

**STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL
SYSTEM OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
FOR THE PERIOD 2021 - 2027**

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED

Abbreviation	Name
EU	European Union
ESS	European Statistical System
ICT	Information and communication technologies
NSI	National Statistical Institute
NSS	National Statistical System
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
UN	United Nations
CAPI	Conducting pilot data collection with electronic devices
CATI	Conducting a phone interview using a computer
CAWI	Conducting an interview via the Internet
GAMSO	Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organisations
GSBPM	Generic Statistical Business Process Model
GSIM	Generic Statistical Information Model
ISO	Quality management system

I. INTRODUCTION

1. National statistical system

The National Statistical System (NSS) consists of the National Statistical Institute (NSI), the bodies of statistics and the Bulgarian National Bank. The bodies of statistics are public authorities or their structural units, that develop, produce and disseminate statistical information. The NSI and the bodies of statistics carry out the statistical activity in Bulgaria by conducting statistical surveys and activities included in the National Statistical Programme. The NSI and the bodies of statistics jointly prepare and participate in European programmes and projects related to the development of statistical methods, the development of new statistical indicators and the implementation of new surveys.

European statistics are developed, produced and disseminated by the European Statistical System (ESS) and the European System of Central Banks. At the national level, this is implemented, in the respective areas of competence, by the National Statistical Institute and the statistical authorities as part of the ESS, governed by Article 4 of Regulation 223/2009 and by the Bulgarian National Bank (BNB), as part of the ESCB, by Article 5 of Protocol No 4 on the Statute of the European System of Central Banks and the ECB and Regulation 2533/98.

The main objective of the activity of the NSS is to contribute to the well-being of the society with timely, secure and qualitative official statistical information, such as:

- inform the public on social and economic matters;
- assist in the development and evaluation of public policies;
- ensure the quality, adequacy and prevention of misuse of official statistics.

NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM



2. Status Analysis

The previous Strategy, whose goals were achieved by 2020, represented the direction of development over the past seven years and described the plan to change the NSS to help various members of the public make decisions, with "adequate, accurate and timely information". During this period, the NSS shall:

- modernise its systems and start conducting new research;
- extend the scope of the administrative sources used for statistical purposes;
- introduce new technologies;
- improve the dissemination;
- improve the quality of the statistics produced;
- increase the statistical culture of users.

Modern, secure and user-focused research is essential for the provision of quality services throughout the system. They are the basis for both the preparation of the population and housing census in 2021, which will be carried out by the NSI, as well as for the Agricultural Census at the end of 2020 carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

The introduction of ISO 9007:2015 and ISO 27001 standards on the quality and security of information of the data collection activities, processing, analysis and dissemination of statistical products and services, enabled the implementation of an Integrated Management System in the NSI.

The implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice strengthened the authority of the NSI.

In 2016, Bulgaria joined the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) *Special Data Plus Dissemination Standard*, becoming the eleventh country in the world to adhere to this highest international standard. As Bulgaria's accession coordinator, BNB developed the *National Summary Data Plus Page*. The process continued over the years with the dissemination of new categories of data.

The implementation of the previous strategy was completed just before the COVID-19 pandemic changed many of the habits and lifestyle of people and society worldwide.

In order to meet the need for data at a national level, new approaches were introduced urgently during the crisis, both in fieldwork and in the processing and dissemination of statistical information. In the short term, studies related to the spread of COVID-19 in Bulgaria were carried out. The use of data from alternative/administrative sources has also been expanded to provide up-to-date statistical information.

3. Change context: from data to information

Crisis events usually accelerate development, but the real challenge today is to work collaboratively and expand that collaboration.

The Strategy aims to maintain the "momentum" for more intensive data exchange, innovation and a wider range of information produced as permanent features of the NSS.

This can be achieved by focusing on building and preserving a culture of sharing, exchanging and providing information built on trust and flexibility, learning opportunities and a desire for change.

The changes (economic, political and technological) have increased the demand for statistical information for policy-making, provision of services and reasoning in decision-making and action in all areas of public life, business and civil society.

The emerging possibilities for linking multiple data sources to get the best results led to the need to adapt legislation and technology. The solutions we seek to many of the problems can be found in cooperation regardless of institutional and geographical boundaries. From the pandemic and the ensuing economic crisis to climate change, inequality, mental health and social care, all these problems require cross-sectoral analysis and common efforts to address them.

The State may not perform its functions without up-to-date, accurate and quality statistical information. At the same time, the risk of loss of trust through abuse or misunderstanding of official statistics is extremely high. It is necessary to inform the public when the data produced by the NSS is used maliciously or its integrity is breached. This presents a challenge for both legislation and the production of statistics.

Since June 2019, thanks to the activity of the NSI, Bulgaria had equal rights with the Member States of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), in the Committee on Statistics and Policies in the field of statistics. Our country is an associate member of the Committee and three working groups attached to it, and experts from the NSI also participate in several working groups related to statistics to other committees (e.g. tourism statistics, measurement of the digital economy, statistics of education, etc.), which contributes to the validation of the positive image of Bulgaria as an OECD candidate country.

In 2021, the NSI took the initiative and was approved as coordinator of the Working Party on The Exchange of Statistics and Economic Information of the Organization for the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, effectively resuming the group's activities. Our country has proposed a new approach to data sharing to meet the Sustainable Development Goals between the Member States. The NSI is a pioneer in the organization of trainings for young statisticians from the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership countries. Started in 2016, these trainings are part of the development assistance provided by Bulgaria. Annually, in the framework of partnership agreements on European projects with consulting companies or with the countries themselves, leading NSI experts support the institutional building of statistical offices in countries of the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership, as well as the compliance of their activities with European standards.

The NSS Strategy 2021 - 2027 contributes to harmonising and aligning definitions and terminology that enter recent years through various initiatives and programmes at a global and regional level coming from different sources.

II. VISION AND MISSION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NSS

VISION

Modern and effective National Statistical System, providing a high quality of the statistical information product and trust from users and partners.

MISSION OF THE NSS

The mission of the NSS of the Republic of Bulgaria is to provide impartial, objective, timely and accurate information about the state and trends in the development of the economy, social sphere, demography and environment in response to the growing information needs of all user groups.

Official statistics provide the basis for decision-making on economic, social and environmental issues at all levels of society. The government and policymakers use statistics to evaluate and formulate policies and propose measures that will influence the development and lead to improvements in specific areas or on a larger scale. Official statistical information is also the basis that enables businesses to assess the economic situation and make informed business decisions. Statistical information also allows the media, NGOs and citizens to assess the state and development of society and formulate their opinions and attitudes on various issues, as well as to monitor public processes.

Statistics **as a public good are therefore** the main understanding of the development of the NSS over the next seven years, embedded in the implementation of the Strategy.

Dynamic processes in the economy and society, digitalization and globalisation require the NSS to respond adequately to the changes. New technologies lead to an exponential increase in the volume and types of data available, creating huge opportunities to inform society and take action to protect the environment and reduce the risk of the impact of climate change. Governments, businesses, researchers and citizens are constantly adapting to the new world of data, a world where data is more timely and detailed than ever before. This in turn requires action to promote the progress and sustainable development.

The changing environment in which the NSS operates imposes the need for transformation and modernisation in order to make effective use of the potential of innovative technologies in a rapidly changing data ecosystem. This data ecosystem is characterised by multiple data sources and related private data owners (holders).

This requires the NSS to clearly formulate strategic guidelines for integrating and modernising statistical production processes. The main focus of modernisation is to increase the capacity of the statistical authorities to effectively and efficiently meet the growing demand for statistical information, as well as to apply a flexible approach to new data requirements that cannot be foreseen.

Considering that producers of official statistical information differ significantly in terms of human, financial and infrastructure levels of maturity or development, the NSS should:

- produce and provide statistical information on the state and trends in the development of the economy, social areas, demography and the environment, while respecting the European Statistics Code of Practice and the Fundamental Principles of Official UN Statistics;
- works in collaboration to expand the possibilities for the re-use and exchange of data;
- make technological development a priority at all stages of the statistical production process;
- strengthen communication and consultations with users in order to understand needs and, where possible, meet their needs for new data at regional, national and global levels.

Over the next seven years, the legislative framework will need to be updated in order for the NSS to take the opportunity to access new sources of primary data and enrich the data produced. At the same time, the realisation of this potential requires expanding partnerships and introducing the latest technologies that are changing society and the economy.

The possibilities for intentional or accidental misuse of statistics (generating fake news) are increasing and the need for regulatory regulation, analysis and timely response by the NSS is of utmost importance. In order to counter the misuse of statistics, the NSS must work on common rules and provide statistical products and services that ensure clarity and consistency and facilitate answers to questions asked by stakeholders.

Justifications based on official statistics that do not depend on political influence and business interests are a cornerstone of a democratic society. Statistics allow for better formulation and evaluation of public policies, help decision-makers to make choices and allow society to hold them accountable. The NSS guarantees for official statistics through:

- **legal competence** - Law on statistics and other normative documents regulating statistical activity;
- **guiding** principles covering the institutional environment, statistical processes and statistical products;
- **the ability to** unite all participants in the production of statistics;
- **safe and secure access to data;**
- **development and implementation of innovative solutions in** the production process;
- **the practice of data ethics in order** to preserve and justify the public's trust.

III. GUIDING PRINCIPLES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY

In achieving the strategic and operational goals, as well as in carrying out the specific activities over the next seven years, the NSS will consistently be guided by both the Fundamental Principles of Official UN Statistics and the European Statistics Code of Practice, as well as the following principles of key importance for the implementation of this strategy:¹²

- **Reliability and high quality** - production of information products and services of high quality, based on impartiality, expertise, traditions and experience;

¹ [Fundamental principles of official UN statistics.](#)

² [European Statistics Code of Practice.](#)

- **Innovation** - a targeted approach in the search and application of innovative technologies, methods, data sources and policies for the overall management of the statistical production process;
- **Adaptability to emergency needs** - foresight and strategic planning in the implementation of activities necessary to respond to emergencies and crisis requiring information security ;
- **Openness to collaborations** - inclusion and promotion of partnerships with the academic and international community, business and all stakeholders in the production of statistical information;
- **Sustainability in development** - governance based on the understanding of the need for perseverance and equality in processes that increase the capacity of the members of the NSS to meet their common strategic goals;
- **Proactivity in actions - strengthening** the leading role of the NSS in achieving the goals and sustainable development of official statistics in the Republic of Bulgaria.

IV. STRATEGIC GOALS

Goal 1: Modern and effective National Statistical System

Bulgaria's NSS strives to produce statistical information effectively following good practices, using already available data sources as well as modern methods. The process of modernising the NSS requires:

- **Providing conditions and resources for the sustainable and modern development of the NSS to create effective management and expert capacity to ensure the production of objective, timely and reliable statistical information** on economic, social and demographic development and the environment at a national and regional level;
- **Updating the legal framework that regulates the statistical activity** and ensuring the opportunities for providing official statistics that meet the needs of all stakeholders and relevant national and international strategies and initiatives;
- **Development and implementation of new methods and technologies** in the production and dissemination of the results of statistical surveys for improving the quality of statistical products and services;
- **Use more administrative and new data sources** to improve statistical production and optimise the public resources used.

Goal 2: High quality and confidence in official statistics

The NSS strives to provide high-quality, comprehensive and reliable statistical information that is internationally recognisable, accessible and understandable to the general public. As a result of the experience gained and the long history in the performance of this function, the NSS has built high levels of trust from users and its national and international partners. Maintaining and increasing this confidence in official statistics can be achieved by:

- **Strengthening communication with stakeholders in setting the priorities on the public agenda;**
- **Inclusion and active participation of the public** in the planning and evaluation of the processes managing the statistical activity in the country;

- **Open quality management by enabling feedback and communication with stakeholders regarding the NSS quality management system. This will increase the value of the statistics provided, improve consistency and highlight important data gaps** wherever they exist.

Goal 3: Transition from statistics to value-added statistics

Transforming data into value-added information is a major challenge for the NSS, both because of the rapidly changing communication culture of our society and the diverse technological achievements.

A proper understanding of statistical information requires a constant drive to modernise approaches to the presentation of the data and the results of statistical surveys. The data alone does not carry information content until it is enriched with contextual information - metadata, methodology, analytical interpretation and connectivity with other statistics (linked data). To this end, the NSS should continue to actively ensure:

- **Modern and effective communication** with all participants in the life cycle of statistical production;
- **New, consumer-oriented statistical products and services** that correspond to current trends in the presentation and publication of statistical information;
- **Easily accessible and understandable statistics** allowing wider use by non-specialists (citizens, students, etc.);
- **Conditions for active participation of the media** in the presentation and promotion of statistical information, exchange of knowledge and experience, as well as measures to combat fake news.

