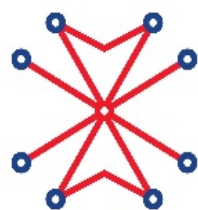




Malta Statistics Authority

Annual Report
2021



MSA
MALTA STATISTICS AUTHORITY



Malta Statistics Authority

Annual Report

&

Financial Statements 2021



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10 May 2022

Hon. Clyde Caruana, B.Com (Hons), MA (Econ)

Minister for Finance and Employment

Maison Demandols

South Street

Valletta VLT 1102

Letter of Transmittal

In terms of article 29 of Chapter 422 of the Laws of Malta, I have the honour to transmit to you, in your capacity as Minister responsible for official statistics, a copy of the Annual Report of the Malta Statistics Authority for the financial year ended 31 December 2021.

Yours sincerely,



Prof Albert Leone Ganado

Chairman

Malta Statistics Authority

The Malta Statistics Authority Board

Chairman

Prof. Albert Leone Ganado

Deputy Chairman

Dr. Aaron G. Grech

Members

Mr. Etienne Caruana (ex-ufficio)

Mr. Gianluca Cutajar

Mr. Emanuel P. Delia *

Dr. Vincent Marmara

Mr. Godwin Mifsud

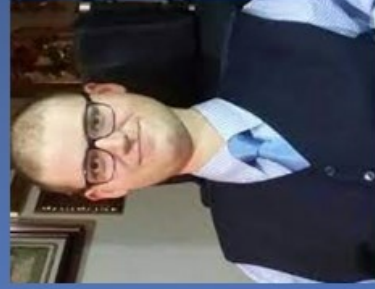
Ms. Fleur Vella *

Mr. Josef Vella

Board Secretary

Mr. Joseph Bonello

As of 10 December 2021, a change in the MSA Board formation occurred following the appointment of Dr. Fiona Sammut and Mr. Joseph Farrugia replacing Ms. Fleur Vella and Mr. Emanuel P. Delia respectively.



Prof. Albert Leone Ganado (Chairman), Dr. Aaron G. Grech (Deputy Chairman), Mr. Joseph Farrugia, Mr. Godwin Mifsud, Dr. Vincent Marmara, Dr. Fiona Sammut, Mr. Gianluca Cutajar, Mr. Josef Vella, Mr. Etienne Caruana (Director General, NSO) Mr. Joseph Bonello (Board Secretary).

MSA Board meetings

MSA ACT

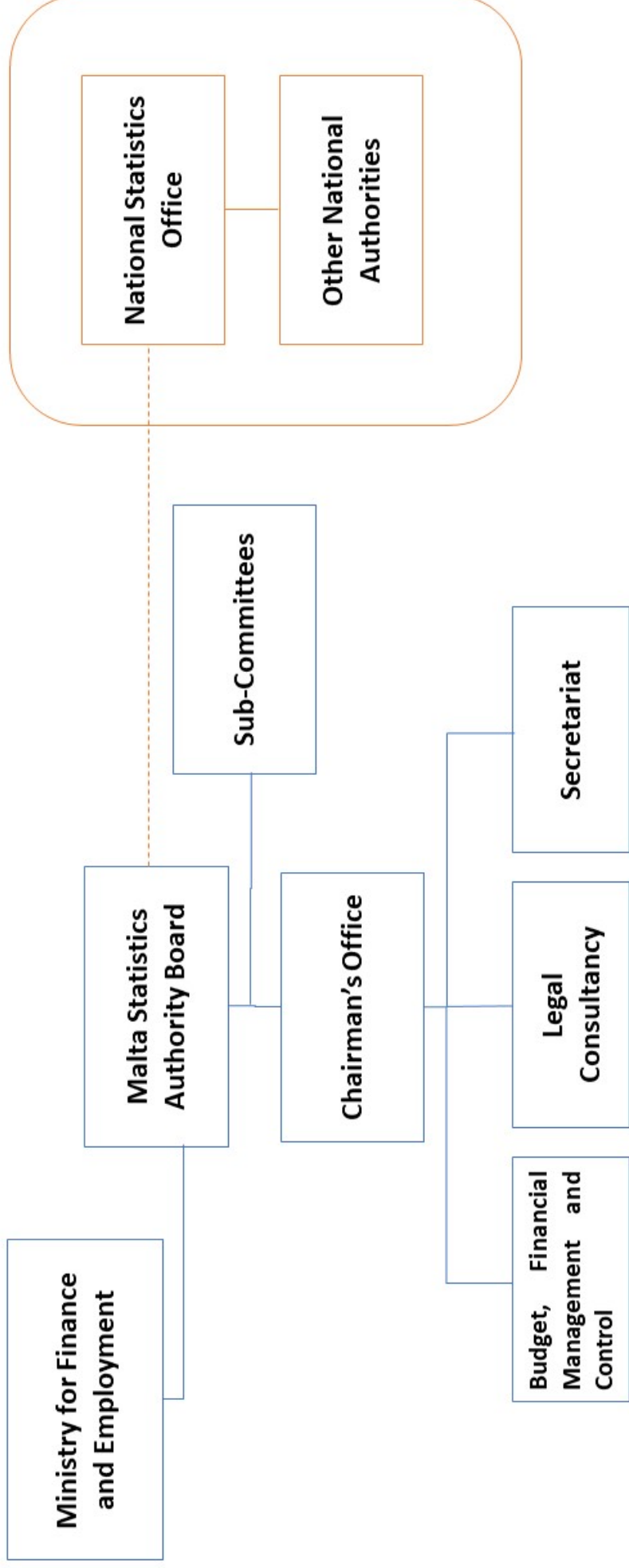
**Conduct of the affairs
of the Authority**

