



HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY
(ELSTAT)

CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS FOR A MODERN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE IN THE AFTERMATH ON THE 2021 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

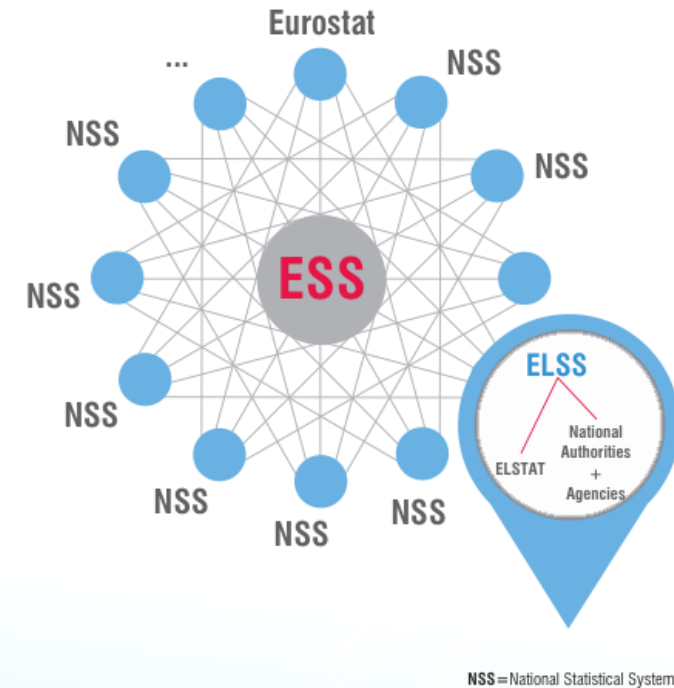
Workshop “Modern official statistics in the EU Accession context”
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HELLENIC STATISTICAL SYSTEM (ELSS)

- ❖ The **Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS)** comprises of 24 agencies, besides ELSTAT, that have the responsibility or obligation to collect/produce statistical data, 10 out of these agencies produce European statistics (National Authorities of the ELSS).
- ❖ The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) is an independent Authority enjoying **operational independence**, as well as **administrative and financial autonomy**. Its operation is subject to the control of the Hellenic Parliament and governed by the provisions of the **Law 3832/2010** «Hellenic Statistical System Establishment of the Hellenic Statistical Authority as an independent Authority», as in force.
- ❖ The ELSS belongs to the European Statistical System (ESS) and produces European statistics, which are set out in the European Statistical Program.





HELLENIC STATISTICAL SYSTEM (ELSS)

Legal framework

European

- ✓ Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 as amended by Regulation (EU) No 2015/759, on European Statistics
- ✓ European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP) containing the principles for ensuring the quality of European statistics
- ✓ Regulation (EC) 679/2016 GDPR

National

- ✓ Greek Statistical Law No 3832/2010 establishing ELSTAT and the Hellenic Statistical System
- ✓ Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT
- ✓ Regulation on the Statistical Obligations of the agencies of ELSS



HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY (ELSTAT)

ELSTAT's mission is to:

Be and remain, beyond any doubt, an independent Statistical Authority, and always function in a way that reflects this very principle

Produce statistics that are useful –relevant - for public policy, the economy, and more broadly the life of the people