Goal 4: Active cooperation with national and international partners

Cooperation at a national and international level is a key prerequisite that enables the NSS to address the challenges and objectives set out in the Strategy in a way that is as effective and results-oriented as possible. Active cooperation in response to this task requires:

- **Promoting partnerships at national level with administrative data owners and private data subjects - a prerequisite for the inclusion of new data sources**, reducing the burden on respondents and the public resource used;
- **Extension of international cooperation within the European Statistical System, the European System of Central Banks, Research and Academia and with international institutions and organisations - the United Nations, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Organisation for the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, etc.;**
- **Improving the scope of agreements and partnerships to build a sustainable exchange of statistical information, experience and knowledge at a national and international level. Cooperation with the Western Balkan countries and the Eastern Partnership of the European Neighbourhood Policy is of strategic importance.**

V. PRIORITIES

The priorities of the Strategy identify the key areas in the implementation of the strategic goals of the NSS. The five priorities **defined (priority themes)** have been selected in line with the themes of focus on the global agenda over the next decade. The selected topics cover a large part of the statistical areas in the NSS portfolio and are crucial in planning new or modernising ongoing research.

Priority 1: Prosperity and living standards of the population

Priority 2: Economic and social development

Priority 3: Migration

Priority 4: Environment and climate change

Priority 5: Sustainable Development 2030

VI. OPERATIONAL GOALS

Specific operational goals that are directly linked to the strategic goals are defined to implement the Strategy.

Operational goal 1.1. Modernisation of the NSS

Modernising the NSS and the ways of its functioning and interaction with society and stakeholders is an inevitable element of strategic planning for the duration of this strategy. This key goal should be achieved by:

- 1.1.1. Securing and optimising resource management to increase the administrative capacity of the NSS.
- 1.1.2. Improving the information infrastructure of the NSS and modernizing the organization and functioning of the NSI as a leading institution in the NSS.

Operational goal 1.2. Modernization of the production process

Modernising the production process requires expanding the scope of the statistical products and services produced using modern ICT technologies and reducing the disparities in the progress of individual statistics bodies. The operational goal should be achieved by:

- 1.2.1. Extension of the integrated approach in managing the different phases of the production statistical process within the NSS - implementation and harmonization of management, security and quality systems in the production of statistics in all bodies of statistics.
- 1.2.2. Updating the methods for collecting, processing and disseminating statistical information - use of new sources of information and technologies in all phases of the statistical production process.
- 1.2.3. Digitization and interoperability - implementation of web-based or combined data collection methods (CAPI, CAWI, CATI) in household and enterprise surveys by 2027, increasing research

based on administrative sources and interoperability of internal and external sources and information systems used for the production of information.

Operational goal 1.3. Modernisation of the regulatory framework (regulatory framework)

Official statistical information shall be collected, produced and disseminated under the national and pan-European legislation. The legal basis is a corrective for both the NSS and the public in compliance with all socially significant commitments by the participants in the process of providing statistical information. The operational goal should be achieved by:

1.3.1. Updating the legal basis of the NSS - revision and update of the legal basis governing the statistical activity of the Republic of Bulgaria carried out by the NSS:

- Amendment of the Law on Statistics;
- Regulation of relations with private data owners;
- Preparation of new strategic and interinstitutional legal documents to support the modernization processes of the NSS.

1.3.2. Ensuring the necessary legal certainty when implementing the statistical ecosystem by the established legal and ethical principles within the EU. Building trust by creating a regulatory framework for the development and application of reliable statistical products and services using new technologies.

Operational goal 2.1. Quality, innovation and security

Realising the benefits of the data revolution and moving towards reliable smart statistics in line with the priorities of the European Statistical Programme 2021-2027 and with the growing information needs of stakeholders. The operational goal should be achieved by:

2.1.1. Improving the methodological basis related to the quality of the statistical information produced - strengthening analyses to assess the quality of the studies in terms of adequacy, scope, timeliness, comparability, etc.

2.1.2. Extension of the areas of application of European standards for quality and management of statistical processes - increasing the scope of users of generally accepted standards (GSIM, GSBPM, GAMSQ, etc.) and the areas of application of harmonised production of quality statistical information.

2.1.3. Implementation of new approaches for the production of statistical information - new means and tools for the production and integration of statistical products and services tailored to good practices in the International Statistical System. Cooperation with the academic community in the use of big data, spatial data, smart statistics, microdata reuse, experimental statistics, etc.

2.1.4. Security of information - development of the infrastructure for the protection of personal data, strict compliance with statistical secrecy and measures for the protection of sensitive and confidential information. Maintenance of an integrated system for the management and updating of information quality and security certificates in the NSS.

Operational goal 3.1. Clear communication and cooperation with stakeholders

The NSS plays a key role in cooperation with all stakeholders by creating sustainable and open communication between them to extend the scope of the statistical information produced, ensure easy access to statistics and enhance the statistical culture in society. Nowadays it is not enough just to provide statistical information, it is also necessary to show the advantages of official statistics in the highly competitive data environment. The operational goal should be ensured by:

3.1.1. Involving all stakeholders in the process of improving the Communication strategy of the NSS.

Cooperation with respondents, users holding administrative sources, other producers of statistical information, the scientific community, in order to obtain better feedback on the products and services provided by the NSS.

3.1.2. Improving the statistical literacy of different stakeholder groups.

The NSS plays an important role in enhancing the statistical culture of society and ensures that the statistics produced are understandable and applicable in decision-making.

3.1.3. Building sustainable communication with stakeholders.

Over the past decade, the way statistical products and services have been used has changed. In order to meet new needs, the NSS needs to adapt data dissemination and make efforts to build direct communication channels with different user groups, including with an increased social media presence.

3.1.4. Unleashing the potential of statistics as a raw material for the development of expert systems.

To adequately meet the increased demand for official statistics, the NSS must make the data accessible using innovative technological solutions.

The dissemination of statistics in a well-structured, machine-readable format enables them to be used directly by artificial intelligence systems – for simulations, data visualizations and expert systems for algorithmic decision-making.

This will enable high value-added products and services to be created for the benefit of citizens, businesses, the public sector and academia, as well as enabling better decisions to be made.

Attention is focused on efficiency in the use of data spaces (sharing architectures, exchange standards, best practices and tools, governance and enrichment mechanisms and achieving interoperability of data and information systems).

Operational goal 3.2. Ensuring national, European and global statistical information needs

The operational goal should ensure the timely, impartial and cost-effective production and dissemination of high-quality statistics in accordance with the quality criteria by:

3.2.1. Extension of the statistical information produced to monitor the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

The Sustainable Development Goals are a key element in the pan-European and global vision of sustainable development, which in turn implies active participation of all countries and institutions at a national level in their recognition and transposition of the policies in the near future. The NSS, as the leading body responsible for official statistics in the Republic of Bulgaria, should play a key role in the

coming years in supporting the processes of providing reliable and sufficiently rich information for assessing our country's progress in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

3.2.2. Covering national, pan-European and other international statistical needs to track the development and well-being of the country - The NSS plays a key role in providing statistical information for monitoring national and European strategies, programmes and policies. Many of the national strategy papers expire by 2025. Their updates will lead to the need for the provision of new statistical information, as well as to the active participation of the NSS in the development and coordination of all these documents.

At the same time, the NSS is an important partner of the ESS and the structures of the EU, the OECD, the UN, in the process of coordination in order to meet the information needs of the Common European Economic Indicators (PEEIs); the European Green Deal, the development of European Environmental Economic Accounts; Stability and Growth Pact; Europe 2030; the Procedure for Bulgaria's accession to the euro area; The UN Disaster Risk Reduction Framework 2015 - 2030 (SENDAI) and others.

3.2.3. Providing easy access to statistics for all – providing easy and fast access to statistics and services for all users by increasing the number of services and products that are provided free of charge; increasing the share of open data that makes it easier for users and saves them time; providing access to anonymised statistics (e.g. by building a “save centre”, etc.) for scientific purposes.

3.2.4. Policy development and provision of conditions for spatial data management – improving conditions and definition of a modern spatial data management policy and integrating it with statistical information is a key factor in meeting many of the goals set out in the Strategy. The potential of georeferenced statistical information should be deployed to meet the needs of comprehensive analytical information for decision-making at local, European and global level.

Operational goal 4.1. Expanding national and international cooperation

Cooperation at a national and international level ensures the achievement of the goals set out in the Strategy, using rationally the achievements and resources of the statistical community. The operational goal should be achieved by:

4.1.1. Establishing strong and sustainable links between NSS bodies and expanding the "statistical family" - providing opportunities to reduce the disparity in progress between the members of the NSS with regard to the sustainable development of statistical activity. Inclusion in the NSS of new members who have the potential and capacity to enrich the production of quality statistics.

4.1.2. Active participation in decision-making and joint projects within the European Statistical System – strengthening Bulgaria's contribution to the development of the strategic vision for the development of European statistics, in the preparation of regulations related to statistics, and in finding solutions to problems and achieving goals that directly affect the improvement of the quality of the data produced – e.g. access to data owned by private legal entities, new approaches, methods and data sources, etc.

4.1.3. Strengthening cooperation with international organizations with established structures and authority in the field of statistics (United Nations Economic Commission, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, World Bank, etc.). Active participation in international statistical forums and initiatives aims through the exchange of experience and information for the NSS to "keep

up the pace" with the latest trends in the field of statistics. Strengthening cooperation in the future is a guarantee for the development of the NSS and increased confidence in official statistics.

4.1.4. Strengthening the NSI as the leading statistical institution in implementing the ESS good practices in cooperation with the countries of the Black Sea region, the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership countries of the EU by extending the scope of agreements, initiatives and exchanges of experience to support institutional building and harmonisation with European standards.

VII. ACTIVITIES TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS

The strategy for the development of the National Statistical System of the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2021 - 2027 is a framework document that defines the vision, strategic goals, principles, priorities and operational goals for the development of the NSS. Their specific activities will be detailed in annual operational plans.

Model of the operational plan by year:

Activities	Institution	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Operational goal 1.1: Modernisation of the NSS								
1.1.1. Optimising resource management to increase administrative capacity								
<i>Activity 1</i>								

VIII. EXPECTED RESULTS AND MONITORING

1. Expected results

The results of the implementation of the main activities of the NSI consist in providing statistical information and meeting the information needs of consumers at both national and European and international level. The NSI works towards reducing the workload of the respondents and increasing the quality and efficiency of the statistical activity by implementing new information and communication technologies in the production and dissemination of statistical information.

2. Monitoring (monitoring process and indicators)³

A monitoring system has been developed to monitor progress of the implementation of the Strategy. Five groups of indicators are included: resources, products/services, impact assessment, efficiency, European and international cooperation. Information on these indicators, the so-called statistics shall be presented annually on the basis of the activities set out in the annual operational plans.

The NSS should prepare at least one interim report on the implementation of the Strategy (mid-term) and the final implementation report no later than six months after the expiry of the Strategy's period.

The reports on the implementation of the Strategy shall be submitted for discussion to the National Statistical Council.

3. APPLICATIONS

1. Brief report on the implementation of the Strategy for Development of the NSS 2013 - 2017, as amended by extension to 2020
2. Fundamental principles of official UN statistics
3. Principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice
4. Operational plan by year for achieving the Strategy goals.

³ They will be precisely formulated after specifying the activities with the NSS authorities.

Annex 1. Brief report on the implementation of the Strategy for Development of the NSS 2013 - 2017, as amended by extension to 2020

The main goal in the development of the NSS was to improve the development, production and dissemination of quality statistical information for all groups of users according to their information needs by improving the institutional capacity of the system and accelerating the implementation of modern information and communication technologies in the conditions of the full membership of the Republic of Bulgaria in the EU.

The main goals of the implementation of the Strategy were:

- providing objective, timely and reliable statistical information on economic, social and demographic development and the environment at a national and regional level.
- introduction of new data sources and means for improving the production and quality of statistical products and services.
- building up the professional and organizational capacity of the NSI and the bodies of statistics.
- implementation of innovative and effective information and communication technologies and e-services.
- harmonization of the collected data and adoption of common data quality standards, which will enable the connection of various business, social and macroeconomic statistics, will further increase the value of the collected information and will expand its use.

