

**PEER REVIEWERS' RECOMMENDATIONS AND INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS OF
ALBANIA INSTAT IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE
RECOMMENDATIONS**

PEER REVIEWER'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS

STRENGTHEN THE INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT (RECOMMENDATIONS 1 – 9)

1. INSTAT should assess the statistics produced by ministries and other agencies and, having taken account of the opinion of the Statistical Council, establish a broader list of official statistics. This list should include all European statistics. The five-year programme should be adapted accordingly (European statistics Code of Practice, Coordination).

Current situation¹:

The statistical production in Albania is covered by Producers of Official Statistics (INSTAT, Bank of Albania and Ministry of Finances and Economy). Several sectorial statistics are produced by other public institutions, but not considered as “official statistics”. Pursuant to the statistical law, the official statistics in Albania are considered the set of statistical indicators produces and disseminated only by Producers of Official Statistics, according to the five-year statistical programme. In order to create a broader list of official statistics, including European statistics, INSTAT has planned to intensify the communication with public institutions that own administrative data sets or elaborate them for statistical purposes and can be used as sources for producing official statistics.

To this end, INSTAT is focused on establishment of a long-term strategy for the development of National Statistical System. The document will directly affect the fulfilment of Recommendation no. 1 of the Peer Review for the extension of the field of official statistics currently produced by other institutions outside the National Statistical System. INSTAT will prepare a list of institutions to be potentially considered as producers of official statistics and to include them in the next 5-year Official Statistics Programme (OSP).

Improvement² action 1 ³

¹ A short explanation with background information in order to help put the improvement action in a clear context ²

In response to the recommendation and based on the SMART approach:

- **Specific** – Answer to “What?” “ Why?” “Who?” “ Where?” “Which?”
- **Measurable** – Answer to “How much?” “How many?” “How to know when the improvement action is accomplished?”
 - **Attainable** - Is the improvement action realistically achievable? □ **Relevant** – Is the improvement action compatible with the recommendation?

- 1.1 Review the administrative data sources and prepare an inventory of non-official statistics produced by other public institutions
- 1.2 Prepare a list of public institutions to be considered as potential official statistics producers and reflect them in the National Statistical System Development Strategy
- 1.3 Amend the 5-Year OSP

Timeline⁴:

1.1 - DURING 2019

1.2 - Q3 2019

1.3 – Q4 2019

2. INSTAT should establish a committee of producers of official statistics. The committee should be chaired by the Director General of INSTAT, and membership should consist of the most senior statistical representatives from the other producers. (European statistics Code of Practice, Coordination)

Current situation:

The coordination of NSS role is covered by INSTAT. The law on official statistics lists the main coordinating activities where the institution should be focused and charged. In order to ensure the appropriate coordination, especially regarding planning and following up activities of the statistical system, it is suggested to establish a specific structure composed by highest level representatives of Producers of Official Statistics. This structure will deal with quality issues, compliance with the CoP, programming and planning, methodological support, standards and classifications, technical assistance, uniform dissemination policies, training opportunities, and the exchange of information about current issues. The committee would ensure the implementation of guidelines and standards for the development, production and dissemination of statistics throughout the NSS. Apart from strengthening coordination and communication, the forum would provide the expanded NSS with a stronger identity.

In order to strengthen the system coordination process, INSTAT will establish the Producers Committee, in cooperation with the heads of other producers of official statistics.

Improvement action:

- **Time-bound** – By when has the improvement action been implemented?

³ Number the improvement actions. If justified and sensible:

1. One improvement action can address more than one recommendation.
2. More than one improvement action can be developed to implement one recommendation

⁴ Adapted to the complexity of the action. The timeline should specify the month/quarter/semester in a given year.