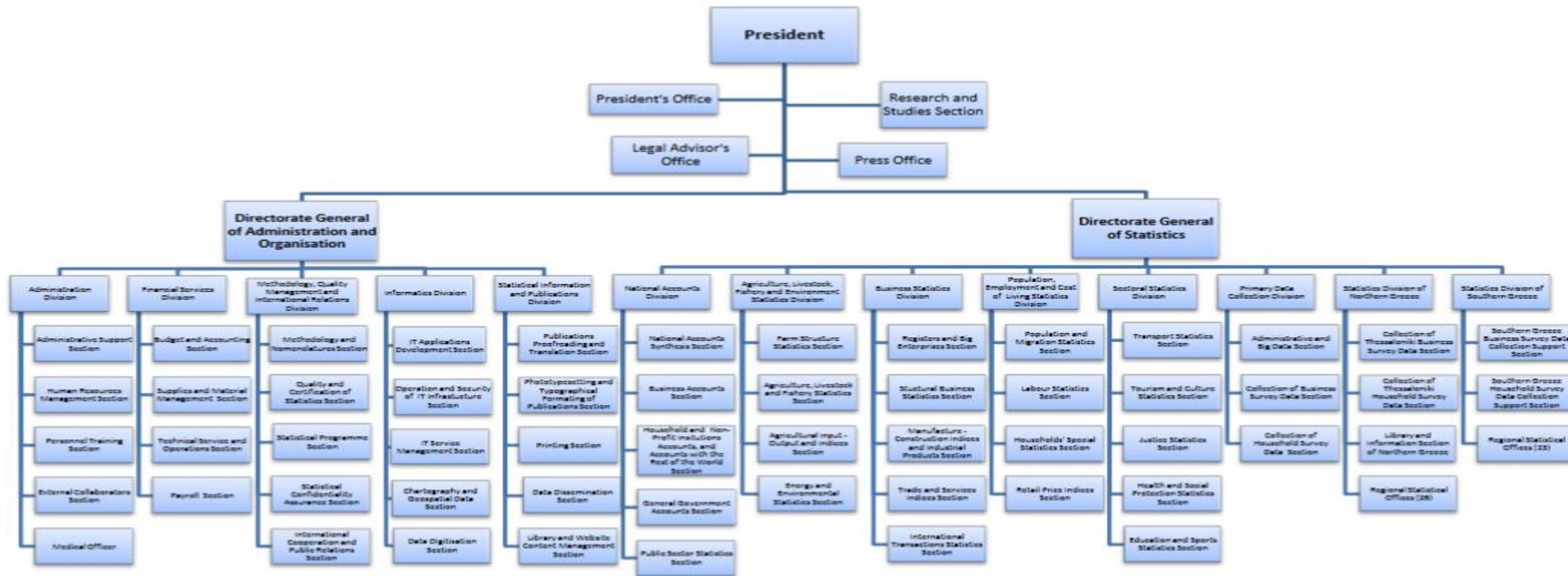
Earn and continuously renew the confidence of users of statistics in their credibility and reliability

Obtain and safeguard the confidence of the statistical reporting which provide confidential information for the production of statistical data

ELSTAT pursues its mission by unswervingly observing the national and European statistical legal framework in force and by adopting the highest standards and best practices of the European and International Statistical System.



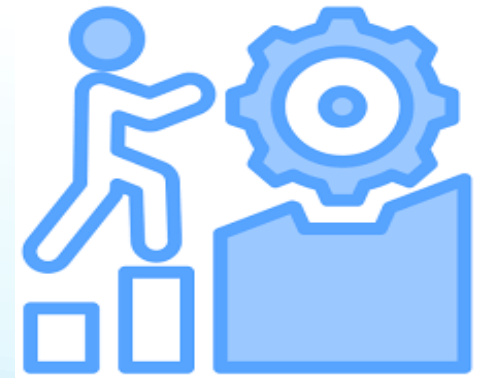
ELSTAT - ORGANISATION CHART





The Population and Housing Census

as a key driver for a modern statistical system





GENERAL CENSUSES IN GREECE

The strategic objectives of the 2021 General Censuses planning was :

- ❖ to meet the current EU and national requirements in statistical information
 - ✓ on the demographic, economic and social characteristics of the population and its housing conditions, and
 - ✓ to identify the country's building stock and the buildings' use and their characteristics
- ❖ to ensure responsiveness to evolving user needs in the future
 - ✓ to establish a more robust and flexible statistical system for social statistics
 - ✓ to establish Statistical Buildings and Population Registers , with a view to
 - maintain up-to-date sampling frames for conducting social statistical surveys, and
 - provide more detailed, and more frequent datasets