The general horizontal priorities in the development of the NSS for the period 2013-2020 were:

- providing statistical indicators for the development, monitoring and evaluation of European, national and regional policies.
- updating existing and developing indicators for the study of new phenomena and processes.
- extending the scope of the statistical products and services provided and enhancing communication with consumers.
- creating conditions for the production and integration of spatial (georeferenced) information with statistical data.
- preparation for the Population and Housing Census 2021.
- building and maintaining the level of administrative capacity to implement Eurostat's data requirements in the field of national accounts.
- use of administrative registers and information systems for statistical purposes.
- use of innovative ICT and primary data collection tools.
- implementation of a systematic approach to quality management and control in the NSI and the bodies of statistics.
- creating a motivating working environment and developing the professional capacity of the employees in the NSI and the bodies of statistics.
- adapting the organisation of work in the NSI and the bodies of statistics to new information and communication technologies.
- collaboration and partnership between the NSI institutions and the bodies of statistics and consumers.
- establishment of the NSI and the bodies of statistics as an active member of the European Statistical System and the international statistical community.
- active interaction with the academic community in the development of new statistical methods, products and services.

- development of information systems and e-services in order to reduce the workload of the respondents, increase the quality of statistical information and improve the methods for its dissemination.
- implementation of single European IT tools, products and standards with a view to ensuring conditions for the integration and harmonisation of the statistical production process within the ESS.
- increasing the efficiency and allocation of resources in the data centre by implementing best practices and technologies for infrastructure management.
- development and renewal of server and communication infrastructure and personal equipment in order to ensure the development of ICT and the provision of new services.

For the first time in 2013 the NSI:

- on 1 January 2013, Bulgaria became a full member of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC).
- participated at national and regional level with a variety of initiatives in the Global Initiative "International Year of Statistics" organized for the first time by the United Nations.
- hosted the Sixth Annual Conference of the European Geostatistics Forum (GEOSTAT) held from 23 to 25 October 2013 in Sofia, with the participation of representatives of Eurostat and the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission and experts from 26 countries.
- conducted quarterly surveys on the prices of overhauls and improvements of dwellings as part of the pilot project to include owner-occupied housing in the harmonised consumer price index.
- developed quarterly producer price indices for section 63 "Other information services" pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1158/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council published and sent to Eurostat.
- conducted an additional module "Accidents at work and other work-related health problems" to the Labour Force Survey.
- carried out an additional module "Well-being" to the survey "Statistics on income and living conditions" under Commission Regulation (EU) No 62/2012.
- prepared data on deaths by causes and stillbirths for the 2011 year in accordance with Commission Regulation (EU) No 328/2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on public health and health and safety at work prepared and sent to Eurostat.
- prepared data on the causes of deaths with their four-digit rubrics collected and processed jointly with the Directorates for Medical Activities in Regional Health Inspections (RSI).
- prepared data on agricultural land market prices and agricultural rent payments under the project "System for collecting data on agricultural land prices and rents in accordance with the common methodology" under a subsidy contract with Eurostat.
- provided data on the first set of modules of Regulation (EU) No 691/2011 on European environmental accounts (2008 - 2011 reference years): air emissions accounts, material flows accounts in the economy, environmental taxes and charges by economic activity.
- prepared monthly data on the country's current emergencies and commercial stocks of oil and petroleum products in accordance with the changes in the European legislation and the Oil and Petroleum Stocks Act.
- prepared data on the environmental resources spent, derived from subsidies, aid and donations collected by reference to the Annual Report of non-financial enterprises, budgetary enterprises and banks.

- prepared 2012 data on R&D expenditure financed from abroad by categories of foreign sources of funding and on budgetary expenditure on transnationally coordinated research in accordance with Commission Regulation (EU) No 995/2012.
- developed web-based applications for the introduction and control of data on the following surveys and registers: "Investment activity in the industry - March 2013", "Tourist trips and tourism costs of the population", Connection of microdata on international sourcing and global value chains with other statistical databases - under the EC project, "Prices of goods and services for current consumption in agriculture" - 4 web-based survey cards "Mineral fertilizers", "Seed and propagating material", "Veterinary medicinal products" and "Feed" and register of units covered by the institutional sector "General government".
- developed a methodology, toolbox and terms of reference for inclusion in the Annual Report of non-financial corporations drawing up a balance sheet of a new report on sales revenues by product type in wholesale trade, excluding trade in motor vehicles and motorcycles, in order to ensure compliance with the requirements of Commission Regulation (EC) No 251/2009 in the multi-annual research section.
- developed a methodology, toolkit and terms of reference for inclusion in the Information System "Short-term business statistics" of the new observations - "Producer prices for section 80", "Security and investigation activities" and "Producer prices for overhauls and improvements of dwellings and residential buildings".
- introduced the new standardised metadata reporting format for the Labour Force Survey and statistics on employment and vacancies.
- implemented a virtualization environment that ensured server consolidation in a common environment, ensured data storage security and enabled general server management and control.
- implemented the detailed Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (EDICOP) in the construction of consumer price indices.
- implemented the use of electronic devices (tablets) in the registration of consumer prices for the introduction and validation of primary information.
- compiled an inventory of the sources and methods of the harmonized consumer price indices produced by the Republic of Bulgaria.
- conducted a study on the experience of EU countries in the development and use of an electronic diary in the Household Budget Survey.
- implemented accelerated deployment of new ICT and integration of IT activities. In 2013, for the first time, real-time data collection applications were put into operational mode by respondents involved in surveys on producer prices in agriculture, the prices of investments used for current consumption in agriculture and the Annual Report of forestry Enterprises.
- improved the storage and dissemination of statistical information. Data from the survey on agricultural land prices and rents in agriculture are published on the NSI website in accordance with the target methodology adopted by Eurostat.
- improved interaction in the National Statistical System. Updated the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the National Statistical Institute in 1999 and updated the Cooperation and Strategic Partnership Agreement on the exchange of information between the two institutions, signed in 2003.

For the first time in 2014 the NSI:

- conducted a survey on "Study of Educational Mobility", interviewing about 30 000 persons aged between 18 and 34 years of age.

- conducted a marketing survey on consumer satisfaction of statistical information and services in the field of household income, expenditure and consumption statistics (Household Budget Survey) simultaneously with all countries of the European Union.
- prepared data on deaths by causes for the period 2005 - 2013 according to a new harmonised list for 86 reasons, developed by Eurostat and used for international comparisons.
- prepared data on crime and criminal justice under the jointly developed questionnaire of Eurostat and the UN Office for Combating Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
- carried out a quarterly survey for the calculation of producer price indices for section 80 "Security and investigation activities" under the Regulation (EC) No 1158/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council.
- prepared data on the consumption of energy products by type of use - for heating and cooling of dwellings, for heating water, for cooking, for lighting fixtures and electrical appliances, other types of final consumption.
- prepared data on transfer passengers collected and processed jointly with the Directorate-General for Civil Aviation Administration and provided to Eurostat.
- carried out a survey on the price of agricultural land and rent according to Eurostat common methodology.
- accelerated deployment of new ICT and integration of IT activities. An electronic questionnaire has been developed to provide information from the respondents participating in the quarterly survey on economic accounts for agriculture.
- improved the storage and dissemination of statistical information. In 2014, the NSI website updated the metadata on economic accounts and prices and price indices in agriculture as required by Eurostat.
- carried out an additional module "The situation of migrants and their direct descendants on the labour market" to the Labour Force Survey carried out throughout 2014 under Commission Regulation (EC) No 102/2007.
- carried out an additional module "Material deprivation" to the survey "Statistics on income and living conditions" under Commission Regulation (EU) No 112/2013.
- revised the data in the field of national accounts: quarterly data for the first quarter 1995 - second quarter 2014 and annual data for the period 1995 - 2013 based on the European System of Accounts 2010, Regulation (EU) No 549/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council.
- improved the new COICOP classification in the practice of non-financial national accounts.
- developed terms of reference for the introduction of electronic forms in the Monitoring of Household Budgets.
- started introducing and reporting the received declarations with data on foreign trade of Bulgaria based on the Single Authorisation for Simplified Procedures.
- developed experimentally express estimates of GDP 30 days after the end of the reporting period.
- developed "Concept of research in the NSI".
- develop a methodology, toolkit and terms of reference for the inclusion in the Information System "Short-term business statistics" of a new survey of producer prices for section 73 "Advertising and market research".
- reported cogeneration of electricity and heat through new tables requiring more detailed information on the types of combined equipment, as required by Directive 2012/27/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on energy efficiency.

- implemented into regular operation two automated workplaces through which the core of the Single Information System for Countering Crime is connected, maintained in the Administration of the Prosecutor General.
- prepared and report to Eurostat the data on the indicator "Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption" with a new electronic questionnaire
- provided Eurostat with the new standardised format for reporting national metadata all indicators from short-term business statistics through the general National Reference Metadata Editor (NRME).
- implemented the SDMX standard for the provision of data in the field of national accounts.
- published magazine "Statistics" in electronic format on disk and online on its website.
- created new initiatives: "European System of National and Regional Accounts 2010", "Monthly fiscal deficit/surplus data according to Council Directive 2011/85/EU", "Population grid, 1 sq.m. Km, Census 2011".
- Developed, in order to facilitate and speed up the work with respondents, web-based applications for the introduction and control of research data European Health Interview and Research on the Financial Assets and Liabilities of Non-Financial Enterprises.
- compiled the metadata and inventory of the sources and methods of the house price indices produced by the Republic of Bulgaria.

For the first time in 2015 the NSI:

- carried out a four-year study "Monitoring the structure of salaries" as required by Council Regulation (EC) No 530/1999 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1738/2005.
- carried out a survey "Consumption of energy products in households" to collect information on the energy products consumed by type of use by households.
- conducted a quarterly survey on house prices and house prices occupied by their owners.
- conducted a quarterly survey on the price of a producer in forestry, with calculated quarterly average prices and production price indices in the forestry of Lasperov type.
- reduced the workload of respondents. The need to carry out two of the observations included in the NSP ('Farm Income and Expenditure Report' and 'Forestry, Logging and Related Services Products') has been revised, as the provision of information by respondents is labour intensive and resource-intensive. This negatively affects the quality of the data, so new monitoring is introduced - "Producer prices in forestry", methodology, which replaces one of the dropping observations.
- improve the quality of statistical information. A review of the compliance of the methodology of observations providing information for the development of economic accounts in agriculture with changes in the ESC 2010 has been undertaken and changes have been made to the statistical toolkit of observations.
- accelerated deployment of new ICT and integration of IT activities. Respondents involved in the survey on producer prices in forestry and the Annual Farm Report were allowed to provide real-time information.
- conducted a quarterly survey of producer prices for "Architectural and engineering activities; (section 71 of NACE.bg 2008) under the Regulation (EC) No 1158/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council.
- implemented a Health Accounts System, 2011.
- developed and implemented a Quality Management System according to ISO 9001:2008 for electronic services.