<p>2.1. Establishing the Producers Committee through a common agreement between heads of producers of official statistics</p>
<p>Timeline: 2.1 - Q4 2018</p>
<p>3. INSTAT should establish and maintain a common dissemination portal for all official statistics. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principle 15 and Coordination)</p>
<p>Current situation: In the official website of INSTAT, a specific window is dedicated exclusively to the National Statistical System. A common statistical publication calendar for the entire system is published. Some mechanisms are planned to be established in order to monitor the calendar implementation and to reflect at real time any discrepancy or postponed date for the publication of a specific statistical indicator. In the frame of broadening the list of official statistics and number of their producers, this calendar will be enriched with other statistical indicators and statistical agencies responsible for their production.</p>
<p>Improvement action: 3.1 Establish the common statistical dissemination portal for the entire statistical system, with the updated broader list of official statistics and statistical agencies</p>
<p>Timeline: 3.1 - Q2 2019</p>
<p>4. INSTAT should publish a common release calendar covering all official statistics, showing the date and time of publication for each release, and it should monitor and assess the compliance of producers with this calendar. (European statistics Code of Practice, Indicator 6.5 and Coordination)</p>
<p>Current situation: There is a linkage between recommendations 3 and 4. In addition to the explanations above mentioned, a specific unit within the organizational structure of INSTAT will be established and charged for monitoring the implementation of this calendar and reporting in real time. Currently INSTAT has a common release calendar of all official statistic agencies but needs to improve that.</p>

Improvement action:

- 4.1 Improving the common release calendar for all official statistics of the NSS
- 4.2 Charging a specific unit for monitoring the appropriate implementation of the dissemination calendar

Timeline:**4.1 - Q1 2019****4.2 - Q1 2019**

5. INSTAT should coordinate and publish a detailed annual report describing progress in implementing the five-year programme of official statistics. (European statistics Code of Practice, Indicator 1.5 and Coordination)

Current situation:

Pursuant to the Article 13, point 2/d of the statistical law, INSTAT is obliged to present to Assembly the Annual Progress Report of the National Statistical System and the implementation of the Official Statistics Program, within April of the following year. Currently, INSTAT has agreed with other producers of official statistics on the structure of this report. The Annual Progress Report for the whole NSS will be published for the first time in 2019.

Improvement action:

- 5.1 Prepare the Annual report of OSP implementation according to the agreed template among producers of official statistics
- 5.2 Publish the Annual Report of OSP

Timeline:**5.1 - Q1 2019****5.2 – Q2 2019** (Immediately after its approval by Albanian Parliament)

6. INSTAT should exercise its right to react publicly to the misuse or misinterpretation of official statistics, for example by issuing a statement on its website in a small number of well selected cases. (European statistics Code of Practice, Indicator 1.7)

Current situation:

INSTAT does not yet have a formal policy in this area, and to date they have been rather reluctant to appear in the media in the context of political debates involving statistics. The new Dissemination Policy of INSTAT envisages that the responsible unit on dissemination, within the institution, will communicate with the editor to publish clarifying materials for correcting mistakes or to explain misinterpretation or misuse of statistics published.

Improvement action:

6.1 Add a specific chapter on the dissemination policy of INSTAT on how INSTAT should react when it comes to misinterpretations and misuses of official statistics.

Timeline:

6.1 – Q4 2018

7. INSTAT should: establish an internal Confidentiality Committee; provide practical guidelines for staff on how best to protect confidentiality in the processing and dissemination of statistics; and publish a Confidentiality Policy on its website explaining, in simple terms, to stakeholders (respondents, providers of administrative data, researchers accessing microdata) how they ensure that confidentiality is properly protected. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principle 5)

Current situation:

The protection of statistical confidentiality principle is regulated by the Law on Official Statistics and internal rules and procedures on statistical confidentiality, information security and the protection of personal data approved by INSTAT. A specific internal regulation, approved by INSTAT and the Data Protection Commissioner, contains ethical rules for processing personal data. INSTAT's staff sign a confidentiality statement on appointment moment. There is a need to establish a central organisational structure within INSTAT for dealing with statistical confidentiality through proposing internal procedural rules on technological, organisational and security measures. This unit will discuss the anonymisation of microdata files and the protection of confidentiality in statistical tables. To this end, INSTAT will establish a Committee on Confidentiality that will also consider the Draft Confidentiality Policy and guidelines on its implementation.