GENERAL CENSUSES IN GREECE

CHALLENGES

The challenges faced by ELSTAT for the implementation of its strategic objectives were:

- ❑ the implementation of the 2021 Census in the heart of the covid 19 pandemic and the conditions that prevailed without derogating from the implementation year, foreseen within the EU legal framework
- ❑ the technical limitations for the choice of the census method due to:
 - ✓ the lack of suitable Registers at national level
 - ✓ the lack of a unique ID for both citizens and dwellings that made any linkage between administrative and statistical registers a burdensome undertaking
 - ✓ the strict data protection regulations among different administrations



POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS IN GREECE

Strategic Decisions

- ❑ Population and Housing Census method:
 - ✓ self enumeration of the population electronically via a specially designed and developed in –house web application
- ❑ establishment and maintenance of Buildings and Population Statistical Registers
- ❑ use of data from administrative sources
 - ✓ for the quality controls of the census data (for errors and uniqueness, full coverage of the entire population)
 - ✓ for maintaining the statistical registers
- ❑ the collection of variables serving as "keys" in the context of the census with the aim to link the census data with the ones from administrative sources, namely:
 - Tax Identification Number (TIN) number, and
 - Social Security Number (SSN =AMKA), in addition to variables provided in the EU regulations
- ❑ the introduction of a Special Law for the General Censuses as a key element to ensure their smooth conduct and the set up and maintain of statistical registers in addition to the existing legal framework

In the context of the new provisions of the census the key to ensure its smooth conduct and the set up and maintenance of statistical registers is the establishment of the appropriate legal and institutional arrangements



POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS IN GREECE

Legal and institutional framework

A strong legal framework regulated the implementation of the Population and Housing Census

❖ European Union Legislation

- ✓ Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council
- ✓ Implementing Regulations (EC) No 543/2017 and No 881/2017
- ✓ Regulation (EC) No 712/2017 of the European Parliament and of the Council
- ✓ Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council
- ✓ GDPR Regulation (EU) 679/2016 of the European Parliament and of the Council

❖ National Legislation

- ✓ The Greek Statistical Law 3832/2010
- ✓ The Census Law 4772/2021 regulating the Census
- ✓ The Law 4624/2019 implementing GDPR in Greece
- ✓ Regulatory Decisions of the President of ELSTAT

❖ United Nations Recommendations

- ✓ United Nations Recommendations for the Population - Housing Censuses of 2020 round



POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS IN GREECE

Legal and institutional framework

THE CENSUS LAW

❖ For the first time,

following preparation and consultation by ELSTAT, a designated draft bill was submitted to Parliament, and adopted as a Law (Census Law 4772/2021) by the vast majority of its members, gaining broad support from both government and opposition parties

✓ The Census Law was submitted

for public consultation, as all proposed laws in Greece, for more than a month and ELSTAT was able to explain the scope and answer all the questions arising within the parliamentary committees

ELSTAT also had

the opportunity to discuss questions arising from the citizens regarding the necessity of the Census, the variables and their justified agony regarding the pandemic and how this might affect the Census



POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS IN GREECE

Legal and institutional framework

THE CENSUS LAW

The **Aim** of introducing a special Law for the Census was:

- ✓ to provide a long-term and comprehensive legal basis for population statistics
- ✓ to meet evolving user needs, and
- ✓ to exploit the opportunities provided by the growing usage of administrative data sources and new methods





POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS IN GREECE

Legal and institutional framework

The Census Law specified:

- ✓ the purpose of the Census
- ✓ the subject,
- ✓ the statistical definitions
- ✓ the variables (including TIN & SSN=AMKA),
- ✓ the budget,
- ✓ the methodology,
- ✓ data collection,
- ✓ post-census activities

Special clauses allowed to the President of ELSTAT to be able to make all the appropriate adaptations regarding the data collection period, the variables and the people working for the Census

ΕΦΗΜΕΡΙΔΑ ΤΗΣ ΚΥΒΕΡΝΗΣΕΩΣ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗΣ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑΣ

