

# INFORMATION BULLETIN 2023

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# INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND PROJECTS



- ✓ Successfully held OECD fact-finding mission to review the alignment of the national legislation, policies and practices with legal instrument “Recommendation of the OECD Council for Good Statistical Practice”
- ✓ Participation in 3 in-person meetings and 1 online meeting of the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC)
- ✓ 108<sup>th</sup> annual DGINS conference
- ✓ Multiple high-level forums and expert meetings
- ✓ 3 study visits to NSI of statisticians from the Western Balkans
- ✓ 4 expert missions abroad in different statistical areas
- ✓ 1 expert mission under World Bank Twinning project
- ✓ Three-month traineeships in NSI of 3 statisticians from the Western Balkans
- ✓ 9 successfully completed EU-funded projects
- ✓ 10 new grant agreements signed
- ✓ Conducted audit of six completed projects in compliance with Eurostat’s Annual plan for ex-post control

**NATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE  
REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA**



# EUROPEAN STATISTICAL SYSTEM



## European Statistical System Committee

In 2023, the National Statistical Institute remained an active partner within the European Statistical System.

The President of the NSI Assoc. Prof. Atanas Atanasov, PhD participated in the three regular meetings of the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC) - in February and May, held at Eurostat's headquarters in Luxembourg, and in October, held in Cork, Ireland, as well as in an online meeting in April dedicated to the proposal for amendment of Regulation (EC) 223/2009 on European Statistics. During these meeting, a total of 11 implementing regulations were reviewed and adopted under the comitology procedure.

Among the more important forums organised within the ESS during the year were:

- ✓ High-level Workshop of the Director-Generals on “Data Governance Act - Challenges and Opportunities for National Statistical Institutes” (9 February 2023, Luxembourg);
- ✓ High-Level Meeting on “Statistical Leadership in Emerging Digital Societies” organised under the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU (12-13 April 2023, Stockholm);
- ✓ High-Level Meeting under the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU on “Integration and Interoperability Strategies for Modernising Official Statistics” (27-28 November, Seville).

## The President of NSI participated in a meeting dedicated to statistical leadership

The President of NSI, Assoc. Prof. Atanas Atanasov, PhD participated in a meeting of the Director-Generals of the statistical institutes on “Statistical Leadership in Emerging Digital Societies”, which took place in Stockholm in the period 12-13 April 2023, under the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU. The meeting was organised by Statistics Sweden and Eurostat.

The main objective of the meeting was to discuss ideas and good practices on how to strengthen various dimensions of statistical leadership in the European Statistical System in emerging digital societies, and opportunities for the wider use of official statistics in policy development and decision-making.

During the meeting, successful examples of engaging with users were discussed, but also cases where changes in the portfolio of statistical products were not sufficiently well communicated.

The participants shared ideas on how to maintain trust in official statistics and whether there is a risk of losing trust when new data sources are introduced.

An important topic that the Director-Generals of the statistical institutes discussed was the need for joint trainings and leadership programs in the field of statistics.



# EUROPEAN STATISTICAL SYSTEM



## **The NSI President participated as a panellist in the annual Conference of the Directors General of European Statistics**

The President of NSI, Assoc. Prof. Atanas Atanasov, PhD participated in the 108<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Directors-General of the National Statistical Institutes (DGINS), which was held in Cork, Ireland on 18 – 19 October 2023. The topic of the conference was “Official statistics in the emerging data ecosystems: opportunities and challenges in the context of climate change and energy crises”.

During the Conference, the opportunities of using new technologies, methodologies and data sources from official statistics in order to meet user needs for new and higher quality data on energy and climate change were discussed.

At the invitation of the organisers, Assoc. Prof. Atanas Atanasov, PhD participated as a panellist in a session dedicated to the future actions that need to be taken at national and European level to change public attitudes towards cooperation with statistical organisations.

The DGINS conference is the most important forum in the European Union for discussions on the future and development of the European Statistical System.

## **High-Level Meeting dedicated to modernising official statistics under the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union**

The President of NSI Assoc. Prof. Atanas Atanasov, PhD participated in a High-Level Meeting on “Integration and Interoperability Strategies for Modernising Official Statistics”, which was held in the period 27 – 28 November 2023 in Seville, Spain. The event was organised under the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU by the Spanish Statistical Office (INE) and Eurostat.

