the process of finalization

according to deadlines.

The survey “Sources of emissions” was carried out in accordance with the methodology of the NSI and the Ministry of Environment and Water harmonized with CORINAIR methodology developed by the European Union. Based on the survey a uniform information base is building-up aiming at evaluation of atmospheric emissions and improvement of methodologies according to the requirements and recommendations of international authorities.

The survey on waste from activity provided information on the quantity of generated non-hazardous waste in the country and means for their disposal and recovery. In accordance with Regulation (EC) № 2150/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council on waste statistics information on nonhazardous waste from production activity was collected by sample representative for active economic units in the country.

The survey “Wastes from agriculture, forestry and fisheries” provided information on generation, disposal and recovery of waste from companies in “Agriculture, forestry and fishery” sector.

The survey on municipal waste (arising from households and construction) provided data on the quantities of waste generated by households and small business. A register of landfills for municipal waste is maintained. It contains data on population served by landfills, on the area, on collected, treated and finally disposed waste. Information on revenue and expenditure for household waste was provided.

Data on the size of expenditure on acquisition of the tangible fixed assets with ecological use, on expenditure on their maintenance, on sources of financing and on allocation of funds by main directions - air, wastewater, waste and other were provided. The effective use of these funds in the field of ecology is a key indicator for measures undertaken by society and state in order to reduce the negative impact of socio-economic processes on the environment.

During the year the information on the availability and movement of the tangible fixed assets with ecological use in book value was collected.

The surveys in the field of water statistics provided information on water supply, water use and wastewater from economic activities of the administrative-territorial level and at river basin level. The surveys covered activities on water supply, sewage network and treatment of wastewater. Detailed data on water services for population were provided. The registers of wastewater treatment plants for wastewater and drinking water are maintained. The surveys are in compliance with the new requirements in the field of European water statistics. In 2015 the reporting to Eurostat (Eurostat Regional Environmental Questionnaire) was implemented in new format.

Data collection continued with “Reference of municipal administrations on the status and expenditure on water and sewerage infrastructure” included in the Annual Report of the municipalities.

The survey on Environmental taxes and fees provided information needed for reporting on module “Taxes related to the environment by economic activities” under Regulation (EU) № 691/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

In the implementation of European Parliament and Council Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste the NSI conducted survey “Production of packaged goods and packaging”. The NSI uses the following data in order to assess the quantities of packaging: data from the annual sample survey, exhaustive data on main producers of packaging and packaged goods and data on recycled and burned packages received by the Executive Environment Agency.

The survey “Revenues and expenditure of specialised producers in environment” provided

information on the revenue and expenditure on protection and restoration of the environment by specialised producers of environmental services.

The Underground reserves survey ensured information on nonrecoverable mineral resources in the country, on the area of deposits of mineral resources and the number of employed persons, the cost of exploration and research, the cost for removal of deposits from exploitation and other indicators related to environment.

The survey on environmental goods and services provided information on value indicators by economic variables and by environmental directions for environmental goods and services sector.

In 2015 according to the Eurostat's reporting requirements two questionnaires were completed and transmitted within the deadline to OECD and Eurostat - Questionnaire on revenue and expenditure on environment and Questionnaire on producers of environmental goods and services.

In 2015 the information on work done for control and pollution prevention of sea waters and the Danube river was collected.

The National Center of Public Health and analyses provided information on registered noise levels. The Ministry of Environment and Water provided information on protected natural scenery and zones of National Ecological Network, as well as on the management of the activities on environmental protection. The Ministry of Environment and Water, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Executive Forest Agency submitted information on sanctions and fees.

In 2015 the NSI started work on project "Improvement of the methods for compilation of EPE in order to comply with the requirements of new module on EPE in the regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 691/2011". The aim of the project is improvement of the methodology for assessment of expenditure on environment protection and preparation of detailed standard tables in unit values containing data on expenditure on environment protection by economic activities. The methodological developments under the project will contribute to resolve problems related to future reporting to Eurostat according to the Regulation (EU) No 691/2011 on European environmental economic accounts.