Article (6) (2)

**The Authority shall
meet at least twice
every calendar
quarter**

Meeting No.	Date
212 nd Meeting	19 th JANUARY 2021
213 rd Meeting	16 th FEBRUARY 2021
214 th Meeting	16 th MARCH 2021
215 th Meeting	20 th APRIL 2021
216 th Meeting	17 th MAY 2021
217 th Meeting	22 nd JUNE 2021
218 th Meeting	12 th JULY 2021
219 th Meeting	14 th SEPTEMBER 2021
220 th Meeting	19 th OCTOBER 2021
221 st Meeting	16 th NOVEMBER 2021
222 nd Meeting	14 th DECEMBER 2021

National Statistics System



Chairman's Statement



Prof Albert Leone Ganado

Chairperson - Malta Statistics Authority

consequence of Covid-19, businesses needed to face strong challenges to remain in operation and the NSO is doing its utmost to reduce the statistical burden on its providers of data. The NSO maximised the use of administrative records at its disposal while simultaneously promoting new ways of working (such as online, web-based and other survey methods).

During the past year, the NSO with full support of the Authority, has embarked on new statistical commitments, particularly with the setting up of a new statistical unit dedicated to Crime and Law Enforcement statistics. The NSO is also preparing the groundwork for the setting up of a National Skills Register in close collaboration with our line Ministry. This exercise is crucial to policy makers.

The Statistical System at a glance

Statistical needs have changed drastically over the years to address the new and emerging priorities for data requests, especially by policy makers. More recently Covid-19 health indicators took prominence, but as time progressed, the

I and the rest of my colleagues who served on the Board of the Malta Statistics Authority (MSA) are pleased to submit the 2021 Annual report, which is quite unique, as it features not only the Authority's normal business operations but also those of the 2021 Census of Population and Households which is held under the remit of the Director General in his capacity as Census Officer duly appointed by the Prime Minister.

Notwithstanding the considerable work on the Census, I must confirm that the National Statistics Authority has laboured hard to ensure that official statistics are produced and disseminated in a timely manner, making them of excellent use to our policy makers. Over the past two years, the pandemic has forced the National Statistics Office (NSO), to fine tune its operational procedures to support businesses as well as domestic households when these are providing primary data to the NSO. The Authority notes that during the last two years, as a direct

NSO also provided information to support the growth, employment and investment strategies that were being launched by the European Union to curtail the negative economic effects of the pandemic.

As part of MSA's monitoring and assessment duties I am pleased to report that despite many challenges the absolute majority of statistical news releases were disseminated punctually, and any statistical revisions were fully justified.

The Board also noted that changes to the advance news release calendar were essentially limited to tourism and employment statistics. In such cases advance warning was provided to all users through the NSO website. The Board also noted that these changes were not due to NSO's fault but due to additional verifications needed on the data to ensure quality. Notably, with the closure of the various travel routes, lockdowns and lower passenger numbers, new checks for smaller sample sizes needed to be performed. Furthermore, labour statistics were delayed due to vital verification checks on administrative data.