The Director-Generals of the statistical institutes – participants in the two-day workshop discussed ways to guide data integration and interoperability towards modernised statistical production, with the aim of developing elements that could lead to a common strategy within the European Statistical System. The discussions focused on three key areas: experiences in data infrastructure integration; enhancing data interoperability; towards an integration and interoperability strategy to modernise official statistics.



## EU Council Working Party on Statistics

In the first half of 2023, Sweden took over the Presidency of the Council of the EU. During this period, the expert work on the following dossiers was completed:

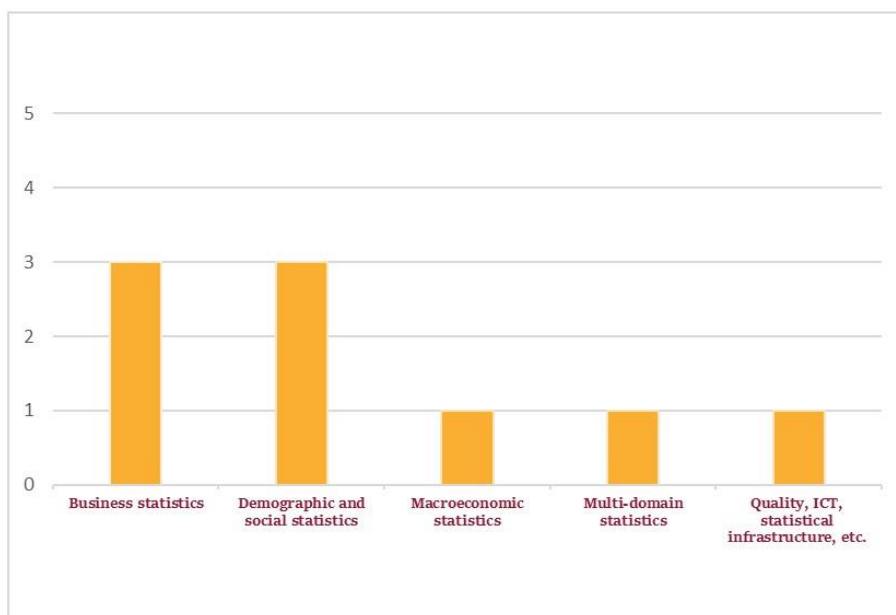
- Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 549/2013 on the European system of national and regional accounts in the European Union and repealing 11 legal acts in the field of national accounts;
- Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European statistics on population and housing, amending Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 763/2008 and (EU) No 1260/2013.

Spain assumed the Presidency of the Council of the EU from July until the end of 2023. The main activity of the Council Working Party on Statistics was focused on discussing:

- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics, which is the main legal act defining the work of the European Statistical System;
- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European Union labour market statistics on businesses, repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 530/1999 and Regulations (EC) No 450/2003 and (EC) No 453/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

## EUROPEAN PROJECTS

### Completed projects in 2023 by statistical areas



In 2023, the NSI successfully completed the implementation of 9 projects, financed with grants by the European Commission and co-financed by the state budget in the field of demographic and social statistics, business statistics and multi-domain statistics.

The grants are implemented in compliance with the following principles:

- ✓ Transparency (the grant award process is public and fully transparent, subject to the annual programme published on the Eurostat website);
- ✓ Equal treatment;
- ✓ Non-cumulation (a grant beneficiary may receive no more than one grant per action funded);
- ✓ Co-financing;
- ✓ No-profit (the action covered by a grant may not generate profits).

During the year, the NSI applied, concluded and is about to sign contracts with the European Commission for 10 new projects, which are scheduled to be implemented in the period 2022 - 2024. The total attracted funding under them is 490,000 EUR (nearly 958,000 BGN).

Over the past 10 years, the NSI has been beneficiary of more than 140 grant projects in the field of statistics, which are the main tool of improving the methodology and the quality of statistical production.

In May, an audit of 6 projects was carried out and successfully completed in accordance with Eurostat's Annual plan for ex-post control.

# ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT



## OECD fact-finding mission for technical review of the compliance with legal instrument “Recommendation of the Council on Good Statistical Practice”

In the period 28-31 March 2023, representatives of OECD’s Statistics and Data Directorate carried out a fact-finding mission in the NSI to review the compliance of the National Statistical System and the Bulgarian legislation with OECD’s legal instrument “Recommendation of the Council on Good Statistical Practice” (OECD/LEGAL/0417).