- provided respondents with the opportunity to electronically enter the annual report of insurers, investment enterprises, pension insurance companies and pension funds in real-time in the Information System "Business Statistics".
- reassessed all major macroeconomic indicators (CIP) on the basis of improvements introduced in the work on the Bulgarian national accounts and withdrawal of reserves from the European Commission (EC) for the period 1995 - 2014
- implemented methods in estimates of gross domestic product (GDP) and gross national income (GNI) concerning relevant reserves placed by the European Commission: income in kind related to rail transport services; VAT fraud; a stratification method and method for calculating intermediate consumption used in the assessment of contingent and actual rents of dwellings; a constant inventory method for the consumption of fixed capital; evaluation of the originals from entertainment, literary and artistic works.
- implemented methodological improvements in GDP and GNI estimates: improving the assessment of capitalisation of research and development costs; improving assessments for the distribution of insurance services; improving estimates for reinvestment of foreign direct investment - holding gains and losses; improving evaluations of mutual funds; assessments of employee compensation from and abroad.
- prepared Eurostat data on deaths and stillbirths for 2013 at the level of the fourth sign of the International Classification of Diseases, X revision, under Commission Regulation (EU) No 328/2011 as regards statistics on the causes of death.
- produced data on quarterly house price indices for the change in market prices of new and existing dwellings under Commission Regulation (EU) No 93/2013.
- published and sent to Eurostat quarterly producer price indices for "Advertising and Market Research".
- developed and provided Eurostat with a variety of information on day travel under Regulation (EU) No 692/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European tourism statistics.
- provided Eurostat with quarterly and annual data on maritime transport according to the new SDMX format for sending data, with Bulgaria being the first country to provide data in this format.
- sent to Eurostat annual data in the field of river transport for: A4 data series, goods transported by port of loading and unloading; A5 data series, goods transported by region of loading and unloading and type of transport according to the nomenclature for types of transport; Extended data series A1, transported goods by region of loading and unloading and type of cargo carried at 3-digit code according to the single nomenclature of goods NST 2007.
- conducted testing in the field of external trade statistics for the exchange of microdata between 20 Member States. The exchange of export data within the European Union (EU) was carried out under Eurostat SIMSTAT1 ESSnet project.
- successfully completed project "Development of information system "Register of groups of enterprises" as an integral part of the Information System "Register of Statistical Units"
- publishes the digital collections "Population Census in the Kingdom of Bulgaria on December 31, 1926", "Statistics of Foreign Trade of Bulgaria" for the period 1880 - 2009 and "Household Budgets" for the 1925 - 2010 period.
- applied a pilot combined method of data collection in the surveys "Statistics on income and living conditions" - paper questionnaires (PAPI) and electronic devices (CAPI) and "Monitoring of household budgets" - paper (PAPI) and online questionnaires (CAWI).
- gathered information in the Survey of Household Budgets on the type of outlets from which households shop and availability of cash when purchasing goods and services.

For the first time in 2016 the NSI:

- conducted a quarterly survey of producer prices for “Legal and accounting activities; management consultancy activities” (Section 69 and Group 70.2 of NACE.BG 2008) under Regulation (EC) No 1158/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council.
- prepared quarterly producer price indices for “Architectural and engineering activities; technical tests and analyses” (section 71 of NACE.BG 2008), and the data were published and sent to Eurostat.
- carried out a sample survey in households on the topic "Survey on Adult Education and Training" (AES2016) as required by Regulation (EU) No 1175/2014 of the European Commission.
- carried out a sample survey in enterprises on "Monitoring the continuing vocational training of employees" (CVTS5) as required by Regulation (EU) No 1153/2014 of the European Commission.
- conducted an additional module "Entry of young people into the labour market" to the Labour Force Survey.
- provided Eurostat with data on credit student mobility under Regulation (EU) No 912/2013 of the European Commission.
- sent Eurostat data and metadata on the Health Accounts System under Regulation (EU) No 359/2015 of the European Commission concerning statistics on the costs and financing of healthcare.
- published ethnic poverty indicators, including poverty assessments from the Survey "Statistics on Income and Living Conditions 2015", in response to the growing need for information on households by ethnicity.
- sent to Eurostat GDP data developed 30 days after the end of the reporting period.
- reassessed all the main macroeconomic indicators based on improvements introduced in the work on the Bulgarian national accounts for the period 1995 - 2015.
- implemented in the estimates of GDP and GNI methodological improvements concerning the last reserve placed by the European Commission - implementation of the constant inventory method in calculating fixed capital consumption for non-market producers.
- enabled respondents (non-financial enterprises, insurers, investment enterprises and pension insurance companies) to enter electronically the consolidated annual reports on their activity in real time in the Information System "Business Statistics".
- started collection of additional set of data on gas and electricity price subcomponents, in particular network and tax-based price components, has begun to be collected.
- provided Eurostat with data on the Physical Energy Flow Accounts Questionnaire on a voluntary basis.
- started mandatory reporting of energy consumption in households by type of use as required by Regulation No 431/2014 on the production of annual statistics on energy consumption in households
- participated in the preparation of Eurostat's survey of the administrative burden of Intrastat operators: current state and potential alternatives to Intrastat.
- published press releases with regional statistics.
- published regional data on quarterly house price indices by statistical regions and for the six cities in Bulgaria with a population of over 120 000 inhabitants.

- developed the economic activity classification (CPAD - 2015) nomenclatures providing the connection of repair, installation, rental and three types of trade in manufactured products.
- started the provision of data and metadata according to the IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standard "Plus" (SDDS Plus) after the accession of Bulgaria (from 31 May 2016) to the new Statistical Standard of the International Monetary Fund.
- implemented the new version of the Classification of Fields of Education and Training (CFET - 2015) for the purposes of education statistics.
- started work on a project related to the methodology of collection, processing and sharing of "big data" with official statistics.
- developed a national common model of the statistical business process based on GSBPM1 ver. 5.0, published on the NSI website.
- developed and implement the Information System "Tourism" with two subsystems "Accommodation" and "Travel" as the main tool for collecting online monthly statistical information from statistical surveys in the field of tourism.
- developed and implement the Information System "House Prices" for online collection and processing of quarterly information by companies and institutions selling household housing.
- improved the processes for calculating house price indices with the introduction of regression models.
- developed and implemented the Information System "Automatic Consolidation of Business Indicators" to consolidate information on certain groups of enterprises and facilitate the application of the statistical unit "group of enterprises" at a national level.
- started work on the establishment of the Information System "Macroeconomic Statistics - Financial Statistics and Non-Financial National Accounts.

For the first time in 2017 NSI:

- developed information system "Macroeconomic statistics - financial statistics and non-financial national accounts".
- developed and implement a web-based application "Medical and Health Institutions" in order to facilitate the respondents and increase the quality of the statistical information collected.
- Table 29 of the ESC 2010 for currently accrued pension rights with data for 2015 was provided to Eurostat.
- prepared data on financial national accounts for the period 1995-2000 pursuant to derogations submitted to Eurostat.
- prepared preliminary data on energy balance sheets for 2016, reported on a voluntary basis, needed by the European Commission's DG Energy to prepare a report on the state of the Energy Union.
- prepared data on gas and electricity prices for household and final non-household customers for the first half of 2017, as required by the new Regulation 2016/1952 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European statistics on gas and electricity prices provided to Eurostat.
- provided data under the second set of modules of Regulation (EU) No 691/2011 on environmental economic accounts (2014 and 2015 reference years): the accounts for environmental goods and services - the accounts for environmental costs and the accounts for physical energy flows.
- prepared experimental data on physical water flow accounts (2012, 2013 and 2014), which are part of the planned next group of modules of Regulation (EU) No 691/2011 on economic accounts for the environment and have been reported to Eurostat.
- prepared a second series of experimental data on food waste reported to Eurostat.

- prepared quarterly producer price indices for “Legal and accounting activities; management consultancy activities” (Section 69 and Group 70.2 of the Classification of Economic Activities (NACE.BG 2008) under Regulation (EC) No 1158/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council published and sent to Eurostat.
- published the results of the two extraordinary sample surveys in households and enterprises, respectively "Survey of adult education and training" and "Monitoring of continuing vocational training of employees.
- conducted a pilot study on the provision of access and the use of scanned data as a source for the calculation of consumer price indices.
- carried out a pilot study on improving the internal coherence of weights and constructing weights for household internet purchases.
- expanded the scope and implement detailed weights in the construction and production of consumer price indices of financial services.
- improved the quality of statistical information. Following the Recommendations of the European Court of Auditors on improving the quality and extension of economic accounts for agriculture, a detailed inventory has been developed for the compilation of accounts according to the reporting model prepared by Eurostat.
- achieved more effective interaction in the National Statistical System. The Cooperation and Strategic Partnership Agreement for the exchange of information between the Ministry of Health and the NSI has been updated.

For the first time in 2018 the NSI:

- held an informal meeting of the heads of the statistical services of the Balkan countries - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, the Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, where the topic of the resumption of activity of the Association of Balkan Statisticians was discussed.
- presented table 29 of the ESC 2010 for currently accrued pension rights with data for 2015, as well as methodology and metadata to the table provided for user use as a new section of the NSI website.
- participated in DG “Energy” target study on gas and electricity price components for household and final non-household customers for 2016 and 2017, pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/1952 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European gas and electricity price statistics.
- reported on the data of the new regional heating and cooling systems statistical survey and the updated study "Combined facilities for electricity and heat" in compliance with the requirements of Directive 2012/27/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on energy efficiency.
- developed the energy balances under a new structure under the amended requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1099/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on energy sector statistics. As a result, for the first time report updated and supplemented data for five-year Eurostat/MEA/UN questionnaires on energy statistics.
- published on the NSI website data on producer prices and production price indices in forestry for the 2015 - 2018 period.
- improved the quality of statistical information. Prepared and sent to Eurostat a report on the quality of data on economic accounts for agriculture according to the structure of ESQRS and harmonized under the requirements of the Common Methodology for the Price of Agricultural Land and Rent in the EU adopted by Eurostat in February 2017.

- prepared opinions on the content of the second Framework Regulation on Agricultural Investment and Production Statistics (SAIO).
- improved the storage and dissemination of statistical information. Metadata on the monitoring of producer prices in forestry has been published on the NSI website, the list of statistical indicators for which information is published has been extended, including data on prices and producer price indices in forestry and published metadata for monitoring agricultural land prices and rents in agriculture.
- achieved more effective interaction in the National Statistical System. For the first time, a Cooperation and Strategic Partnership Agreement was signed in the exchange of information between the Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture and the National Statistical Institute.
- in June and October 2018, the NSI held two training seminars on "Improving coordination and integration in the National Statistical System in the field of agricultural, forestry and fisheries statistics" and "Improving coordination and integration in the National Statistical System in the field of agricultural statistics" with the participation of representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, State Fund Agriculture, the Forestry Executive Agency, the Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency and the Executive Agency for Vine and Wine.
- applied as a method of the interview in households a web-based application for self-investigation (CAWI) during the pilot study "Violence against women and men" within the framework of an EC project.
- provided Eurostat with national data on a voluntary basis for grants from the state and international environmental institutions (2014 and 2015 reference) in implementation of Eurostat's priorities for developing new areas for the development of economic accounts for the environment.
- provided Eurostat with national data on the import and export of hazardous and non-hazardous waste for 2014, 2015 and 2016 under Regulation (EC) No 2150/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council on waste statistics.
- provided Eurostat with internal corporate transfers and seasonal workers data within migration statistics.
- started regularly sending monthly data on turnover indices and production indices in trade and services to Eurostat.
- updated the Register of Statistical Units and the Register of Groups of Enterprises.
- collected and published data on computer security, the provision of internet access and the availability of performance rooms in community centres;
- published a web-based application "Disaggregation of final energy consumption statistics in the industry".
- published the article "Women and Men in the Republic of Bulgaria 2017" in Bulgarian and English.
- developed experimental house price indices based on data from an administrative source – Property Register of the Registry Agency.
- developed and submitted to Eurostat quarterly indicators of home sales.

For the first time in 2019 the NSI:

- was accepted as an associate member of the OECD Statistics and Policies Committee and became the first Bulgarian institution to receive equal rights with the member states of the organisation.

- held for the first time a cross-border meeting between representatives of the NSI of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Statistical Office of Greece (ELSTAT), at which it was decided to sign a Memorandum of Bilateral Cooperation in the Field of Statistics, as well as a plan with activities thereto.
- implemented the "Monitorstat" IS, enabling the monitoring of the result indicators under all operational programmes for the 2014 - 2020 programming period, horizontal strategic documents, national and international programmes and policies.
- was certified for the Eurostat information security framework for the exchange of microdata.
- prepared and provided Eurostat with regional innovation data at the level of planning areas (NUTS 2).
- started to perform a monthly comparison and analysis of the declared data on arrivals and dispatches of goods with data declared under the Fiscal Control system by main sectors and groups of goods.
- prepared and sent to Eurostat a health account data quality report under Regulation (EC) No 1338/2008.
- developed and implemented a new module "Crèches" to the developed web-based application "Medical centres".
- developed and submitted to Eurostat additional tables: "Financial accounts (operations) by counter-institutional sectors, unconsolidated" and "Balance sheets of financial assets and liabilities (stocks) by counter-institutional sectors, unconsolidated", as well as their methodology for 2017 and 2018 under Regulation 549/2013.
- reported the results of the new statistical survey "Register of imports of crude oil" under Regulation (EC) No 1099/2008.
- prepared and sent reports on the quality of gas and electricity price data for household and final non-household customers for 2017 and 2018 under Regulation (EU) 2016/1952.
- provided Eurostat with experimental data at a national level on the scope and status of ecosystem accounts in physical terms, presented in tables with changes in ecosystem assets and maps with their coverage and change over time.
- implemented the Special Data and Metadata Exchange Standard (SDMX) in the field of the harmonised index of consumer prices.
- improved the composition and production of the CPI/HICP sub-indices – mobile telephones and accessories for them, computers and magazines.
- improved the quality of statistical information. The NSI was actively involved in the preparation of European legislation in the field of agricultural statistics, with opinions prepared on the content of the second Framework Regulation on Agricultural Investment and Production Statistics (SAIO) and in discussions on the development of European legislation for the reporting by the Member States of data on European accounts for forests as part of the Environmental Accounts.
- achieved more effective interaction in the National Statistical System. The NSI held a training seminar on "Improving communication and coordination in the use of administrative data for statistical purposes" with the participation of representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture.
- calculated and published quality indicators related to data revisions (absolute average revision and average revision) in industry and construction, as required by Eurostat;
- developed a common licence to use the statistical information produced and disseminated by the NSI.
- organized and held an International Statistical Poster Competition for students and students.