Census of Population and Housing

The Census of Population and Housing is the most onerous statistical exercise which is carried out by any statistical institute. In Malta this exercise does not fall within the remit of the MSA as it is governed by its own legal Act, the Census Act of 1948. The budget allocation on the Census was voted under the MSA and the Director General was appointed Census Officer by the Prime Minister.

I am now pleased to report that the Census was conducted during the last quarter of the year. The information gathering process was concluded with success and while some initial figures were released early this year, we await the official preliminary report to be published.

Executing the census presented specific challenges and moving forward our lawmakers should seriously consider the introduction of a Population Register. Without such a Register the data from the census will gradually become insignificant, as there are various unstable variables affecting the local demographic structure, such as fertility, migration (including internal migration), mortality and life expectancy.

Maintaining Trust in Statistics

The work of the MSA Board focuses on promoting trust in official statistics and during 2021 this work intensified as the covid-19 pandemic and the political tensions in the East of Europe impacted the traditional business cycles. Policy makers were required to keep a close watch on price indicators and international trade data as trade bottlenecks were resulting in supply shortages of consumable and primary goods.

The Board is pleased to note that all releases were given due coverage in the general media and where necessary our Dissemination Unit issued additional information or corrections to ensure the integrity of the NSO's message.

During, 2021 the Malta Statistics Authority hosted a radio programme on Campus FM, the official radio of the University of Malta (UoM) with the name 'L-Istatistika'. The thirteen (13) programmes which were hosted and produced by the MSA Head of the Secretariat touched upon all aspects of the official statistics cycle: collection, production,

dissemination, user interaction and administrative matters. The programme was well received and was aired twice a week on the radio with members of the NSO, users and experts in the field being invited to participate in each programme that had a duration of 40 minutes.

The NSO was also visible on all media, including television, radio, newspapers and on-line, primarily to promote the Census of Population and Households.

The 2022 Peer Review

A round of peer reviews, the third of its kind, is currently being held across the EU to assess the adherence of Eurostat and of the national statistical institutes to the European Statistics Code of Practice. Certain institutes, including Eurostat, have already been assessed. Eurostat has been assessed during 2021, and the final report concluded that Eurostat has made significant progress over a range of criteria that are relevant for the production of high-quality European statistics. The report on Eurostat put forward 18 recommendations focused on preparing for future challenges and on being a role model for independence and impartiality in the ESS. It is interesting to note that these recommendations include a strong reference to the development of a comprehensive strategy of cooperation with academia. Another recommendation is for Eurostat to further improve the dissemination and communicating of data, as well as the publishing of proper information on data revision policy.

In the case of Malta, the Peer Review team is expected to visit Malta in October. Both the NSO as well as the MSA are making the necessary preparations for this assessment process, and we have compiled a Self-Assessment Questionnaire which will be of help to the peer reviewers during their work. The final assessment on Malta will eventually be published by the Commission.

I must thank the Director General and his team for ensuring that all necessary preparations are properly laid out.

Statistical Recommendations consistent with International Organisations Outlook

In the course of its business, the Malta Statistics Authority takes on board recommendations issued from time to time by international institutions such as the United Nations and ESGAB.

Recent developments in EU circles are the proposals of legal acts that for data sharing between EU members., namely The European Data Act which follows the Governance Act. Both legal frameworks aim to make the EU a leader in a data-driven society. While both consider data sharing:

- The Data Governance Act focuses on providing a legal framework, processes and structures to promote data sharing.
- The EU Data Act focuses more on making clear who can create value from data.

These acts are being considered by the Commission to generate a data driven economy. From our perspective, more has to be done to promote partnerships with researchers to produce experimental statistics. On the latter Malta is still in its infancy.

Finally, ESGAB highlights the importance on the ongoing peer review which in our case will be held next October.

IT modernisation

Our internal ICT systems continued to be modernised and updated. This work enabled the office to keep all its operations going, even during the pandemic when most of the work needed to be carried out remotely. During the monthly MSA Board meetings, the Director General regularly kept the Board updated on the preparations for the complete modernisation of the internal data warehouse. This development will be of tremendous assistance to support the work of the NSO, including the complete process of statistical compilation – from data collection through to final dissemination of official statistics. Apart from ensuring faster and more accurate results, the new automated processes being developed by the NSO will ensure that all statistical output is internally consistent.

