

REPORT

ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL PROGRAMME AND THE ACTIVITY OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE IN 2020

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LIST OF BULGARIAN ABBREVIATIONS

AAIS	Agricultural Accounting Information System
AARE	Annual activity report of enterprises
ASA	Agency for Social Assistance
CA	Customs Agency
CEA	Classification of Economic Activities
EC	European Commission
EC	European Community
ESA 2010	European System of Accounts 2010
ESS	European Statistical System
EU	European Union
EXTRASTAT	Information system for Extra-Community trade in goods
FMCS	Financial Management and Control System
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographic Information System
GNI	Gross National Income
HIAU	Head of Internal Audit unit
HICP	Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices
HO	Head Office
HPC	Hybrid Private cloud
IAU	Internal Audit unit
ICCSP	International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes
ICT	Information and communications technology
IMS	Integrated management system
INTRASTAT	Information system for Intra-Community trade in goods
IPA	Institute of Public Administration
IS	Information system
ISMS	Information Security Management System
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry
MF	Ministry of Finance
MH	Ministry of Health
MTITC	Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications
NHIF	National Health Insurance Fund
NRA	National Revenue Agency
NRPP	National register of populated places
NSI	National Statistical Institute
NSP	National Statistical Programme
NSS	National Statistical System
NSSI	National Social Security Institute
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OP	Operational programme
PHC	Population and Housing Census

PPPs	Purchasing Power Parities
PRODCOM	Survey on output and sales of industrial products
PRODCOM.BG	Nomenclature of Industrial Production
QMS	Quality Management System
R&D	Research and Development activity
RSO	Regional Statistical Office
RSU	Register of statistical units
SBS	Structural business statistics
SEC	Scientific-Expert Council
SMEs	Small and medium-sized enterprises
STS	Short-term Business Statistics
UCATTU	Unified classifier of the administrative-territorial and territorial units
UN	United Nations
WG	Working group

LIST OF ENGLISH ABBREVIATIONS

ESTP	European Statistical Training Programme
GSBPM	Generic Statistical Business Process Model
IFS	Integrated Farm Statistics
FATS	Foreign Affiliates Trade Statistics
FRIBS	Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics
SDMX	Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange
VAT	Value Added Tax
VIES	VAT Information Exchange System

INTRODUCTION

The Report on implementation of the National Statistical Programme and the activity of the National Statistical Institute in 2020 is developed in compliance with Art. 9 (6) of the Law on statistics.

The report is structured into five sections and presents the implementation of the tasks of the National Statistical Programme and the activities of the NSI and other Bodies of statistics in 2020.

The **first section** pays special attention to surveys and activities performed for the first time in 2020.

The **second section** describes the results achieved on the implementation of the horizontal priorities laid down in the Strategy for Development of the National Statistical System of the Republic of Bulgaria 2013 - 2017, amended by an extension until 2020.

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 2020.

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 2020.

MAIN EVENTS IN 2020

- In 2020, the NSI faced the challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis that complicated household surveys while creating the need for timely economic and social information. The NSI mobilized all available administrative sources of information and published weekly data on the unemployed and entering a job, as well as weekly data on mortality. The NSI also organized a survey of non-financial enterprises on the impact on revenues and the measures taken by enterprises to deal with the crisis: reduction of remuneration and/or unpaid leave of employees; remote work; use of the measure 60/40; staff reductions. The NSI also conducted a survey on tourism. The data obtained from the specially organized surveys are presented in tables, graphs, press releases, and infographics and are available in the new section, entitled „COVID-19”, on the NSI website (<https://www.nsi.bg/bg/content/18120/basic-page/covid-19>).
- In response to the challenges arising from COVID-19 to traditional data collection, the NSI, as well as other statistical offices in the EU began experimenting with the use of alternative methods of collecting representative data from households: telephone inquiries, online inquiries, personal contact, where possible, the assistance of the mayor in small settlements, sending information by courier. Administrative data of the Ministry of Education and Science were used to validate the data on education. In 2021, an analysis of the impact of the changed methods on the quality and reliability of data from surveys will be carried out both in Bulgaria and at the ESS, and recommendations for future actions will be made.
- The complicated epidemic situation created significant difficulties for the preparation of the largest statistical survey – Population and housing census in 2021. The Pilot census took place only using one method of data collection - online, by completing an electronic Census card.

The inability to conduct a Pilot Census with enumerators is a serious challenge in preparation for the actual Census. In practice, the organization of the fieldwork, the interaction with other administrations engaged in conducting the Census, as well as the assistance of the condominium managers were not tested.

A big part of the tools was not tested. The samples of Census questionnaires for building, dwelling, and population No 2 and No 3 - basic documents related to fieldwork were not tested. The tools for conducting control surveys of the accuracy of registration and completeness of the scope were not tested. The survey of the accuracy of registration relied on the evaluation of methodology developed for data retrieval and formation of the category „family”.

The pilot preliminary detour was carried out, but it was also affected by the spread of COVID-19. The pilot detour in the Anezitsa residential district in Velingrad city was not carried out partly due to communal problems, bad weather conditions and the spread of COVID-19. There were difficulties in the other selected territories as well.

The establishment of municipal and district Census commissions, as well as their first activities according to the Census schedule, were also influenced by the spread of COVID-19. There were closed municipalities, virtual meetings, and generally, there were communication problems with municipal administrations.

Due to the epidemic situation, the physical trainings of trainers for the preliminary detour, planned for July, were cancelled. All trainings were merged into online training sessions, which took place in the period 7 - 20 July 2020. In addition, there have been isolated cases of employees with positive COVID-19 tests in the “Statistical surveys” Departments and in the municipal administrations, which hindered the timely start of the preliminary detour of settlements. This significantly extended the preparation period and the start of the preliminary detour was delayed.

The epidemic situation and the existing concerns in the population significantly affected the campaign to recruit enumerators and supervisors. The required number of enumerators and supervisors did not meet within the predetermined deadline. The deadline had to be extended, which led to a further delay in the initial Census schedule. No training of enumerators and supervisors was conducted.

It should be noted that thanks to the employees of the RSOs / “Statistical surveys” Departments and the experts from the Head Office of the NSI, all possible measures and actions were taken to gradually overcome these problems.

- As an associate member of OECD’s Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy, Bulgaria participated in a meeting of the Bureau of the Committee on Statistics. The Committee aims to promote the use of reliable statistics in the process of developing economic and social policies, as well as to provide high quality and internationally comparable statistical information. Participation in the Committee on Statistics enables the NSI to participate in the development of common standards for data and metadata production and innovative tools for their dissemination.
- The NSI started preparation for the third round of Peer Reviews within the ESS. Peer Reviews aim to monitor the application of the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice and to assist National Statistical

Institutes and other Bodies of statistics in their continuous improvement and enhancement of the quality of statistical products and services produced.

- The NSI marked the 140th anniversary of the establishment of a state statistical institution in Bulgaria. The event was accompanied by the initiative “Planting a statistical forest”, an exhibition of infographics “140 years of Bulgarian statistics” in Sofia and other cities of the country, as well as a commemorative edition “To the Statistics... with Love”, dedicated to the historical development of the institution since its establishment.
- Development of software for data retrieval from the Internet, which can be used as an alternative source in the statistical production process.

1. INTRODUCING IN 2020

The National Statistical Institute:

- created a heading “COVID-19”, which includes weekly data on unemployed and started work. The NSI organized a survey of non-financial enterprises on the effects of the crisis on revenues and measures taken by enterprises to reduce costs: reduction of employees' remuneration, paid/unpaid leave, remote work, use of the measure 60/40, staff reductions. The NSI also conducted a survey in the field of tourism as a sector that is among the most affected by the crisis. The data obtained from the specially organized surveys are presented in tables, graphs, press releases, and infographics;
- weekly data production and dissemination on total mortality in the country started. The data are published on the NSI website and are provided to Eurostat weekly/every week;
- monthly data on the new questionnaire of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) „Global Initiative to Raise Awareness of the Impact of COVID-19 on Crime and Drug Abuse“ started. The data sources for the questionnaire besides the NSI are the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice – Directorate General “Execution of punishments”;
- created the necessary organization and introduced in statistical practice new International Classification of Diseases - Tenth Revision Codes to report COVID-19 as a cause of death;
- Two extraordinary statistical surveys have started: „Activities and status of non-financial enterprises in a state of emergency followed by an epidemic

situation” and “Activity and status of accommodation establishments in a state of emergency followed by an epidemic situation“;

- to ensure the technological provision and automation of the entire process of organizing and conducting the Census, the NSI purchased software for the Population and Housing Census of the Republic of Bulgaria in 2021. The platform will be upgraded as gradually all surveys on households and individuals conducted by the NSI will be integrated into it to reduce the respondents’ burden and to improve the quality of data collected;
- developed and implemented an automated interface for connection between the Property register system and NSI’s Information System „Housing Prices“;
- implemented methodological improvements in the design and production of the CPI/ HICP sub-indices (railway passenger transport, water supply, sewerage, and water treatment services) in terms of expanding the scope, updating the sample, registration of prices, and detailing of weights;
- developed and implemented a methodology for estimation of export of insurance services in national accounts data;
- implemented in the national practice the special standard for data and metadata exchange (SDMX) in the field of innovation statistics;
- prepared and provided to Eurostat the data on structural business statistics for the reporting year 2018, using the new statistical unit “enterprise”, formed by several legal entities, in order to provide data in accordance with the requirements of European regulations in this field;
- integrated the Quality Management System according to the ISO 9001 standard and the Information Security Management System according to the ISO 27001 standard. An external certification audit was carried out on the implemented Integrated Management System, as a result of which the NSI received a certificate for quality and security of information of the activities for collection, processing, analysis, and dissemination of statistical products and services according to both standards ISO 9001: 2015 and ISO 27001;
- developed the educational game „Statistical mission” in Bulgarian as part of the activities for improvement of the statistical culture of adolescents. It is applicable to different types of mobile devices - phones and tablets;
- adapted the interactive educational and cognitive application ViROS for Android and iOS in Bulgarian, which works with glasses for 3D reality. The Bulgarian language version provides Bulgarian users with an easier and more attractive way to access interesting data at the European level.

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF HORIZONTAL PRIORITIES OF THE STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM 2013 - 2017, AMENDED BY AN EXTENSION UNTIL 2020

The main direction in the activity of the NSI in 2020 was the realization of horizontal and specific priorities of the Strategy for Development of the National Statistical System of the Republic of Bulgaria until 2020.

2.1. Priorities to Objective 1: Provision of objective, timely, and reliable statistical information on the economic, social, and demographic development and environment at a national and regional level

Priority 2.1.1. Provision of statistical indicators for development, monitoring, and evaluation of European, national and regional policies

In 2020 experts from the National Statistical Institute took an active part in the activities of the Standing Interinstitutional Working Group for evaluation of the ESIF and the Monitoring Committees of the current Operational programmes „from the programming period 2014-2020, as well as in the thematic Working Groups for the development of the Operational programmes from the new programming period 2021 - 2027 “.

In 2020, the NSI continued to provide statistical data in order to report the result indicators under the Operational programmes from the programming period 2014 – 2020. The information in IS “Monitorstat” was updated with the latest data in the relevant section of the internet portal.

The indicators on the national and international strategies were updated on the Internet portal of IS “Monitorstat”. The publication of quarterly data of NSI’s survey „Key indicators for Bulgaria” also started on the portal. Statistical information on “Energy Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria till 2020 for reliable, efficient and cleaner energy” was added in the section ”National strategies”.

Priority 2.1.2. Updating the existing ones and developing new indicators for surveys on new phenomena and processes

In order to better analyze the emergency (situation) related to the spread of COVID-19, additional questions were included in the questionnaires of the Statistics on Income and Living Conditions survey (SILC) to assess the impact of the pandemic on household income. Preliminary data related to COVID-19 were provided to Eurostat.

In 2020, regarding the new needs for indicators arising from the Circular Economy and the European Green Deal, NSI experts developed a methodology for reporting the consumption of thin-walled plastic shopping bags.

Priority 2.1.3. Extending the scope of provided statistical products and services, and strengthening the communication with users

On the occasion of the 140th anniversary of the establishment of the Bulgarian Statistical Institution in 2020, the NSI conducted several of the planned initiatives to celebrate the holiday in compliance with anti-epidemic measures:

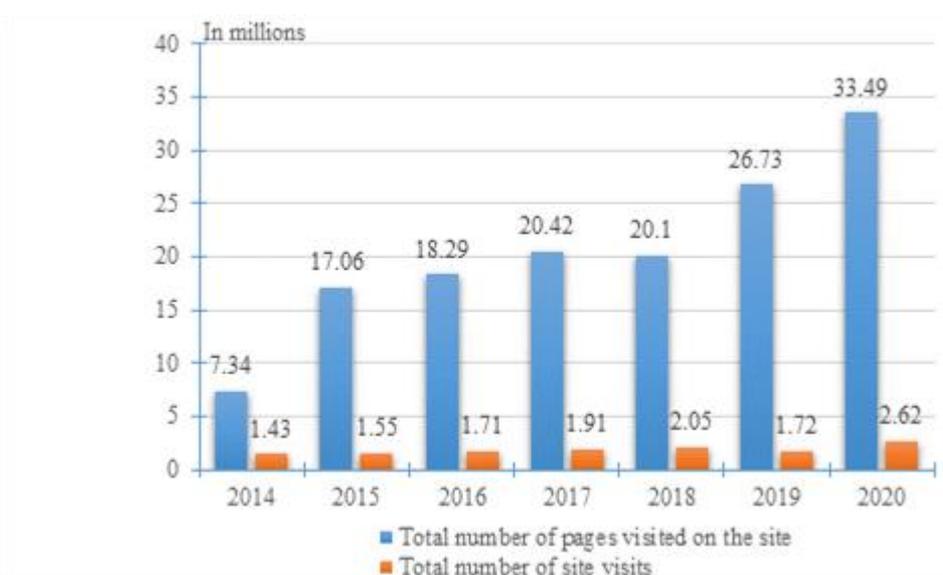
- an exhibition entitled „140 years of Bulgarian statistics” was prepared and organized in Sofia and various cities in the country in order to tell people about the past and present of Bulgarian statistics in an interesting and accessible way. The exhibition included 60 panels with infographics in Bulgarian and English, 30 each. The panels bring together the palette of various statistical surveys, show the development of Bulgaria from the end

of the 19th century to the present day and acquaint with the wealth of historical and contemporary data available to the NSI.

- the initiative „Planting a statistical forest” was conducted with the participation of experts from the Head Office and RSOs of the NSI in all regional cities of the country. Different types of ornamental trees were planted in order to contribute to the protection of the environment in Bulgaria and enrichment of ecological systems in urban spaces, which will redound the purity of the air for current and future generations.
- the commemorative edition "To the Statistics.... with Love" dedicated to the 140th anniversary of Bulgarian Statistics presents the historical development of the statistical institution since its establishment, as well as the new “paths” it is following since the beginning of the 21st century. Memories of the life of statisticians in Bulgaria, favourite anecdotes, and other interesting facts are included in the publication.

In 2020 the Internet site of the NSI was visited 33 485 802¹ times. The total number of visits reached 2 619 634 (Figure 1), i.e. an average of 8 820 visits per day.

Fig. 1. Visits to the NSI Internet site



During the year, 1 084 tables with time series were updated, the respective tables with the latest data and metadata in 44 statistical headings in Bulgarian and English. 502 press releases and 67 news in Bulgarian and English were published, as well, 76 competitions 4 public procurements, and 1 tender were conducted, and 6 updated versions of UCATTU were implemented.