During the year, the NSI's experts participated in the working groups of Eurostat, developing strategic and program documents, draft legislation and methodologies in the field of environmental statistics and accounts.

"Monitoring and Assessments of Environment" Directorate of Executive Environment Agency to the Ministry of Environment and Water as a Body of statistics carried out the tasks "Formation, utilization and disposal of hazardous waste by code at national level" and "Capacity of installations for utilization and detoxication of waste" according to the characteristics and deadline of statistical surveys.

Housing Fund Statistics

In 2015 the production of data from the surveys on new residential buildings and dwellings, destroyed buildings and dwellings and housing fund continued. Methodological concept, plan and ToR on building-up of Register of residential buildings and dwellings were developed.

Regional Statistics and Geographic Information Systems

In 2015, the work on dissemination of regional statistics continued. In order to extend users' access to regional statistics the thematic rubric "Regional Statistics" as well as the contents of electronic publication "Regions, Districts and Municipalities in Republic of Bulgaria" were improved. Published data are presented at the lowest level, as far as the nature

of the statistical survey allows to obtain reliable data and such data, which do not infringe statistical confidentiality. The produced data are from level NUTS 0-3 to settlement level.

A monitoring and updating of categorization of administrative-territorial units and territorial units in the Republic of Bulgaria were conducted.

In order to ensure specialized information needs of different external users the work on application of GIS technology for development of thematic graphic layers of statistical information and maintaining digital models of big cities proceeded. The digital models based on statistics collected on the buildings and housing fund in the country were updated. The activity on cartographic presentation in statistical issues continued in 2015.

At the request of Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy a methodology and data sources for assessment of the number of population in polygons of cities were developed. The polygons of the cities are included in Urban Atlas 2012 by applying consistent methodology combining production of grid population and methodology of the European Commission.

Science, Technologies and Innovations

According to the requirements of the Commission Regulation (EU) № 995/2012 of Community statistics on science and technology in 2015 the work on production and dissemination of statistics on R&D and innovations proceeded.

Annual statistical surveys on R&D and Government budget appropriations or outlays on R&D were carried out. The produced data were provided to users with the required quality and within the requested deadlines.

The statistical survey on innovation activity of enterprises within the period 2012 – 2014 was carried out in full compliance with the harmonized questionnaire and methodology of Eurostat (CIS 2014).

Information Society

In 2015 the NSI conducted two regular statistical surveys in the field of Information society according to Eurostat's recommendations and the requirements of the Commission Regulation (EU) № 1196/2014 concerning Community statistics on the Information society. Data from these surveys provide reliable and internationally comparable information on the ICT usage in households and in enterprises in Bulgaria.

An updating of indicators, measuring the development of information society was carried out. New variables were added concerning the special topic of the surveys in 2015 – “Security of ICT and the Internet”.

The annual data on ICT usage in households and in enterprises for 2015 were processed in accordance with quality requirements and were published in December.

A specialized training for the RSOs' employees responsible for the survey on ICT usage and e-commerce in enterprises was conducted. Specific terms related to modern development of ICT were presented during the training.

III.6. Information and communication technologies, statistical infrastructure and other activities

Information and Communication Technologies

In early 2015 the reorganization of the NSI's website was carried out with the introduction of efficient software in regard to development and maintenance. The new site significantly optimizes user access to services and information provided.

During the year new technical tools were installed. They allowed expansion of capacity and degree of redundancy of information systems, use of effective means for storage and retrieval of information systems and data from statistical surveys. The NSI applies reliable policies on redundancy of databases and components of information systems through specialized software and maintenance of library of archival carriers.

The organization and maintenance of Support center continued in order to facilitate the respondents of statistical surveys. The center processes requests of users received by phone and other channels (e-mail, letters, etc.) and assists in technical and/or methodological problems. The implemented system for management and control of users' requests is guarantee for timely response to requests.