I would also like to highlight the success of the NSO to put in place the necessary information security practices leading to the successful achievement of the ISO 27001 certification. This achievement allows the NSO to participate in micro data sharing with its peers across the EU, thereby ensuring that the local statistical product is of the highest quality. The dedication of the IT team is to be noted, particularly when staff needed to concurrently tackle several challenges, including those brought about by the pandemic, as well as the Census of Population and Housing. Indeed, I can safely say that the NSO IT hub provides indispensable support across the organisation.

Following on the work done over the past years, in 2022 the NSO will see through the implementation of its data warehouse, deliver a new website and also continue to upgrade its information security systems.

Premises

Over the past year the MSA has engaged an architect to identify maintenance works that need to be carried out on site. The architect was also asked to advice whether the existing building, which is a historical site, may be adequately modernised, or whether the MSA should consider alternative premises.

Being a public office, the Authority should be located in a central location, easily accessible to the general public, but for its employees to work efficiently the local statistical institute (NSO) requires adequate facilities, including conference rooms as well as facilities to support research innovation.

In close collaboration with our Ministry, we are studying all options from a spatial and cost perspective.

Outlook on the Statutory Audited Accounts and Financial Programme for 2022

The MSA Act states clearly that all finances fall under the direct responsibility of the Board and to ensure efficient use of public finances, the Financial Controller is granted an autonomous role, hence financial findings are reported directly to the Chairman.

In fact, the Financial Controller within the MSA is entrusted not only with the preparation of compliance and statutory accounting statements but also with cashflow management, establishing proper internal financial control, conducting the financial analysis of the institution as well as providing advice on management procedures.

From a financial perspective the Authority's objective is to keep a balanced budget. This year's audited financial statements report a surplus of €207,089 for 2021. This was a result of income earmarked for recruitment that did not materialise. It is to be noted that the Malta Statistics Authority auditors, Charles Scerri and Associates returned once again an unqualified audited report which is a statement of faith in the Authority's financial management and procedures.

The Office concluded six Eurostat grants in 2021 with a global value of €265,635, of which €252,332 were reimbursed by the European Commission. The office applied for another five grants during the same period with a value of €555,730. The work covered by these grants will be carried out during 2022 and 2023. Such grants are an important financial aid by Eurostat to support the increase in official statistical requirements.

This year, the audited financial statements outline part of the expenditure related to the exercise of the Census of Population and Household. As explained herein the Census is the largest exercise that a statistical office undertakes as it is a count of all residents living on the island within a specific calendar reference. It requires extensive financial planning and also a great effort by the Budget, Financial Management and Control Unit to ensure proper financial management and control. The costs associated with the Census in the 2021 annual report reflect mainly the IT capital expenditure and associated goods and services required for the data capture process. The Financial Controller managed all tenders, procurement procedures and approvals that were required for the proper implementation of the Census of Population and Housing. Next year's financial statements will conclude this process as it will account among other things for the collection and analysis processes.

Conclusion

Finally, I would like to thank my esteemed colleagues on the MSA Board for their work and support. Their advice, support and co-operation were important to successfully address the obligations of the Authority.

My sincere gratitude also goes to two former members of the MSA Board, Mr Emanuel P. Delia and Ms Fleur Vella. Mr Delia has served on the Board since its inception in the year 2001 and for the past years also served on our governance sub-committee. He has been instrumental in the setting up of a professional statistical set-up and his legacy lives on in the many students he taught at university and who now work with us in official statistics.

During her tenure as Board Member, Ms Fleur Vella contributed positively during MSA Board meetings, especially in human resources matters, which is her main area of interest.

At the end of 2021 the Board welcomed two new members: Dr Fiona Sammut, the Head of Statistics and Operations Research Department, University of Malta and Mr J. Farrugia who was nominated on the Board on behalf of the Malta Employers Association.