Improvement action:

- 7.1 Establish the Confidentiality Committee through an internal order by INSTAT's General Director
- 7.2 Draft the Confidentiality Policy and guidelines for its implementation
- 7.3 Publish the Confidentiality Policy on INSTAT's web site

Timeline:

7.1 - Q4 2018

7.2 - Q4 2020

7.3 - Q4 2020

8. INSTAT should undertake an assessment of any threats that may be posed to statistical legislation by other legislative acts, including the

Law on Archives and the Law on the Right to Information. If statistical confidentiality is shown to be compromised, INSTAT should propose legislative changes to the Government of Albania to ensure that statistical confidentiality is properly protected. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principle 5)

Current situation:

The Law on Archives and the Law on the Right of information regulates respectively the archiving of scanned data collected and the provision to the interested parties the information on the data collected as per their right of information. These approaches might hamper the statistical confidentiality principle. In order to assess possible discrepancies, INSTAT will organize and hold meetings with senior and technical representatives of the General Directorate of Archives and the Commissioner for the Right to Information and Protection of Personal Data. Later on, if necessary, INSTAT will propose legislative changes to ensure that statistical confidentiality is adequately protected.

Improvement action:

- 8.1 Organize meetings of senior and technical level with representatives of General Directorate of Archives and Commissioner for the Right to Information and Protection of Personal Data.
- 8.2 Assess all other legislation of the country of any threats that may be posed to statistical legislation
- 8.3 Prepare concrete proposals for harmonizing the legislation in order to ensure statistical confidentiality.

Timeline:

8.1 - Q4 2018

8.2 – Q4 2019

8.3 - Q4 2019

9. INSTAT should further develop its quality management framework by establishing a quality steering committee. Quality management should focus on projects that are needed to support activities in all statistical areas, such as the development of detailed quality guidelines and the publication of a quality statement. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principle 4)

Current situation:

The quality infrastructure is covered by the quality unit, within organizational structure of INSTAT. The Coordinator for Quality Statistics, who reports to the Director General, is responsible to monitor and further improve the statistical quality of INSTAT and other producers of official statistics. In addition to the current INSTATs publications on quality reports, further efforts are needed to identify the gaps and possible areas to interfere in order to improve the quality management. To this end, it is suggested to follow other NSI's experiences which have specific QM committee, in charge to discuss the quality

issues and to set up the concrete activities for QM. The QM Committee can be mainly involved in: the development of detailed quality guidelines to be followed by the line departments, setting standards for quality reports and ensuring that these standards are being followed, and the production of user oriented quality reports for all statistical products, prioritise the production and publication of a quality policy document, plan quality projects etc. To this end, INSTAT has prepared "Quality Guidelines" and a Quality Steering Committee will be later on established for the implementation of this recommendation.

Improvement action:

- 9.1 Establish the Quality Steering Committee for issuing guidelines on statistical quality and quality reports.
- 9.2 Develop detailed quality guidelines
- 9.3. Publish the quality statement

Timeline:

- 9.1 - Q4 2018
- 9.2 - Q4 2018
- 9.3 - Q4 2018

DEVELOP QUALITY MANAGEMENT FURTHER AND IMPROVE COST-EFFECTIVENESS (RECOMMENDATIONS 10 – 19)

10. INSTAT should increase the use of electronic techniques of data collection and reduce the resources devoted to interviewing in household and business surveys. (European statistics Code of Practice, Indicator 10.2)

Current situation:

The rate of data collection through paper questionnaires compared to other ways is relatively high in INSTAT. This approach requests a large number of staff devoted to data collection, accompanied with relatively high cost allocation for HR. In order to reduce timeliness of data collection and processing and to improve cost-effectiveness, INSTAT is focused on introducing new ways for data collection. In this context, currently INSTAT use the instrument CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing) for household surveys and ICT survey on enterprises. For business surveys, INSTAT has tried web-based questionnaires for the larger enterprises. INSTAT consider to increase the use of electronic techniques of data collection in both household and business surveys and, possibly other statistical surveys. In the INSTAT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2017-2030, the objective 2 is directly related to the “Use of appropriate data sources and instruments to improve the production and quality of indicators and statistical services”, moreover sub objective 2.2 is related to the “Use of IT systems and tools for data collection”. INSTAT intends to use new data collection techniques taking into consideration the advantages such as: eliminating logical flow problems in the questionnaire, adding consistency checks during the time the interview is conducted /filled in, eliminating the data entry process in the system and reducing the time it takes for the data to come from the field. An action plan has been prepared to

follow up the implementation of the strategy.