The management and experts from all directorates of the National Statistical Institute, as well as representatives of “Statistics” Directorate of the Bulgarian National Bank and the “Agrostatistics” Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry took part in the mission. A representative of the “Foreign Economic Relations and Development Cooperation” Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also participated in the opening and closing sessions.

*“Your visit is very important for us, as Bulgaria’s membership in the OECD is one of the main goals of our foreign policy, as well as one of the priorities in the activities of the NSI”, stated the NSI President Assoc. Prof. Atanas Atanasov, PhD, upon welcoming the OECD mission. “Bulgaria’s accession to the organisation will lead to additional recognition of the stability, potential and attractiveness of our economy for investors, but it will also be a guarantee of the country’s constant commitment to the development and implementation of policies for social and economic well-being.”*

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) was established in 1961 to stimulate policies for sustainable economic development, raise the living standards of the population and maintain financial stability. The OECD has 38 member states, amongst which the most developed economies in Europe, North America, South America and Asia.

On 10 June 2022, Bulgaria officially received its Roadmap for joining the Organisation, adopted by the OECD Council during the annual ministerial meeting, which took place on 9-10 June 2022 in Paris.

The National Statistical Institute is the leading institution in the review under the Recommendation of the OECD Council on Good Statistical Practice, as well as jointly with the Bulgarian National Bank under the Recommendation of the Council on the OECD Benchmark Definition of Foreign Direct Investment.

In addition, NSI was identified as a partner institution in the preparation of self-assessments for 17 technical reviews under OECD legal instruments.



# ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT



During the mission, the representatives of the OECD got acquainted with the activities of the NSI and the National Statistical System for the production of official statistics in Bulgaria in the following areas: legal and institutional framework for official statistics; non-financial accounts; government finance statistics and public sector debt; price statistics and purchasing power parities; trade by enterprise characteristics and international trade in goods statistics; business statistics and entrepreneurship; balance of payments and international trade in services statistics; labour statistics; short-term economic statistics; business trend studies and consumer opinion surveys; statistical infrastructure; national accounts and financial accounts; environmental economic accounts; income distribution; time budget and well-being.

*“This first mission of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Bulgaria was very successful and laid a very good foundation for future cooperation between Bulgaria and our organisation”, said Ms. Asa Johansson, Deputy Director of OECD’s Statistics and Data Directorate. “Our first impressions are that the Bulgarian statistics are in a very good condition. We are very impressed by the timeliness and quality of the produced data and by the innovative methods of distribution of the information.”*

During the closing session, an Action Plan with specific recommendations and deadlines for their implementation was presented and discussed.

## 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy

The NSI President took part in the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy (CSSP) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, which was held on 26-28 June 2023 in Paris.

The meeting’s agenda included topics related to the main mandate of the CSSP – to support policy-making on the basis of high quality, internationally comparable data and evidence-based analysis and to provide this statistical information to all interested users.

Special attention was paid to the role of national statistical institutes as trusted data intermediaries, the upcoming revision of the System of National Accounts (SNA), measuring well-being, as well as innovation in new data and sources.



## REGIONAL AND BILATERAL COOPERATION



### Presentation of “Manual on Child-Specific Data Capacity Strengthening on Children on the Move”

On 20 – 21 November 2023, the President of NSI Assoc. Prof. Atanas Atanasov, PhD took part and delivered a speech in an international conference dedicated to presenting the “Manual on Child-Specific Data Capacity Strengthening on Children on the Move”, organised by the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) with the support of the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC) – a cross-sectoral global coalition jointly led by Eurostat, the International Organisation on Migration (IOM), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and UNICEF.

According to the latest data there are an estimated 35.5 million international migrant children around the world, including children in need of international protection, such as refugees and asylum-seekers, and over 29 million children who have been displaced within their countries due to conflict, violence or disasters. Reliable data and official statistics are key to meeting the international obligations that protect the rights of migrant and displaced children. The Manual offers analytical guidance on how to improve the collection, analysis, sharing and use of data on children on the move.

*“Only if all institutions work together significant progress can be made in advocating for children’s rights”, the President of NSI stated during the conference in Athens. “The main role for this falls on the policy makers, while the role of national statistical institutes is to produce reliable and comparable statistics that characterize the phenomenon and support decision makers,” he added.*

### 87<sup>th</sup> Thessaloniki International Fair

At the invitation of the President of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT), the Deputy President of NSI Svilen Kolev, PhD attended the opening ceremony of the ELSTAT stand at the 87<sup>th</sup> Thessaloniki International Fair, at which this year Bulgaria was the Honoured Country.