The most downloaded file, published on the NSI website, is UCATTU - 3 422 times. The most engaging and downloaded time series during the year are as follows:

¹ Data on the internet site visits and number of the published materials are as of the end of October 2020.

- Consumer price indices (CPI, 1995 = 100) in English - 980 times;
- GDP - Production method - national level - 899 times;
- Population by districts, municipalities, place of residence and sex - 893 times.

The Top 3 in the publications downloaded from the NSI website in digital format are, as follows:

- Classification of economic activities (NACE.BG - 2008) - 1690 times;
- Healthcare 2019 - 1009 times;
- Districts, districts, municipalities 2018 - 913 times.

The press releases that aroused the greatest interest during the year are, as follows:

- Census 2011 (final data) - 1113 downloads;
- Names in Bulgaria in 2018 (preliminary data) - 1095 downloads;
- Names in Bulgaria in 2017 (preliminary data) in English - 1074 downloads.

With concern for the health and safety of users and concerning the measures to limit the spread of coronavirus, the NSI encouraged online ordering of the necessary statistical products and services - by e-mail: info@nsi.bg and through the **INFOSTAT Information System** <https://infostat.nsi.bg/infostat/pages/external/login.jsf>. All prepared reports and certificates (Economic activity Code Certificate and statistical information) can be received via e-mail by pre-paid bank transfer.

Priority 2.1.4. Establishing conditions for production and integration of spatial (georeferenced) information with statistical information

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

2.2. Priorities to Objective 2: Implementation of new data sources and instruments for improving the production and increasing the quality of statistical products and services

Priority 2.2.1. Expanding the use of administrative registers and information systems for statistical purposes

In the field of justice statistics, the main administrative source of information on crimes, accused, and persons convicted is the Unified Information System Against Crime maintained by the administration of the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria/National Investigation service. During the year, the efforts were focused on the improvement of the quality of primary data and extending the scope of data used from the administrative source. Models have been developed for new standard statistical reports from the system's resources, which will significantly

improve the scope, quality and coherence of data in the field of punished crime.

In order to create the necessary conditions at a national level to provide information on indicators that will be mandatory after the adoption of a Regulation implementing Regulation (EC) 1338/2008 on statistics on non-financial indicators in the field of public health, at the beginning in 2020, an Interinstitutional Working Group was established with representatives of the Ministry of Health, the NSI, the NCPHA, and the NHIF. Part of the Working Group's work was to study the available information from various administrative sources (NHIF, Bulgarian Medical Union, and Bulgarian Pharmaceutical Union) and to analyze the possibilities for its use for statistical purposes.

In order to study the possibilities for providing information about the characteristics of individuals - the subject of the census, data available were analyzed in the Information database of National Expert Medical Committee for individuals who passed through Regional Expert Medical Committee (REMC)/National Expert Medical Committee (NEMC) for establishing permanently reduced work capacity/type and degree of disability. Under Data Processing Agreement signed between the NEMC and the NSI, the data for 2019 were analyzed. A procedure for use of this administrative source (if necessary) was developed - to ensure a partial scope of collected information in case of impossibility to conduct Census with enumerators.

Priority 2.2.2. Using innovative ICT and instruments for the collection of primary data

In 2020 the Information System “Education” was developed and put into operation. The process of data validation, processing, and reporting with a source - the administrative registers of the Ministry of Education and Science and the National Centre for Information and Documentation is automated and facilitated through the system. The use of administrative data will replace the implementation of some of the regular surveys on educational institutions, which will reduce the respondents’ burden and optimize the resources used.

During the year, the NSI continued to improve the INFOSTAT system for the dissemination of statistical information. 958 specific requests were processed through it. The most used of the pre-defined requests were - Main economic indicators of non-financial enterprises and R&D („Business Statistics”) and Average Gross Wages and Salaries (“Demographic and Social Statistics”). After optimizing the functionalities of INFOSTAT, most periodic requests for information were registered and serviced through it.

Priority 2.2.3. Implementing a systematic approach for quality management and control in NSS

Sustainable quality management of the European statistics is a priority direction in the development of the ESS.

Quality management of the 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.

In connection with the development and implementation of the Integrated System on Quality Management and Information Security the following main activities were carried out during the year:

- Establishment of the Council of the IMS;
- Development of documents of the IMS and performance of risk assessment regarding the quality management and the information security;
- Performed internal audit and external recertification audit with implemented recommendations for adjustments of implemented tool for the IMS;
- Conducted training on the functionalities of IMS at the NSI.

In 2020, the NSI began preparations for the third round of Peer Reviews within the ESS.

In 2020, the NSI continued to develop and submit to Eurostat quality reports of statistical surveys in a specified format.

In December, online training of experts from the State Statistical Office of the Republic of North Macedonia in the field of Quality Management System was conducted.

2.3. Priorities to Objective 3: Enhancing the professional and organizational capacity of the NSI and the Bodies of Statistics

The improvement of statistical production and dissemination of statistical information to users is impossible without the participation of key organizational resource, namely human resources. The improvement of qualification, flexibility and capacity of the NSI's staff is an important prerequisite for successful implementation of the priorities set in the Strategy for Development of the NSS of the Republic of Bulgaria 2013 - 2017, amended by an extension until 2020. Therefore, in the process of development of the Annual Plan on specialized training of NSI's employees in 2020, the specific needs related to the development of the methodology and the enrichment of the content of the existing surveys were taken into account by introducing additional modules and indicators.

1. Trainings, seminars and courses of employees of the NSI in 2020

	(Number)	
Trainings, seminars, courses	Conducted trainings, seminars, courses	Employees trained
Online trainings according to ESTP	4	5

Seminars related to the modernization of surveys included in the NSP and to the preparation of Population and housing census in 2021	8	340
Seminars for improving the professional capacity of the NSI experts	1	13
Seminars on projects	3	59
Other courses and trainings outside the Annual Training Plan	43	159
Bulgarian Institute of Public Administration obligatory training	37	37
Total	96	613

The trainings contribute to the smooth production of high-quality statistical data (in accordance with) following international standards. The thematic areas of training in 2020 were, as follows: implementation of security systems, quality of information and personal data protection, organization and preparation of tools for Population and housing census of in the Republic of Bulgaria in 2021, improvement of statistical culture through competitions, gamification and e-learning, economic accounts and prices in agriculture and forestry, new approaches for generating data on hard to reach groups of the population at risk of violation of their rights.

With respect to the emergency epidemic situation worldwide related to the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the ESTP trainings in 2020, the IPA trainings and part of the trainings related to the preparation, and organization of the 2021 Census were conducted entirely in electronic form.

Priority 2.3.1. Establishing a motivating work environment and developing the professional capacity of the employees in the NSS

In the dynamically changing conditions in the labour market, the development of the employees is an essential prerequisite for the implementation of organizational objectives and tasks. The discrepancy between the knowledge, skills, and experience that are expected of the candidates and what they demonstrate in practice is not a small challenge either.

Overcoming this imbalance is possible by the joint efforts of the academic community and employers. The NSI is a good example in this respect as yearly it attracts trainees from various universities in Bulgaria and abroad (the University of National and World Economy, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, University of Oxford - United Kingdom, etc.) with different length of training.

The participation of students in the organized internships/practical trainings allows them to get acquainted with the way of working in the NSI, gaining valuable work habits and skills. On the other hand, they find the practical application of knowledge gained so far and manage to build valuable professional contacts with their mentors.

Priority 2.3.2. Adapting the organisation of work in the NSS towards contemporary information and communication technologies

With reference to the epidemic situation in the country, the NSI employees used the opportunity for remote work in compliance with the security requirements. A software Axence nVision was implemented, providing all necessary conditions for the observation, monitoring, protection and management of network systems and devices in the most efficient way. The policies for collecting information on security and event management in Cloudflare and QRadar (SIEM) were improved. The system on E-census was connected to the inter-register exchange environment (RegiX).

Web-scraping tools have been developed for (the purpose of) surveys in the NSI as real data collection through these methods started. During the year the implemented system for management and control of requests (GLPI) was actively used, which guarantees timely information, provides a knowledge base for cases that occurred, their solutions and response time. The NSI continued to successfully use Eurostat's single entry point for statistical data exchange EDAMIS (Electronic Dataflow Administration and Management Information System), switching entirely to Edamis4. EDAMIS ensures a secure exchange of confidential data. A unified environment for printing, reproduction and scanning for the needs of the NSI was provided, which increased the quality of the provided services. The use of analytical platforms SPSS and SAS was improved as they become the main tool for processing statistical information. In order to facilitate the respondents, the scope of the NSI's Support Center was extended, which provides assistance on technical and/or methodological issues.

Priority 2.3.3. Cooperation and partnership between institutions within the NSS and users

In order to increase efficiency, to achieve optimal organization and coordination of interaction with the institutions and efficient implementation of defined functions and tasks, the NSI, the bodies of statistics and the other state institutions continued their joint work under the **concluded** in 2020 **agreements**.

In 2020 the NSI and the National Center for Regional Development continued their joint work under the project "Development of a socio-economic and demographic analysis of the regions in the Republic of Bulgaria".

During the year, the National Statistical Institute signed contracts for the provision of statistical information with the Institute for Market Economics and with UniCredit Bulbank.

In 2020, the NSI signed agreements for cooperation and exchange of information with the Employment Agency and (for) data processing with the National Medical Expert Committee.

The agreements for the exchange of information with the Executive Forest Agency and the Ministry of Interior were updated and an annex with the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works was signed.

Priority 2.3.4. Establishment of the NSS as an active member of the European Statistical System and the international statistical community

Participation of the NSI in Working Group „Statistics”

In 2020, the NSI continued to participate in the work of the WG “Statistics” to the Council of the EU, albeit in changed conditions related to the epidemic situation caused by the rapid spread of COVID-19.

During the first half of the year, Croatia chaired the WG “Statistics”, the last country of the triple presidency Romania – Finland - Croatia, and during the second half of the year, Germany took over the presidency, the first of the next trio Germany – Portugal – Slovenia.

The start of the Croatian Presidency (01/01/2020. – 30/06/2020) almost coincided with the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures taken at the national and European level to overcome its consequences. In the field of European statistics, the Presidency continued to implement the trio's Programme with the priority of producing high-qualitative and relevant European statistics, taking into account the emerging challenges - new data sources (big data), work with alternative data sources and ways of communication.

The Croatian Presidency is working on the following dossiers:

- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) № 862/2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection – the amending Regulation was published in Official Journal on 22 June 2020;
- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the programme for a single market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, and European statistics and repealing Regulations (EU) No 99/2013, (EU) No 1287/2013, (EU) No 254/2014, (EU) No 258/2014, (EU) No 652/2014 and (EU) 2017/826.

The WG “Competitiveness” is responsible for the dossier. Already during the Austrian Presidency on 29 November 2018, a partial general approach was reached concerning the statistical part of the Programme, despite the dissatisfaction of many Statistical Offices that the European Statistical Programme is not in a separate Regulation. The work on the statistical part of the Programme continued during the Croatian Presidency.

The German presidency began in early July. The trio, uniting Germany, Portugal and Slovenia, focused on traditional priorities such as providing high-qualitative and appropriate European statistics in accordance with Regulation (EC) 223/2009 and the European Statistics Code, promoting official statistics, responding to new users needs, shaped by the challenges of globalization and digitalisation. The trio stressed that statistics must take advantage of new data sources and technologies

and develop innovative methods and tools, to ensure secure, transparent and reliable data and statistical confidentiality as a prerequisite for maintaining respondents' confidence. The priorities of the German presidency are in this direction.

Participation of the NSI in the ESS

During most of 2020, the participation of the NSI in the meetings and the events related to the activities of the European Statistical System and international cooperation was online due to the pandemic of COVID-19.

The President of the National Statistical Institute represented Bulgaria in all three regular meetings of the European Statistical System Committee as well as in two meetings of the Directors General. Many of the issues discussed were related to the response of the European Statistical System to the pandemic and to the challenges that official statistics have to deal with - reorganization of work, new methods of collecting information, cancellation of fieldwork. Bulgaria also participated in the continuous exchange of information between the statistical institutes of the Member States for the reorganization of work and successfully applied the best practices disseminated by Eurostat for conducting statistical surveys in crisis (situations).

During the reporting period, 120 NSI's experts participated in over 100 meetings of Eurostat's Working groups and Target groups, developing strategic documents, legislative acts and new methodologies in the various statistical areas. Bulgarian statisticians took part in seminars and other international meetings of Eurostat.

NSI - an active member of the OECD

In 2020 the NSI actively worked to strengthen the authority of Bulgaria as a country that deserves to be an equal member of the OECD.

Bulgaria, as an associate member of the OECD's Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy, actively participated in a meeting of the Bureau of the Committee on Statistics. The meeting took place on 2 March 2020 in New York. Except in the Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy, the NSI also participated in the meetings of its consultative bodies, incl. the international initiatives in the field of statistics jointly organized by the OECD and other international organizations. In 2020, due to the deteriorating epidemic situation, some of the planned meetings were online, including the joint meeting of the 17th Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy and the 68th plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians.

NSI's experts participated in the virtual meeting of the Informal Advisory Group on measuring GDP in the Digital Economy, the Working Group on National Accounts and the Working Group on International Trade in Goods and Services. Throughout the year, the NSI continued and will continue to provide information on all OECD's reviews for Bulgaria.

United Nations Statistical Commission

The NSI continued its participation in the world's most authoritative forums in the field of statistics. One of the Deputy-Presidents of the NSI participated in the 51st session of the UN Statistical Commission, held in March at the UN Headquarters in New York, USA. The UN Statistical Commission was established by the UN Economic and Social Council and it is the highest decision-making body in the field of international statistical activities.

In 2020, the main highlights of the discussions were the report on the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals, the capacity building of national statistics in connection with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the future of business statistics.

Traditionally, the session was preceded by a statistical seminar, which was held on February 28, 2020, and was dedicated to innovative approaches in household surveys. A high-level Forum on Official Statistics took place on 2 March 2020.

Strengthening regional cooperation

The NSI continues to pursue a consistent policy for the development of bilateral cooperation with the countries of the European Neighborhood Policy – Eastern Partnership (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine), South Partnership (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Libya, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia) and the countries of the Balkan region.

The final meeting of the project entitled „EU Support to the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SSC) to reach European standards” took place on January 22, 2020, in Baku, the Republic of Azerbaijan. The topic of the meeting was „Application of European and International Statistical Standards“. In his speech, the President of the NSI stressed (emphasized) the role of sustainable cooperation between countries in the development of official statistics. Bulgaria has agreements on bilateral co-operation and exchange of experience with the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Belarus, the Republic of Moldova and countries of the Balkan region. For four consecutive years, Bulgaria organized trainings for young statisticians from these countries at the NSI’s Training Center in the village of Slivek. In this regard, the NSI submitted for another year to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs proposals for project financing related to the training of young statisticians from the countries of the Balkan region and the countries of the European Neighborhood Policy – Eastern Partnership within the framework of the programme “Bulgarian cooperation for development” (“Building Administrative Capacity and Democratic Institutions”. Due to epidemiological measures aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19, the courses have been postponed to 2021.

During the year, the NSI organised the following expert missions within the framework of **Multi-Beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme IPA 2017:**

- Preparation of the Statistical Offices of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo for future EU membership - a key expert from „Business

statistics” Directorate and a non-key expert from “Macroeconomic statistics” Directorate.