For the first time in 2020, the NSI:

- implemented the Special Data Transfer Standard (SDMX) in the field of innovation statistics..
- in 2020, the NSI continued to successfully use Eurostat's single entry point for the exchange of statistical data EDAMIS (Electronic Dataflow Administration and Management Information System), which ensures a secure exchange of confidential data. In October 2020, the use of EWA was suspended and the NSI switched entirely to Edamis4 for data exchange with Eurostat.
- in 2020, the NSI completed the process of integration of ISMS according to the BDS EN ISO / IEC 27001 standard and QMS according to the BDS EN ISO / IEC 9001 standard.
- in 2020, the first internal audit was carried out to meet the requirements of an Integrated Management System.
- the NSI published and updated "Data Set: United Classification of Administrative-Territorial and Territorial Units (UCATE)" in an open format of the Open Data Portal. In 2020, the NSI continued to enrich the datasets and the new national portal for the publication of open data: <https://data.egov.bg/>. Resources will be available in JSON-stat format and updated automatically.
- in 2020, the NSI, as part of the state administration, had the obligation to publish information on the Open Data Portal of the Republic of Bulgaria in an open machine-readable format allowing reuse. The NSI implemented an e-service that allows automatic publication of statistical information by IS INFOSTAT on the Open Data Portal in implementation of the Roadmap for implementation of the General e-Government Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria 2011 - 2015. The NSI also created means for automated updating and supplementation of information.
- in order to facilitate the respondents, the Support Centre assisted in technical and/or methodological problems. In 2020, the Scope of the Support Centre has been expanded. Serves users of "Business Statistics" and IS "Short-term business statistics". In 2020, the Support Centre was actively answering questions about the 2020 Trial Census.
- in 2020, a new Intranet and NSI website are built. The NSI website is not only the main channel for the free dissemination of official statistics but also provides useful and well-structured up-to-date information about the activity of the Institute in order to increase the statistical culture of users on the statistical surveys carried out by the NSI and how to use the data.
- an information site for Census 2021 available on <https://census2021.bg/>.
- in November 2020, the State Agency e-Government carried out a check on the NSI for compliance with the requirements of the Cybersecurity Act and its regulations.
- in 2020, the collection of security and event management (SIEM) information is carried out with new software solutions (Qradar and Guardium).
- *Axence nVision* software was also implemented in 2020, providing everything necessary for the protection and management of network systems and devices in the most efficient way.
- implemented request management and control system (GLPI), which guarantees timely awareness, a knowledge base for case studies, their solutions and accountability of response times.
- in 2020, started the building of IS "Environmental Statistics".
- an information system "Education" has been established.
- started the construction of a new external trade information system.

- started the construction and phased testing of the "Business Cycles" information system.
- a software update of the Business Statistics IC was performed. Electronic Web-forms for entering and editing in the online mode of the annual reports of campaign AA-2019 were developed.
- the main priority was to increase the capacity and level of reservation of information systems by using effective means of storing and restoring information systems and statistical survey data. Reliable policies were implemented to reserve databases and information system components through specialized software (COMMVAULT).
- web-scraping tools have been developed for research purposes in the NSI (prices) and real data collection has been started through these methods.
- in 2020, the construction of a disaster recovery centre started in order to ensure continuity of the NSI processes for the collection, processing and dissemination of statistical information.
- the efficiency and allocation of resources in the data centre by implementing best practices and technologies for infrastructure management was improved.
- development and renewal of server and communication infrastructure and personal equipment in order to ensure the development of ICT and the provision of new services were performed.
- started the expansion of administrative registers and information systems for statistical purposes usage.
- in 2020, new Web-based applications have been developed in connection with environmental research, living statistics, structural business statistics and demographic statistics.
- two Web-based surveys have been developed, taking into account each month the state of the business and accommodation in the covid-19 epidemic environment.
- completed and successfully implemented in permanent operation the new Web-based application SILK - "Statistics on income and living conditions".
- new applications have been developed for the Department of Environmental Statistics - industrial waste, municipal waste, waste in agriculture and packaging, environmental goods and services.
- link has been made for automatic download of data by the Registry Agency (consumption of the API by the Registry Agency).
- prepared and provided Eurostat with data on structural business statistics (SBS) using the new statistical unit "enterprise" formed by several legal units in order to provide data as required by European regulations in this field.
- started calculating and sending to Eurostat a monthly volume of wholesale trade and trade and repair of motor vehicles at group level under NACE.BG 2008;
- in 2020, two new interactive statistical literacy tools Stat Mission and ViROS (VIROS) were developed and presented.
- published in Bulgarian "Key Figures".
- developed e-learning platform "Statistics for Everyone".
- developed and implemented a web-based application "Residential Building Map" in order to facilitate the respondents and increase the quality of the collected statistical information from the surveys "Short-term statistics on residential buildings" and "Housing stock at the end of the year".
- in relation to the prevalence of COVID19 and the need for timely and detailed information on overall mortality in the country, production and publication of preliminary weekly data on total mortality have begun. The data are published on the NSI and Eurostat websites.
- prepared and provided Eurostat data on students and researchers who have obtained a residence permit on the territory of the country in 2019 under Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the EP and of the Council of 11 May 2016.

- in connection with the Global Initiative to improve awareness of the influence of Covid-19 in the field of crime and drug addiction, the monthly submission of data to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime is launched.
- developed and implemented the Information System "Education" for automated processing, control and creation of reports on the data received from the administrative registers of the Ministry of Education and Science.
- in the framework of project BGLD-3.001-0001 "New approaches to generating data for hard-to-reach populations at risk of violating their rights", funded by the EEA FM, conducted a one-off representative survey among 15 000 households, and on the basis of the information collected, strategic analytical documents will be developed for use in management decisions, planning adequate social policies, developing target indicators for operational programmes, as well as monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- developed a data entry programme for the survey "Statistics on income and living conditions" on a new platform.
- extended the use of administrative data including data from the Social Assistance Agency for the purposes of the surveys "Statistics on income and living conditions" and "Monitoring of household budgets".
- successfully conducted the research "Statistics on income and living conditions" and "Monitoring of household budgets" in the conditions of COVID19.
- implemented methodological improvements in the construction and production of CPI/HICP sub-indices (passenger rail transport, water supply, sewerage and water purification services) in terms of extending the scope, updating the sample, registering prices and detailing weights.
- developed an automated interface for connection between the Property Register and the NSI and update the software for processing the data received from the Property Register.
- developed and provided Eurostat with a Draft Additional Table for reporting measures taken in the context of COVID-19 for Bulgaria in order to facilitate the validation of reliable and accurate data on State financial statistics in view of significant and numerous state measures in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in the EU.
- implemented new methodology for recording customs duties as part of taxes on production and imports /D.2/ in the data on national accounts of Bulgaria.
- introduced changes in statistical reporting for correct recording of international financial reporting standards /IFRS/-16 units.
- improved the quality of statistical information. The NSI is actively involved in the preparation of European legislation in the field of agricultural statistics, with opinions prepared on the content of the second Framework Regulation on Agricultural Investment and Production Statistics (SAIO) and in discussions on the development of European legislation for the reporting by the Member States of data on European accounts for forests as part of the Environmental Accounts.
- started more effective interaction in the National Statistical System. The Agreement on Cooperation and Strategic Partnership in the exchange of information between the Forest Executive Agency and the National Statistical Institute was updated in 2008.
- developed a methodology and provide data on the new energy tax "revenues from the sale of greenhouse gas emission allowances" (reference 2012-2018) as part of the accounts for environmental taxes and charges under Regulation (EU) No 691/2011 on environmental-economic accounts.
- developed a web-based application for the introduction and control of data for the statistical survey of the sector of producers of environmental goods and services.

In 2020, traditional methods of human resources selection, through competitive procedures and all forms of training and traineeship programmes have been greatly reduced and influenced by external factors, in particular compliance with measures to limit the spread of the pandemic. For this reason, the switch to remote forms of work has been made, increasing the share of non-attendance online meetings and discussions. The training courses were fully oriented in non-attendance form, using training opportunities and outside regulated working hours. Forms of provision of leave forms and sick leave lists were applied by e-mail, while also observing the existence of a control mechanism by immediate managers. The frequency of the competitions has changed, concentrating a higher volume of competitive procedures in a shorter time. The goal we will strive to achieve in 2021 is the introduction of a system for online submission of vacations and their signing, through an internal system for electronic signatures. It is necessary to apply more widely the system for signing documents with electronic signature and their distribution through the case management system or through the electronic service system. Third is the strengthening of online training courses and professional development of employees.

The National Statistical System – an active member of the European Statistical System and the International Statistical Community

In the period 2013 - 2020, the main priority was the establishment of the NSS as an active member of the European Statistical System and the international statistical community. The NSI continued to participate actively in the European Statistical System Committee. In close coordination with the authorities of statistics and in partnership with the Member States of the ESS, the NSI participated and during the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU in the first half of 2018 and oversaw the process of drafting and discussing EU legislation in the field of statistics. For the period, Bulgaria has presented 38 framework positions on different dossiers and participated in an average of 50 meetings per year of strategic committees and working groups to develop common policies and instruments related to the further development of the ESS. NSI experts participate in a total of 89 working groups within the ESS and in 3 working groups within the OECD and the UN. In the last three years, Bulgarian experts have been members of 17 target groups to solve specific problems in the field of statistics. Within the framework of the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU, significant progress has been made on the following open legislative proposals:

- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on integrated farm statistics and repealing Regulations (EC) No 1166/2008 and (EU) No 1337/2011: The NSI continued the tripartite negotiations initiated during the Estonian Presidency by holding one political and one technical meeting at which he was able to reach agreement on this dossier. The Regulation was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 7 August;
- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the harmonisation of gross national income at market prices (GNI Regulation) and repealing Council Directive 89/130/EEC, Euratom and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1287/2003: The NSI held one political and one technical meeting at which it reached a preliminary agreement on the dossier;
- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common framework for European statistics on persons and households based on individual data collected from samples: The NSI reached a common approach in the Statistics WG of the Council of the EU and held six political and seven technical meetings at which it negotiated a preliminary agreement with the EP and the EC;

- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European business statistics amending Regulation (EC) No 184/2005 and repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics: The NSI drew up a compromise text of the Presidency and reached a preliminary agreement on a large number of members within the Council of the EU's Statistics WG;
- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on railway statistics (recast): The NSI applied a tacit consent procedure to the original Commission proposal, which was adopted without remarks. The Regulation was published in the Official Journal on 2 May.

During the Bulgarian Presidency, the EC adopted a new proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on migration and international protection. The NSI held a written consultation on this proposal, thereby speeding up its examination during the Austrian Presidency.

Bulgaria participates in all meetings of the ESS Committee, in the Conferences of the Heads of Statistical Institutes in Europe (DGINS), in the regular sessions of the UN Statistical Commission, in the plenary sessions of the Conference of European Statisticians, in the meetings of the OECD Statistics and Policies Committee, and in 2020 has expressed a desire to become the coordinator of the Working Group on The Exchange of Statistics and Economic Data of the Organization for the Black Sea economic cooperation.