Svilen Kolev and the President of ELSTAT Mr. Athanasios Thanopoulos discussed new areas of common interest, as well as opportunities for future development of the traditionally good relations between the statistical offices of the two countries, including through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding.

The Thessaloniki International Fair is organised annually since 1926. Every year, governmental institutions and numerous companies from various sectors of industry from over 20 countries take part in the fair. The event is accompanied by a rich cultural programme.



## Meeting of the Working Group on Exchange of Statistical Data and Economic Information of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation

On 23 November 2023, Svilen Kolev, PhD, Deputy President of the NSI took part in a meeting of the Working Group on Exchange of Statistical Data and Economic Information (WGESDEI) of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), which was held in virtual format.

*“The exchange of reliable and timely statistical information will help achieve the BSEC Economic Agenda goals and will contribute to ensuring sustainable development in the Black Sea region. That is why we consider that the cooperation within the Working Group is very important”,* said Svilen Kolev during the meeting.

Experts from the Turkish Statistical Institute, as representatives of the country that holds the Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC in 2023, informed the participants on the progress made in preparing a common publication with basic economic and social indicators for the countries of the Black Sea region, which is expected to be completed early next year.



## REGIONAL AND BILATERAL COOPERATION



### The Ambassador of Azerbaijan visited NSI

The President of NSI Assoc. Prof. Atanas Atanasov, PhD held a meeting with H.E. Huseyn Huseynov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Sofia and Mr. Chingiz Garibli, First Secretary of the Embassy. The visit was of informative nature and the guests showed interest in statistical data on population and demographic processes, business statistics and macroeconomic indicators for the country.

Assoc. Prof. Atanasov presented information on the 2021 population and housing census and undertook to provide the Embassy of Azerbaijan with up-to-date statistical information. He informed the guests about the cooperation agreement signed in 1999 with the State Statistical Committee (SSC) of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the long-standing fruitful collaboration between the two institutions. *“Over the past 20 years, NSI has successfully implemented two EU-funded twinning projects with Azerbaijan, and together with the University of National and World Economy (UNWE) has organised a number of trainings in the field of theory and organisation of statistical surveys for experts from the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan. We are ready to continue the joint work with our colleagues from Azerbaijan”,* stressed the President of NSI.

For his part, Ambassador Huseynov declared the Embassy’s readiness to assist in organising the next meeting between the Presidents of the two statistical institutions and expressed the Embassy’s interest in receiving statistical data from the NSI. *“Receiving timely and accurate data on the economic situation in Bulgaria and its foreign trade is extremely important for Azerbaijani companies that wish to enter the Bulgarian market and develop cooperation with Bulgarian partners”,* he noted.

NSI, as part of a consortium with the company GOPA Worldwide Consultants GmbH, Statistics Netherlands (CBS) and Statistics Finland, is a partner in the implementation of projects under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance “IPA 2019 Multi-beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme”, which aims to support the statistical authorities of the Western Balkan countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo) and Türkiye for future EU membership.

Under the IPA 2019 instrument in 2023 NSI’s experts conducted:

- ✓ **2 expert missions** in Kosovo in the field of “Price Statistics – PPP” in May and October;
- ✓ **1 expert mission** in the State Statistical Office of the Republic of North Macedonia in the field of “HICP and HPI” in October;
- ✓ **1 expert mission** in the State Statistical Office of the Republic of North Macedonia in the field of “Quality management” in November.

In November, **NSI hosted a study visit** in the field of Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices (HICPs) and House Price Index (HPI) for experts from the State Statistical Office of the Republic of North Macedonia, during which the overall process for the production of HICP and the possibilities for the implementation of experimental calculations for the HPI were presented.

## REGIONAL AND BILATERAL COOPERATION



### Two-day study visit at NSI of experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina

In July 2023, the National Statistical Institute hosted a two-day study visit for representatives of the statistical offices of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the field of implementing standards for metadata and data exchange. The study visit was organised under the “IPA 2019 Multi-beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme”, funded by Eurostat.

The study visit’s agenda covered a wide range of topics, including sharing experience and best practices for the management of reference metadata and the BNSI’s quality reports, the SDMX standard as the main standard for exchange of data and metadata, the national IT tool for creating, storing and distributing reference metadata, as well as practical exercises for completing the integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS) in the SDMX format.