Improvement action:

- 10.1 Piloting the use of electronic techniques of data collection on statistical activities which haven't used these techniques
- 10.2 Report the progress of electronic techniques development in every INSTAT's Annual Report
- 10.3 Gradually introduce electronic techniques for data capture in surveys

Timeline:

10.1 - Q4 2019

10.2 - CONTINUOUSLY

10.3 - CONTINUOUSLY

11. To increase cost-efficiency, INSTAT should aim to use the postal service as far as possible to deliver questionnaires and reminders in business surveys where paper questionnaires continue to be used. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principle 10)

Current situation:

The postal addresses in Albania are of low quality. This impacts directly the process of data collection in field work, mainly for business sector. INSTAT routinely uses its interviewers to deliver questionnaires to businesses. Indeed, this is all the more a reason for INSTAT to strive towards the use of webbased questionnaires and, where appropriate, CATI. With the gradual improvement in the quality of addresses and the more widespread use of postcodes in Albania, INSTAT will increase the amount of questionnaires that can be delivered via post service, in order to allocate appropriately its human resources for other activities reducing the number of interviewers. To this end, INSTAT needs to strengthen the relation with the managers of the post service and find the appropriate ways of collaboration in order to facilitate the data collection process from statistical units.

Improvement action:

- 11.1 Intensify the relations with postal service for data collection activity
- 11.2 Evaluate the efficiency of addresses system in Albania
- 11.3 Use postal service to distribute the survey questionnaires

Timeline:

11.1 - 2019

11.2 - 2019

11.3 – Q4 2021

12. INSTAT should propose to the relevant organisations that software for maintaining company records takes the needs of official statistics into account. (European statistics Code of Practice, Indicator 10.2)

Current situation:

The enterprises in Albania use different IT systems for maintaining their data and records. This creates a considerable obstacle for them to adapt the information needed by INSTAT during the process of data collection. This obstacle can be reduced if the software used by companies to maintain their records, such as accounting and payroll systems, can provide additional modules to extract the data needed for statistical purposes. Hence, within the second quarter of 2019 INSTAT will initiate co-operation with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry to conduct meetings with business representatives in order to prepare concrete proposals for adapting computer programs and to include modules for statistical purposes.

Improvement action:

- 12.1 Initiate co-operation with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry to conduct meetings with business representatives on harmonizing software for data transmission
- 12.2 Develop an action plan based on inputs of meetings

Timeline:

12.1 - Q2 2019

12.2 - Q3 2019

13. The Methodological Unit of INSTAT should provide methodological guidelines that are appropriate for all statistical products, should ensure that these guidelines are followed and should update the guidelines periodically. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principle 7)

Current situation:

The methodological infrastructure of INSTAT consists of various units that are engaged in different statistical activities based on different sets of regulations and methodology standards. In order to provide high quality statistics based on harmonised methodology, INSTAT is going to focus on providing appropriate methodological guidelines covering the needs of all statistical areas. The standard methodological guidelines will reduce the collaboration time and the need for methodological consultations between different units, increasing the efficiency of the statistical processes and the quality of the statistical products.