Between the NSI and the Registry Agency the replication of data on registry in the Commercial Register and in Register BULSTAT is carried out in view to effective maintenance of actual data for enterprises. An access to cases of traders registered in the Commercial Register was ensured to some NSI's employees via digital certificates.

The NSI carried out maintenance of the National register of populated places (NRPP) and the General Register of the traders. All changes of territorial and administrative-territorial units, as well as the administrative change in the NSI were reflected in NRPP. The NSI ensured Internet access for references in NRPP. In addition, in order to facilitate other administrations the NSI developed and published on its website up to date version of the Unified classifier of the administrative-territorial and territorial units.

The NSI provided to users an opportunity for interactive references through web-based application for access to multidimensional databases on foreign trade statistics.

In 2015, the process of building-up a centralized data storage continued. Thereby the decentralized information storage will be overridden and the risk of data loss will be minimized. After its finalization the implementation of reliable services on data archiving will be possible, as well as data recovery when necessary and secure data protection from unauthorized access.

Development of statistical information systems

In 2015, the process of gradual reengineering of existing software applications and transition to centralized systems with decentralized entry of statistical forms using modern technology platforms such as .Net continued.

New applications were developed as regards the surveys in the field of agriculture, environment and structural business statistics.

For the needs of different statistical surveys in the NSI new web-based applications were developed by means of VB.NET and Lime Survey. Applications run in the NSI's local network as well as with the respondents.

The maintenance and update of IS "Business statistics" proceeded. The scripts for defining the surveys were developed included in the system for 2015. The rules for logical control were also developed. The existing forms were updated and new PDF forms were created for entering data in different forms for annual surveys in 2016.

In 2015 the work on development of analytical outputs for specific analyses to various statistical surveys using statistical package SPSS Statistics Server (20.0) continued.

ICT Infrastructure

In 2015 the virtual platform was developed through delivery of new hardware tools. The optimization achieved of the virtual environment ensured preconditions for inclusion of additional servers to it, which will increase the reliability of the information environment and will enable building-up of future information systems.

In 2015 the work on ensuring the operation of the communication environment for provision of connection to respondents and users, and also interconnections within the NSI's Head Office and connections with RSOs proceeded. The segmentation of the network was improved. The connections between the segments were optimized in order to facilitate management and control to access.

During the year the maintenance of all hardware resources (PCs, laptops, servers, printers, copiers and telephone exchange) of the NSI continued. The status of the postal servers, servers for Internet connection and firewall was constantly monitored. The work of NSI's e-mail without accidents and connections with the outside world was ensured. The permanent antivirus and antispam protection of all computers and other active equipment was provided.

The security of access to different information resources was realized through the management of Active Directory.

During the year the program maintenance of all devices through continuous updating and ensuring the validity of relevant licenses was carried out.

The NSI's experts participated actively in the preparation of the necessary documentation (ToRs), as well as in the activities of the commissions under Public Procurement Law concerning ICT, maintenance and licensing of used software products and the development of information systems of the NSI.

Methodology, statistical metadata, classifications and standards

During the reporting year the NSI continued work on the implementation of Special standard for data and metadata exchange (SDMX) in the national statistical practice. The NSI transmits reference metadata to Eurostat through web application "National Editor of reference metadata" (NRME) and participates in the Eurostat's annual monitoring on the status of National metadata system.

In 2015 the NSI started work on project entitled "Horizontal and vertical integration: implementing technical and statistical standards in the European Statistical System". The aim of the project is to update the implemented ESMS (Euro-SDMX Metadata structure) and ESQRS (ESS Standard for quality reports structure) structures. The main objectives are development and publication of quality reports in ESQRS format on the Internet site of the NSI, extension of established within the previous project national database on reference metadata. The project also envisages development of national metadata structure for statistical processes, expanding Euro process metadata structure (EPMS) and its testing in three statistical domains.