In his welcoming address to the participants, the President of NSI Assoc. Prof. Atanas Atanasov, PhD emphasized that such initiatives not only provide an opportunity for the countries of the Western Balkans, candidates for EU membership, to align their practices with the achievements of the European Statistical System, but are also an effective tool for the development of bilateral and regional cooperation.

Assoc. Prof. Atanasov said that national statistical organisations play a leading role in collecting, analyzing, and disseminating data, which are an important basis for making informed political decisions, preparing economic forecasts, social research, and much more. With the ever-increasing volume and complexity of data, it has become crucial to establish standardized methods for organising and managing data effectively, he added.

The IPA 2019 Multi-beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme is a key instrument for providing technical assistance to EU candidate countries in order to align their current methodologies and practices with the European Statistical System.

The NSI participates actively in the programme and has good traditions in the training of experts from the statistical offices of the Western Balkan countries and developing bilateral and regional cooperation.

*“Such methods of knowledge and skills transfer are the way to achieve a higher quality of statistical research at the national, European and international levels and will ultimately benefit the users of statistical information. I am glad that you trusted the National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria as an institution where you can gain experience and knowledge. I hope that you have managed to learn important skills and good practices that you can apply effectively in the performance of your duties in the statistical offices of your countries”,* noted the President of NSI when awarding the diplomas for the successful completion of the traineeship.

## REGIONAL AND BILATERAL COOPERATION



### Three-month traineeships at NSI for experts from the statistical offices of the Western Balkan countries

In 2023, NSI accepted three experts from the statistical offices of the Republic of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of North Macedonia for three-month traineeships.

Nikola Kovacevic, Junior Statistician from the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, and Ivan Spasovski, Junior Associate at the State Statistical Office of the Republic of North Macedonia, conducted traineeships in the field of “Quality Management” with mentor Galya Stateva, PhD, State Expert in the “Planning and Quality of Statistical Surveys” Department.

Željko Asentić, Assistant Director for Demographic and Social Statistics from the Republika Srpska Institute of Statistics, Bosnia and Herzegovina, conducted his traineeship in the field of “Use of Multiple Administrative, Big Data and Geospatial Sources for Production of Official Statistics” with mentor Arslan Ahmedov, Head of “Regional Statistics and Geographical Information” Department.



## REGIONAL AND BILATERAL COOPERATION



### **NSI hosted a study visit for experts from the statistical institutes of the Western Balkans and Türkiye on quality management**

In the period 5-7 December 2023, the NSI hosted a three-day study visit for experts from the statistical institutes of Türkiye, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Albania in the field of quality management. The visit was organised under the “IPA 2019 Multi-beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme”.

*“Because we believe that quality is a key element in the production of statistical information and is a guarantee of the reliability of the information, the NSI is certified in compliance with the requirements of the quality management standard ISO 9001:2015 and the information security standard ISO 27001:2018, and have also implemented an Integrated Management System compliant with both standards”, Assoc. Prof. Atanasov stressed in his welcoming speech. “The exchange of experience between national statistical institutes is a good opportunity and helps to improve the quality and increase the trust in official statistics”, the President of NSI added.*

Lecturers from NSI during the study visit were Galya Stateva, PhD, State Expert in “Planning and Quality of Statistical Surveys” Department and Kostadin Georgiev, Chief Expert in “Information Systems and Applied Software” Department. The training’s agenda included a wide range of topics dedicated to NSI’s experience with the implementation of ISO 9001:2015, the improvement of existing quality management systems, internal and external audit procedures, etc.

### **World Bank Twinning project in the Kyrgyz Republic “Tax Administration and Statistical System Modernization”**

The National Statistical Institute, as a subcontractor of company GOPA Worldwide Consultants GmbH, participates in a twinning project of the World Bank “Tax Administration and Statistical System Modernization in the Kyrgyz Republic”.

As part of the project, in the period 25-29 September 2023, Galya Stateva, PhD, State Expert in the “Planning and Quality of Statistical Surveys” Department, “Multi-Domain Statistics, Methodology and Registers” Directorate conducted an expert mission in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan to carry out an assessment of the state of metadata of the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic.



# UN STATISTICAL SYSTEM



## 54th Session of the UN Statistical Commission

The President of the NSI, Assoc. Prof. Atanas Atanasov, PhD participated in the 54th Session of the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC), which was held in New York in the period 28 February – 3 March 2023.