Improvement action:

13.1 INSTAT will provide methodological guidelines for all statistical products

Timeline:

13.1 - Q4 2019

14. To reduce costs, including training and support costs, INSTAT should rationalise the range of IT tools that are used in statistical processing. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principles 7 and 10)

Current situation:

The statistical processes in INSTAT make use of a wide variety of IT tools such as SPSS, SAS, Stata, MS Access, R, and others. Across line departments, the software used differs widely. This increases complexity and reduces efficiency. It also results in greater costs for licences, system maintenance, support and training. In the INSTAT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2017-2030, the objective 4 is directly related to the “Development of innovative ITC systems for statistical processing, data exchange and communication.”, moreover sub objective 4.1 is related to the “Automation and standardization of statistical production processes and data processing”. INSTAT intends to set up a standard production environment where information technology tools are combined to create an integrated production support for statistics. The integrated statistical production environment enables efficient maintenance of Information Technology tools / components and activities related to the production process at INSTAT. An action plan has been prepared to follow up the implementation of the strategy.

Improvement action:

- 14.1 Piloting the use of standardised approaches for statistical production
- 14.2 Implement the standardised approaches for statistical production
- 14.3 Report the progress in every INSTAT's Annual Report

Timeline:

14.1 - Q1 2020

14.2 - Q1 2021

14.3 - CONTINUOUSLY

15. INSTAT should plan the implementation steps for harmonising their statistical processes towards the Generic Statistical Business Process Model, in cooperation with other NSIs where possible. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principle 7)

Current situation:

INSTAT is using the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) to improve the cost-effectiveness of the processes and the quality of the statistical products. Several statistical processes are documented by statistical departments. The documentation of the statistical processes is harmonised towards GSBPM. In order to achieve this goal, INSTAT has organised training sessions with its staff in order to familiarize them with GSBPM standards concept.

Improvement action:

- 15.1 Establish collaboration links with other NSIs to implement GSBPM at the appropriate way
- 15.2 Prepare a plan with the steps how to harmonize INSTAT's statistical and other processes with GSBPM
- 15.3 Extend the use of GSBPM at INSTAT, where suitable, based on other NSI's experience

Timeline:

15.1 - Q4 2019

15.2 - Q3 2019

15.3 - Q4 2020

16. INSTAT should develop guidelines for methodological reviews, including self-assessment and statistical auditing. A plan should be devised to apply reviews to the INSTAT portfolio over the coming years. (European statistics Code of Practice, Indicator 4.4)

Current situation:

Some external reviews have been conducted, such as the Sector Review of business statistics in 2015 and the Sector Review of the Labour Force Survey in 2016. INSTAT is taking steps in the direction of statistical revision. Regarding quality issues, INSTAT has prepared the “Implementation strategy of total quality management” and draft Quality guidelines to follow the GSBPM framework principles. The Quality guideline will be used as base for internal statistical audit and self-assessment process.

A working plan is prepared in 2018 for this process. Within this year INSTAT is planning to conduct a pilot-Internal Audit and a pilot-Self-assessment. For this purposes the respective questionnaires are prepared. These goals will help to improve quality and cost-efficiency. A small team will be assigned to assess systematically key statistical products, together with the staff involved for their production. Within 2018, INSTAT will have an action plan to be implemented for 2019.

Improvement action:

16.1 Assign a team for assessing the key statistical products

16.2 Conduct pilots on audit and self-assessment based on the work plan and relevant questionnaires

16.3 Prepare a plan to apply reviews to the INSTAT portfolio over the coming years 16.4

Develop guidelines for methodological reviews

Timeline:

16.1 - Q4 2018

16.2 - Q4 2018

16.3 - Q4 2019

16.4 - Q2 2020

17. INSTAT should set a timeliness target for each statistical product, and it should monitor and report on progress. (European statistics Code of Practice, indicator 13.1)

Current situation:

Timeliness is a useful indicator of performance and progress. INSTAT publishes, in its annual report, Performance Assessment Indicators. One of them is the number of publications released on time, where is provided the overall percentage for the latest year and the target for the next year. A timeliness target for each individual statistical product will be provided as well.