The NSI continued activities on current maintenance of data, metadata and preliminary calendar, according to the requirements of Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) of International Monetary Fund.

During the reporting period the main task was the maintenance of statistical classifications up to date and provision of methodological assistance to users using them in statistical and social practice.

In 2015 the structure of the new version of European Classification of Products by Activity (conventionally called CPA-2015) was approved. The work on updating of explanatory notes and corresponding tables continued.

For the purposes of statistical processing and continuation of the time series on the basis of changes occurred in the Combined Nomenclature code tables of transition were developed. New classification versions of product classifications were developed. For the purposes of the survey PRODCOM the lists of T and Z codes were updated. For the purposes of external trade statistics and “Intrastat” system to the NRA annual update of self-explanatory texts of Combined Nomenclature (CN) was carried out.

During the year the NSI continued its participation in maintenance of National Classification of Occupations and Positions 2011 (NCOP-2011). The list of the names of positions and the corresponding tables were updated.

For the purposes of statistics on education the work on development of new version of the Classification of fields of education and training (CET-2015) started.

During the year the current maintenance of IS “Statistical Classifications” and Electronic dictionaries of statistical terms and dictionaries of standardization and harmonization of statistical terminology proceeded. The list of Standard statistical indicators for 2015 was prepared.

The NSI’s experts participated in the preparation of files (in Bulgarian and in English) with classification versions for loading in newly built system “Infostat”.

An Action Plan was developed including specific activities for practical implementation of the “Concept on R&D in NSI”, approved by the President of the NSI. According to the Plan and based on conducted inquiry the regular provision of methodologic assistance started and trainings were organized.

In methodological direction the following activities were successfully completed:

- Development of “Concept on general population for the purposes of surveys on households and individuals in the NSI“ and “Concept on training of employees in the NSI”.
- Studying problems and specialized software on ensuring confidentiality of statistical information.
- Assistance of experts from different units of the NSI in deployment and use of specialized statistical software as DEMETRA, ECOTRIM, etc.
- Consultation of the NSI’s experts on methodological issues related to design and emission of representative samples.
- Design and emission of representative samples for external users.
- Active participation in the work of the Commission on access to anonymised data and in the meetings of the Scientific-Expert Council to the NSI.

In November 2015 the NSI started work on project entitled “Data collection for sub-national statistics: Labour Market Areas”. The duration of the project is 18 months. The main objectives of the project are to carry out interdisciplinary analyses and combining data from different sources, in particular: defining Labour Market areas for Bulgaria based on special methodology elaborated for the purpose; improving IT tools in order to support the implementation of this methodology; evaluating the utility from introduction of methodology concerned at national level and dissemination of the results to all stakeholders.

Other activities

The data from the statistical survey on losses from crisis events were provided at national, regional and municipal level.

IV. RESOURCE ASSURANCE

Personnel

The National Statistical Institute is organized into Head office and Regional Statistical Offices. A restructuring was made in order to improve administrative capacity, to allow flexibility in the allocation of tasks, to optimize performance and to ensure efficient organization of resources. As of 1 October 2015 in pursuance of the Public Finance Act the Council of Ministers Decree № 272/08.10.2015 came into force in order to define secondary contracting authority with budget resources to the NSI. After the structural reform 28 Regional Statistical Offices of the NSI were reduced to 6 as follows:

- The RSO - Severozapad with the center the city of Pleven
- The RSO - Sever with the center the city of Ruse
- The RSO - Severoiztok with the center the city of Varna
- The RSO - Yugoiztok with the center the city of Burgas
- The RSO - Yug with the center the city of Plovdiv
- The RSO - Yugozapad with the center Sofia-city.