I also need to mention Dr Aaron Grech, Deputy Chairman, who throughout the year provided valuable support and advice, especially in financial matters, helping to make 2021 a success. Special thanks go to Mr Etienne Caruana, Director General of the NSO, for his commitment to the Office. His leadership has forged a professional team that is both capable as well as resilient to meet new challenges. Many are those working for the NSO who have managed to learn new skills, in line with the new statistical tools being introduced. The adaptation and overcoming the challenges of Covid 19 circumstances by the NSO staff warrants my admiration.

Allow me also to thank the Honourable Minister for Finance and Employment Mr. Clyde Caruana for his trust in me as Chairman and in all the MSA Board. The Minister also shows his support and advice for official statistics by generously granting us the funding without which we could not operate.

Finally, I wish to thank all those who responded to our requests for data, be they individuals, households or business owners. Without their contribution, the statistical exercise would become impossible. The office has a debt of gratitude towards these people, whom we repay by publishing statistics that are timely, relevant and accurate.



Prof. Albert Leone Ganado

Chairperson

Malta Statistics Authority

Independent

Auditors

Report

2021



Authority's Report

The members of the Authority present their report, together with the audited financial statements of the Authority, for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Authority

The following persons have served on the Board of the Authority during the year under review:

Chairperson

Prof. Albert Leone Ganado

Deputy Chairperson

Dr. Aaron George Grech

Members

From 10 December 2021 Dr. Fiona Sammut and Mr. Joseph Farrugia replaced Ms. Fleur Vella and Mr. Emanuel P. Delia.

Mr. Etienne Caruana – Director General (ex officio)

Dr. Vincent Marmara

Mr. Emanuel P. Delia (replaced)

Mr. Godwin Mifsud

Mr. Gianluca Cutajar

Mr. Josef Vella

Ms. Fleur Vella (replaced)

Dr. Fiona Sammut

Mr. Joseph Farrugia

Mr. Joseph Bonello – Board Secretary

Principal activity

The Malta Statistics Authority (MSA) is a public corporate body with regulatory responsibility relating to the production of official statistics in accordance with internationally harmonised methodologies, for the benefit of the Government of Malta, the European Union, international organisations and the general public. The Authority was set up through the enactment of the Malta Statistics Authority Act (Cap. 422) as well as the Census Act (1948), Chapter 118 of the Laws of Malta. The Malta Statistics Authority reports to the Minister responsible for official statistics and the Authority's statutory audit financial statements are to be laid on the table of the Maltese Parliament as per Article 26 (4) of the said Act.

Review of business development and financial position

The financial position of the Authority as at 31 December 2021 is disclosed on page 22, while the results for the year under review are disclosed on page 23.

Since early 2020, the world has been experiencing an unprecedented crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Authority considers the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak as the only relevant event arising during the reporting date.

The crisis has not resulted in any temporary cessation of the Authority's activities. The overall impact of COVID-19 on the Authority is therefore expected to be relatively contained in the context of the Authority's financial resources and accordingly the Authority considers it to be appropriate to prepare these financial statements on a going concern basis.

Future developments

No changes are envisaged in operations during the forthcoming year.

Statement of responsibilities of the Authority Board

The Authority is governed by a Board consisting of a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson, a Director General (ex officio) and six members. Their responsibility is to prepare financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Authority at the end of each financial year and of the gain or loss for the year then ended.

In preparing the financial statements, the Authority is responsible to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis, unless it is appropriate to presume that the Authority will not continue in business.

The Authority is responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Authority and to enable it to ensure that the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

The Authority is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Authority and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Authority is responsible to ensure that it establishes and maintains internal control to provide reasonable assurance with regard to reliability of financial reporting, effectiveness and efficiency of operations and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

In determining which controls to implement to prevent and detect fraud, the board considers the risks that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.

Approved by the Authority's representatives on 22 March 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



Prof. Albert Leone Ganado

Chairperson



Dr. Aaron George Grech

Deputy Chairperson

Opinion

In my opinion:

- The Malta Statistics Authority's financial statements (the "financial statements") give a true and fair view of the Authority's financial position as at 31 December 2021, and of the Authority's financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ('IFRSs') as adopted by the EU; and
- The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Malta Statistics Authority Act (Cap. 422) as well as the Census Act (1948), Chapter 118 of the Laws of Malta.