During the meeting, decisions were discussed and adopted on reports of working groups in various fields, including: data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; social statistics; household surveys; economic statistics; national accounts; business and trade statistics; regional statistical development; fundamental principles of official statistics; international statistical classifications; statistical capacity development, etc.

The UNSC agenda also included a number of side events: special seminar on innovations in official statistics – register-based population census, modernization of household surveys, usage of data generated by citizens and the role of data science.

The UNSC meets and works once a year and submits a report for each of its sessions to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for the purpose of promoting the development of national statistics and improving their comparability.



## World Data Forum

The UN World Data Forum was held in Hangzhou, China from 24 to 27 April 2023 and brought together over 1,000 experts from national statistical institutes and over 10,000 participants in virtual format. On behalf of the NSI, Mrs. Diana Yancheva, Deputy President, participated online in the forum.

During the forum the Hangzhou Declaration was adopted, with which the global statistical community committed to accelerating the progress in the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data.

In addition, the Declaration calls for data and statistical systems to be responsive to the needs of society and representative of everyone in the process, increased domestic and international financing for data and statistics, and the adoption of greater data innovation and new partnerships by official statistics.



# UN STATISTICAL SYSTEM



## 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the European Statisticians

The President of NSI, Assoc. Prof. Atanas Atanasov, PhD participated in the 71<sup>st</sup> Plenary Session of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES), which was held on 22 and 23 June 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland. The organiser of the event is the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

The Conference of European Statisticians is one of the oldest statistical bodies working on international statistics with roots in the first Conference on Statistics held under the League of Nations in 1928. It was founded in its current form in 1953 as the governing body of UNECE in statistics.

The Conference provides a platform for coordination of international statistical work in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region, for addressing emerging issues and for developing methodological guidelines and recommendations to improve national statistics and their international comparability. Over the years, the Conference has played an important role in promoting and modernizing official statistics.

Some of the topics discussed during this year's CES session included: data ethics as a key enabler of social acceptability; measurement of well-being; the role of national statistical institutes in data stewardship and public data governance; measuring circular economy; measuring hazardous events and disasters; transition from traditional software to open-source technologies to process large volumes of data (big data) and others.



## High-Level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

In the beginning of July 2023, the President of the NSI Assoc. Prof. Atanas Atanasov, PhD was approved as a member of the High-Level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG-PCCB) to the UNSC as one of the five representatives of the North America and European region.

Two online meetings of the High-Level Group were held during the year to discuss preparations for the next UN World Data Forum, global initiatives related to data and statistics funding as well as the need to revise the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data.



## 21<sup>st</sup> International Conference of Labour Statisticians

In the period 11 – 20 October 2023, the Deputy President of NSI Mrs. Diana Yancheva participated in the 21<sup>st</sup> International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) which was held at the headquarters of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Conference has been organised every 5 years since 1923 and is the main forum where member states discuss and formulate recommendations, resolutions, standards and measures for the production of labour statistics.

This year also marked the Centenary of the first conference of statisticians engaged in the compilation of labour statistics and the adoption of the first standards in the field of labour statistics, allowing greater comparability between the data of individual countries.

Some of the topics discussed during this year's Conference included standards for statistics on informal employment; examination of concepts, statistical definitions and measurement methods of issues relevant for decent work; violence and harassment at work; international labour migration; statistics on child labour; forced labour, etc.

## COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS



### 64<sup>th</sup> World Statistics Congress

The 64<sup>th</sup> World Statistical Congress was held in Ottawa from 16 to 20 July 2023. The largest event in this year's statistical calendar gathered many top statisticians from around the world in the Canadian city – researchers, academicians, business leaders, analysts and politicians, who in the span of four days exchanged views on the latest developments in the science of statistics. Bulgaria was represented by the President of the NSI Assoc. Prof. Atanas Atanasov, PhD. The forum's official programme included lectures, sessions, workshops and courses, as well as events for young statisticians and women in data science.

The event is organised by the International Statistical Institute once every two years in different countries. During the forum question from all areas of statistics are raised and discussed. This year special attention was given to the use of new technologies such as machine-learning and artificial intelligence (AI) in the production of official statistics. Especially interesting and important for the representatives of the national statistical institutes were the topics and discussions dedicated to the challenges which statistical systems face during times of crises.

Assoc. Prof. Atanasov also took part in the General Assembly of the International Statistical Institutes, which was held during the forum.

Traditionally, the congress was closed with an official award ceremony for the winners of various competitions organised by the International Statistical Institute.



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“International  
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Projects”  
2023



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