

The significance, the complexity and the dynamism of statistics in any country, consequently in Romania as well, are imposed by the multitude of its functions, and among them I am evoking the unanimously recognized:

- It is one of the main means of knowledge in any field of activity, a tool for substantiating current decisions and perspective programmes. By integrating statistics in social life, the human being is widening the capability of more easily understanding the reasons and the way the world is changing and outlines the ways of its adaptation to the new conditions entailed by the technological and environmental progress.

- It is both a framework and an efficient method used in the continuous training process, for the activity and human behaviour organization within the society, for commitments reasoning and prioritisation.

- It is an efficient tool for monitoring actions, by identifying the “strengths” and the “weaknesses” of human actions and for revealing the ways, the factors and the core means that could ensure disfunctionalities overcoming.

- It is a wide coverage field, allowing for know-how deepening, starting with vocabulary extension with the necessary notions and terminology and with the assimilation of new concepts and horizons in human being thinking. Statistical notions, such as “statistical data” (which is not meaning and should not be identified with a figure), “indicator”, “index”, “average”, “rate”, “trend”, “census”, “sample”, etc., are more and more often found in the current speaking of any person. Statistical thought became a basic component of human being thinking, as through its mission and vision it represents an opening towards knowledge and consequently, on short term, it allows for the improvement of decisions’ quality at micro and macroeconomic level, while on the long run it ensures the participation of society members, under a democratic framework, in the crucial decisions defining the destiny of human collectivities.

In view to accomplish its mission and to successfully exert the above mentioned functions, statistics is called upon to ensure the collaboration, under an inter-disciplinary and cooperation framework, of all actors participating in the statistical process, being concerned about the past-present-future triad, about the strengthening of inter-institutional relationships at national and international level, within a well structured statistical system, organised on scientific basis and able to confer official statistics efficiency, quality and timeliness.

Statistics mission, its functions, methods, its organisation and functional structures complying with the national legal framework which is harmonised with the international norms and standards were established, defined and refined over time. The current stage of Romanian statistics was reached after 148 years of endeavours and sustained efforts of a wide series of statisticians, a period that could be closely identified with the one of modern Romania.