

documentation and research works on the acquis (carrying out a case study and adequate statistical infrastructure); coordination with other statistical procedures (for the coordination of statistical programmes and standards); building up the relationships with various users (for monitoring the needs and setting up the priorities); identifying the required data sources and statistical data collection and analysis (pilot data collections, analyses, periodical data production).

Issues related to strategic programming and planning of the European Statistical System, such as needs monitoring, priorities setting up, identification of data sources for statistics, INS operations reporting and assessment involve various user groups (public authorities, households, economic companies, research, media).

All these prerequisites, alternatives, options, finally sustainable and viable decisions, make statistics a core component in the knowledge process. It represents, at the same time, a major pillar of a proper governing, being an indispensable component in substantiating the decision at micro and macroeconomic level. Official statistics, characterised by objectivity, quality and timeliness, compliant with international methodologies, give the quantitative dimension of government and public decisions effectiveness in relation with national economy.

The same with other Member States, Romanian official statistics is governed by the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, adopted during the 47th session of the Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (15 April, 1992) and approved two years later by the United Nations Statistical Division, as well as by the European Code of Practice in Statistics, adopted by the Statistical Office of the European Communities.

The National Institute of Statistics plays the role of coordinating the national system of official statistics in Romania. It is the body that ensures the setting up of statistical indicators, data collection and processing methodologies, methods, techniques and standards specific for indicators compilation and analysis, bearing the responsibility of national statistics harmonisation with the statistical acquis communautaire and with its transposition both into practice and into national legislation.

One of the basic objectives of National Institute of Statistics functioning is to ensure the compatibility of the national statistical system with the statistical systems used by the statistical bodies of United Nations and of other international bodies, in accordance with the assumed commitments.

The most important component of the national statistical system, in general, and the concerns of the National Institute of Statistics, in particular, reside in meeting the statistical data and information needs of all user categories, as well as in supplying the methodologies, methods and techniques used for the statistical indicators compilation.