Improvement action:

17.1 Increase the performance indicators regarding timeliness for all surveys conducted by INSTAT and monitor

Timeline:

17.1 - Q4 2018

18. INSTAT and other national authorities producing European statistics should measure the response burden systematically for all their surveys. Senior management should monitor the burden and set targets for its reduction over time. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principle 9)

Current situation:

In each household survey, INSTAT has a question on the time taken to complete the survey. Therefore, it can be measured the burden on households. Actually, INSTAT publishes this information in its annual report on the response burden indicator for enterprise and household surveys. In the beginning of 2019th some targets will be predicted to be achieved at least in mid-term perspective for each survey conducted. In addition, in 2018 INSTAT will measure the response burden for all surveys in both ways: Time of the interview and number of questionnaire.

Improvement action:

18.1 Measuring response burden for each statistical survey conducted by producers of official statistics

Timeline:

18.1 - Q4 2019

19. INSTAT should establish a comprehensive system that enables the estimation of the costs of statistical processes and products, and should use the resulting information for management purposes including the benchmarking of efficiency and cost-effectiveness. (European statistics Code of Practice, Indicator 10.1)

Current situation:

INSTAT has introduced an accounting system that registers the working time of each staff member, classified to particular statistical activities. The system was piloted in 2017 and is now operational in the Office. INSTAT plans to combine the time-recording information with financial data and to classify the results according to the GSBPM. Preliminary results, to be regarded as baseline indicators, should be available later in 2018.

Improvement action:

- 19.1 Test the time measuring system established in INSTAT and its dedication to each statistical or supporting activity
- 19.2 Establish a performance indicator on cost-effectiveness to be reported on Annual Reports

Timeline:

19.1 – Q1 2019

19.2 – Q1 - 2020

IMPROVE COMMUNICATION WITH USERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS (RECOMMENDATIONS 20 – 24)

20. The Statistical Council should get more public visibility. The agenda, the minutes, and where relevant, other documentation of the meetings of the Statistical Council should be published on a dedicated page on the INSTAT website. (European statistics Code of Practice, Indicator 11.1)

Current situation:

The role and composition of the Statistical Council is set out in the Law on Official Statistics. The role of the Council is, essentially, purely advisory. It gives its opinion on the five-year programme and the annual plan, and it reviews and evaluates the annual report and the four-monthly progress reports on the implementation of the programme. The Statistical Council is composed of eleven members, appointed by the Albanian Parliament, based on professional interest in official statistics as users of statistics. The members represent local government, the Bank of Albania, the Ministry of Finance and Economy, main users (two members), academia (two members), civil society, Chambers of Commerce and the media. The Director General of INSTAT is an ex officio member. The Statistical Council has yet to be appointed, due to the need for approval by a Government Decision on its rules of procedure and selection.

Currently in the dedicated directory of INSTAT's website for the Statistical Council's, there is not any detailed information on its activity. In order to inform the public and users on its Statistical Council's activity, INSTAT will publish information on the agenda of Councils meetings, minutes, summary and decisions taken.

Improvement action:

20.1 Publish information on Statistical Council, like the agenda of meetings, minutes, summary and decisions taken

Timeline:

20.1 - Q4 2018

21. INSTAT should establish a system of permanent user groups for key statistical areas. (European statistics Code of Practice, Indicator 11.1)

Current situation:

The Statistical Council, which is currently reorganized due to the new statistical law, is composed by representative of users. It gives opinions on draft programmes and plans.

INSTAT has set up different working groups for key statistical areas within INSTAT, meanwhile new WGs are proposed to be established, such as WG related to Measure of efficiency of statistical activities; WG related to Implementation of COICOP 2018; WG related to Consistency of Labour Force with NA and Agriculture Statistics. There are various ad hoc working groups, and many bilateral contacts and meetings with the main users. User groups are set up occasionally on a temporary basis. INSTAT also use Facebook as a channel for communicating with users.

The existing user group related to Uses of Statistical Business Register will be revised with members from National Business Registration, Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Business association. A detailed calendar of consultations with key users will be included in the Operational Plan of 2019.

The first user satisfaction survey was conducted in 2017, the results of which are available on the INSTAT website, and this survey will be repeated annually. Regular analysis of user requests provides useful insight into the relevance of the various statistical products. Service level agreements and memorandums of understanding have been established with some key users. Occasional seminars, workshops and roundtables are set up for particular topics.