5 Φεβρουαρίου 2021

ΤΕΥΧΟΣ ΠΡΩΤΟ

Αρ. Φύλλου 17

ΝΟΜΟΣ ΥΠ' ΑΡΙΘΜ. 4772

Διενέργεια Γενικών Απογραφών έτους 2021 από την Ελληνική Στατιστική Αρχή, επείγουσες ρυθμίσεις για την αντιμετώπιση των επιπτώσεων της πανδημίας του κορωνοϊού COVID-19, επείγουσες δημοσιονομικές και φορολογικές ρυθμίσεις και άλλες διατάξεις.

Η ΠΡΟΕΔΡΟΣ
ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗΣ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑΣ

Εκδίδομε τον ακόλουθο νόμο που ψήφισε η Βουλή:

ΠΙΝΑΚΑΣ ΠΕΡΙΕΧΟΜΕΝΩΝ

ΜΕΡΟΣ Α': ΔΙΕΝΕΡΓΕΙΑ ΓΕΝΙΚΩΝ ΑΠΟΓΡΑΦΩΝ ΕΤΟΥΣ 2021 ΑΠΟ ΤΗΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΣΤΑΤΙΣΤΙΚΗ ΑΡΧΗ
Άρθρο 1: Σκοπός
ΚΕΦΑΛΑΙΟ Α': ΔΙΕΝΕΡΓΕΙΑ ΑΠΟΓΡΑΦΩΝ ΚΠΚ ΕΤΟΥΣ 2021
Άρθρο 2: Αντικείμενο των Απογραφών ΚΠΚ
Άρθρο 3: Ορισμοί των Απογραφών ΚΠΚ
Άρθρο 4: Πεδίο εφαρμογής των Απογραφών ΚΠΚ

Άρθρο 16: Περιφερειακές και Δημοτικές Ομάδες Εργασίας των Απογραφών Γ-Κ
ΚΕΦΑΛΑΙΟ Δ': ΡΥΘΜΙΣΕΙΣ ΔΙΟΙΚΗΤΙΚΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΚΩΝ ΘΕΜΑΤΩΝ

Άρθρο 17: Διοικητικά θέματα

Άρθρο 18: Καθεστώς και αποζημίωση Τομεαρχών, Απογραφέων και Συνοδών-Διερμηνέων των Γενικών Απογραφών

Άρθρο 19: Καθεστώς και αποζημίωση συλλογικών οργάνων των Γενικών Απογραφών

ΚΕΦΑΛΑΙΟ Ε': ΘΕΜΑΤΑ ΜΕΤΑΠΟΓΡΑΦΙΚΩΝ ΕΡΓΑΣΙΩΝ

Άρθρο 20: Ασφαλής αποθήκευση δεδομένων των Γενικών Απογραφών ΚΠΚ και Γ-Κ

Άρθρο 21: Στατιστικά μητρώα των Απογραφών ΚΠΚ

Άρθρο 22: Στατιστικό Γεωργικό Μητρώο

ΚΕΦΑΛΑΙΟ ΣΤ': ΛΟΙΠΕΣ ΡΥΘΜΙΣΕΙΣ

Άρθρο 23: Υποστήριξη από άλλους κρατικούς φορείς

Άρθρο 24: Εξουσιοδοτικές διατάξεις

Άρθρο 25: Παραρτήματα

ΜΕΡΟΣ Β' : ΕΠΕΙΓΟΥΣΕΣ ΡΥΘΜΙΣΕΙΣ ΓΙΑ ΤΗΝ ΑΝΤΙΜΕΤΩΠΙΣΗ ΤΩΝ ΕΠΙΠΤΩΣΕΩΝ ΤΗΣ ΠΑΝΔΗΜΙΑΣ ΤΟΥ



POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS IN GREECE

Legal and institutional framework

Future obligations:

- ✓ the creation, for the first time in Greece, of the Building and Population registers
- ✓ clear provisions that all the Authorities/Bodies in Greece are obliged to provide administrative data to ELSTAT

Overall, ELSTAT enjoyed full independence regarding the Census since the President of ELSTAT was the sole decision-maker regarding the timetables, the procedures, the variables etc.



LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The Census Law

is in line with the Digital Transformation Bible in Greece (Law 4727/2020), as regards the interoperability of the administrative registers

is providing to the President of ELSTAT the flexibility and freedom of choice regarding the times, the procedures and even the variables of the Census

is ensuring the smooth provision of administrative data and their effective use for statistical purposes nowadays and in the future



LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

One of the most important aspects of the 2021 Population-Housing Census was the strong legal statistical framework with a solid democratic legitimization in line with the best chosen scientific statistical practices

This feature indicates the recognition of the professional independence of ELSTAT and provides a solid basis for the Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS) to be able to meet both current and future challenges





POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS IN GREECE

Institutional Framework

Special agreements, in the form of memorandums of cooperation with the owners of administrative data that determine the terms and conditions of ELSTAT's access to administrative data



Excellent and continuous cooperation with the owners of the administrative data



ensuring the smooth provision of administrative data and their effective use for statistical purposes nowadays and for the future



POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS IN GREECE

The Questionnaire

Census questionnaires have been designed according to:

- ✓ the UNECE Recommendations on Population and Housing Censuses
- ✓ the European Regulation (EU) 763/2008
- ✓ the accumulated experience in ELSTAT and the suggestions of other public agencies and stakeholders

For the first time, the Population Census included the collection of:

- ❖ **the tax identification number (TIN Number) and**
- ❖ **the Social Security Number (SSN = AMKA)**

Aim

to introduce a unique identification number for each person to link the statistical data from the Population Census to data from administrative registers



POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS IN GREECE

The purpose was two-fold:

- ✓ to link the variables gathered in the Census with data from administrative registers, with the aim to verify their quality (for errors/uniqueness and to ensure full coverage of the entire population) in order to safeguard the results of the Census and
- ✓ to build a solid basis (together with the results of the 2021 Census) for the establishment of the statistical Population Register, subject to a continuous updating with the use of administrative data.





POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS IN GREECE

DATA COLLECTION

New approach for the data collection as a result of the covid 19 pandemic

- ✓ electronic self-enumeration of the households via a specially designed (in-house) web application.
- ✓ face-to-face or phone interview only for the households where the electronic self-enumeration was not possible, as well as people in reception facilities, nursing homes, hospitals, camps etc.