- Working and training missions in the Republic of North Macedonia under the project „Improving the production and dissemination of statistics“, part of the national programme IPA 2017.
- An online expert mission in the field of price statistics and PPPs, and for the period December 2020 - April 2021 technical assistance to the State Statistical Office of the Republic of North Macedonia is planned through an expert mission in the field of quality management.
- Within the framework of the **TAIEX programme**, a five-day expert mission in the field of national accounts took place in November 2020, to support the specialists from the Central Bureau of Statistics of the State of Palestine.

In November, online training of experts from the State Statistics Service of Ukraine in the field of statistics on income and living conditions was conducted.

As a partner in a consortium led by GOPA Worldwide Consultants, the NSI won the tender for the implementation of the Multinational Programme for Cooperation in the Field of Statistics IPA 2019.

Participation of the NSI in European projects

The NSI continued to successfully perform the tasks associated with participation in European Commission projects, as well as projects on a bilateral and multilateral basis with the statistical offices of the EU Member - States, the implementation of projects under the EC programmes in the Western Balkans, European Neighborhood Policy and Eastern Partnership. In 2020, the NSI successfully completed the implementation of **14 projects**, funded through grants by the EC and co-financed by the state budget in the areas of business statistics, macroeconomic statistics, demographic and social statistics, environmental statistics and multi-domain statistics. In 2020, the NSI applied for and signed contracts with the EC for **7 new projects** scheduled to be implemented in the period 2020-2022. The projects are included in Eurostat’s Annual Programme for 2020 and are under the Regulation (EU) 2017/1951 of the European Parliament and the Council of 25 October 2017 amending Regulation (EU) № 99/2013 on the European Statistical Programme for the period 2013 - 2017, extending the Programme until 2020. In 2020, the NSI continued the work on **five projects** on which it will work actively in 2021.

In 2020, the implementation of the following projects continued:

- “IPA 2017, Multinational statistical cooperation programme for the preparation of statistical offices of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey for future EU membership” in consortium with GOPA Worldwide Consultants - Germany (Lead Partner), the NSI, the Statistics Netherlands and the Hungarian Central Statistical Office;

- „Improving the production and dissemination of statistics”, funded by the European Union. The NSI is in consortium with BIM Consulting Ltd. The project aims to improve the quality and availability of statistical data in the Republic of North Macedonia and to enhance their use in public policies development and coordination. The target group of the project includes the State Statistical Office of the Republic of North Macedonia, the National Bank and the Ministry of Finance, data providers and users of official statistics. The project aims at further alignment with EU standards of macroeconomic business statistics, and social statistics, as well as at improvement of the ICT infrastructure. The project duration is 3 years, the project is scheduled to be completed in 2022;
- “Novel Approaches to Generating Data on hard-to-reach populations at risk of violation of their rights”, funded by European Economic Area Financial Mechanism 2014 - 2021 under the „Local Development, Poverty Reduction and Enhanced Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups” Programme. The project is implemented by NSI in partnership with the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and has a duration of 30 months. The project aims to develop innovative methods and approaches for data collection and adaptation of relevant indicators needed for the formulation and implementation of policies targeting representatives of vulnerable population groups. In 2020 the tools for conducting a field survey among households were prepared. (In order to)To facilitate the work of interviewers, an electronic application for data collection using electronic devices was developed. The NSI, jointly with the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, developed a summary report - a review of the situation with vulnerable groups in the 28 districts in Bulgaria. Its main objective is to inform the public and state institutions about regional development and the distribution of funding to reduce vulnerability in relevant districts and to overcome regional differences.

In 2020, the NSI continued its participation as a partner in a project within the **transnational cooperation programme „Balkan - Mediterranean 2014 – 2020” (Interreg - Balkan-Mediterranean 2014 - 2020):**

- In October 2020, a final meeting on the project “Innovation capacity boost of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises” (SME Innovation Capacity Boost - SMEInnoBoost) was held. The project aimed to boost the transnational innovation capacity of SMEs and to support the creation of sustainable network formations, including innovation clusters with other SMEs from the Balkan-Mediterranean region, (in order) to share know-how and develop innovations through the creation of tripartite partnerships to provide SMEs with relevant data, tools and systems. Partners from Albania, Bulgaria, Greece and the Republic of North Macedonia contributed to the implementation of the project;

- Within the project, the NSI conducted a nationally representative sample statistical survey on innovation activity in the period 2016 - 2018 of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in the Information and Communication Technology sector. The survey was conducted with a single questionnaire and harmonized methodology in Bulgaria, Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia. Specialized software - Information system SMEInnoBoost was developed for data processing. Results of the survey were submitted to the lead partner.

In 2020, the activities related to the implementation of a project funded by the EC “Gender-based and interpersonal violence Survey - full implementation” started. The project duration is 24 months and will be completed in 2022. Within the project, a study on the prevalence of gender-based violence in the country will be conducted. The survey is conducted in the Member States countries according to a uniform methodology and harmonized tools, developed and approved by Eurostat and in a strict compliance with the national legislation requirements of the countries. The focus of the survey is on the prevalence of violence among women aged 18-74. The implementation of the project will provide reliable, comparable and representative data on the spread of the phenomenon at the national and European level.

In October the second national workshop on the project “Mapping and Assessment for Integrated Ecosystem Accounting – MAIA” was held. The NSI participated with a presentation on the progress of the work on the selected pilot accounts for ecosystems.

Priority 2.3.5. Active cooperation with the academic society in the development of new statistical methods, products and services

The NSI pursues an active policy of strengthening cooperation with representatives of the academic society, which reflects in the activities of the established Scientific-Expert Council. The SEC is an advisory body to the President of the NSI and includes prominent representatives of the academic society from different universities and institutions as well as leading statistical experts from NSI.

2.4. Priorities to Objective 4: Implementation of innovative and effective information and communication technologies and e-services

Priority 2.4.1. 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

The Information System INFOSTAT, implemented in the NSI, is used for the online service for citizens and companies. Built as a single web-based application, the IS provides users with access in Bulgarian and English to various types of statistical information. The system allows citizens, businesses and administration to receive online definition and implementation of requests for statistical

information from surveys conducted by NSI. The system facilitates the access of external users to statistics and optimizes the user service process.

In 2020, the NSI as part of the state administration is obliged to publish information on the Open Data Portal of the Republic of Bulgaria in an open, machine-readable format, allowing reuse. The e-service implemented by the NSI allows automatic publication of statistical information by IS INFOSTAT on the Open Data Portal in performance of the Roadmap for implementation of the General Strategy for e-management in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011 - 2015. The NSI also created means for automated updating and supplementation of information. After data migration to the new Open Data Portal of the Republic of Bulgaria, the NSI is publishing and maintaining 43 data sets, as 38 of the published resources are in JSON-stat format.

The NSI continued to maintain the National Register of Populated places and the General Trade Register, as all changes in the territorial and administrative-territorial units were reflected in the NRPP. For the convenience of other administrations and respondents, the NSI developed and published on its website an up-to-date version of UCATTU. The National Statistical Institute published and updated the „Data set: Unified Classifier of Administrative-Territorial and Territorial Units” in an open format on the Open Data Portal. In 2020, the NSI continued to enrich the data sets of the new national Open Data Portal: <https://data.egov.bg/>. The resources will be available in JSON-stat format and will be updated automatically.

The IS “Monitorstat” came into regular operation. The main objective is to develop a statistical framework and procedures for collecting information to monitor the implementation of national and European strategies to use them in decision-making and policy implementation, as well as to optimize the activities of the administration at a national and regional level through exchange and better use of available information to improve monitoring of policy implementation.

In 2020, the National Statistical Institute participated in an Impact Assessment study on the list of high-value datasets which are to be provided by the Member States under the Open Data Directive (EU) 2019/1024, coordinated by SAEG. The objective of the study is to identify data whose re-use would have significant benefits for society and the economy at the European level. In the first quarter of next year, these data are expected to become part of an implementing regulation adopted by the European Commission establishing a common list of high-value datasets with unified names and structure.

In 2020, the NSI developed and introduced two new interactive tools on statistical literacy, entitled Stat Mission (Statistical mission) and ViROS app.

“*Statistical mission*” is an educational game developed for mobile devices (tablets and phones) and is aimed at young people. The game offers:

- Interesting storyline - by travelling between planets, players gain new statistical knowledge;

- Three types of interesting educational mini-games: Test, Yes/No and Map;
- Unique questions in test and game Yes/No;
- Exciting mini-game: Flying through an asteroid field;
- Interesting characters.

ViROS is an interactive educational and cognitive application that works with glasses for three-dimensional reality. The game offers a choice of one of three characters who need help to decide in which country to live. The assessment of their choice is made through a virtual walk and comparison of statistical data on living conditions, the labour market and others in the individual Member States.

Priority 2.4.2. Implementation of unified European IT tools, products and standards (in order) to ensure conditions for integration and harmonisation of the statistical production process in the framework of ESS

The NSI introduced the SDMX standard for data exchange in new statistical domains.

In 2020 the NSI continued successfully to use the Single Entry Point of Eurostat for data exchange of statistical data EDAMIS (Electronic Dataflow Administration and Management Information System), which guarantees the secure exchange of confidential data. In October the use of EWA was discontinued and the NSI switched entirely to Edamis4 for data exchange with Eurostat.

Priority 2.4.3. Increasing the effectiveness and allocation of resources in the Data centre by the implementation of the best practice and technologies for infrastructure management

In 2020, the NSI completed the process of integration of the ISMS according to BDS EN ISO/IEC 27001 and QMS according to BDS EN ISO/IEC 9001 and as a result, IMS was implemented. For its successful certification, the first internal audit and the first supervisory external audit for compliance with IMS requirements were conducted.

In November, the State e-Government Agency inspected the NSI for compliance with the requirements of the Cyber Security Act and the bylaws for its implementation.

The local network was completely redesigned and segmented at the NSI Head Office and modern active equipment was installed in the Head Office, RSO and Statistical Surveys Department.

Priority 2.4.4. Development and upgrading of server and communication infrastructure and personal equipment to ensure the ICT development and provision of new services

The NSI information assets were aligned with the requirements of the (Information Security) Integrated Management System in terms of providing server infrastructure, data storage infrastructure, software for the creation and management of backups and network components.

2.5. Priorities to Objective 5: Harmonization of the data collected and adoption of common data quality standards that will enable to link different business, social and macroeconomic statistics, increase the value of the information collected and expand its use

In 2020, the process of developing standardized quality reports according to the European Standard Structure (ESQRS) (according to SDMX format) continued for new statistical domains, incl. publication of quality reports in the heading „For users” and in the newly created sections „Quality reports” to the statistical domains on the NSI website. This contributes to the harmonized reporting of data quality within the ESS.

3. REPORT BY THEMATIC DOMAINS

3.1. Demographic and social statistics

Population and housing census in the Republic of Bulgaria in 2021

During the reporting period the following activities were performed:

Preparation, organization and carrying out Pilot Population and housing census in 2020:

- In accordance with Art. 24, para. 2 of 2021 Population and housing census in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and after coordination with the district governors, the mayors of the municipalities and the deputy mayors by Order RD-05-45/23.01.2020 of the NSI’s President the settlements for conducting the Pilot census were determined: Sofia district, Stolichna municipality; Razgrad district, Razgrad municipality, part of the town of Razgrad and the village of Yasenovets; Pazardjik district, Velingrad municipality, part of the town of Velingrad, the village of Sveta Petka and the village of Cholakova.
- The tools for the Pilot census were developed and coordinated by the requirements of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/543 as regards the technical specifications of the topics and their breakdowns and according to Art. 17, 18 and 19 of the 2021 Population and housing census in the Republic of Bulgaria Act. The tools were approved by a decision of the Central census commission, Minutes № KO-20/05.02.2020
- In accordance with the approved schedule of activities and based on Art. 10, para. 1, 2 and 6 of the 2021 Population and housing census, by orders of the President of the NSI temporary municipal census commissions, were appointed for the three selected municipalities.
- To ensure publicity of the census activities, to increase the awareness of the population and access to information, a specialized website was developed on the website of 2021 Census <https://census2021.bg/>.
- (In order) To ensure the technological provision and automation of the entire process of organizing and conducting the census, the NSI announced an

open procedure for purchasing software for Census 2021 with a subject “Supply of licenses, configuration, warranty service and technical on-site assistance of a software for the 2021 Population and housing census in the Republic of Bulgaria”.

- A Support Center was set up (in order) to help persons who took advantage of the opportunity for an online census.
- In the period from 17 to 21 February 2020 a training of trainers was held at the Training Center in Slivek. Experts from the NSI’s Head Office trained employees of “Statistical surveys” Departments, RSOs and representatives of municipal administrations.
- In the period from 24 to 28 February 2020, the municipal census commissions determined the persons, who will carry out the pilot detour on the territory of the municipalities.
- In the period from 2 to 6 March 2020, training was held for the persons who will perform the pilot detour. The training was organized on the territory of the municipalities and with their assistance.
- By March 8, 2020, the NSI performed zoning of the settlements selected for the pilot census. Lists of control areas and census sections were compiled, as well as lists of samples of Census questionnaires for building, dwelling and population No 2. All necessary materials related to the census – samples of census questionnaires, instructions, as well as additional materials for the enumerators and supervisors were prepared, printed and delivered to the municipal census commissions.
- In the period from 9 to 13 March 2020, a partial detour was conducted with mobile devices (in order) to collect the most detailed information (geographical coordinates) about the location of the buildings’ entrances, as well as residential units located outside the buildings, subject to the census. During the detour mobile devices provided by the NSI were used.
- In the period from February 24 to March 10, 2020, the municipal census commissions performed the selection and recruitment of the candidates for enumerators and supervisors.
- For conducting the pilot census and the census of places where there will be temporary present persons as of the critical moment, as well as the census of persons in social institutions, the municipal census commissions contacted the heads of hospitals, hospices, homes for medical-social care for children on the territories selected for the pilot census; the accommodation establishments (hotels, motels, chalets, etc.) on the territories selected for the pilot census; social institutions with accommodation (homes for elderly persons, people with disabilities, etc.) on the territories selected for the pilot census.

- According to the approved schedule for the 2020 Pilot census during the period 16 - 18 March, the following activities had to be performed: trainings for enumerators and supervisors; signing of contracts; distribution of census materials; training how to work with the Information system of the Census for experts from the NSI's Regional Statistical Offices. The online Census had to start on March 20, and the Census with the enumerators, which involves visiting dwellings and interviewing households, had to start on March 27.
- Concerning the Decision of the Council of Ministers of March 8 and an Order of the Minister of Health restricting gatherings of groups of people indoors due to the spread of COVID-19, an online consultation among the members of the Central Census Commission was held on March 11, 2020. The Central Census Commission decided to postpone the start of the Pilot Census 2020 with a critical moment of 0:00 hours on April 20 - for duration and methods for data registration as follows: pilot census online on the Internet by filling in an electronic census card - from 0:00 hours on April 20 to 24:00 hours on April 26, Census with the enumerators by visiting dwellings and households - from 8:00 hours on April 27 to 20:00 hours on May 8, 2020 (Minutes № KO-64/16.03.2020).
- On March 13, 2020, a state of emergency was declared on the territory of the country. Extraordinary measures were introduced in order to ensure the safety and health of the respondents, enumerators and employees of the NSI and the municipalities, which impeded the conduction of the pilot population and housing census with enumerators. For this reason, a second online consultation with the members of the Central Census Commission was held. The President of the NSI and the Chairman of the Central Census Commission proposed to conduct only a Pilot Census with an electronic census card from 0:00 h., on April 20 to 24:00 h., on April 30 with access for the population on the territory of the whole country (Minutes № KO-80/02.04.2020).
- The Municipal Census Commissions and the RSOs' Directors submitted reports on the activities performed on the preparation and organization of the Pilot Census.
- At its meeting, the Central Census Commission approved a comprehensive report on the preparation, organization and conducting of the Pilot Census.