Improvement action:

21.1 Establish new user groups;

21.2 Expand the existing user groups with additional representatives

21.3 Prepare a detailed consultation calendar with key users, to be included in the 2019 Operational Plan

Timeline:

21.1 - Q4 2018

21.2 - Q1 2019

21.3 - Q2 2019

22. In order to raise awareness of official statistics, INSTAT should work more proactively with journalists and news media by providing further seminars, workshops or informal events. A dedicated page of the INSTAT website should provide the media with information tailored for their purposes. (European statistics Code of Practice, Principle 15)

Current situation:

INSTAT organizes several press conferences and releases in order to get the media involved as much as possible. One of the positions on the Statistical Council is reserved for a media representative. In overall, media representatives consider the INSTAT's website, press releases, reports and other informative materials as very useful for them. In order to raise the awareness of official statistics and to enhance the knowledge in official statistics, INSTAT is organizing workshops and trainings with users and media representatives.

Improvement action:

- 22.1 Conduct trainings, meetings and workshops with media representatives
- 22.2 Report the communication progress level with media in Annual Reports

Timeline:

22.1 - Starting from Q4 2018

22.2 - Starting from Q2 2019 and Continuously

23. INSTAT should provide a headline and improved commentary in its statistical releases. (European statistics Code of Practice, Indicator 15.1)

Current situation:

INSTAT'S releases form an important component of dissemination, providing the latest information to the media and other users. The releases are factual and objective, they have a consistent look and feel, and they have a reasonable balance between text, tables and graphics. In the communication and dissemination strategy, INSTAT has planned to improve the news releases by providing more accurate headlines and improved commentary of each one. To this end, the textual commentary could be improved, providing deeper analysis and information behind the figures.

Improvement action:

- 23.1 Improve the quality of the press notices through carefully drafting the headlines and improving the comments for each announcement.

Timeline:
23.1 - Q4 2018

24. INSTAT should continue to strengthen cooperation with the academic world by developing methodologies, collaborating in the production of official statistics, training, and using microdata for deeper analysis. It should assign the coordination of the cooperation activities with the academia to a special unit. The five-year programme and annual plans should provide greater detail on planned cooperation activities, and the annual reports should provide details about the outcomes. A dedicated page of the INSTAT website should facilitate communication with the academic world and researchers. (European statistics Code of Practice, Indicator 7.7)

Current situation:

Strengthening relations with the academic world is the focus of INSTAT since last year. This topic occupies a special place in the INSTAT's Development Strategy 2018-2030. Currently, INSTAT is focused on enhancing cooperation with the academic world in these areas: student training through internships, involvement of INSTAT staff in university teaching, co-operation in the preparation of scientific articles, papers, and access to data at micro level for scientific research purposes. Within 2022 INSTAT will have documented the scientific projects that have used micro data and their results. Meanwhile, within the first quarter of 2019, INSTAT will establish a co-ordination group with the academic world for the formalization of relationships and the administration of the documentation produced in this regard.

In addition, within 2018 INSTAT will include in the new Program of Official Statistics a special chapter dedicated to cooperation with the academic world and in its annual report for its implementation will be reflected the concrete steps followed for this cooperation..

Improvement action:

24.1 Enhance cooperation with the academic world in these areas: student training through internships, involvement of INSTAT staff in university teaching, co-operation in the preparation of scientific articles, papers, and access to data at micro level for scientific research purposes

24.2 Include in the new Program of Official Statistics a special chapter dedicated to cooperation with the academic world and, in the annual report for its implementation, reflect the concrete steps followed for this cooperation

24.3 Establish a co-ordination group with the academic world for the formalization of relationships and the administration of the documentation produced in this regard; add a page on INSTAT's website to facilitate the communication with the academic world

24.4 Documented the scientific projects that have used micro data and their results

Timeline:

24.1 - Continuously

24.2 - Q4 2018

24.3 - Q3 2019

24.4 – Q4 2022