

January 10, 2018

We the undersigned organizations and individuals call on Greek authorities to halt the legal proceedings against Andreas Georgiou, the former president of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT), and other senior ELSTAT officials for their ELSTAT work under Georgiou's leadership 2010-2015. The Government deficit and debt figures, produced by ELSTAT under Dr. Georgiou's stewardship, have been validated numerous times by Eurostat as complying with the highest international standards. Further, Dr. Georgiou during his tenure leading ELSTAT strictly followed the best practice statistical principles enshrined in European Union and Greek law.

The continued prosecutions of Dr. Georgiou for his work, many times after findings of innocence—amounting to double or even potentially triple jeopardy—are troubling on multiple levels. The prosecutions undermine the current production of Greek statistical figures, which in turn undermines Greece's efforts to end its cycles of economic crises, and attract foreign investment. Trusted, credible statistical data are a cornerstone of a well-functioning democracy and a healthy economy. The prosecutions also violate the scientific freedom and human rights of Dr. Georgiou and his colleagues to present their scientifically derived statistical data without interference and to “extend and disseminate knowledge for the good of humanity.”¹

In summary, we call on Greek authorities to drop its prosecutions of Dr. Georgiou and his colleagues, exonerate them of past convictions, and drop ongoing investigations relating to their official ELSTAT Work. Further, the Greek Government should apologize on behalf of the Greek State to Dr. Georgiou for the appalling treatment he and his colleagues have endured over a protracted period at the hands of the Greek State for essentially doing their duty to the highest standards.

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41 as of January 11, 2018

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American Educational Research Association
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Association of Public Data Users
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¹ <https://www.aaas.org/page/committee-scientific-freedom-and-responsibility>

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