

# FIFTH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON BUSINESS DATA COLLECTION METHODOLOGY

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## INTRODUCTION OF A NEW PRODUCTION SYSTEM FOR THE COMPILATION OF BUSINESS STATISTICS

BENAKI Vassiliki<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Hellenic Statistical Authority, General Directorate of Statistical Surveys, v.benaki@statistics.gr

Organization: Hellenic Statistical Authority

### ABSTRACT

Business statistics are acknowledged to provide an overview of the business cycle and estimation on: the structure and development of enterprises activities, the production factors use, the performance and competitiveness of enterprises, the regional and national development of enterprises and markets, the policy implemented by enterprises and the special characteristics and special distribution of their activities.

The current economic circumstances create an urgent need for more comprehensive business statistics, which in turn increases the response burden of enterprises and the cost of producing such statistics, in a time when the NSIs face, generally, resources constraints.

Business statistics in Greece up to 2014 were compiled on the basis of large scale sample surveys to enterprises of various economic activities. The method used presented several drawbacks, the most important being the low response rate that had an impact on the quality of statistical output, while delays in the production of statistics were quite frequent. Moreover, the burden on the enterprises for providing the relevant data was significant and so were the requirements for financial and human resources.

To this end, the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) explored the use of alternative sources, besides surveys, for the compilation of business statistics, and proceeded to the use of administrative - mainly tax - data for the production of the main statistical characteristics of businesses in Greece.

A new production system of structural business statistics for the reference year 2015 was put in place on the basis of the combination of data from multiple sources, such as tax data, social insurance data, data from commercial databases, as well as a small scale sample survey for the estimation of variables not available in the administrative sources.

The presentation will focus on the activities of ELSTAT, at a legal and technical level, in order to get access to administrative data, as well as on the activities for the development of a secure IT environment for collecting, storing and automatically processing these data. Moreover, the presentation will depict the statistical techniques used for estimating missing variables on the basis of survey data and finally the process for integrating all these multiple-source data for the compilation of SBS.

In this context, strengths and weaknesses of the new production system and their impact on the quality of the statistics produced will be discussed in the light of recent experience.