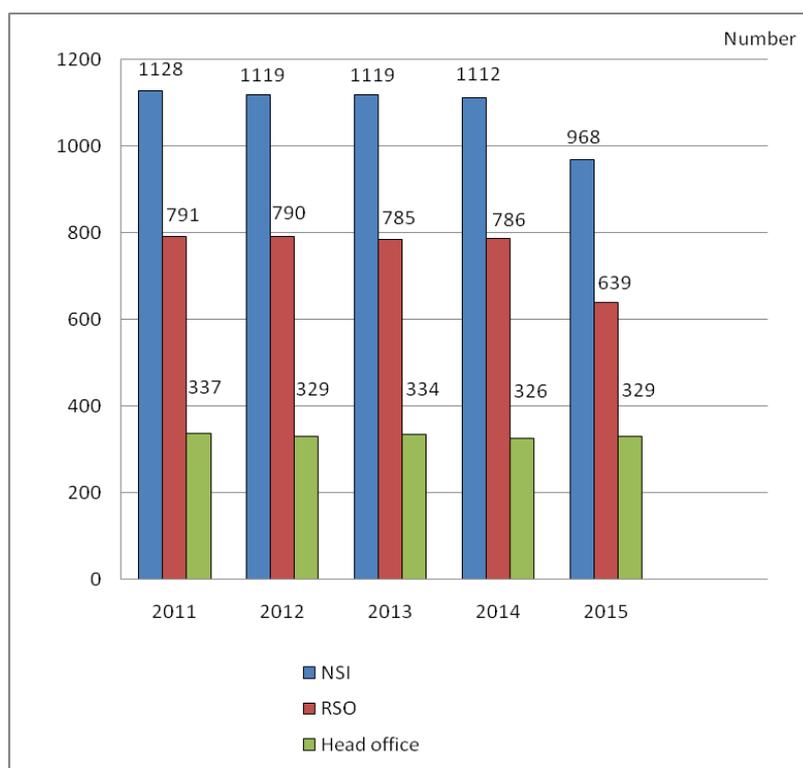
The Regional Statistical Offices are organized with unified General administration and “Statistical surveys” Departments for the relevant cities – ex-centres of the RSOs.

The restructuring of the Regional Statistical Offices is in compliance with the Strategy for Development of the National Statistical System, as well as with Eurostat’s recommendations for improvement of coordination and cooperation in the functioning of the NSI.

The structural units in the NSI’s Head Office are organized into General administration and Specialized administration according to the Administration Act.

The total number of personnel within NSI’s structural units in 2015 was 968, of which 329 on the pay roll at the Head office and 639 – at RSOs (Figure 9).

Figure 9. Staff positions in NSI within the period 2011 - 2015



According to the Rules of Procedure of the NSI the Head Office is organized into six directorates: “Business statistics” Directorate, “Demographic and Social statistics” Directorate, “Macroeconomic statistics” Directorate, “Multi-Domain Statistics and User services” Directorate, “Information systems and Infrastructure” Directorate, General administration Directorate and structures directly subordinated to the President of the NSI: Inspectorate, Internal Audit Unit, “General Methodology and Analysis of Statistical Surveys” Department, “International Cooperation and Protocol” Department, “Security of Information and DM” Division and Press Centre. Five directorates are in the Specialized administration and one directorate – in General administration.

For the past five years as a result of optimizing the structure of Regional Statistical Offices and the NSI’s Head Office and due to introduction of new organizational approaches in management of the processes for collection, processing and production of statistical information and HR management a tendency to absolute reduction of the employees within the NSI system is observed. For the period 2011 – 2015 the number of employees decreased by 160 positions, or 14%.

Carrying out competitions for vacant positions

The organizational changes led to implement policies on recruitment of personnel aiming at replacement of retiring employees with young people with perspective thinking, who have just completed their tertiary education or continuing their education in Bulgarian universities. During the period from the beginning of the year until the end of October 40 competitions on vacant positions were carried out. In the NSI’s Head Office the competitions were 24 and in the RSOs - 16.

Employees by age groups and by education in NSI

The situation of the National Statistical Institute’s staff is presented in Tables 4 and 5, which summarize the structure of total NSI’s staff, including for NSI’s Head Office and for RSOs.