In the implementation of the Strategy for Development of the NSS in the period 2013 - 2020, the NSS continued to develop its capacity to participate in European projects and to establish partnerships for their implementation. One of the main lines in international cooperation was the provision of technical assistance under EC programmes and instruments. In the period, two twinning projects were carried out: "Supporting the Statistical Office of the Republic of North Macedonia in capacity building and harmonizing statistical activity with EU standards" and "Supporting the State Statistical Committee in the modernization of the National Statistical System of the Republic of Azerbaijan in accordance with European standards". The Project "Bulgarian cross-border dialogue. Development of a regional database for cross-border cooperation". Project activities are related to the building of statistical capacity through the exchange of experience and meetings and discussions between the statistical offices of the Republic of Bulgaria and the neighbouring candidate countries for EU membership (Turkey, Serbia and the Republic of North Macedonia), as well as the Statistical Office of the Kingdom of Norway. The NSI participates in the project "Improving institutional capacity and promoting cooperation to tackle the impact of transnational youth migration" (YOUMIG), which was implemented under the Danube Region Programme and in the project "Enhancing the innovation capacity of small and medium-sized enterprises" implemented under the Balkans-Mediterranean 2014 - 2020 programme.

Bulgaria was an active participant in consortia under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) and the TAIEX instrument, as well as in the framework of the EU Neighbourhood Programme. Numerous expert missions and training visits to Bulgaria were carried out in the fields of national accounts, business statistics, demographic and social statistics with a number of countries from the Balkan region, ENP-EAST and ENP-South programme.

For three years in a row, Bulgaria hosted special trainings of young statisticians from the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, the Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro) and from the Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) implemented with the support of the Bulgarian Development Assistance programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The trainings were carried out with the

participation of established teachers from the University of National and World Economy and by leading experts from the National Statistical Institute.

The development of bilateral cooperation was also a focus in international action. Bilateral cooperation agreements were signed with the National Statistical Office of Georgia, the National Statistical Committee of Belarus, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, the National Statistical Office of the Republic of Moldova, the Central Statistical Office of Palestine.

In the period 2013-2020, the NSI and the NSS as a whole strengthened their active role in the development of the European statistical system and the international statistical community and strongly declared their readiness to continue to participate in the validation of European and international statistical standards, in the process of improving the production and dissemination of official statistical information and in the exchange of experience and good practices.

Interaction and coordination within the NSS

In order to achieve greater consistency of the activities and deadlines for the production of statistical information for the period 2013 - 2020, **the NSI agreements with the authorities of statistics and other state institutions were updated.**

Demographic statistics

- Agreement with the Ministry of Interior for the exchange of information, including Annex to the Agreement on the information exchange of data on international migrants
- Agreement with the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works to ensure ongoing data exchange, including Annex to the Agreement on the Exchange of Demographics
- Agreement on information cooperation and data exchange with the Ministry of Education and Science
- Agreement for exchange of information with the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, including Annex for cooperation with the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics at BAS, Annex for cooperation with the Institute of Economic Research at BAS, Annex to the agreement with the Institute for Population and Human Studies at BAS
- Cooperation agreement with the Institute of Economic Research at BAS
- Agreement with University Specialized Hospital for Active Treatment in Oncology - National Cancer Registry.
- Framework Cooperation Agreement with the University of National and World Economy for joint coordination of actions in the preparation of new staff and upskilling of those working in the NSI system and joint research
- Cooperation and information exchange agreement with Sofia University "St. Constantine and Helena"
- Agreement for cooperation and exchange of information with Dimitar A. Tsenov Academy of Economics – Svishtov
- Cooperation and Strategic Partnership Agreement with New Bulgarian University
- Cooperation and Strategic Partnership Agreement with the Centre for Prevention and Countering Corruption and Organised Crime
- Cooperation and Strategic Partnership Agreement in the exchange of information with the National Agency for Vocational Education and Training
- Cooperation and Strategic Partnership Agreement in the Exchange of Information with the State Agency for Child Protection

- Cooperation and Strategic Partnership Agreement in the exchange of information with the National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Integration Issues.
- Agreement on information cooperation and data exchange between the National Expert Medical Commission and the National Statistical Institute
- Cooperation and Strategic partnership agreement for the exchange of information between the National Statistical Institute and the Ministry of Education and Science

Macroeconomic and business statistics

- Memorandum of Cooperation between the NSI, BNB and the Ministry of Finance in the field of state financial statistics and financial national accounts.
- Cooperation agreement and Strategic partnership in the exchange of information with the Court of Auditors for data on the deficit/surplus and debt of the general government institutional sector to achieve optimal organisation and coordination in the interaction between the two institutions.
- Agreement for exchange of information with the Bulgarian National Bank in the field of macroeconomic and business statistics.
- Cooperation and Strategic Partnership Agreement in the Exchange of Information with the National Insurance Institute
- Cooperation and exchange agreement with the Customs Agency on the import and export of goods to and from the Community and third countries.
- Agreement with Bulgarian E-Commerce Association
- Cooperation agreement with the National Centre for Territorial Development
- Agreement for the exchange of individual data with the National Revenue Agency
- Instruction for interaction between the NSI and the NRA in connection with the functioning of the Intrastat system (intra-Community trade).
- Agreement with the Ministry of Interior on the provision of passenger traffic data at border points by country and reasons for travel.
- Agreement with the Registry Agency for the provision of data from the Commercial Register and the Bulstat Register.
- Agreement with the Agency for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre
- Agreement with the National Social Security Institute to provide information from the personal register of insured persons.
- Agreement with the Employment Agency at the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy to provide information on the registered unemployed.
- Agreement with the Registry Agency for the provision of data from the Property Register.

Statistics on agriculture, forestry and fisheries

- Memorandum of Understanding on the activities of the production of statistical information in the field of agriculture between the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the NSI
- Agreement on understanding and strategic partnership in the exchange of information with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry
- Cooperation and Strategic Partnership Agreement in the exchange of information with the Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture

Annex 2. Fundamental principles of official UN statistics

The fundamental principles of the official statistics were adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in April 1994 and were established in 2013 by the General Assembly.

Principle 1. Official statistics are a necessary element of the information system of democratic society, which provides government, economic circles and the public with data on the economic, demographic, social and environmental status. For this purpose, the official statistical data with practical value need to be developed and disseminated on an objective basis by the official statistical authorities in order to respect citizens' right to public information.

Principle 2. In order to maintain confidence in the official statistics, statistical authorities shall, following strictly professional considerations, including scientific principles and professional ethics, determine the methods and procedures for collecting, processing, storing and presenting the statistics.

Principle 3. In order to facilitate the correct interpretation of the data, statistical authorities must provide the information following scientific standards concerning sources, methods and procedures in the field of statistics.

Principle 4. Statistical authorities have the right to comment on misinterpretation or misuse of statistics.

Principle 5. Data for statistical purposes can be collected from all types of sources: statistical surveys or administrative data.

Principle 6. The individual statistics also collected by the statistical authorities for the production of statistical information, whether or not they relate to natural or legal persons, must be of a strictly confidential nature and be used only for statistical purposes.

Principle 7. The laws, regulations and measures adopted within which statistical systems operate must be made public.

Principle 8. In order to ensure consistency and effectiveness of the statistical system at a national level, coordination between statistical authorities is necessary.

Principle 9. The use of international concepts, classifications and methods by statistical authorities helps ensure consistency and effectiveness of statistical systems at all official levels.

Principle 10. Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the field of statistics helps to improve the systems of official statistics.

46th Plenary Session, 24 July 2013

Annex 3. Principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice

PRINCIPLE 1. Professional independence

The professional independence of statistical authorities from other political, regulatory or administrative services and bodies, as well as from private sector operators, ensures the reliability of European statistics.

PRINCIPLE 1a. Coordination and cooperation

The National Statistical Institutes and Eurostat shall ensure the coordination of all activities for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics at the level of national statistical systems and the European statistical system respectively. Statistical authorities shall cooperate actively within the partnership of the European Statistical System to ensure the development, production and dissemination of European statistics.

PRINCIPLE 2. Mandate for data collection and access to data

Statistical authorities have a clear statutory mandate to collect and access information from multiple data sources for European statistics. Administrations, businesses and households, as well as the public, may be required by law to allow access to or provide data for European statistics purposes at the request of the statistical authorities.

PRINCIPLE 3. Adequacy of resources

The resources available to statistical authorities are sufficient to meet the requirements for European statistics.

PRINCIPLE 4. Commitment to quality assurance

The statistical authorities are engaged in terms of quality. They systematically and regularly identify strengths and weaknesses continuously improve the quality of processes and products.

PRINCIPLE 5. Statistical confidentiality and data protection

The privacy of data providers, the confidentiality of the information they provide, the use of information solely for statistical purposes, and data security are guaranteed.

PRINCIPLE 6. Impartiality and objectivity

Statistical authorities shall develop, produce and disseminate European statistics while respecting scientific independence and in an objective, the professional and transparent manner in which all users are equal.

PRINCIPLE 7. Substantiated methodology

The substantiated methodology predetermines the quality of statistics. This requires appropriate tools, procedures and expertise.

PRINCIPLE 8. Appropriate statistical procedures

The application of appropriate statistical procedures in the framework of statistical processes determines the quality of the statistics.

PRINCIPLE 9 Moderate burden on respondents

The burden on respondents is proportionate to the needs of consumers and is not excessive in relation to respondents. Statistical authorities monitor the severity of respondents and set targets for reducing it over time.

PRINCIPLE 10 Cost-effectiveness

Resources are used efficiently.

PRINCIPLE 11 Refereum

European statistics meet the needs of consumers.

PRINCIPLE 12 Accuracy and reliability

European statistics reflect reality accurately and reliably.

PRINCIPLE 13 Timeliness and timeliness

European statistics shall be made public to be up-to-date and timely.

PRINCIPLE 14 Consistency and comparability

European statistics are internally coherent, time-agreed and comparable between regions and countries; it is possible to combine and use related data from different data sources.

PRINCIPLE 15 Accessibility and clarity

European statistics shall be presented in a clear and comprehensible form, made public in an appropriate and convenient manner, available, accessible on an impartial basis and supported by metadata and guidance.

Annex 4. Plan of activities for the implementation of the Strategy for Development of the NSS 2021 - 2027

Activities by purpose	Unit in NSI	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Operational goal 1.1: Modernisation of the NSS								
1.1.1. Securing and optimising resource management to increase the administrative capacity of the NSS								
<i>Enhancing the knowledge and skills of the experts carrying out the communication activities. Conducting trainings related to the development of interactive products (ESTP courses, specialized trainings for the use of visualization tools)</i>	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate							
<i>Training and enhancing the knowledge of experts to work with statistical survey methodologies (ESTP courses, specialized trainings on the implementation of existing and new methodologies)</i>	Business Statistics Directorate							
<i>Continuous process of building the administrative capacity to implement the requirements of European legislation in the field of macroeconomic statistics: - improving the preparedness of the team, - increasing the number of experts to meet the increased requirements, - motivation for work and increase its quality</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics							
<i>Enhancing the knowledge, skills and competencies of the experts from the DSS directorate. Participation in trainings for specialized software products (SAS, R, etc.), innovative statistical methods and practices (sampling, calibration, imputation, combined methods of data collection, increase in the ability to answer, etc.) through ESTP courses and specialized trainings</i>	Demographic and Social Statistics Directorate							
<i>Improving the qualification of experts responsible for international projects by acquainting with the characteristics and requirements of the projects in the new programming period</i>	International Cooperation Department							

<p><i>Training and enhancing the knowledge of the experts from the ISI Directorate to work with Power BI. Participation in training for Postgre databases, programming with Python, Microsoft Visual Studio. Training on working with R. Improvement of practical skills for the implementation of activities related to the functioning of DHCHO - requesting services from DHCHO, administration, setup and monitoring of the operation of the service they use. Training of experts on requesting services in VMware and at UCS Director, resource administration and monitoring. Training on amendments and additions to ISU documents.</i></p>	<p>Information Systems and Infrastructure Directorate</p>							
<p><i>1.1.2. Improving the information infrastructure of the NSS and modernising the organisation and functioning of the NSI as a leading institution in the NSS</i></p>								
<p><i>Development of external trade information system to ensure unaudited functionalities through the use of modern high-tech IT solutions to ensure reliability, speed and security of the production process</i></p>	<p>Business Statistics Directorate</p>							
<p><i>Development of the information system "Consumer Prices" in order to add new functionalities and migration of the platform and its implementation in real operation</i></p>	<p>Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate</p>							
<p><i>Update of software for processing data in the field of house price indices (LW) to include data from a new administrative source and its implementation in real operation</i></p>	<p>Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate</p>							
<p><i>Development and implementation of the Information System "Environment"</i></p>	<p>Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate</p>							
<p><i>Development of the information systems of the NSI - IS "Demography", IS "Environmental Statistics", IS "Foreign Trade", "National Register of Settlements", IS "Statistical Classifications", IS "Statistical Business Register", IS "Consumer Prices", IS "Health", IS "Business Cycles" to ensure the necessary functionalities through the use of modern high-tech IT solutions to ensure reliability, fast operation and security of the production process. Implementation of Business Intelligence (BI) tools for unification, unification, analysis and visualization of data from various internal and external sources. Construction of data warehouse. Mobile device management</i></p>	<p>Information Systems and Infrastructure Directorate</p>							