What I have audited

Malta Statistics Authority's financial statements, set out on pages 22 to 44, comprise:

- the Statement of financial position as at 31 December 2021;
- the Income statement for the Authority for the year then ended;
- the Statement of changes in equity for the year then ended;
- the Statement of cash flows for the year then ended; and
- the Notes to the financial statements, which include a summary of significant accounting policies.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Independence

I am independent of the Authority in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code) together with the ethical requirements of the Accountancy Profession (Code of Ethics for Warrant Holders) Directive issued in terms of the Accountancy Profession Act (Cap. 281) that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Malta.

I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these Codes.

Other information

The Authority is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises information included in the Annual Report but does not include the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information, including the Authority's report.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

With respect to the Authority's report, I considered whether the Authority's report includes the disclosures required by the Malta Statistics Authority Act (Cap. 422) as well as the Census Act (1948), Chapter 118 of the Laws of Malta.

Based on the work I have performed, in my opinion:

- the information given in the Authority's report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Authority's report has been prepared in accordance with the Malta Statistics Authority Act (Cap. 422) as well as the Census Act (1948), Chapter 118 of the Laws of Malta.

In addition, in light of the knowledge and understanding of the Authority and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I am required to report if I have identified material misstatements in the Authority's report and other information. I have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Malta Statistics Authority for the financial statements

The Board is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the EU and the requirements of the Malta Statistics Authority Act (Cap. 422) as well as the Census Act (1948), Chapter 118 of the Laws of Malta, and for such internal control as the Authority determines necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements the Board is responsible for assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Ministry intends to liquidate the Authority or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Authority's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibility for the audit of the financial Statements

My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Authority Board.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Authority's use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this statement is not a guarantee as to the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern. In particular, it is difficult to evaluate all of the potential implications that COVID-19 will have on the Authority's trade, customers and suppliers, and the disruption to its business and the overall economy.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Authority to express an opinion on the financial statements. I am responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the audit. I remain solely responsible for my audit opinion.
- I communicate with the Authority regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Report on other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

I also have responsibilities under the Malta Statistics Authority Act (Cap. 422) as well as the Census Act (1948), Chapter 118 of the Laws of Malta, to report to you if, in my opinion:

- Adequate accounting records have not been kept, or that returns adequate for my audit have not been received from branches not visited by me.
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns.
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for the audit.

I have nothing to report to you in respect of these responsibilities.



Charles Scerri

Certified Public Accountant

The Penthouse, Carolina Court, Giuseppe Cali Street, Ta' Xbiex XBX 1425

22 March 2022

Malta Statistics Authority

Annual Report and Financial Statements - 31 December 2021

Statement of financial position

		As at 31 December	
	Notes	2021	2020
		€	€
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Property plant and equipment	3	536,582	268,105
Current assets			
Inventory	6	23,860	48,386
Trade and other receivables	4	547,556	551,760
Cash and cash equivalents	5	4,338,739	3,917,732
Total current assets		4,910,155	4,517,878
Total assets		5,446,737	4,785,983
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Accumulated funds		3,021,653	2,814,564
Non-current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	7	1,219,346	1,099,224
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	7	1,205,738	872,195
Total liabilities		2,425,084	1,971,419
Total equity and liabilities		5,446,737	4,785,983

The notes on pages 25 to 44 are an integral part of these financial statements. The financial statements on pages 22 to 24 were approved by the Authority's representatives and signed on its behalf on 22 March 2022.



Prof. Albert Leone Ganado
Chairperson



Dr. Aaron George Grech
Deputy Chairperson

Income statement

Year ended 31 December

	Notes	2021	2020
		€	€
Revenue	8	8,693,712	7,633,984
Administrative expenses	9	(8,486,623)	(7,104,274)
Other income		-	312
Surplus for the year		207,089	530,022

Statement of changes in equity

	Accumulated funds
	€
As at 1 January 2020	2,284,542
Surplus for the year	530,022
As at 31 December 2020	2,814,564
As at 1 January 2021	2,814,564
Surplus for the year	207,089
As at 31 December 2021	3,021,653

Statement of cash flows

	Notes	2021	2020
		€	€
Cash flow from operating activities			
Surplus for the year		207,089	530,022
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation	3	229,184	74,136
Movement in working capital for:			
Inventory	6	24,526	(3,288)
Trade and other receivables	4	4,204	201,450
Trade and other payables	7	453,665	(89,001)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash generated from operating activities		918,668	713,319
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash flow from investing activities			
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	3	(497,661)	(68,392)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash outflow used in investing activities		(497,661)	(68,392)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Movement in cash and cash equivalents		421,007	644,927
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	5	3,917,732	3,272,805
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		4,338,739	3,917,732
		<hr/>	<hr/>

Notes to the financial statements

1 Summary of significant accounting policies

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented, unless otherwise stated.