4. Structure of the employees by age groups in NSI

(Number)

Structures	Age groups					Total
	Up to 29	30 - 45	46 - 55	56 - 65	Over 65	
Head Office	34	114	69	81	1	299
RSO	28	189	208	199	2	626
NSI	62	303	277	280	3	925

5. Structure of the employees by education in NSI

(Number)

Structures	Education degree						Total
	Doctor	Master	Bachelor	Professional bachelor	Secondary education	Primary education	
Head Office	4	260	17	2	16	0	299
RSO	1	383	73	15	153	1	626
NSI	5	643	90	17	169	1	925

The data show a high level of education among NSI’s employees as the share of employees with tertiary education is over 81%. The analysis shows that highlighted trend towards a predominance of specialties with economic orientation persists, and they are about 57% of all

specialties. Statisticians who work not only in specialized, but in general administration, stand out as the most numerous - 36% of the total on the pay roll. Similar to the other administrations in the NSI the predominance of employees in the higher age groups is observed.

Table 6 shows the number of employees who are continuing their education at present to acquire a higher education degree.

6. Education of NSI's employees in Bulgarian universities

Type of education	(Number)		
	NSI	Head Office	RSO
Tertiary education to obtain an educational degree			
Doctor	5	4	1
Master	9	2	7
Bachelor	6	1	5
Total	20	7	13

Budget

The implementation of the NSI's budget for 2015 is according to the adopted Law on State Budget of the Republic of Bulgaria for 2015 and adjustments made as of 31.10.2015 (Annex 1).

The revenues planned are implemented according to specified plan as of 31.10.2015 - 92.88%. Within the revenues the received funding under international programmes and projects amounts to 102.41%.

The implementation of the total expenditure for the same period amounts to 75.25%, including current costs (wages, salaries and other payments to staff and maintenance) - 81.93%.

V. INTERNAL AUDIT AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL

At the beginning of the year, after a risk assessment made to all structures within the NSI system the Strategic plan for the period 2015-2017 on the activities of "Internal Audit" Unit was updated. In accordance with it an Annual plan on activity of the Internal Audit Unit and Training plan of the same unit were prepared. The Plans are in compliance with the requirement of Art. 82 of the Council of Ministers Decree № 8/16.01.2015 on priority performing of audit assignments in two domains: public procurement and performance of public procurement contracts. The plans were approved by the President of the NSI within the required deadlines.

In February 2015 an Annual report on Internal Audit activities for the previous year was prepared, which was submitted to the Minister of Finance within the deadline.

During the year the following activities were implemented:

- Participation as a consultative body and coordinator for definition and assessment of risk management by Directorates and by RSOs in the NSI. For the purposes the risk registers were elaborated and approved in accordance with the new endorsed Strategy for risk management in the NSI.
- Preparation of Draft order in order to determine the composition of the Standing Working group on risk management.

- Organization in preparation of risk registers and their approval.
- Participation as a consultative body and coordinator in preparation of generalized questionnaire and Report on status of financial management and control systems for 2014 in the NSI. Conducted control concerning its submission to the Minister of Finance within the deadline.
- Provided opinion (consultation) for compliance of Rules for ex-ante control in the NSI with the instructions of the Ministry of Finance and the Financial Management and Control in the Public Sector Act.

According to the Annual plan on activity of the Internal Audit Unit for 2015 three audit assignments for giving confidence were implemented. The first assignment was related to evaluation of proper, lawful and effective implementation of the activities – statistical surveys and budget spending of the RSO – Yambol for the period from 1 January 2013 till 31 December 2014. Ten recommendations were formulated. The second audit assignment was related to the Council of Ministers Decree № 8/16.01.2015 for implemented internal audit of the process: „Assessment of effectiveness of public expenditure in the NSI“ in the part: „Established system and procedures on implementation of public procurement” for the period from January 2013 till the end of April 2015. Seven recommendations were formulated. The third audit assignment was related to the Council of Ministers Decree № 8/16.01.2015 and covered the process: „Assessment of effectiveness of public expenditure in the NSI” in the part: „Implementation of the budget and implementation of concluded public procurement contracts” for the period from 1 January 2014 till 30 September 2015. At present⁴ the implementation of audit assignment continues. The last audit will be related to inspection and assessment of activities – statistical surveys and budget spending in the RSO – Lovech for the period from 1 January 2014 till 31 December 2015. The audit will continue and will be implemented during the next year.