Establishment of District and Municipal Census Commissions:

- In pursuance of Art. 9, para. 1 and Art. 10, para. 1 of 2021 Population and housing census in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, in the period 1 - 15 May 2020 with a letter from the NSI President to the regional governors and mayors of municipalities the establishment of District and Municipal Census Commissions was initiated.

- At the suggestion of the district governors, the mayors of municipalities and regions and the RSOs' Directors, 28 District and 302 Municipal Census Commissions were established.
- The District and Municipal Census Commissions provided full cooperation and active participation in all stages and activities of the 2020 Pilot Census.

Preparation, organization and conducting of a preliminary detour in order to update the information about residential dwellings and addresses in the country:

- The preparation started with activities for the collection of applications from candidates, check of eligibility of candidates, signing contracts for the implementation of activities, distribution and recruitment of registrants by settlements.
- Due to the epidemic situation, the physical trainings of trainers, planned in July were cancelled, all trainings were merged into online training sessions, which took place in the period 7 - 20 July 2020.
- In the same period the logistical support of the activity of the registrants was carried out - contracts, provision of mobile devices, other materials, as well as provision of protective equipment provided by the National Operational Headquarters.
- In the period 13 - 24 July trainings for registrants throughout the country were conducted according to a schedule specified by the Municipal Census Commissions.
- From July 20, 2020, the preliminary detour across the country started. The district governors, the mayors of municipalities and settlements, as well as the Ministry of Interior were informed about the implementation of the activities.
- The Municipal Census Commissions and the RSOs's Directors submitted reports on the activities performed on the preliminary detour.
- At its meeting, the Central Census Commission approved a comprehensive report on the preparation, organization and conducting of the preliminary detour.

Enumerator and Supervisor Recruitment Campaign:

- Following Art. 10, para. 7, item 3 of Population and housing census in the Republic of Bulgaria Act 2021 and the Census schedule from 15 September to 30 October, an enumerator and supervisor recruitment campaign was held. According to the initial assessment, to realize the census field, 23082 enumerators and 5946 supervisors had to be recruited. The required number had not been reached by the end of the originally announced deadline, as the campaign had to be extended until November 16 inclusive. Within this

period, 20678 candidates for enumerators and 5619 for supervisors submitted documents to the municipalities;

- The second meeting of the Municipal Census Commissions was held by November 27, in which the candidates were selected. The approved candidates were checked and the data for them were uploaded in the Information System „Census 2021”.

Zoning of the country

Based on the data from the preliminary detour, the zoning activities of the country of control regions and census sections started.

Demographic statistics

In 2020, in the field of demographic statistics, all statistical surveys included in the National Statistical Programme were conducted on time. Regular processing and production of data from the surveys on fertility, mortality, migration, marriage and divorces were carried out. They provided the necessary information for calculation of the number and structures of population and main demographic indicators in compliance with the requirements of the provisions of Regulation (EU) № 1260/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European demographic statistics.

The data for the year 2019 were published and submitted to the European Commission following the timetable.

The work on the preparation of data according to Art. 6 of Regulation № 862/2007 of the European Parliament and the Council on “Statistics on residence permits and residents of third countries” continued.

In the field of migration statistics, Regulation (EU) № 851/2020 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) № 862/2007 was adopted with effect from the reference year 2021. In this context, the available data in the field of migration were reviewed and actions were taken to provide additional data following the requirements of the new regulation.

In 2020, regarding the emergency (situation) in the country caused by the spread of COVID-19 and the increased need for timely information on the total mortality in the country, the NSI started weekly publication of data on its website, as well as weekly provision to the EC.

During the year the work on project „Urban audit 2017”, carried out in the period 2018-2020 was concluded successfully. The project aimed to provide reliable, complete and comparable geographic and temporal aspect information on urban areas on the European continent through a collection of large data volumes from different statistical surveys. Bulgaria has participated in data provision since 2004. Within the project, a bilingual electronic publication (in Bulgarian and English) was published, containing data for the period 2010 - 2018.

Labour market

In 2020 the NSI started conducting the ad hoc module to the Labour Force Survey

– „Accidents at work and work-related health problems”, the preparation for an ad hoc module „Labour market situation of migrants and their immediate descendants” as well as the methodological work on the implementation in 2021 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 the European Parliament and the Council on the establishment of a common framework for European statistics on individuals and households.

In the field of statistics on salaries and wages and labour costs provided by enterprises the four-year Structure of Earnings Survey 2018 in compliance with Council Regulation No 530/1999 and Commission Regulation No 1738/2005 has been completed. The NSI continued the work on regular annual and short-term surveys on employment and labour costs. The regular receiving of information from the Administrative Social Security Register of the National Social Security Institute continued, contributing to the improvement of quality and exhaustiveness of statistical data for employed persons and average work wage.

In 2020, the NSI’s experts participated in the work of the following working groups:

- Eurostat’s Working Groups on labour market statistics and statistics on earnings and labour costs;
- Working group to develop a National Employment Action Plan for 2021;
- Working Group on the preparation of Census 2021.

The work on the EC project “Labour Force Survey 2019 ad hoc module on work organisation and working time arrangement” has been completed.

Education and Lifelong Learning

The regular statistical surveys on educational institutions, conducted annually by the National Statistical Institute, were carried out according to the laid down deadlines, despite the difficulties encountered by the introduction of a state of emergency in the country as a measure against the spread of COVID-19. In compliance with the requirements of the national and European legislation under Commission Regulation (EU) № 912/2013 concerning the production and development of statistics on education and lifelong learning the NSI provided data on the joint questionnaires from Eurostat, OECD and UNESCO for financial and non-financial indicators in the field of education statistics.

In 2020 the main priority was the development of the Information System “Education”. With its introduction into operation, a smooth transition is planned from conducting annual statistical surveys to the use of administrative data sources, which will reduce the respondents’ burden and will optimize the resources used.

In 2020, the preparation began for the sixth wave of the Continuing vocational training survey (CVTS6). The survey is conducted every four years in all EU Member States to obtain comparable statistics on continuing vocational training in enterprises. The following main topics are covered:

- Continuing vocational training, skills supply and demand, training needs
- Measurement of the patterns, contents and volume of continuing training
- Internal training resources and the use of external training providers
- The costs of continuing training
- Initial vocational training.

Culture

All regular statistical surveys in the field of culture (museums, performing arts, radio, television and publishing activity) were carried out by the NSI according to the announced deadlines and methodology based on the recommendations of Eurostat and UNESCO.

Last year, the NSI experts took an active part in the activity of Eurostat's Working group on culture statistics for the development of an ESSnet-Culture framework, including concepts and relevant definitions.

Public health and health and safety at work

In an implementation of Regulation (EC) № 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and the Council on statistics on public health and health and safety at work, in 2020 the NSI conducted regular statistical surveys, providing information in the field of statistics on deaths by causes and resources of the Health system.

Under Regulation (EU) № 328/2011 of the European Commission, the NSI individual data for 2018 on deaths and stillbirths for reasons at the level of the fourth character of the International Classification of Diseases, X revision, were sent and validated. Under conditions of increased demand for timely and high-quality statistical information on deaths by causes, a Report was prepared from an analysis conducted concerning the provision of the full scope and high-quality information for the survey "Deaths by causes and mortality by causes". The report was provided to the Bodies of Statistics and stakeholders involved in the survey.

The NSI participated in the consultations conducted by the World Health Organization on selected indicators in the field of deaths by causes.

Data on financial and non-financial indicators in the field of health statistics for joint questionnaires of Eurostat, OECD and WHO were provided. To improve the quality and comparability of statistical information, the data on financial indicators for the period 2013 - 2017 were reconsidered, and the data on non-financial indicators for the period 2010 - 2017 were reconsidered.

Regarding the preparation of a Regulation implementing Regulation (EC) № 1338/2008 as regards statistics on non-financial indicators in the field of health statistics, some activities on methodological issues and interinstitutional coordination on indicators, which will be included as mandatory for submission by the Member States were undertaken. The statement of the Republic of Bulgaria on the Draft Regulation was prepared and submitted to the Commission in time.

During the year the NSI completed the project "Pre-testing of new variables for

future stages of European Health Interview Survey”, according to the Grant Agreement № 07154.2017.002-2017.494 with the European Commission. The aim of the project was qualitative and quantitative testing of new variables which would be included in the future stages of the survey. The questions tested in the first stage of the project were included in quantitative testing on half of the sample during the actual survey, conducted under Regulation (EU) 2018/255. The individual survey data were provided to Eurostat, as well as preliminary data were announced from it.

Related to the spread of COVID-19 in 2020, the demand for statistical information in the field of health statistics from state institutions, non-governmental organizations, research teams and citizens increased. For this purpose, data and methodological explanations were prepared in time for all user requests received by the NSI.

“National Health Data and E-Health” Directorate at National Center of Public Health and Analyses of the MH completed all statistical surveys and activities included in the NSP. As a body of the statistics, the Regional Health Inspectorates conducted the planned surveys on time and disseminated information on the main statistical indicators.

Incomes and living conditions

In 2020, the Household Budget Survey, which estimates household income, expenditure and consumption, was conducted according to the deadlines set in the Calendar for the collection, processing and dissemination of statistical information.

The emergency (situation) in the country related to COVID-19 led to difficulties and the practical impossibility of direct contact with the respondents. For this reason, in April the survey did not start with a new sample of households, as planned in the programme. Instead, the NSI continued to conduct a household survey with the households that participated already in the survey the previous year. The information for the second quarter is based on the data received from the households, which are 2902 from a sample of 3060 households that agreed to continue their participation. Data collection is carried out through various forms of contact - telephone, e-mail, courier, assistance from the town halls of smaller settlements and personal contact, where possible, in compliance with epidemic requirements. The share of participating households in the second quarter is large enough to ensure reliable estimates of the main indicators for the survey.

As of July, 3060 new households were included in the Household Budget Survey. Contact with households and information collection were according to the emergency situation caused by the spread of COVID-19.

According to the National Statistical Programme, the period for primary data collection from the respondents for the SILC 2020 survey, planned in March - May 2020, was postponed by one month and started on 21 April due to the critical situation related to COVID-19 and led to difficult contacts with households.

Initially, the households from the old rotating group already participating in the survey, for which there is information about making a connection, were interviewed. Various forms of contact were used - telephone, e-mail, courier, assistance from the town halls of smaller settlements and personal contact, where possible, in compliance with epidemical requirements. In June, contact was sought with households from the new rotating group of the sample survey.

The fieldwork on primary data collection was successfully completed. The processing and analysis of the information from the survey are carrying out according to the deadlines according to the NSP.

In order to improve the coverage and quality of the statistical data on income in 2020, the NSI continued to use data from the National Social Security Institute – data on the size of pensions received, supplements to pensions and supplementary compensations and benefits by type and by months from the register “Pensions”, as well as annual data on recipients of compensations and benefits under the Social Security Code (Register of compensations). In order to supplement the missing information on income and data validation in the survey “Statistics on Income and Living Conditions” the NSI uses data on insured persons provided by NSSI, data on recipients of benefits provided by ASA and data on the persons who submitted an annual tax declaration provided by NRA.

In 2020, the NSI completed work on a project “2018 - BG - Action plan SILC – Objective 1 - Timeliness of EU-SILC and Objective 3 – Tests for EU-SILC revision” according to Grant Agreement No 829212-2018/RD 10-24/30.11.2018. In general, the project aimed at adaptation of the production process and use of administrative data, including preliminary data from the income register. Within the project, a programme for data input from the survey “Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SILC)” was developed on a new platform. Software for the formation of target variables according to the regulations of the survey was developed. The use of data from administrative sources, including data from the Agency for Social Assistance by type of benefits and compensations, expanded. Within the project, an analysis of the distribution of NUTS3 units by rotating groups for households participating in the 6th, 5th and 4th wave of the survey was made. Longitudinal weight calibration methods were applied because of the effect of calculating the standard error of indicator for long-term poverty to meet the requirements on accuracy. The implementation of project activities contributed to the optimization of the method of data collection and processing, ensuring the availability of early data on SILC (including current income variables).

Social protection

In 2020, the production of statistical data for 2018 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 and by function. The NSI followed the requirements of Regulation (EU) № 110/2011 of the European

Commission on the appropriate formats for data transmission, results to be transmitted and criteria for measuring the quality concerning the ESSPROS module on net social protection benefits. The information systems and registers of ministries and institutions governing social protection schemes are the data source for social protection statistics. The National Social Security Institute provided annual data on the income and expenditures on schemes 01 through 06 (main ESSPROS module) as well as data on pension beneficiaries by schemes, pensions by type and by sex in accordance with the format for transmission of information on Module on pension beneficiaries.

In September, early estimates of the social protection expenditures incurred in the country by ESSPROS functions related to 2019 were prepared and sent to Eurostat. The sending of early estimates under the Core system is carrying out on a pilot basis and is not subject to the implementation of a specific regulation - the estimates are sending voluntarily by the countries wishing to participate.

Crime and Justice

In 2020, the NSI conducted regular statistical surveys on the crimes, accused and persons convicted (including convicted juveniles) and activity of the local commission for the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

As a national coordinator in the field of crime and criminal justice statistics, NSI continued to fulfil planned activities related to the gradual implementation of the UN's International classification of crimes for statistical purposes into the practice of the country. Activities in this area are permanent and will continue to be implemented, as they are an important step in the process of adapting the national data to the requirements of the international standard.

In this regard during the year, the NSI has successfully completed the project "Support for improving crime statistics, 2018" by Grant Agreement with EC. The experts from the Ministry of Interior, the Supreme Prosecutor's Office of Cassation, the Administration of the Prosecutor General/National Investigation Service, the Supreme Judicial Council and the Ministry of Justice ("Execution of Punishments" General Directorate) were also involved in the implementation of the activities. Within the deadlines regulated by the Agreement, methodological documents were developed and actions were undertaken related to the harmonization of the country's practice in the field of judicial statistics with the requirements of Eurostat and ICCSP.

In fulfilment of its commitments as a national coordinator in the field of crime and criminal justice and at the request of Eurostat, the UN and international organizations, the NSI provided information on the joint UN/Eurostat questionnaire, administrative data from all stages of the criminal proceedings, illegal migration, crime against the environment and water, hate crimes and regional data on crimes registered by the police as defined by the ICCSP.

3.2. Macroeconomic statistics

National Accounts

In 2020, the NSI continued to work on methodological development and improvement of data quality to increase the degree of harmonization with the EC regulations and shorten the deadlines for data provision - annual data on GDP and its components by three methods - production method, method of income and method of final consumption expenditure; financial national accounts; data on employment and hours worked; regional accounts; quarterly and annual accounts by institutional sector.

A methodological revision was performed to implement the EU requirements and improve the quality of the time series of annual and quarterly data for the period 2009 - 2018 at current prices and at previous year's prices, as well as for the period 1995 - 2018, for chain-linked prices of 2015 - unadjusted and seasonally adjusted.

The NSI continued to work on the methodological and practical development of the indicators of table 20 “Cross-classification of fixed assets by industry and by assets (stocks)” and table 26 “Balance sheets for non-financial assets under Annex B of the Regulation (EU) No 549/2013”.

The work on the development and improvement of table 29 “Pension entitlements in social insurance” continued in 2020. In the implementation of the Eurostat transmission program in the field of national accounts, data for 2016, 2017 and 2018 were developed and provided during the year.

