

## **European Statistics Day – 20 October 2023**

The 8<sup>th</sup> European Statistics Day will be celebrated on Friday, 20 October 2023, under the following motto issued by ESAC:

*“Statistics for better development in a fast-changing world.”*

Statistics are a vital tool for observing and analysing social development. They can provide valuable insights into trends, patterns and behaviours that can ultimately lead to improved decision-making and better public policy at all levels of government.

Public policy plays a central role in sustainable growth and development and is critical to the green transition. Effective policy implementation requires the provision of new and relevant indicators and reliable data that can be obtained quickly and are comparable at an international level. Policy goals and targets that incorporate data priorities can also strengthen interaction with stakeholders.

At the same time, data sources are multiplying at an unprecedented rate owing to digitalisation and artificial intelligence. Innovation, including the exploration of new ways to use and apply these new data sources, is a major challenge. In this context, continuous dialogue with users to better meet their needs can bring significant tangible benefits, such as better and faster policymaking that improves people’s lives. Moreover, in an era in which we are almost drowning in data, it is essential that official statistics are trusted and used by the general public. Part of this involves ensuring people are able to distinguish reliable data and to use statistics correctly.

Official statistics must retain their central role as a trusted input in decision-making, contributing to informed public debate, strengthening social and economic development, and combating disinformation.

In summary, the message of European Statistics Day 2023 is that we must reinforce the central role of official statistics in creating a fairer and more sustainable world.