According to the approved Training plan during the year three internal auditors participated in the following trainings: „Law on public procurement – practice and application“; „Role of internal audit in the prevention of fraud“; „Training on risk management“; „Commitment for giving confidence – practical case; „Training on software product SPSS“ – usage of programme for forming samples etc.

During the period from the beginning of the year till the end of October 1 882 records with documents were registered and inspected in the register of Finance controller and the same number of checklists for undertaking obligation and performing expenditure were issued.

Passing opinion by the Finance controller concerning the proposals for undertaking obligations and performing expenditure was carried out within the deadlines, which were appointed by the President of the NSI in the Internal rules on implementation of ex-ante control.

Other commitments implemented by the Finance controller during the past period were related to the preparation of requests for additional provision of documents or information, visit on the spot in order to optimizing control and giving precise and effective opinion in the checklist completed by him.

During the first half-year of 2015 the Finance controller participated in the Working group on updating and unifying secondary legal and administrative acts and documents in the NSI. New Internal rules on implementation of ex-ante control were prepared and they were approved by the order of the President of the NSI.

In view of changes occurred in the Law on public procurement in 2015 the Finance controller participated in the workshop entitled „Law on public procurement – practice and application”, organized by the Public finance school to the Ministry of Finance.

⁴ As of 16.11.2015.

In 2015 the main efforts of the employees in the Inspectorate were orientated to the implementation of the following priorities:

- Optimization of activity of administrative structures of the NSI by implementing permanent control for strict observing of normative acts
- Undertaking activities for timely elimination of stated violations, gaps and weaknesses and performing mechanisms on prevention against corruption
- Elaboration and application of system for monitoring and assessment of processes related to receiving, processing, storage and dissemination of statistical information in order to improve its quality.

In order to implement priorities during the year the Inspectorate undertook activities on improvement of planning and on enhancement effectiveness of the inspections. The main objectives were implementation of control in the units with most potential risks, planning and selection of type of inspection in compliance with the reform started within the NSI.

During the year the Inspectorate carried out 17 inspections, of which 5 planned and 3 extraordinary as the main efforts were orientated to control of administrative structures, observing the requirements of external and internal legislation, organization of work, etc. Current control activity was conducted monthly for the implementation of the tasks in the NSP, orders, decisions and recommendations from the meetings of the Council to the President. In general the control activity was focussed to establish an effective mechanism for monitoring and assessment of the processes for ensuring high quality on implementation of full scope of tasks, including on production, processing and dissemination of statistical information.

In 2015 nine signals and complaints on presence of gaps, weaknesses made and violations were received in the NSI. All signals and complaints, including anonymous were inspected. The opinions with proposals for undertaking measures were prepared. In one case the Inspectorate asked the Commission for the prevention of conflicts of interests to give its opinion on the presence of violation of the relevant law.

In order to improve effectiveness of work on received signals and complaints and to fight against the corruption for the first time an e-mail for signals related to irregularities, corruption, frauds and abuses was published on the Internet site of the NSI. New unified electronic register for all received signals, as well as for planned and extraordinary inspections conducted by the Inspectorate was established within the NSI.

In the result of conducted inspections the reporting documents prepared by the Inspectorate appointed 79 recommendations approved by the President of the NSI to the inspected structures. They included specific measures on elimination of stated weaknesses and deadline for implementation and reporting. During the period any not implemented recommendations were appointed.