The involvement of NSI experts in the work of national and international working groups in the field of national accounts continued.

NSI experts developed an additional table to report on the measures taken in the context of COVID-19 by the government, (in order) to collect more complete and reliable information.

Government Finance Statistics

Under ESA 2010, data for the period 1997 - 2019 were developed and provided (final data).

In 2020, a benchmark revision of the data in the field of government financial statistics was made - quarterly and annual data.

Monitoring Own Resources

In 2020 a revision of data on GNI was made, based on recommendations received from the EC in the process of data verification in the field of own resources.

In the area of monitoring own resources, data for 2019 on the weighted average rate of value-added tax were developed. Work was done to reflect the requirements of the European Commission in calculating the weighted average VAT rate based on a report from the EC on its own resources collected from VAT.

The work of the Expert group on GNI continued. This group replaced the Committee on GNI under the provisions of Regulation 516/2019 of the EP and the Council on the harmonization of gross national income at market prices.

Consumer Prices

Conducting monthly surveys of consumer prices, which provided the necessary information to calculate the Indices of Consumer Prices and inflation, was a main priority in the work. In 2020, consumer price indices were produced according to Eurostat's methodological recommendations on HICP production in the context of the COVID-19 crisis.

Proceeded the work on improving the methodology, design and production of consumer price indices concerning compliance with the European and international standards. In 2020 the sample of outlets for monitoring was updated, the selection of goods and services included in the consumer basket was improved, the scope of some sub-indices was expanded and the statistical weights system was improved through the expanded use of information from additional sources.

The inventory of sources and methods for the production of the harmonized index of consumer prices was updated and sent to Eurostat in time.

Terms of reference for the development of the Information System “Consumer Prices” were developed to add new functionalities and platform migration.

The housing price indices in the Republic of Bulgaria are calculated based on the regular quarterly statistical surveys of housing prices. The NSI continued the work on the implementation of methodological improvements, the optimization of data collection and the production processes and the introduction of new data sources in the field of housing price indices and real estate indicators.

Automated access to the database of the Property Register was provided by developing and implementing an automated interface for connection between the system of the Property Register and the Information System "Housing Prices", and periodic generation of data sets started.

The NSI continued its participation in the European Comparison Programme of purchasing power parities, which is a part of the current statistical programme of the European Commission and is coordinated by Eurostat/OECD as the NSI met the objectives set out in the European Work Plan for the calculation of PPPs in 2020.

In 2020, the NSI conducted the planned six price surveys, two of them of goods and services in accordance with coherent European consumer basket: E20-1 “Services” and E20-2 “Furniture and healthcare”. Four special price surveys were carried out: “Health services in hospitals”; “Residential rents in selected real estate agencies in the capital”; „Selected conditional construction sites”; “Machinery and equipment”. The necessary additional national statistical information was prepared and promptly transmitted to Eurostat.

The report on the sources and methods used to collect the information needed to

calculate the PPP was updated and submitted to Eurostat.

In this thematic area in 2020, the NSI experts actively participated in the work of the following working groups:

- Eurostat Working Group on Price Statistics;
- Eurostat Working Group on Real Estate Statistics;
- Eurostat Working Group on purchasing power parities.
- In 2020, NSI experts participated in the following trainings and seminars:
- ESTP training course on "Big Data and Challenges to Official Statistics";
- Training course "DK-5 Database Analysis and visualization - basic", organized by The Bulgarian Institute of Public Administration;
- Training course "DK-6 Database Analysis and visualization - advanced", organized by The Bulgarian Institute of Public Administration;
- Training course „DK-4 Electronic tables (ECDL) - advanced“ organized by The Bulgarian Institute of Public Administration;
- Video conference "Scanned data and scraping", organized by Eurostat;
- Video conference “Real estate Statistics“organized by Eurostat;
- Video conference “PPP workshop“organized by Eurostat.

3.3. Business statistics

Annual Business Statistics

In the field of business statistics, the NSI continued the regular data processing and production on the annual surveys in the field of SBS and Foreign affiliates statistics (FATS), foreign direct investments, expenditure on the acquisition and the acquired tangible fixed assets, statistics on financial and non-financial enterprises, and annual specific surveys by economic activities as well as a monthly and annual survey on production and sales of industrial goods (PRODCOM).

In 2020, the annual update of the IS “Business Statistics” was performed. In addition to the support for the Annual Activity Report 2020 surveys, a software update of the system was made to provide external users with the ability to work with new versions of the most popular Internet browsers, and not only with Internet Explorer 11. In this regard, all reports included in the sets of the different types of respondents were developed as web forms in order to facilitate the respondents in submitting the annual activity reports.

All activities on the conduction of surveys and data provision to international organizations, national statistical publications, under contracts, agreements and requests for the provision of statistical information were completed on time.

NSI experts participated in online meetings and discussions with the Member States on issues related to data quality and the new data requirements provided to Eurostat in the relevant fields.

In 2020, the NSI completed work on the project „Development of structural business statistics” in the implementation of a Grant Agreement with the European Commission. The project, together with the other participating Member States, developed a methodology for measuring high growth in micro-enterprises and for studying the dynamics of high growth in enterprises in the post-growth period. By linking the microdata of the enterprises participating in the international sourcing survey in 2018 (covering the period 2015-2017) with the SBS data, new statistical data were produced, without additional burden for the enterprises, for a better understanding of the driving forces of globalization.

Short-term Business Statistics

In 2020, all regular surveys from the NSP (Sales in industry, construction, trade and services, Activity of non-financial enterprises, Producer price in industry and services, Producer prices in major repairs and maintenance of dwellings and residential buildings, Expenditure on acquisition of tangible fixed assets, Construction of new buildings permitted and started) were carried out with high quality, on time and in by the requirements of national and European legislation. All short-term indicators were calculated by the requirements of the regulations on short-term business statistics, as they were published at the national level and were transmitted to Eurostat.

The institute continued to work on evaluation, improving the methodology, improving the STS data quality and maintaining comparability of the time series.

The samples were updated to provide better representativeness and to reflect the changes in the structure of non-financial enterprises.

In 2020, the NSI continued to receive monthly information from NRA on submitted VAT declarations. This information was used to improve the quality and completeness of short-term statistical indicators in the field of trade and services.

Work continued adapting the national statistical production system to the requirements of the new Framework regulation integrating business statistics (FRIBS) in the field of short-term business statistics.

In 2020, the NSI began work on the development, testing and implementation of the Information System “Business Cycles”, including online input of information on nine main monthly and quarterly surveys, verification of entered data, processing, extrapolation, deflation, weighing and calculation of all short-term indicators.

The NSI successfully completed work on the project “Setting up production processes for new indices of services production and trade and quality improvement of STS statistics” under a grant agreement with the European Commission.

In 2020, NSI experts participated in the work of the following meetings organized by Eurostat:

- Online meeting on metadata requirements for 2019;
- Training session for metadata processing;
- Meeting on the topic "Impact of COVID-19 on the preliminary data from KBS".

Energy Statistics

All activities on conducting the regular monthly, six-monthly and annual surveys and production of data in the field of energy statistics were performed qualitatively and on time.

In 2020, experts in the field of energy statistics participated in coordination procedures and consultations on:

- Integrated Energy and Climate Plan of the Republic of Bulgaria 2021 - 2030;
- Eurostat survey on several key areas for energy statistics: availability of data on certain indicators for future monitoring of the Energy Union; formulation of indicators for the future disaggregation of energy consumption in the Transport and Services sectors; changes planned in the timeliness of several annual surveys in the field of energy statistics;
- Commission draft decision on derogations to the certain EU Member States as regards the provision of statistics under Regulation (EU) № 1099/2008 on energy statistics.

The tools in the field of energy statistics were updated in line with the latest amendments to Regulation (EU) 1099/2008 on energy statistics.

In 2020, in connection with the future monitoring of the Energy Union and the European Green Deal and compliance with the requirements of Regulation (EU) № 1099/2008 on energy statistics, the NSI applied for a project “Energy statistics: support to the Energy Union and further disaggregation of final energy consumption”.

In this thematic area in 2020, the NSI experts joined the work of the following working groups:

- Eurostat Energy Statistics;
- Eurostat Meeting of Directors of Sectoral and Environmental Statistics and Accounts;
- WG14 "Energy" at the Ministry of Energy.

Transport Statistics

In the field of transport statistics, all annual and short-term surveys included in the National Statistical Programme were conducted qualitatively and on time in accordance with national and European legislation.

In 2020, the collection, processing and submission to Eurostat of data on the rail transport continued in compliance with the requirements of Regulation (EU)

2016/2032 amending Regulation (EC) № 91/2003 on rail transport statistics.

As a result of good cooperation between NSI, **Directorate General “Civil Aviation Administration”** and **Executive Agency “Maritime Administration”** to the MTITC, the surveys on air transport and activities of inland waterway ports and maritime ports were carried out as due to the assistance of both institutions, the quality of data provided was improved.

The good cooperation and interaction between the NSI and the **Directorate General “Civil Aviation Administration”** in 2020 ensured the implementation of the surveys on civil aviation set in the National Statistical Programme, with the necessary qualitative characteristics. In accordance with the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice, these surveys also included a survey on fuel consumed and lubricating oils purchased by the air carriers, by type of transport (passenger and freight). They provided information on the implementation of the country's obligations under Regulation 691/2011 on the European environmental economic accounts as amended by Regulation 538/2014 and Regulation (EC) (1099/2008 on energy statistics).

During the year, **Directorate “Ports and Port services”** in the EA “Maritime Administration” conducted the surveys on activities of inland waterway ports and maritime ports which were included in the National Statistical Programme for 2020. The Executive Agency “Maritime Administration” continued its work on improvement of the statistical Information system PORTSTAT for the collection and processing of data on the flow of goods and passengers through inland waterway ports and maritime ports of the Republic of Bulgaria in accordance with the recommendations, methodological requirements of Eurostat and methodological assistance of NSI experts.

The NSI started testing the new SDMX formats for all surveys in the field of transport statistics according to Eurostat instructions and deadlines.

In 2020, the metadata on railway transport survey were developed for the Eurostat website.

The NSI continued to assist the Managing Authority of the OP “Transport and Transport Infrastructure” 2014-2020 regarding the provision of information on result indicators within the competence of the NSI.

The NSI participated in the working group for the preparation of OP "Transport Connectivity" 2021 - 2027.

In 2020, the NSI participated in working groups in the preparation of two strategic projects in the field of transport:

- Preparation of a draft National Plan for Development of Combined Transport in the Republic of Bulgaria until 2030 (project of the Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications);
- Trade and Transport Facilitation Project / Strategy of Bulgaria - a joint project of the Ministry of Economy.

Tourism Statistics

In 2020, the tasks of providing regular statistical information on the development of tourism in the country were completed on time including trips of Bulgarian residents abroad and arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria, activities of the accommodation establishments, tourist trips and tourism-related expenditure of the population, and tourism satellite accounts. All monthly and quarterly surveys were conducted according to the World Tourism Organization's recommendations and (in accordance with) by the requirements of Regulation (EU) № 692/2011 concerning European statistics on tourism, Regulation (EU) № 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 and Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/1681 amending Regulation (EU) No 692/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning European statistics on tourism.

A new Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/1681 amending Regulation (EU) № 692/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning European statistics on tourism entered into force in 2020. In this regard, the tools of the survey on tourist trips and tourism-related expenditure of the population were updated and new questions on the use of the Internet for booking various services related to tourist trips were included in the questionnaire.

In 2020, NSI experts took part in Eurostat online workshops on tourism statistics.

In connection with Eurostat's initiative to collect additional data, the NSI participated in the voluntary reporting of data by months and by country, starting from January 2019, on overnight stays in accommodation establishments by Bulgarians and foreigners by country. This initiative aims to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on tourism, as well as the resumption of tourist travel in 2020 by sharing "mirror" information on tourist flows between European countries. Data were collected and provided to Eurostat under Annex II to Regulation (EU) 692/2011.

In 2020, the NSI continued work under Contract between the NSI and the State Statistical Office of the Republic of North Macedonia within the IPA 2015 Multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme. In the field of tourism statistics, three expert missions were carried out in the city of Skopje. The main goal of the expert missions was to support the State Statistical Office of the Republic of Northern Macedonia through methodological and technical assistance in the development of tourism satellite accounts. During the missions, data from the national accounts and statistical surveys of tourism in the Republic of Northern Macedonia were reviewed and validated as data sources for the development of the main tables on the tourism satellite accounts. The experience of the NSI in the processing and dissemination of data on tourism satellite accounts in Bulgaria was also presented. The experts from the State Statistical Office of the Republic of North Macedonia were informed that, if necessary, they can turn to Bulgarian colleagues for assistance and help in improving the practices for providing quality

information and publishing data from surveys in the field of tourism and national accounts. The participation of NSI experts in consultations on tourism statistics is an important factor for further bilateral cooperation between the NSI of Bulgaria and the State Statistical Office of the Republic of Northern Macedonia.

Business register

In 2020, the Business Register continued to fulfil its main purpose: servicing the statistical activities carried out at the National Statistical Institute.

Data were received daily from the administrative sources Trade Register, Register of Non-Profit Organizations and Bulstat Register, and annual and monthly data on the number of insured persons - from the Register of Insured Persons by NSSI, (in order) to provide and maintain a framework for all statistical surveys in NSI.

The statistical units "enterprise", "local unit", "unit by type of activity" and "group of enterprises" were regularly updated. Based on the annual statistical surveys for 2019, the characteristics of the units were also updated, using information from both the annual financial statements and external administrative sources.

The data on the report for "enterprise groups" included in the annual report on enterprises for 2019 was processed. Groups of enterprises were formed – basis and a data source for the update of the Eurogroup register. The NSI submitted to Eurostat an aggregate of the Bulgarian legal units, members of enterprise groups at the European level, identified foreign legal units participating in multinational enterprise groups at the national level. The NSI submitted data on units and connections describing multinational enterprise groups for the 2019 cycle in compliance with Eurostat's schedule.

The scope of the register was examined regarding the different kinds of units – legal and statistical and their corresponding characteristics. The NSI submitted to Eurostat filed questionnaires on the quality, metadata and development of the RSU.

The RSU continued to provide the full scope of active statistical units "enterprises", "local units" and "enterprise groups" as well as conditions for the formation of samples based on specific 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 a specific time.

The RSU is the data source for registrations and bankruptcies of legal units submitted to Eurostat quarterly.

Data from the Survey on Family Businesses in the Republic of Bulgaria were processed and published.

RSU continued to provide data on concluded agreements as well as on inquiries

from internal and external user requests.

In 2020, NSI experts participated in Eurostat Working groups:

- Working group „Business demography“;
- Working group „Business registers and statistical units“.

NSI experts took part in Eurostat's activities on profiling Multinational enterprise groups as a profiling and partner country.

The NSI started activities on the following EC projects:

- „Processing of regional annual data reflecting demographic events for enterprises“;
- „Registers and MNEs in Business Statistics“.

Statistics on foreign trade in goods

In 2020 the main priorities in the field of foreign trade in goods statistics were: better use of administrative data sources; provision of timely and reliable statistics and improvement of data quality; adaptation of the National System for production and dissemination of foreign trade in goods statistics by the changed requirements of EU legislation and with the users' needs of foreign trade data; involvement in Eurostat's work on the discussion of strategic issues concerning the future development of international trade in goods statistics.

The NSI experts worked on the implementation of activities under the project "Development of Information System "Foreign Trade" to add new functionalities and migration of the platform.

