



QUALITY POLICY

Version 1.1

Version no	Date	Details
1.0	24.04.2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initial Edition
1.1	19.12.2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The National Documentation Center (EKT) becomes an independent organization and is newly appointed as a National Authority and Agency (Government Gazette (FEK) 4671/19.12.2019 B')

1. Production of Statistics by EKT

As a national authority of the Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS) (Government Gazette B'4671/19.12.2019)¹, the National Documentation Centre (EKT) aims to develop, produce and disseminate high quality statistics, which serve impartially and fairly the needs of stakeholders for policy making, decision making, research and dialogue. The statistics produced by EKT concern by priority the broader areas of Research, Technology, Development and Innovation (RDI) and Digital Transformation.

EKT is committed to the above mentioned goal, by following the highest European and international standards, in terms of statistical methodologies, organisational processes and information infrastructure, while at the same time, strictly adheres to and implements the Greek and European legal and institutional framework for statistics. This includes the Greek Statistical Law (Law 3832/2010, as amended and in force, the European Statistical Law (Regulation (EC) 223/2009) (as amended by Regulation (EU) 2015/759), the European Statistics Code of Practice, the European Regulations on Statistics, the Regulation on the Statistical Obligations of ELSS Agencies and the Memoranda of Cooperation with the Hellenic Statistical Authority.

In this way it aims:

- to be a member of the Hellenic Statistical System which will always operate in a manner that expresses the principles of the ELSS, while it will co-operate and participate in every activity required and organised within the ELSS and the European Statistical System (ESS).
- to ensure and improve the quality of the statistics it produces
- to produce statistics useful - relevant - for the research, academic and business community, public policy, economy and society.
- to constantly consolidate and renew user trust in the reliability of statistics.
- to have and maintain the trust of statistical units - universities and research institutes, enterprises and other entities - which provide their confidential information for the production of statistics.

¹ The agencies and the national authorities of ELSS can be found here: <https://www.statistics.gr/en/agencies>

This targeting is the basis on which EKT produces RDI statistics and provides the Hellenic Statistical Authority with data relevant for National Accounts. EKT also aims at an excellent co-operation with Eurostat and other international organisations such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the European Commission in order to represent, to the appropriate extent, the credibility and adequacy of Greece, in the implementation of the Commitment on Confidence in Statistics, signed by the Greek Government and the European Commission in 2012.

2. Rules and principles of the quality policy

The quality policy of the National Documentation Centre is defined by the following rules and principles:

1. The development, production and dissemination of EKT statistics are governed by the principles in force of the European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP).
2. In developing, producing and disseminating its statistics, EKT follows and applies uniform standards and harmonised methods, in accordance with European Regulations, Eurostat Directives, methodological manuals and the appropriate methodological approaches of international organisations, as applicable, and applies quality assessment criteria such as 'relevance', 'accuracy', 'timeliness', 'punctuality', 'accessibility', 'clarity', 'comparability' and 'coherence', as these are defined in Article 12 of Regulation (EC) 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the European Council of 11 March 2009, as applicable.
3. In order to ensure the quality and reliability of the produced statistics, the Statistical Head of EKT is the Director, the highest administrative level in the agency, with responsibilities and characteristics provided for in the CoP and professional independence in the exercise of her duties.
4. The quality of statistical products is evaluated through systematically applied procedures, in order to maintain and improve their quality. Quality assurance is a horizontal process that spans across all the tasks. User oriented Metadata (SIMS/quality reports of statistics are posted on EKT's dedicated website <https://metrics.ekt.gr/en>.
5. EKT aims to continuously improve the quality of the statistics it produces, based on best practices followed in the European Statistical System. Towards this end, it has a close and systematic co-operation with both the Hellenic Statistical Authority and Eurostat, as well as with international organisations, such as the OECD.

6. EKT pursues to make the greatest possible use of sound administrative data in the compilation of its statistics, with the aim of improving their quality, reducing the burden on the statistical units under investigation, reducing the time required to produce statistical results, and saving human and financial resources. For this purpose, it seeks to establish systematic collaborations with the competent bodies that have relevant administrative data.
7. Administrative data are subject to controls by EKT prior to their use for the production of statistics, in order to assess their accuracy and reliability.
8. EKT ensures the continuous upgrading of its human resources, through their participation in training seminars, as well as in the building and enhancement of their skills, by providing know-how in various statistical fields by external experts.
9. EKT makes full use of the potential that new technologies offer, and has developed an electronic infrastructure for data collection and processing, in order to improve the relevant statistical procedures and the reliability and timeliness of statistical results, as well as to save time and resources. The infrastructure is constantly being upgraded.
10. EKT takes all necessary measures to ensure the protection of statistical confidentiality as a commitment to the [Statistical Confidentiality Policy](#) which it has adopted and is publicly available at <https://metrics.ekt.gr/en>.
11. One of the key priorities of EKT is to satisfy the needs of users of its statistics. EKT makes every possible effort to meet the needs of users, through the identification of new needs and requirements, and the consequent expansion of the production and dissemination of statistics, taking into account the availability of resources, as well as its national and international obligations.
12. EKT collects the comments and observations of the participants in the surveys carried out, in order to improve the statistics of the product and the services provided.
13. EKT places particular emphasis on the dissemination of statistics based on the [Dissemination Policy](#). It makes full use of its electronic infrastructure and experience in information dissemination, constantly improves the format and content of the website <https://metrics.ekt.gr/en> and other means of disseminating the produced statistics, printed and electronic publications, etc., so as to satisfy the needs of users, both nationally and internationally, in accordance with the developing international standards.
14. EKT provides simultaneous and equal access to the statistics it produces, through transparent procedures, for all users, as required by the principle of impartiality.
15. Users are not provided with statistics of a survey prior to the publication of results. The only exception is the provision of data for the Hellenic Statistical Authority.



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