In order to ensure the implementation of the priorities during the year systematic activities were undertaken on improvement the qualification of the Inspectorate's employees. For these purposes they participated in 7 trainings conducted by the General Inspectorate of the Council of Ministers, the management of the NSI and the Institute of Public administration.

Annex 1. NSI Budget 2015

Indicators (in BGN)	Law on state budget of the Republic of Bulgaria for 2015	Specified plan for the year as 31.10.2015	Report as of 31.10.2015 г.	Implementation of the plan/ report (%) as of 31.10.2015 г.
1	2	3	4	5
I. REVENUES - TOTAL	1500000	2013865	1870438	92.88
Own revenues	1500000	2013865	1870438	92.88
Non-tax revenues	800000	800000		
Property revenues and incomes	800000	800000	627239	78.40
- Net revenues from sales of services, goods and production	700000	700000	577839	82.55
- Rental property revenues	100000	100000	49371	49.37
State fees			20	
Grants, donations and other gratuitous funds	700000	1213865	1243179	102.41
Grants, donations and other gratuitous funds from abroad	700000	1213865	1243179	102.41
II. EXPENDITURES - TOTAL	17452100	18070891	13599213	75.25
Total expenditure	17452100	18070891	13599213	75.25
Current expenditure	15502100	16785891	13732471	81.81
Personnel	11986600	13270391	11004739	82.93
Salaries and remunerations to the personnel under the Labour Code and the Civil Service Act	8034680	8034680	6582663	81.93
Salaries and remunerations to the personnel under the Labour Code	1500000	1500000	1075454	71.70
Salaries and remunerations to the personnel under the Civil Service Act	6534680	6534680	5507209	84.28
Other salaries and payments to the personnel	1714800	2776316	2315854	83.41
Mandatory social security contributions from employers	2237058	2459395	2106222	85.64
Social insurance contributions from employers for the State Social Insurance (SSI)	1423928	1529590	1320678	86.34
Health insurance contributions from employers	598050	670350	563226	84.02
Contributions to additional compulsory insurance from employers	215080	259455	222318	85.69
Contributions to voluntary insurance	62		504	
Maintenance	3392400	3392400	2600553	76.66
Taxes paid, charges and administrative sanctions	100000	100000	103460	103.46
Expenditure for membership contributions and participation in non-profit organizations and activities	23100	23100	23215	100.50
Capital expenditure	1950000	1285000	184262	14.34
Fundamental repair of tangible fixed assets	100000	100000	85440	85.44

Annex 1. NSI Budget 2015

(Continued and end)				
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	650000	335000	98822	29.50
Acquisition of intangible fixed assets	1200000	850000		
NATURAL INDICATORS				
Staff positions - total	1019	1019	924	0.00
Average annual full-time positions - total	1034	1034	985	0.00
Staff positions	1019	1019	924	0.00
III. TRANSFERS	15952100	16057026	9501021	59.17
III. A. TRANSFERS (SUBSIDIES, CONTRIBUTIONS) BETWEEN CENTRAL/STATE BUDGET AND OTHER BUDGETS	15952100	15989600	9378014	58.65
Transfers (grants/contributions) from the central budget (Net) - Transfers (subsidies) from the central budget (+)	15952100	15989600	9378014	58.65
III. B. TRANSFERS BETWEEN BUDGET ACCOUNTS AND EXTRABUDGETARY FUNDS/ACCOUNTS		67426	123007	182.43
- Transfers received (+) - Transfers granted (-) - Transfer from MLSP under programmes of temporary employment (+/-)		67426	6661 116346	172.55
III. C. TEMPORARY NON-INTEREST LOANS BETWEEN CENTRAL BUDGET, BUDGET ACCOUNTS AND EXTRABUDGETARY FUNDS AND ACCOUNTS				
IV. BALANCING ITEM (+/-) (I - II + III)	0	0	0	0.00
V. FINANCING OPERATIONS	0	0	0	0.00

Annex 2. Organization chart of the NSI