The NSI took steps to ensure the full and timely coverage of exports and imports to/ from third countries and to ensure the provision of reliable and timely data on foreign trade statistics. Due to changes in the European customs legislation, the required changes in the outputs for NSI from the IS of the **Customs Agency** were discussed and defined. The main data users - the BNB and the Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate - also took part in the discussions.

The NSI experts continued to use simplified customs declarations made in other countries, which were received from the Customs Agency under the Single Authorisation for simplified procedures.

In 2020, the NSI continued to work on improving the quality of primary data declared by traders. The NSI experts made direct contacts with Intrastat operators, as well as contacts in cooperation with the **National Revenue Agency**. As a result, some inaccuracies in submitted Intrastat declarations were corrected. The NSI provided methodological assistance to the respondents in declaring data in specific cases, which contributed to facilitating business in carrying out monthly obligations for submission of Intrastat declarations.

In fulfilment of its obligations, the NSI defined the thresholds for declaring and the thresholds for statistical value in IS Intrastat for 2021, as well as the types of data that should be declared.

In 2020, the NRA continued its efforts to improve the quality of data declared by the Intrastat operators. The **“Intrastat” Directorate** performs control over the quality and credibility of collected data on Intra-Community trade in goods and makes daily contact with enterprises to clarify issues, arisen. The register of the IS Intrastat-obliged persons is updated monthly based on the declared data under the VAT Act. The Information System Intrastat was developed for analytical and reference purposes.

Intrastat declared data were monthly compared to data from other administrative sources in the NRA – VAT and VIES systems, and data declared in the “Fiscal Control” System. Comparisons are made monthly with the data from the “Fiscal Control” System for the branches of the main groups of goods.

Throughout the year, the NRA continued to make monthly comparisons of the data declared on arrivals and dispatches of goods with the data of other Member States in the Eurostat database "COMEXT" (in order) to increase the scope and quality of the declared data. The data are used to calculate import and export prices for certain groups of monitored goods.

In the field of the NRA activity on data collection for intra-Community trade in goods through the IS Intrastat, over 140,000 declarations from 15,600 Intrastat operators were accepted and validated during the year.

In 2020, the NRA drafted a new law on statistics on intra-Community trade in goods in accordance with changes in European legislation - Regulation № 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European Business Statistics and Implementing Regulation № 2020/1197 of the European Commission. Experts from the NSI and the CA also took part in the work.

To facilitate the users of statistical information when publishing the new monthly data, the NSI continued to prepare and publish monthly two press releases - respectively for trade with third countries and trade within the EU. The maintenance of the tools for storage and dissemination of data on foreign trade statistics continued through the Information System Foreign Trade, which gives users direct access to more detailed data than those published in the press releases.

In response to the emerging needs of users in 2020, the NSI provided Eurostat with additional data on business characteristics of enterprises prepared by wider and more efficient use of available data without increasing the burden on respondents. Numerous responses to inquiries from various types of users of data on imports and exports of goods were also prepared. The obligations to the main users of data on foreign trade in goods - BNB, ME, MAFF, Eurostat, UN and IMF, on the production and provision of monthly detailed data and their updates were also timely fulfilled.

In 2020, the NSI experts also contributed to the overall innovative activity in the field of statistics on international trade in goods at the European level through their participation in Eurostat managing, target and working groups. The active participation in the integration of the provisions for Intrastat and Extrastat in the acts for implementation of the new regulation for the European business statistics was one of the key directions in the joint work of NSI, NRA and CA. Experts from the three institutions participated in the preparation of the answers to several Eurostat questionnaires and written consultations. NSI experts participated actively in the joint meetings of the Target group on microdata exchange of foreign trade statistics and the Target group on information technology at ESS.VIP held in Eurostat, which aim to ensure the reliability and security of future microdata exchange for dispatches between the Member States.

Together with Eurostat, reports were prepared on the quality of the data provided - aggregated and detailed monthly data on exports and imports of goods, as well as annual data on business characteristics of enterprises.

3.4. Statistics on agriculture, forestry and fisheries

In 2020, **the Agrostatistics Department** at the Directorate General Agriculture and Regional Policy of the MAFF, as a body of statistics, conducted 21 statistical surveys on crop production, animal husbandry, fruit and vegetable processing, land use and farm incomes.

The crop statistics 2020 collected information on sown and harvested areas, average yields and production of field crops, vegetables, vineyards and fruit species. These surveys collect information on the seed use, size of the area under not-fruit bearing perennials, applied agro-technical measures, production realization and others. The survey on wheat and barley yields was conducted before the harvest in 2020, along with a survey on the activities of enterprises processing fruits and vegetables.

A survey on land cover and land use in Bulgaria was conducted in June - August (BANSIK 2020) delivering data on agricultural area, including major crops at six statistical regions level (NUTS2).

The statistical livestock survey on the number of farm animals in Bulgaria as of November 1st 2020 collects information on the number of cattle, pigs and small cattle, by species and categories, on production and its realization - milk and animals for slaughter. Other surveys are the survey on poultry 2019 and beekeeping 2019 in Bulgaria.

Information on the activities of slaughterhouses, dairies and hatcheries is collected on a monthly and annual basis. The surveys on red and white meat slaughterhouses 2019 collect information on the production of meat from certain species and animal categories according to the EU legislation. The survey on milk processing enterprises 2019 gives information on the processed milk, the produced dairy products and their sale (in kind and value).

The preparation and organization of the census on agricultural holdings in the Republic of Bulgaria 2020 continued. This is the largest and most comprehensive agricultural census conducted every 10 years as recommended by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) directly involving the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, its structures as well as other departments, organizations and local government bodies. The census is implemented according to Regulation (EU) 2018/1091 of the European Parliament and the Council as well as the Law on the agricultural census in Bulgaria in 2020. The statistical tools have been developed including a statistical questionnaire, the surveyor's instructions, a manual for the controls when completing the questionnaire, a manual for entering the data in the Information system for agrostistics, etc. The printed required number of documents were submitted to the regional offices. Trainings were conducted at three levels – RO experts, supervisors and surveyors. Census posters and information brochures were prepared and distributed to the farmers when submitting documents to the municipal agricultural services.

The implementation and activities under the Eurostat grant agreement № 2018.0209 "Modernization of agricultural statistics in Bulgaria - development of a statistical questionnaire and a list of agricultural holdings as part of the preparation for the census on agricultural holdings 2020 according to the Integrated Farm Statistics Regulation (IFS)" finished 2020. The following main project activities were carried out:

- Update of the existing farm register in the agrostistics information system, to meet the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2018/1091. Software update of the statistical farm register with a unique farm ID. Preparation of a farm list for survey by improving the statistical farm register;
- Preparation of a draft statistical questionnaire for the census on agricultural holdings 2020 by the requirements of the IFS regulation;
- Farm geolocation methodology.

Within the project, a geolocation module for the determination of the farm coordinates in the register in the GIS environment has been developed, thus fulfilling the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2018/1091. The IT geolocation module tests different cases at different farm location by type and size. The module was applied in the 2020 census. The project activities are part of the preparation of the census of agricultural holdings in Bulgaria 2020. The developed draft questionnaire is the basis of the approved final statistical census questionnaire. Within the project, the activities for updating the farm list started at the beginning of the year and continued after its end. The software developments upgrade the agrostistics information system and have been applied in the 2020 census.

The farm census started on 1 September and ended on 18 December 2020. The farmers using a web-based application and filling in an online electronic questionnaire carried out the census online until 18 September 2020. Afterwards, the data was collected by surveyors via a face-to-face interview with the owners or

managers of the holding on the paper questionnaire or through online data entry on a portable electronic device.

In 2020, the two information systems for agrostatistics activities in the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, established in 2017, were improved:

- Agrostatistics Information System (ISAS);
- Agricultural Information Accounting System (AIAS).

The prices and economic accounts in agriculture within the activities of the Agricultural Accounting Information System (FADN) 2020 aimed to provide information on farm incomes needed for management decision making at a national level and for measuring the impact of the Common Agricultural Policy on Bulgarian agriculture. The individual farm data, according to the selection plan for the reporting year 2019, were collected and entered in the RICA-1 system of the European Commission. For the reporting year 2020, running information was collected on farms not keeping accountancy. The results for FADN 2241 farms were validated by DG Agriculture and Rural Development at the European Commission for reporting the year 2018. The data collection form was updated in its part for subsidies in implementation of Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/220, collecting information for the reporting year 2019. The established information agricultural accounting system (AIAS) for data entry, control, validation and results analysis at a national and regional level, developed in 2017 in compliance with the requirements of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) № 2015/220 of 03.02.2015. It was only updated and upgraded according to the warranty conditions. The activity implementation under the Eurostat Project Grant Agreement "Quality of the vineyard register - 2019_BG_QVR" started. Together with the Executive Agency on Vine and Wine (EAVW) the possibilities for project implementation were analyzed and the necessary documentation was prepared. Activities for updating the vineyard register are planned for the project implementation. The general goal of the project is to improve the quality of the vineyard register, and the specific goals are:

- ensuring accessibility of the data in the register;
- improving the content of the vineyard register and its scope, in terms of the types of data contained in it;
- improving the status of statistics on vineyards;
- facilitating the statistical register data collection and reducing the costs thereof;
- improving the quality of data management in the register.

The MAFF website update continues in 2020. Agrostatistics Department agricultural surveys' metadata and methodological notes are periodically supplemented and updated. The calendar for result dissemination of the statistical surveys 2020, conducted by the MAFF by topics and dates, was also updated on the MAFF website. The publication of public information in an open format on the

Open Data Portal continues.

The Agrostistics Department surveys' results were regularly published in the specialized bulletins on the MAFF website, in the annual NSI editions – statistical yearbook, statistical reference book, in the electronic review of statistical information, in the spreadsheets of Eurostat and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

In 2020, NSI experts actively participated in the discussions on the development of the new and updating of the existing legislation in the field of statistics on agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Opinions were prepared on the draft second framework regulation in the field of agricultural statistics - Regulation on statistics on agricultural input and output (SAIO) and on the draft regulation amending Regulation 138/2004 (EC) of the European Parliament and of the Council on the economic accounts for agriculture in the Community, which were presented during the meetings of the Eurostat Directors' group on agricultural statistics, the European Statistical System Committee and the WG Agricultural Accounts and Prices.

NSI experts participated in the exchange of views and discussions on the reform of the legislation in the field of fisheries and aquaculture statistics and on the draft new Regulation on European Fisheries Statistics and repealing Regulations (EC) № 1921/2006, 762/2008, 216/2009, 217/2009 and 218/2009 during the meeting of the Eurostat Working Group on Fisheries Statistics.

In connection with the proposal to include the European Forest Accounts as a module in Regulation (EU) 691/2011, the NSI participated in the preparation and presentation of opinions for the joint meeting of the Eurostat working groups "Environmental Accounts" and "Monetary Statistics and Environmental Accounts" held at the end of May and the WG“ Forestry Statistics ”.

In fulfilment of Bulgaria's obligations arising from the current legislation and agreements in the field of accounts and prices in agriculture and forestry in 2020, the following items were developed and sent to Eurostat:

- annual data on economic accounts for agriculture - the second estimate of income for 2019, preliminary data for 2019 and final data for 2018, at current and comparable prices and for income in agriculture (first estimate for 2020) according to Regulation (EC) № 138/2004;
- annual data for the regional economic accounts for 2018 (NUTS1 and NUTS2) and the statistics of elementary values in agriculture;
- annual data for 2019 and quarterly and annual data (forecast) for 2020 on prices and price indices of agricultural products and investments in agriculture by the current gentlemen's agreement between Eurostat and the Member States;
- annual data for 2019 on the average price of agricultural land and rent in agriculture at national and regional level NUTS1 and NUTS2 according to the current agreement between Eurostat and 19 Member States;

- annual data for 2018 for the European Forest Accounts (EFA);
- annual data for 2018 for the Material Flow Accounts under Regulation № 691/2011 on the European Environmental Economic Accounts for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

In 2020, annual data (preliminary and final for 2019) and quarterly data for 2020 (including flash estimates) were developed for the non-financial national accounts for economic activities "Agriculture, forestry and fisheries" at current and comparable prices.

According to the Release Calendar of the surveys in the National Statistical Program for 2020, data and press releases on the economic accounts for agriculture and the prices and indices in agriculture and forestry were prepared and published on the NSI website and in the IS INFOSTAT.

According to the deadlines in the Publishing Plan for 2020, tables with data for publication in the printed and electronic editions of the NSI were prepared.

In 2020, NSI experts currently participated in the activities to improve the interaction within the National Statistical System and with other partner organizations. The NSI participated in the work of the National Council for FADN and the Central Commission for the Census of Agricultural Holdings, in the thematic working groups for the development of the Rural Development Program and the OP "Maritime Affairs, Fisheries and Aquaculture" for the programming period 2021 - 2027, as well as in the work of the monitoring committees of the two programs for the current programming period.

In 2020, in connection with the reporting of data on indicators for sustainable development Agenda 2030, together with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, the NSI developed and sent to the FAO data on indicators 2.4.1 Share of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture and 14.4.1. Share of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels.

The Strategic partnership agreement on data exchange between the National Statistical Institute and the Executive Forest Agency was updated in 2020.

At the beginning of March, a seminar was held on "Changes in the statistical tools of surveys on economic accounts and prices in agriculture and forestry in 2020" with the participation of experts from the NSI and RSOs.

3.5. Multi-domain statistics

Business Trends

In 2020, with the financial assistance of the European Commission under the project "Business surveys and Consumer survey", the NSI continued to conduct the statistical surveys in the field of business trends under the "The Joint Harmonised EU Programme of Business and Consumer surveys". The aim of this program is to provide timely information for economic analysis and short-term forecasting as a

key addition to traditional statistics.

Monthly business surveys in the industry, construction, retail and the service sector show how managers assess the current and future economic situation in the country. The information from them is extremely up-to-date, as the data are announced in the same month in which they are collected. The indicators from these surveys can be used as components of composite leading indicators for analysis and detection of turning points in the economic cycle.

Based on the results obtained from the survey on investment activity in the industry, data were provided on the investments made and the investment plans of the enterprises in the sector.

The quarterly Consumer survey provided data on the trends in the development of public opinion on key economic processes and phenomena such as the general economic situation in the country, inflation, unemployment, savings, intentions to make major spending decisions on long-term use objects, and the purchase of a home or a car.

In 2020, NSI experts participated online in the regular EC meeting on business surveys and consumer survey.

In 2020, the application documents for a new 4-year framework agreement with the European Commission (2021-2025) on the project "Business surveys and Consumer survey" were prepared and sent under the "The Joint Harmonised EU Programme of Business and Consumer surveys".

Indicators for monitoring national and European policies

In 2020, the NSI continued to cooperate with the authorities responsible for the formulation, implementation and evaluation of policies set out in national and regional strategic documents and operational programmes funded by the European Structural and Investment Funds through providing up-to-date statistical information to monitor their priority objectives.

The statistical data on the indicators for the implementation of the priority objectives under the Europe 2020 strategy, the National Development Programme 2020 and sectoral strategic documents were provided.

The second largest portal for statistical information of the NSI - Information System Monitorstat, continued to provide a set of indicators for monitoring European and national strategies and regional policy.

The update of the information also includes the provision of a set of indicators for the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030 according to the available information from the statistical surveys.

In 2020, 4 704 applications of candidate beneficiaries under 35 procedures of the OP "Innovation and Competitiveness", "Human Resources Development" and "Maritime Affairs and Fisheries" were successfully processed through the system connected to an information system for management and monitoring.