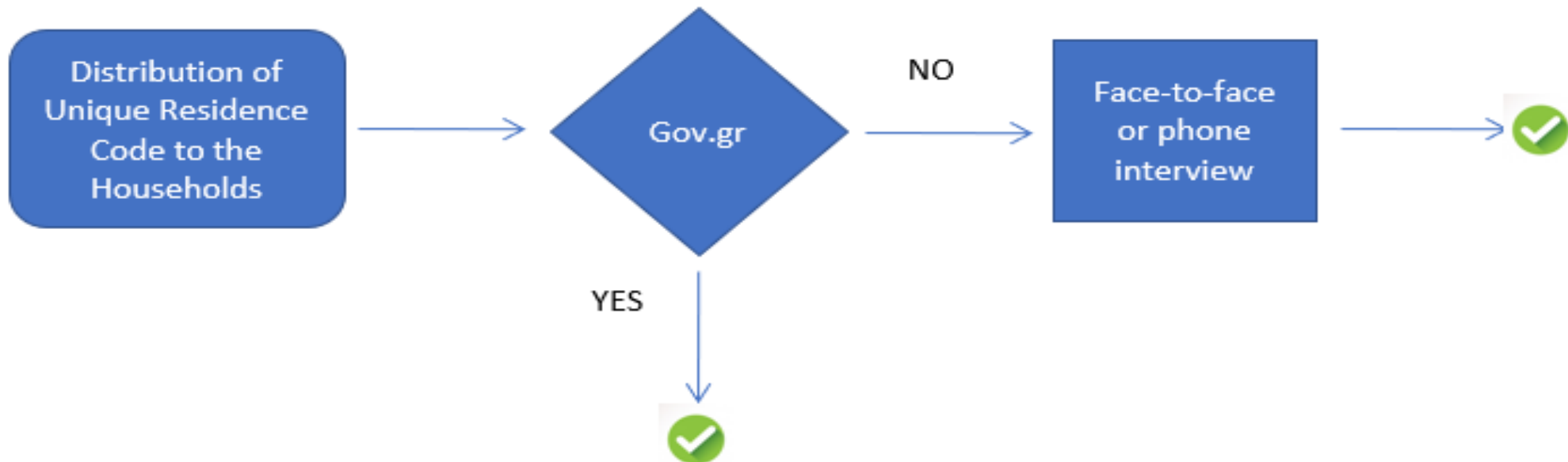




POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS IN GREECE

The Building Census, which is carried out every 10 years, to meet national requirements was also used as a Preparatory Phase of the 2021 Population and Housing Census

- ✓ in addition to building characteristics, information on building coordinates was collected and lists of buildings were compiled identifying the dwellings/households to be enumerated





POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS IN GREECE ELECTRONIC MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING SYSTEM

Hierarchical Structure of the Census



The management of the entire Census project was performed electronically, by level of responsibility of the Census bodies, with a parallel control of the completeness and correctness of the data collected



SETTING-UP OF STATISTICAL POPULATION REGISTER

The Statistical Population Register will be set up on the basis of the 2021 census data and is going to be subject to a continuous updating with the use of administrative data

Purpose

- ✓ to provide of more detailed, and
- ✓ more frequent datasets as regards topics characteristics and breakdowns for basic demographic characteristics
- ✓ to maintain updated sampling frames for the conduct of social statistical surveys
- ✓ to establish a more flexible statistical system able to adapt to the evolving user needs in the future as regards social statistics



USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SOURCES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE 2021 POPULATION-HOUSING CENSUS

Registry Offices/
Civil Registers

Register of Citizens

DEDDIE
(Hellenic Electricity Distribution
Network Operator))

TAX AUTHORITY

ERGANI
(Min. of Employment)

IDIKA
(Information System for
Social Security)

My school



**TOTAL
ENUMERATION OF
POPULATION &
HOUSING**

(collection of all
variables including
TIN,SSN)



Statistical Population
Register

Census results

- Eurostat
- National tables

Statistical Building
Register





CONCLUSIONS

The success of the Population and Housing Census 2021 as a result of the strategic decisions made by ELSTAT both at technical and institutional level determines the future of the statistical system in Greece

❖ From the technical point of view, the lessons learned from:

- ✓ the implementation of the new data collection system based on the electronic self-enumeration method and the electronic management system
- ✓ the broad response of the population to the self enumeration
- ✓ the high quality of the results obtained
- ✓ the benefits of linking collected data with data from administrative sources and
- ✓ the cost efficiency of the method used



are the elements that will determine ELSTAT's future strategy and the planning of its statistical program in all sectors of the economy



CONCLUSIONS

The legal and institutional framework set up for the census is also one of the most important factors laying the foundations for a more modern statistical system in Greece, by:

- ✓ providing a long-term and comprehensive legal basis for population statistics
- ✓ institutionalizing the establishment and maintenance of Statistical Registers of Population and Buildings with clear provisions that all Authorities/Bodies in Greece are obliged to provide administrative data to ELSTAT
- ✓ ensuring the inclusion in the Census questionnaire, for the first time, of two unique variables as keys (identifiers) to be used to link statistical data with data from other sources

Finally, this legal framework and the trust that ELSTAT has been enjoying in recent years, that allows administrative data to be provided, sets the required institutional environment that will help the whole ELSS to respond to the increasing needs for statistical information



#GreekDataMatter



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Authority**



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