<i>implementation</i>									
<i>Modernization and expansion of the capacity of the main and reserve data center of the NSI</i>	Information Systems and Infrastructure Directorate								
Operational goal 1.2: Modernising the production process									
1.2.1. Extension of the integrated approach to managing the different phases of the production statistical process within the NSS									
1.2.2. Updating methods for the collection, processing and dissemination of statistical information									
<i>Wider use of administrative data on registered unemployed and monthly earnings to improve the quality of information collected in the Labour Force Survey</i>	Business Statistics Directorate								
<i>Extension of the possibilities for the use of administrative sources for the Monitoring of the Structure of Salaries</i>	Business Statistics Directorate								
<i>Updating programme assurance for the Salary Structure Monitoring</i>	Business Statistics Directorate "								
<i>Implementation in real operation of IS "Business Cycles" (ISBC), built through high-tech IT solutions. Extension and development of the system</i>	Business Statistics Directorate "								
<i>Development of a modern online system for entering and processing data from quarterly observations of transport statistics</i>	Business Statistics Directorate								
<i>Joint development with THE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION of a study for the reporting of passenger transport by inland waterways according to Eurostat's methodology and deadlines</i>	Business Statistics Directorate								
<i>Implementation of SDMX standard for production and provision of data from statistical surveys in the field of business statistics (transport statistics, structural business statistics, demography of enterprises, statistics of enterprises under foreign control, Eurogroup register)</i>	Business Statistics Directorate								
<i>Updating information systems when European legislation changes or, where necessary,</i>	Business Statistics Directorate								
<i>Use of data from internet platforms (Booking.com, Airbnb.com, etc.) to produce statistical information in the field of tourism.</i>	Business Statistics Directorate								

<i>Extension of the scope and development of new functionalities of the Statistical Business Register (SBR) according to the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 for European business statistics</i>	Business Statistics Directorate							
<i>Use of an additional data source - microdata received from the other Member States to improve the quality of information on external trade statistics on goods, reduce asymmetries in mirror flows and explore opportunities to reduce the burden of respondents through the use of innovative methodologies</i>	Business Statistics Directorate							
<i>Use of information and communication technologies for data development in the field of financial statistics. Ensuring data control and quality and reducing the workload of data compilation for financial statistics purposes</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate							
<i>Fulfilment of the requirements laid down during Eurostat's methodological missions on the data under the Notification Tables on deficit/surplus and debt of general government</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate							
<i>Improvement of quality assessment methods used in the calculation of consumer price indices</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate							
<i>Expanding the use of web scraped data as a source of information on the production of consumer price indices and PPPs</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate							
<i>Improving the methods for calculating mobile price indices and actual rents of dwellings within the scope of consumer price indices</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate							
<i>Development of a methodology for inclusion of innovative products and internet purchases in consumer price indices</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate							
<i>Drafting rules and principles for providing access to scanned data from large retail chains</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate							
<i>Production of flash estimates for HICP in connection with the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria to the euro area</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate							
<i>Use of innovative technologies for electronic registration of the prices of goods and services by European consumer baskets</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate							

<i>Improving the scope and quality of house price indices (HPI) by moving to the combined use of administrative data sources - the Property Register and the Cadastral administrative information system</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate							
<i>Production and publication of Indicators for sale of dwellings (PPPs) - "number of sales" and "sales volume" using administrative data sources</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate							
<i>Use of different data sources (administrative and large data) in the statistical production process</i>	General Methodology, Analysis and Coordination of Statistical Surveys							
<i>Implementation of innovative tools - web-based interviews (electronic journal) for collecting information on the Monitoring of Household Income, Expenditure and Consumption</i>	Demographic and Social Statistics Directorate							
<i>Implementation of an innovative approach - web-based interview for collecting information about households during the monitoring "Budget of Time"</i>	Demographic and Social Statistics Directorate							
<i>Migration of a new platform and updating the functionalities of the Information System "Demography"</i>	Demographic and Social Statistics Directorate							
<i>Establishment of an Information System for data collection and processing in the field of statistics on residential buildings and dwellings</i>	"Demographic and social statistics"							
<i>Development of an electronic application and implementation of the use of electronic data collection devices for the Study of Education and Training for Adults</i>	Demographic and Social Statistics Directorate							
<i>Extending the scope of the information used by the Unified Information System for Counteraction to Criminality (UISCC) in order to improve the quality of primary statistics in the field of justice and justice statistics and optimise the possibilities for wider use of administrative data sources. Cessation of the collection of data by means of a paper form and the transformation of the UISCC into the sole source of data on punished crime</i>	Demographic and Social Statistics Directorate							

<i>Extension of the data used from administrative sources for the purposes of the surveys "Statistics on income and living conditions" and "Monitoring of household budgets" by concluding an agreement with the Social Assistance Agency for the exchange of individual data</i>	Demographic and Social Statistics Directorate								
<i>Extension of the data used from administrative sources in the field of public health statistics</i>	Demographic and Social Statistics Directorate								
<i>Transition from annual surveys of educational institutions to full use of administrative registers of MES and NCID</i>	Demographic and Social Statistics Directorate								
<i>Signed of an agreement with the Ministry of Culture for Strategic partnership and exchange of information</i>	Demographic and Social Statistics Directorate								
<i>Use of data from administrative registers for the purpose of producing population and demographic data of type census</i>	Demographic and Social Statistics Directorate								
1.2.3. Digitisation and interoperability									
<i>Implementation of new technology for the collection, processing and dissemination of statistical information on economic accounts for agriculture and forestry</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate								
<i>Switch to entirely to real-time data collection</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate								
Operational goal 1.3: Modernising the regulatory framework (regulatory framework)									
1.3.1. Updating the legal basis of the NSS									
<i>Preparation of an amendment to the Law on Statistics on Intra-Community Trade in Goods in accordance with the new EC Regulations on European Business Statistics</i>	Business Statistics Directorate								
<i>Preparation and implementation of a new classification of economic activities in all areas of business statistics</i>	Business Statistics Directorate								

1.3.2. Ensuring the necessary legal certainty when implementing the statistical ecosystem in accordance with established legal and ethical principles within the EU. Building trust by creating a regulatory framework for the development and application of reliable statistical products and services using new technologies								
<i>Preparation of rules and principles for granting access to the results of statistical surveys before the published time of publication</i>	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate							
<i>Establishment of a register of experts who have access to the results of statistical surveys before the published time of publication</i>	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate							
<i>Development of rules for the introduction of data ethics into the practice of the NSS</i>	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate							
<i>Implementation of the new legislation for the Labour Force Survey resulting from Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 October 2019 establishing a common framework for European statistics on persons and households based on individual data collected from samples</i>	Business Statistics Directorate							
<i>Development of a coordination mechanism for public communication within the NSS with regard to data on European statistics as a means of increasing confidence in the NSS</i>	International Cooperation Department							
<i>Implementation of the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 October 2019 establishing a common framework for European statistics on persons and households based on individual data collected from samples</i>	Demographic and Social Statistics Directorate							
Operational goal 2.1: Quality, innovation and security								
2.1.1. Improving the methodological basis related to the quality of the statistical information produced - strengthening analyses to assess the quality of the studies in terms of adequacy, scope, timeliness, comparability and other								
<i>Update of the methodology and organisation of business surveys resulting from a contract with the European Commission</i>	Business Statistics Directorate							

<i>Update of the methodology and organization of tourism research as a result of changes in the Regulations in the field of tourism statistics</i>	Business Statistics Directorate								
<i>Improving methodology, improving the quality of SBS data by expanding and improving the indicators characterizing the quality of published short-term indicators that are part of the Main European Economic Indicators (PEEIs)</i>	Business Statistics Directorate								
<i>Adaptation of short-term statistics after Bulgaria's entry into the euro area, calculation of the new short-term indicators required by countries that have adopted the euro as the national currency</i>	Business Statistics Directorate								
<i>Creating a methodology and building a team of experts in the NSI for continuous monitoring of the largest economically significant multinational enterprise groups (Large Case Unit)</i>	Business Statistics Directorate								
<i>Annual update and improvement of the methodology and indicators in the Information System "Business Statistics" (ISBS) as the main tool for online collection of quality accounting and statistical information necessary for the calculation of indicators in the field of business statistics</i>	Business Statistics Directorate								
<i>Improving the methodological basis, scope and quality of the information in the field of national accounts based on recommendations and requirements under the Excessive Deficit Procedure, Gross National Income and Weighted Average VAT Rate</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate								
<i>Development, provision of scope and revision of the support for general government units and state-owned enterprises. Data quality control</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate								
<i>Development of national accounts statistics for the development, application and monitoring of specific EU policies in compliance with the requirements under the Regulations of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European System of Accounts</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate								

<i>Introduction of the new Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP 2018) in the production of consumer price indices and PPPs</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate							
<i>Improving the scope of the produced Home Price Indices inhabited by their owners (OOHI) by developing a system for the regular production of an Index of dwellings built by owners and large house redevelopments</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate							
<i>Inventory of sources and methods for calculating PPP</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate							
<i>Development and implementation of new modules of environmental accounts in relation to the forthcoming change of Regulation (EU) No 691/2011 on European environmental economic accounts to improve the quality and compliance of needs and to produce new data on the European Green Deal on climate change</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate							
<i>Development and implementation of new methodologies and studies on the forthcoming change of Regulation (EC) No 1099/2008 on energy statistics for the production of timely and qualitative energy statistics and for the production of new data corresponding to the needs of the Energy Union and the European Green Deal</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate							
<i>Development and implementation of methodologies and studies to detail data on final energy consumption in the transport and services sectors", in compliance with the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1099/2008 on energy sector statistics</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate							

<i>Development and implementation of a methodology for the collection of data on food waste in accordance with Delegated Decision (EU) 2019/2000 establishing a format for the reporting of food waste data and for the submission of the quality check report in accordance with Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate								
<i>Improving the quality of waste statistics, including plastic packaging, in relation to the implementation of the European Union's own resources system</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate								
<i>Updating the guidelines for filling in the quality reports in ESQRS format - Preparation of clear guidelines for correct completion of quality reports by statistical experts</i>	General Methodology, Analysis and Coordination of Statistical Surveys								
<i>Development of a means for self-assessment of the quality of statistical surveys - Preparation activities for the implementation of a means of self-assessment of the quality of statistical surveys in Bulgarian</i>	General Methodology, Analysis and Coordination of Statistical Surveys								
<i>Development of a single integrated metadata structure (SIMS) for all statistical surveys and loading them into the European IT tool for storing reference metadata - Activities to assist statistical experts in developing, deploying and loading SIMS in ESS Metadata Handler</i>	General Methodology, Analysis and Coordination of Statistical Surveys								
<i>Internal audits on the quality of statistical processes and products - Conducting internal audits on the quality of statistical processes and products in the NSI</i>	General Methodology, Analysis and Coordination of Statistical Surveys								
<i>Methodological assistance, analyses and trainings on specific statistical problems - Development of methodologies and interdisciplinary analyses according to the needs of the NSI, organization of trainings, research and implementation of specialized statistical software.</i>	General Methodology, Analysis and Coordination of Statistical Surveys								

<i>Updating the "Population concept for the purposes of surveys of households and persons at the National Statistical Institute" to improve the quality of the sampling framework and procedures, reduce sampling errors, and more evenly distribute the burden of respondents</i>	Demographic and Social Statistics Directorate								
<i>Harmonized implementation of standardised variables in all household surveys, in order to improve comparability between individual studies and to meet the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council</i>	Demographic and Social Statistics Directorate								
<i>Incorporation of new methods to calculate weights of adult education and training survey data (from post-ratification to calibration) to increase the accuracy of results</i>	Demographic and Social Statistics Directorate								
2.1.2. Extension of the areas of application of the European standards for quality and management of statistical processes - increasing the scope of users of generally accepted standards (GSIM, GSBPM, GAMS0, etc.) and the areas of application of harmonised production of quality statistical information.									
<i>Maintain metadata editor as a single metadata transmission point to Eurostat</i>	General Methodology, Analysis and Coordination of Statistical Surveys								
<i>Maintaining a metadatabase for statistical surveys - Maintaining a reference metadatabase (SIMS format)</i>	General Methodology, Analysis and Coordination of Statistical Surveys								
<i>Implementation of the new formats and requirements for the preparation of quality reports in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council ('IESS Framework Regulation') and the specific implementing regulations in household and person surveys</i>	Demographic and Social Statistics Directorate								