(Number)

Operational programme	Procedure	Fulfilled requests
Human Resources Development	23	129
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	3	188
Innovation and Competitiveness	9	4387
Total	35	4704

In 2020, a preliminary analysis was made on the options and development of tools for collection and maintenance of statistical indicators on "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030". The prepared pilot development (common methodology and form) for data collection from enterprises will be discussed and tailored to the needs of all stakeholders in 2021, considering the ongoing projects in the field of disaster risk management, as well as the EC guidelines on the topic, which will be set out in the next "Partnership Agreement 2021 - 2027".

Environmental Statistics and Accounts

A major priority in the field of environmental statistics and accounts was the improvement of the methodology and the provision of reliable status information, types of pressures and the main trends of the economy's impact on the environment.

In 2020, in connection with the new needs for indicators arising from the Circular Economy and the European Green Deal, NSI experts developed a methodology for reporting the consumption of thin plastic shopping bags.

In preparing the national emissions inventory in 2020, the implementation of the new methodology for the calculation of air pollutant emissions continued by the requirements of the air pollutant emission inventory guidebook (EMEP/CORINAIR 2019). Based on the recommendations of the international reviewing team of experts and taking into account the specifics of key categories of production at the national level, recalculations of some emissions were performed for certain key years.

In 2020, to facilitate the respondents and in connection with the Circular Economy and the European Green Deal, the tools changed for the following surveys: „Report on waste from activity“, „Report on waste from agriculture, forestry and fishery“, „Production of packaged goods and packaging“, „Report on household and construction waste“and „Expenditure on protection and restoration of the environment“.

The work of the NSI in the field of ecosystem accounts and services continued within the Horizon 2020 project „Mapping and Assessment for Integrated ecosystem Accounting“.

By the end of the year, the EC project "Environmental accounts and ecosystem accounting" is to be completed.

In 2020, in connection with the European Green Deal and the expected changes in Regulation 691/2011 on the European environmental economic accounts, the NSI applied for the following projects: „Improving data for circular economy - packaging waste and construction waste“ and „Establishing access to geospatial data through linking geocoded and statistical data“.

In 2020, a system project was developed for the “Development and implementation of the Information System “Environmental Statistics” for input, validation and processing of information from the environmental surveys conducted by the NSI.

In 2020, NSI experts continued to participate in the following working groups:

- Eurostat WG DIMESA;
- Eurostat WG on Environmental Accounts;
- Eurostat WG on Monetary Statistics and Environmental Accounts;
- Interdepartmental working group for preparation of a draft of the "National programme for reduction of food and food waste losses 2019 - 2024";
- Thematic working group for the development of OP "Environment" for the programming period 2021 - 2027.

Housing Fund Statistics

The quarterly survey "Short-term statistics on residential buildings" was conducted within the deadlines defined. The data on the newly built residential buildings and dwellings, the demolished residential buildings and dwellings were published on the dates announced in the Release Calendar.

The Housing fund survey, on which basis the data on the housing fund in the country as of 31.12.2019 were produced, was conducted on time and the data were published on the date announced in the Release Calendar.

Regional Statistics and Geographic Information Systems

In 2020, the work on the dissemination of regional statistics continued. The thematic section "Regional Statistics" was prepared with a view to expand users' access to regional statistical information. The data published in the electronic publication “Regions, districts and municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria” were presented at the lowest level in compliance with the surveys’ methodology and statistical confidentiality. The produced data were at territorial level NUTS 0-3 as data on some of the indicators were at municipality and settlement level.

As part of the regional statistics produced by the NSI, the work continued on the preparation and publication of a specialized statistical survey on crisis events for the needs of crisis management at a national, regional and municipal level.

To answer the specific IT needs of external users, the work on the GIS application for the creation of thematic spatial layers of statistical information and the support of digital models of big urban areas continued. In 2020 the update, based on collected statistical data on the building and housing fund in the country, as well as the work on the digital map-based representation of the results of statistical surveys in NSI issues continued.

In 2020, a new study "Administrative-territorial and territorial division of the Republic of Bulgaria in 2019" was published for the first time.

In 2020, several graphs and tables were prepared with information regarding the impact of COVID-19 on the socio-economic life in the country.

Science, Technologies and Innovations

In 2020, the work on production and dissemination of R&D statistics and innovation continued in accordance with Eurostat methodological guidelines and the provisions of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 995/2012 on Community statistics on science and technology.

The data from the regular statistical surveys on R&D and innovations were published on the NSI website and in the Information System INFOSTAT, and sent to Eurostat within the set deadlines and with the required quality.

In 2020, NSI experts participated in the regular R&D and innovation working groups and in the work of the monitoring committees of OP "Innovation and Competitiveness 2014 - 2020" and "Science and Education for Smart Growth 2014 - 2020".

The NSI successfully completed an EC project **Statistics on research & development (R&D) and innovation in 2018 (CIS 2018)**. The main goal of the project was to form internationally comparable data on new indicators on the innovation activity of enterprises. In an implementation of the planned project activities, for the first time in our national practice, the special standard for data and metadata exchange (SDMX) in the field of innovation statistics was implemented.

Information Society

In 2020, the NSI continued work on the regular annual statistical surveys in the field of Information Society, following the recommendations of Eurostat and the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2019/1910 concerning Community statistics on the information society. The data from these surveys provide reliable and internationally comparable information on ICT usage in households and enterprises in Bulgaria.

The indicators assessing the development of Information Society were updated and new modules "Internet of things" were introduced into the surveys.

In connection with the forthcoming national Census 2021 campaign, an additional module was included in the survey on the use of ICT in households, which provided information on the level of awareness and readiness of individuals for

online participation in the campaign.

In 2020, NSI experts participated in working groups for the preparation of opinions related to the development of strategic and programme related documents, draft legislative acts and methodologies in the field of Information Society.

3.6. Information and communication technologies, statistical infrastructure and other activities

Information and Communication Technologies

The main priority was to increase the capacity and degree of information systems backup by using effective means for storage and restoration of information systems and data from statistical surveys. The NSI applied reliable policies for the backup of databases and components of information systems through specialized software and maintenance of the backup media library.

The established information systems for identification, collection and dissemination of information in the NSI allow each official in the administration to perform his duties by receiving timely useful external information. The activities for monitoring the functioning of the technical infrastructure are automated, and reliable and efficient operation of the information systems and the provided services is ensured. In 2020, the collection of security information and event management (SIEM) was carried out by new software solutions (Qradar and Guardium).

In 2020, Axence nVision software was implemented to provide everything needed to protect and manage network systems and devices in the most efficient way.

The NSI developed software tools for data extraction from the Internet (web-scraping) for surveys in the NSI and began real data collection through these methods.

The implemented request management and control system (GLPI) was actively used. The system ensures timely information, knowledge base for cases, solutions and response time.

The use of EWA was discontinued in October and the NSI switched entirely to Edamis4 for data exchange with Eurostat.

To facilitate the respondents, the Support Center assisted with technical and/or methodological issues. In 2020, the scope of the Support Center was expanded. Users of IS Business Statistics and IS Short-Term Business Statistics were served. During the year, the Support Center actively answered questions about the Pilot Census 2020 and in 2021 will assist respondents about the Census 2021.

The NSI improved the exchange of data with other administrations (NRA, CA, NSSI) by using a direct connection through the united electronic communication network of the state administration, which ensured the security of exchange and data protection. With the view of maximum protection of individual data in microdata exchange on intra-Community trade, the NSI communicated with

Eurostat and other ESS Members via the TESTA network service - a data communication network service with a high level of security, operated by the European Commission (Eurostat). Building, implementation, carrying out of IS tests for microdata exchange on a specified schedule for the different phases (test, pre-production and production) are forthcoming activities.

The NSI maintains the National register of populated places and the General Register of the traders. All changes in territorial and administrative-territorial units reflected in NRPP. To facilitate other administrations, the NSI developed and published on its website an up to date version of the Unified classifier of the administrative-territorial and territorial units. The National Statistical Institute publishes and updates the "Data set: Unified Classifier of Administrative-Territorial and Territorial Units" in an open format on the open data portal. In 2020, the NSI continued to enrich the data sets and the new national portal for publishing open data: <https://data.egov.bg/>. The resources will be available in JSON-stat format and will be updated automatically.

The IS INFOSTAT continued to develop as one of the main channels for statistical information provision. The possibility for quick and easy access to constantly updated and enriched information in the system is one of its main advantages. During the year, NSI experts worked actively to meet user expectations for the accuracy and timeliness of the data provided.

In 2020, a new Intranet and NSI website were built. The NSI website is not only the main channel for free dissemination of official statistics but also provides useful and well-structured up-to-date information on the institute's activities to increase the statistical culture of users in regards to the statistical surveys and data use.

In the field of information technologies, the NSI continued to develop information systems in the various fields of statistics and established secure channels for data exchange within the National Statistical System.

Development of statistical information systems

In 2020, the activity of developing outputs and specific analyzes for various statistical surveys continued by using the statistical package SPSS Statistics Server (20.0) and SAS, which are the main analytical platform in the NSI.

In 2020, the process of re-engineering existing software apps and migration to centralised systems with decentralised input of statistical forms continued by using modern technological platforms - .Net.

ICT Infrastructure

In 2020, the development of information and technology infrastructure was a key priority to achieve reliable operation of the information systems and to ensure continuity of the services provided to respondents and users of statistical information.

The NSI maintains and develops a modern Data Centre meeting high requirements for storage and protection of data and information assets. In 2020, the construction of a Disaster Recovery Centre began to ensure the incessancy of the processes of the collection, processing and dissemination of statistical information in the NSI.

The NSI performed continuous monitoring and maintenance of the performance of technical resources and information systems building the information infrastructure.

Successful migration of virtualization and management systems to newer software versions was carried out.

One of the highlights of the activity was the administration of operating systems, tools for antivirus protection and updating of software used in the NSI.

Methodology, statistical metadata, classifications and standards

At the end of 2020, the work on a project "ESSnet on Big Data - II" was successfully completed, as the NSI was an active partner in the following six work packages: WPB Online Job Vacancies; WPC Enterprise Characteristics; WPF Process and Architecture; WPG Financial Transactions Data; WPJ Innovative Tourism Statistics and WPL Preparing Smart Statistics. The project has a high practical value as it tested the possibility of Big Data to be used as an additional source for the production of official statistics. Various web-scraping techniques and machine learning methods were applied for the implementation of the project activities.

Significant results were achieved in this direction by publishing experimental statistics on the online characteristics of enterprises and accommodation establishments offered on tourist websites on the Eurostat experimental statistics website, as well as on the project's wiki platform.

Promising results have also been achieved regarding the production of experimental statistics on job vacancy through the extraction of information from the largest online platforms for job search and job offers in Bulgaria. In addition, the NSI team had the opportunity to analyze data on Bulgaria collected and processed by the European Centre for the Development of Vocational training (CEDEFOP).

One of the main tasks in 2020 was to keep statistical classifications up-to-date and to provide methodological help to users. In 2020, the NSI joined the discussions on the proposals for the revision of the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (NACE Rev. 2). The work on the preparation for revision of the Classification of Economic Activities (NACE.BG-2008) continued.

To facilitate users to use the classifications, opinions on respondents requests were constantly prepared as they were an aid in classifying statistical units for the correct interpretation of the Classification of Economic Activities, assisted statisticians in conducting statistical surveys, and improved the international

comparability.

Transition code tables were developed for the purposes of statistical processing and the continuation of the time series based on changes in the Combined Nomenclature 2021. For the purposes of the PRODCOM.BG survey, the Nomenclature of Industrial Production - PRODCOM.BG 2020 and the List of Z Codes were updated, and for the purposes of foreign trade statistics and IS INTRASTAT to the NRA, an annual update of the self-explanatory texts of the Combined Nomenclature 2021 was performed.

The NSI continued its participation in the maintenance of the National Classification of Occupations and Positions 2011 and the update of the list of the names of positions and the corresponding tables.

In 2020, the NSI continued the activities on the current maintenance of the Information System "Statistical Classifications", the electronic dictionaries of the statistical terms and the standardization and harmonization of the statistical terminology. A "List of Standard Statistical Indicators for 2020" was prepared.

In 2020, the work on the provision of data and metadata continued by the International Monetary Fund's Special Data Dissemination Standard Plus (SDDS Plus).

Work on a project with the EC on improving the quality of the Labour Force Survey completed. For this purpose, a methodology for estimation of the historical values of the data on the unemployed and employed persons was developed according to the new methodology of the Labour Force Survey, which will enter into force at the beginning of 2021. Models for short-term forecasting the number of employed and unemployed persons were developed by using administrative data from the Employment Agency and the National Social Security Institute.

Dissemination of statistical information

Publishing activity of the NSI

The NSI published wide in volume and rich in content statistical information in accordance with European standards. Press releases and periodicals provide state institutions, business, academia and society as a whole with timely, objective, useful and quality statistical information on the current state of various economic, social, educational and cultural activities in the country. In connection with the COVID-19 crisis around the world, the NSI published monthly data on the new website section related to the disease and its impact on a number of sectors of socio-economic life in Bulgaria.

During the year, 19 publications - **printed** (with an electronic version on CD) and **electronic** (only on CD) with a total circulation of 32 240 items were issued. Most of the publications are available in two languages - Bulgarian and English, with included national and regional data from different statistical domains.

The Statistical Yearbook 2019, the Statistical Reference Book 2020, the "Statistics" magazine and the Annual Report 2019 cover the entire statistical information and are a precious guide for all users.

Library's activity of the NSI

The digital library of the NSI continues to hold a leading position nationwide in the field of building, managing and online dissemination of digital information resources.

21 883 visits were registered on the electronic portal of the library on 121 574 digital pages. Despite the difficulties imposed by the coronavirus, access to 434 library items was provided in the NSI reading room.

In 2020, the enrichment of the collection of digital publications, adapted in Bulgarian, continued with the new edition "Key Indicators for Europe".

NSI Internet site

Statistical data related to the economic and social consequences of the spread of coronavirus were published in the section "COVID-19" on the NSI website. The content of the section is updated weekly.

During the year, the website "Census 2021" was launched with news, regulations, documents, tools, training materials and other information about the Pilot Census 2020 held in April and the upcoming census in 2021.

Service of users

In 2020, the NSI satisfied over 5 300 single requests for statistical information received by e-mail or at the Reception desk. The NSI periodically provided statistical information to users from Bulgaria (99) and abroad (1) who wished to receive data from a particular survey as soon as it was officially announced (table 2).

2. Requests for the periodical provision of information

Requests from Bulgaria	99
With monthly data	63
With quarterly data	36
With annual data	13
Requests from abroad – for monthly data	1

In 2020, 28 questionnaires were completed and sent to international organizations: 10 monthly, 6 quarterly and 12 annual.

During the year, 10 requests were processed (8 from the country and 2 from abroad) for providing anonymized individual data for scientific and research purposes according to the Rules for Provision of Anonymised Individual Data for Scientific and Research Purposes of the National Statistical Institute.

In 2020, most inquiries were made by students or scientists - 5, and 3 requests were sent by private individuals. One request was registered by the public administration and by users who did not indicate belonging to a certain group.

Five of the inquiries were for data availability, two for data verification, and one for methodology and technical assistance each. One request was not defined in any category.

The NSI experts also served three specialized e-mail addresses (mailboxes) created to help users. For the first time, the NSI employees responsible for user relations were involved in the maintenance of the 2021 Census call centre.

The Bulgarian Statistical Data Support Center, which is part of the European network of user support centres, continued its work in 2020. By September 30, 10 inquiries were received - 7 through the web-based tool of Eurostat (ASSIST) and 3 through the NSI email. Five of the inquiries were standard and five - non-standard, for which the answer was provided after consultation with the central Eurostat support unit.

User satisfaction survey

The questionnaire for users' satisfaction survey with the provided statistical information products and services, focused on the quality of service and assessment of the ways of dissemination of statistical information, was completed by over 140 users².

4. RESOURCE ASSURANCE

Personnel

The National Statistical Institute is organized into a Head office and six Regional Statistical Offices. The Regional Statistical Offices perform the functions and tasks of the NSI for the production and dissemination of statistical information at the regional level. The Regional Statistical Offices of the NSI are as follows: The RSO - Severozapad, The RSO - Sever, The RSO - Severoiztok, The RSO - Yugoiztok, The RSO - Yug, The RSO – Yugozapad.

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 staff within NSI's structural units in 2020 was 968, of which 321 employed at the Head office and 647 - at RSOs. According to the Rules of Procedure of the NSI, the Head Office is organized into seven 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

² The study report can be viewed at:

https://www.nsi.bg/sites/default/files/files/pages/USS/user_satisfaction_survey_nsi_2019.pdf

President of the NSI: “General methodology, analysis and coordination of statistical surveys” Directorate, “Security of Information, Information and communication technologies and DM” Division, “Inspectorate”, Finance Controller, “Internal Audit” Unit and “International Cooperation” Department. Six directorates are in the specialized administration and one directorate – in General administration.

Over the last five years, due to the optimization of the structure of the Regional Statistical Offices and the NSI’s Head Office and due to the introduction of new organizational approaches in the management of the processes of collection, processing and dissemination of statistical information and the management of the staff, there is no decrease in the employment within the NSI system. For the period 2016 – 2020, the number of staff remains the same.

Carrying out competitions for vacant positions

The policy on personnel recruitment is focussed on the replacement of retiring employees with young people with perspective thinking, who have just completed their tertiary education or continuing their education in Bulgarian universities. In 2020, a total of 76 vacancy competitions were held. There were 38 competitions held at the NSI Head Office and 38 at the RSOs.

Employees by age groups and by education in the NSI

The situation of the National Statistical Institute’s staff is presented in Tables 3 and 4, which summarize the structure of total NSI staff, including for NSI Head Office and RSOs.

3. Structure of actual employees in NSI by age groups

(Number)

Structures	Age groups					Total
	Up to 29	30 - 45	46 - 55	56 - 65	Over 65	
Head Office	14	115	88	65	3	285
RSO	21	212	210	181	7	631
NSI	35	327	298	246	10	916

4. Structure of actual employees in NSI by education

(Number)

Structures	Education degree						Total
	Doctor	Master	Bachelor	Professional bachelor	Secondary education	Primary education	
Head	9	239	25	3	9	0	285

Office							
RSO	1	421	90	3	116	0	631
NSI	10	660	115	6	125	0	916

The data show a high level of education among NSI's employees as the share of employees with tertiary education is over 86%. The analysis shows highlighted trend towards a predominance of specialties with economic orientation (about 75% of all specialties). Statisticians, who work in specialized administration, stand out as the most numerous - 42% of the total employees. The distribution of NSI employees by age groups follows the trend that is typical for employees in the state administration as a whole. In NSI, as well as in other state institutions, the majority of employees are in the age group from 30 to 55 years of age. The data from the Report on the state of the administration for 2019 were used for comparison.

Table 5 shows the number of employees who are continuing their education as of 2020 to acquire a higher education degree.

5. Education of NSI's employees in Bulgarian universities

(Number)

Type of education	NSI	Head Office	RSO
Doctor	8	6	2
Master	10	7	3
Bachelor	2	1	1
Total	20	14	6

Budget

The implementation of the NSI budget 2020 is in compliance with the adopted Law on State Budget of the Republic of Bulgaria for 2020 and adjustments made (Annex 1). As of 31.10.2020, the planned revenues are implemented according to the specified plan – 44%. The implementation of the total expenditure for the same period amounts to 63%, including current costs (wages, salaries and other payments to staff and maintenance) - 65%.

5. INTERNAL AUDIT AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL

The Internal Audit Unit performs an internal audit of all structures, programs, activities and processes in the NSI, including the second-level spending units in the NSI and/or the administrators of resources of the European Union.

In 2020, the IAU fulfilled the planned activities and tasks, which improved the work in the NSI. In January, after collecting and analyzing the requested and presented information, a risk assessment was made of all structures in the NSI, including the Regional statistical offices – second-level spending units to the NSI President. All mandatory annexes required for the preparation of the Strategic Plan

for the activities of the Internal Audit Unit, covering the period January 2020 - January 2022, were completed. Following the Strategic Plan, an Annual Plan for the activities of the IAU was prepared, as well as a training plan for the internal auditors for 2020. The plans were presented and approved by the NSI President in January and thus the deadline was met.

In the period January - February 2020, IAU created an organization and procedure for the preparation and submission of risk management reports in 2019 and a risk register for risk management in 2020. All heads of the structures of the Head Office and the RSOs at the NSI submitted the documents within the set deadline. The Head of IAU presented a report on risk management of IAU in 2019 and a risk register for 2020 within the established deadline.

There was progress in identifying the risks by directorates, separate departments and RSOs, as well as control exercised by the managers of the structures, which contributed to the improvement of risk management in the NSI system. The reports and risk registers were published on the NSI website after approval by the President.

The Head of IAU, within the statutory deadline, submitted to the NSI President the annual report on the activities of the Internal Audit Unit for 2019 with a questionnaire attached with summary information on the activities of the unit. The same documents were sent electronically to the Minister of Finance.

In March, the Head of IAU inspected the summary report and questionnaire on the state of the financial management and control systems in the NSI in 2019 and gave an opinion on the compliance of the information submitted in the report and the questionnaire with the findings of the internal audits. In connection with a letter received from the Ministry of Finance to establish the order, organization and deadlines for filling in and sending information on the FMCS for 2019, by order of the NSI President, they were created and implemented, and then the information was sent to the Ministry of Finance by e-mail within the specified deadlines.

According to the Annual plan of activities of the IAU for 2020, three audit assignments for assurance were fulfilled. The first audit assignment was on the topic "Review and assessment of compliance of activities performed by the "Non-Financial National and Regional Accounts" Department of the Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate for the audited period from January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2019. The audit completed successfully. Ten recommendations were formulated and adopted to eliminate weaknesses, avoid mistakes and improve activities. The second audit assignment for assurance was on the topic "Review and assessment of compliance of activities performed by the "Statistics on Foreign Trade in Goods" Department for the audited period from 01.01.2018 to 31.12.2019. The audit also completed successfully. Eight recommendations were formulated, recorded and approved in an action plan for implementation of the recommendations. As of the end of October, a third audit assignment was implemented on the topic "Review and evaluation (sampling) of implemented agreements (grants) by the NSI, financed by the European Commission" for the period from January 1, 2018, to

June 30, 2020. Following the international standards for professional practice in internal audit and the approved training plan of the IAU for 2020, 4 trainings were conducted: Participation in training on "Electronic reporting on internal audit activities in public sector organizations", conducted in February by the School of Public Finance; Participation in training under the project "Improvement of financial management and control systems and the internal audit function in the public sector", funded by the Operational Program "Good Governance" and co-financed by the EU, conducted in September by the Ministry of Finance; Participation in online training on "Implementation of Public Procurement Legislation", held in October and organized by the School of Public Finance, as well as participation in training on "E-4 e-Government", organized by IPA, held on 4 - 5.11.2020.

In 2020, the actions of the **Inspectorate** were determined both by the epidemic situation in the country and by the aspiration of the NSI management for timely and quality implementation of the tasks set out in the NSP. In this context, the achievement of the following objectives was of primary importance:

- independent and objective assessment of the effectiveness of the NSI for implementation of the state policy in the field of statistical activity in the conditions of the complicated epidemic situation in the country;
- improvement of the anti-corruption environment for optimal functioning of the structures of the specialized and general administration;
- imposition of preventive measures for observance of the laws, regulations and internal acts, rules and procedures and prevention of violations in the functioning of the administrative bodies.

For the implementation of the objectives, special attention was paid to the timely determination of the factors on which the optimization of the work of the inspectors depends. As a result, the process of planning and organizing the activity of the Inspectorate in the conditions of the constantly changing environment was of primary importance, especially taking into account the growing epidemic risks.

Significant efforts were made to clarify and provide in time the signals and proposals received by the NSI Head Office by both citizens and NSI employees.

During the year, the Inspectorate paid serious attention to the implementation of the provisions of the Counter-Corruption and Unlawfully Acquired Assets Forfeiture Act. In this connection, the declarations of the NSI employees under Art. 35, para. 1 of CCUAAFA were accepted for processing and storage within the set deadlines. The inspections for the declared facts in the declarations of incompatibility submitted by the newly appointed employees were performed within the set deadlines and quality.

In 2020, the NSI Inspectorate performed a total of 23 administrative inspections in the units of the NSI Head Office, of which 3 planned, 8 unscheduled, incl. on received signals, and 12 monthly inspections for implementation of internal administrative control. Significant efforts were made in carrying out daily ongoing

control, which covered the implementation of the President's orders, management resolutions, decisions of the Council to the President and others.

During the year, a total of 12 signals and proposals received, which concerned issues related to both the general and the specialized administration. All signals were promptly addressed and opinions submitted to their senders.

A competition was held to fill the Inspectorate with staff.

To increase the efficiency of the performed control activity and to improve the professional training and qualification in 2020, the employees of the Inspectorate took part in two training courses organized by IPA.

For the period from the beginning of 2020 to the end of October, a total of 1 309 records were registered and inspected in the Finance Controller's Register and 1 309 checklists were issued for undertaking obligation and performing expenditure.

The Finance controller always proclaimed his decision on the proposals for undertaking obligations and performing expenditure within the deadlines appointed by the President of the NSI and described in the Internal Rules on the implementation of ex-ante control of legality in the NSI.

During 2020, the Finance controller often needed to request additional documents or information, as well as a spot visit in order to optimize the control and give an accurate and efficient opinion in the checklist he filled in.

In the first half of the year, the Finance controller participated in the preparation and electronic submission to the Ministry of Finance of the summarized questionnaire and the report on the status of the FMCS in the NSI in 2019.

In pursuance of the annual training plan for 2020, the Finance controller participated in the training "Electronic reporting on the status of financial management and control systems and internal audit activities in public sector organizations", held at the School of Public Finance at the Ministry of Finance. In June, a training organized by the MF was held on "Presentation of updated guidelines in the field of financial management and control in the public sector" funded by the project "Improvement of financial management and control systems and the internal audit function in the public sector" under OP "Good Governance" 2014 - 2020. In October, the Finance controller participated in distance training on "Implementation of Public Procurement Legislation" organized by the School of Public Finance.

In order to exercise optimal control over the implementation of contracts on time and to protect the interests of the NSI, at the beginning of each month, the Finance controller provides information on contracts expiring in the next six months to the Head of the Inspectorate, Head of Legal Activities Department, Head of Property Management and Maintenance Department and the Head of the Information and Communication Infrastructure Department. The employees of the Financial – Accounting Activities Department were provided with permanent access to all information on all contracts (commitments and all payments made so far).

The analysis of results from the performed preliminary control imposes the following conclusions:

- During the preliminary control of the files, no illegal actions and events were established, as well as the presence of grave and substantial violations related to the provision and completion of the necessary documents;
- All submitted files were processed promptly and the work of NSI was not hindered. To optimize ex-ante control for the same type of liabilities and expenses, one checklist was issued in many cases, although all documents provided for these groups of expenses and liabilities were checked;
- Notes on the undertaking obligation/or performing expenditure were made only in a few isolated cases, which is a good characteristic of maturity in the processes of self-control and responsible behaviour of employees in the structural units at the NSI's Head Office.

Annex 1. NSI Budget 2020

Indicators (in BGN)	Law on the state budget of the Republic of Bulgaria for 2020	Specified plan for the year as 31.10.2020	Report as of 31.10.2020	Implementation of the plan/ report (%) as of 31.10.2020
1	2	3	4	5
I. REVENUES - TOTAL	950 000	950 000	413 321	44
Own revenues	950 000	950 000	413 321	44
Non-tax revenues	950 000	950 000	413 321	44
Property revenues and incomes	950 000	950 000	499 205	53
- Net revenues from sales of services, goods and production	850 000	850 000	452 980	53
- Rental property revenues	100 000	100 000	46 225	46
State fees				
Fines, sanctions and penalties				
Other revenues			6 268	
Revenues from the sale of non-financial assets				
VAT paid			-92 152	
II. EXPENDITURES - TOTAL	25 447 200	36 976 483	23 201 572	63
Total expenditure	25 447 200	36 976 483	23 201 572	63
Current expenditure	21 623 200	32 208 483	21 040 021	65
Staff	18 107 700	25 090 149	17 577 406	70
Salaries and remunerations to the staff under the Labour Code and the Civil Service Act	12 885 500	13 366 309	11 199 339	84
Salaries and remunerations to the staff under the Labour Code	1 385 500	1 520 283	1 415 740	93
Salaries and remunerations to the staff under the Civil Service Act	11 500 000	11 846 026	9 783 599	83
Other salaries and payments to the staff	1 400 000	6 780 000	2 674 970	39

Mandatory social security contributions from employers	3 822 200	4 943 840	3 703 097	75
Social insurance contributions from employers for the State Social Insurance (SSI)	2 210 200	3 044 206	2 276 673	75
Health insurance contributions from employers	963 000	1 181 883	924 866	78
Contributions to additional compulsory insurance from employers	649 000	717 751	501 558	70
Maintenance	3 335 500	6 938 334	3 311 183	48
Taxes paid, charges and administrative sanctions	132 000	132 000	107 440	81
Expenditure for membership contributions and participation in non-profit organizations and activities	48 000	48 000	43 992	92
Capital expenditure	3 824 000	4 768 000	2 161 551	45
Fundamental repair of tangible fixed assets	350 000	394 000	105 712	27

Annex 1. NSI Budget 2020

(Continued and end)				
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	199 000	599 000	373 856	62
Acquisition of intangible fixed assets	3 275 000	3 775 000	1 681 983	45
NATURAL INDICATORS				
Staff positions - total	968	968	902	
Average annual full-time positions - total	968	968	897	
Staff positions	968	968	902	
III. TRANSFERS	24 497 200	36 026 043	22 549 069	66
III. A. TRANSFERS (SUBSIDIES, CONTRIBUTIONS)	24 997 200	36 541 200	16 799 720	46

BETWEEN CENTRAL/STATE BUDGET AND OTHER BUDGETS				
Transfers (grants/contributions) from the central budget (Net) - Transfers (subsidies) from the central budget (+)	24 997 200	36 541 200	16 799 720	46
III. B. TRANSFERS BETWEEN BUDGET ACCOUNTS AND EXTRABUDGETARY FUNDS/ACCOUNTS		-14 717	7 130	
- Transfers received (+) - Transfers granted (-) - Transfer from MLSP under programmes of temporary employment (+/-)		-14 717	-19 631 26 761	133
III. C. TRANSFERS BETWEEN BUDGETS AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION FUNDS	-500 000	-500 000	37 210	
III. D. TRANSFERS FOR ASSUMED INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS AND TAXES			5 705 009	
IV. BALANCING ITEM (+/-) (I - II + III)	0		239 182	
V. FINANCING OPERATIONS	0		239 182	

Annex 2. Organization chart of the NSI

Organization Chart 22/10/2020