<i>Implementation of SDMX standard for production and provision of data from statistical surveys in the field of demographic statistics</i>	Demographic and Social Statistics Directorate								
2.1.3. Implementation of new approaches to the production of statistical information									
<i>Implementation of new methods of data collection in the Labour Force Survey (computer survey and telephone survey);</i>	Business Statistics Directorate								
<i>Automated use through the ISBS of administrative data from VAT declarations received by the NRA to calculate some of the short-term indicators in trade and services.</i>	Business Statistics Directorate								
<i>Implementation of alternative sources of information for the purposes of PPPs</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate								
<i>Exploring the possibilities for implementing new tools and tools for the production of statistical products and services using large data sources and spatial data for the needs of environmental and energy accounts.</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate								
<i>Production and publication of experimental statistics from Big data sources</i>	General Methodology, Analysis and Coordination of Statistical Surveys								
2.1.4. Security of information - development of the infrastructure for the protection of personal data, strict compliance with statistical secrecy and measures for the protection of sensitive and confidential information. Maintenance of an integrated system for the management and updating of information quality and security certificates in the NSS.									
<i>Maintenance of the Integrated Quality Management System and according to ISO 9001: 2015</i>	General Methodology, Analysis and Coordination of Statistical Surveys								

<i>Adaptation of information systems and applications, use for collection, processing and storage of data in the field of demographic and social statistics to the requirements of the legal framework in the field of personal data protection and information security.</i>	Information Systems and Infrastructure Directorate							
<i>Maintenance of the Integrated Management System with regard to quality and security of information according to ISO 9001: 2015 and ISO 27001: 2013 standards. Implementation, maintenance and continuous improvement of the ISO 27001 privacy information management system</i>	Information Systems and Infrastructure Directorate							
<i>Gathering security information and event management (SIEM) with software solutions (Qradar and Guardium).</i>	Information Systems and Infrastructure Directorate							
<i>Implementation and maintenance of Axence nVision software - a software platform for information security and security, asset management, monitoring, hardware and software audit, remote IT resource management, user behaviour monitoring, HELP DESK, AdminCenter</i>	Information Systems and Infrastructure Directorate							
<i>In order to maximise the protection of individual data in the exchange of microdata on intra-Community trade, the NSI has connected with Eurostat and other ESS members through Eurostat's secure testa secure network. There will be construction, implementation, carrying out IS tests for the exchange of microdata according to a specific schedule for the different phases (test, pre-production and production).</i>	Information Systems and Infrastructure Directorate							
<i>Use of advanced IT infrastructure security solutions and services - Cloudflare, Cisco</i>	Information Systems and Infrastructure Directorate							
Operational goal 3.1.: Clear communication and cooperation with stakeholders								
3.1.1 Involving all stakeholders in the process of improving the NSS Communication Strategy								

<i>Development of a Communication Strategy of the NSI</i>	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate,								
<i>Development of annual implementation plans for the Communication Strategy</i>	International Cooperation Department								
<i>Preparation of a Calendar for dissemination of the results of statistical surveys</i>	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate,								
<i>Preparing a Calendar for Social Media Presence</i>	International Cooperation Department								
<i>Consumer Satisfaction Survey</i>	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate								
<i>Conducting usability tests before the introduction of new statistical products and services</i>	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate,								
<i>Provision of microdata for research and scientific purposes</i>	International Cooperation Department								
<i>Issue of printed and electronic (offline) publications</i>	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate								
<i>Adapting and creating digital interactive publications</i>	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate								
<i>Adapting and creating dynamic visualizations</i>	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate								

<i>New concept and issue of a newsletter on the international activities of the NSI and its cooperation within the ESS and leading international organizations</i>	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate								
3.1.2 Enhancing the statistical culture of different stakeholder groups	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate								
<i>Development of a Strategy for enhancing statistical culture</i>	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate								
<i>Create and maintain the Statistics for Everyone portal</i>	International Cooperation Department								
<i>Adapting and developing mobile apps</i>									
<i>Conducting statistical competitions</i>	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate								
<i>Thematic workshops to increase statistical culture</i>	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate								
<i>Trainings for journalists and students in journalism and mass communication</i>	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate								
3.1.3. Building sustainable communication with stakeholders	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate								
<i>Signed of framework cooperation agreements with academic representatives in order to conduct common initiatives</i>	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate								
<i>Creating a community among teachers and teachers to promote statistics among students and students</i>	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate, International Cooperation Department								

<i>Creation of products and services, taking into account the specific needs of different groups of users</i>								
<i>Guidance of the production of external trade statistics on goods to the information needs of consumers through wider use of the data available in the NSI (statistical business register) for the compilation of new indicators.</i>	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate,							
<i>Providing fast and convenient online access to provide data on the export and import of goods, using modern and secure IT solutions and means in response to the growing needs of different consumers for timely information.</i>	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate,							
<i>Development and extension of partnerships with holders of administrative data in the field of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in order to make their wider use for the production of European statistics - improving data exchange, ensuring the NSI access to administrative databases and registers</i>	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate,							
<i>Extension of the use of data from administrative sources in the development of statistical information in the field of fisheries and aquaculture under the reform of legislation undertaken by Eurostat</i>	Business Statistics Directorate							
<i>Conducting seminars and trainings on methodological issues in the field of agricultural, forestry and fisheries statistics with partner institutions</i>	Business Statistics Directorate							
3.1.4 Unleashing the potential of statistics as a raw material for the development of expert systems	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate							
<i>Publish data in an open machine-readable format</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate							

<i>Develop a standardized interface (API) to optimize data sharing</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate								
Operational goal 3.2.: Ensuring national, European and global statistical information needs									
3.2.1. Extension of the statistical information produced to monitor the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate								
<i>Create an SDG information portal</i>	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate								
<i>Extension of the scope of the information collected and the production of indicators necessary for the monitoring of SDG 2030, according to national and international needs</i>									
<i>Active participation in the processes for the establishment of a national coordination mechanism</i>									
3.2.2. Covering national, pan-European and other international statistical needs to track the country's development and prosperity	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate								
<i>Providing the necessary statistical information on certain R&D and innovation indicators to monitor the implementation of national programmes such as: National Development Programme "Bulgaria 2020" and "Bulgaria 2030"; operational programmes "Innovation and Competitiveness" and "Science and Education for Smart Growth"</i>	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate								
<i>Implementation of the requirements of new annual Commission implementing regulations on the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) in enterprises and households and meeting up-to-date information needs by forming data on new indicators measuring the development of the information society</i>	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate								
<i>Implementation of the requirements of new Commission implementing regulations on innovation statistics and data formation on new indicators for the innovation activities of enterprises</i>									

<i>Expansion of the system of satellite accounts in tourism and their connection with tables "Resource - Use" of national accounts.</i>	Business Statistics Directorate								
<i>Participation in the European Commission's Common Harmonised Programme for Business and Consumer Observations, providing information on trends in the development of the economy and social sphere.</i>	Business Statistics Directorate								
<i>Implementation of the Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European business statistics and the relevant Implementing Regulation to provide the necessary statistical information on global value chains</i>	Business Statistics Directorate								
<i>Development of new indicators for commercial real estate (prices and other related indicators) according to Recommendation 2016/14 of the European Systemic Risk Board (ESRB) on filling gaps in real estate data (ECCP/2019/3)</i>	Business Statistics Directorate								
<i>Aligning the statistical toolbox with the reform undertaken by Eurostat in the regulatory framework for economic accounts for agriculture and forestry and agricultural prices and indices</i>	Business Statistics Directorate								
<i>Participation in the activities of Eurostat-led target or discussion groups on methodological changes in the field of agricultural and forestry accounts and emerging data needs</i>	Business Statistics Directorate								
<i>Implementation in the statistical practice of the International Classification of Crimes for Statistical Purposes (IPCC) of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in order to improve the quality and comparability of data in the field of crime statistics and justice</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate								
<i>Extension of the scope of THE Monitorstat</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate								
3.2.3. Ensuring easy access to statistics for all	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate								
<i>Standardisation of published metadata within the NSS (SDMX/other standards)</i>	Demographic and Social Statistics Directorate								

<i>Expanding the scope of data to be published on the National Open Data Portal</i>	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate								
<i>Development of INFOSTAT through the development of the possibility of publication of statistics and metadata by the authorities of statistics.</i>									
<i>Updating the requirements for press releases and other stakeholder information materials in line with the UN and ESS recommendations</i>	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate								
<i>Publication of new datasets in NSI publications and website (European Forest Accounts)</i>	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate								
<i>Maintenance of data in the IMF Special Data Dissemination Standard Plus (SDDS Plus) - Provision of data and metadata for the IMF Electronic Bulletin and the National Summary Data Page Plus (NSDP Plus) on the BNB website</i>	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate								
3.2.4. Policy development and provision of spatial data management conditions	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate								
<i>Development of a policy for the publication and dissemination of geo-regulated statistics</i>	Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate								
<i>Construction of a single infrastructure for spatial data management in the NSI</i>	General Methodology, Analysis and Coordination of Statistical Surveys								
<i>Capacity building for spatial data infrastructure management and development</i>									
<i>Entering the publication of geo-referenced data as a standard dissemination method</i>	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate								
Operational goal 4.1. Expanding national and international cooperation	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate								
4.1.1. Establishing strong and sustainable links between the NSS authorities and expanding the “statistical family”.	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate								

<i>Conducting trainings and internships of students and students (incl. online trainings)</i>	Multi-Domain Statistics and User Services Directorate								
<i>Inclusion of new NSS bodies</i>									
<i>Conducting trainings of the authorities of statistics for capacity development and implementation of innovations in the management and production of statistical information</i>									
4.1.2. Active participation in decision-making and in joint projects within the European Statistical System	All directorates according to the topic								
<i>Participation in Eurostat working and target groups</i>	Management								
<i>Strengthening the contribution of the NSI to the resolution of strategic issues for the development of European statistics through active participation in the meetings of the directors of statistical directorates and the Committee of the European Statistical System, as well as in written consultations related to legislation in the field of statistics</i>	All directorates according to the topic								
<i>Participation of the NSI alone and in consortia in projects within the ESS in order to improve the statistical process and increasingly meet the needs for data for the development of society</i>									
<i>Expanding cooperation within the ESS through participation in joint EC neighbourhood policy projects and programmes with a focus on the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership</i>	All directorates according to the topic								
<i>Deepening and enhancing links with the Member States in the field of strategic communication and increasing trust in the ESS, active participation in the information campaign on peer reviews within the ESS</i>	International Cooperation Department								
<i>Participation of experts in Eurostat task force to develop methodologies, guidelines and recommendations on specific studies or areas of demographic and social statistics</i>	International Cooperation Department								

4.1.3. Strengthening cooperation with international organizations with established structures and authority in the field of statistics (United Nations Economic Commission, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, World Bank, etc.).	International Cooperation Department								
<i>Active participation in the work of the OECD Statistics and Policies Committee and its working groups, in the Conference of European Statisticians at the ECUN, as well as in consultations on issues related to the future development of statistics</i>	International Cooperation Department								
<i>Inclusion in high-level events and expert events organized by the United Nations, THE OECD, the EC, the World Bank, etc.</i>	Demographic and Social Statistics Directorate								
4.1.4. Establishment of the NSI as the leading statistical institution in implementing the good practices of the ESS in cooperation with the countries of the Black Sea region, the Western Balkans and the countries of the EU Eastern Partnership									
<i>Expansion of bilateral cooperation and support for the establishment of modern and authoritative statistical systems in partner countries - signing new agreements and adopting three-year operational plans under the existing agreements</i>	International Cooperation Department								
<i>Coordinating role of the NSI in the exchange of statistics and economic information within the Organization for the Black Sea Economic Cooperation</i>	International Cooperation Department								