1.1 Basis of preparation

Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared and presented in accordance with the provisions of the International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the EU (IFRSs) with the requirements of the Malta Statistics Authority Act (Cap. 422) as well as the Census Act(1948),Chapter 118 of the Laws of Malta.

The Authority has assessed that the Authority is expected to have the necessary funds to finance its operations and commitments towards employees, creditors and banks. Accordingly, the Board continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the Authority's financial statements and considers that there are no material uncertainties which may cast doubt about the ability of the Authority to continue operating as a going concern.

Covid 19

Since early 2020, the world is experiencing an unprecedented crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Authority considers the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak as the only relevant event arising during the reporting date.

The crisis has not resulted in the temporary cessation of the Authority's activities. The overall impact of COVID-19 on the Authority is therefore expected to be relatively contained in the context of the Authority's financial resources and accordingly the Authority considers it to be appropriate to prepare these financial statements on a going concern basis.

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

1.2 Functional and presentation currency

The financial statements are presented in Euro, which is the Authority's functional currency.

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated to the functional currency of the Authority at exchange rates at the dates of the transactions. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the reporting date are retranslated to the functional currency at the exchange rate at that date.

The foreign currency gain or loss on monetary items is the difference between amortised cost in the functional currency at the beginning of the year, adjusted for effective interest and payments during the year, and the amortised cost in foreign currency translated at the exchange rate at the end of the year. Foreign currency differences arising on retranslation are recognised in profit or loss.

1.3 Property, plant and equipment

Recognition and measurement

Property, plant and equipment, are initially recorded at cost and are subsequently stated at cost less depreciation. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of items. Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount, or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Authority, and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the Statement of Income, during the financial year in which they are incurred.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets on a straight-line basis over the expected useful lives of the assets concerned having regard to their residual value. The annual rates used for this purpose, which are applied consistently, are:

	%
Improvement to leasehold premises	2
Computer equipment	20 – 33.33
Furniture and fixtures	15
Office equipment	15
Motor Vehicles	20

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each end of the reporting year. An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected to arise from the continued use of the asset.

Any gains or losses arising on the disposal or retirement of property, plant and equipment are determined as the difference between the disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset and are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income within the other income or administrative and other expenses.

1.4 Financial assets and liabilities

1.4.1 Recognition, initial measurement and derecognition of financial assets

Receivables and debt securities issued are initially recognised when they are originated. All other financial assets and financial liabilities are initially recognised when the Authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. A financial asset or financial liability is initially measured at fair value plus, for an item not at FVTPL, transaction costs that are directly attributable to its acquisition or issue.

All purchases and sales of investments are recognised on the trade date, which is the date that the Authority commits to purchase or sell the assets. Investments are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the investments have expired or where they have been transferred and the Authority has also transferred substantially all risks and rewards of ownership.

On initial recognition, a financial asset is classified as measured at: amortised cost; FVOCI – debt investment; FVOCI - equity investment; or FVTPL.

Financial assets are not reclassified subsequent to their initial recognition unless the Authority changes its business model for managing financial assets, in which case all affected financial assets are reclassified on the first day of the first reporting period following the change in the business model.

The Authority classifies its financial assets as at amortised cost only if both of the following criteria are met:

- the asset is held within a business model whose objective is to collect the contractual cash flows, and
- the contractual terms give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest.

Investments in debt instruments are classified at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI) only if the contractual cash flows are solely principal and interest and the objective of the Authority's business model is achieved both by collecting contractual cash flows and selling financial assets.

All financial assets not classified as measured at amortised cost or FVOCI as described above are measured at FVTPL. On initial recognition, the Authority may irrevocably designate a financial asset that otherwise meets the requirements to be measured at amortised cost or at FVOCI as at FVTPL if doing so eliminates or significantly reduces an accounting mismatch that would otherwise arise.

Business model assessment

The Authority makes an assessment of the objective of the business model in which a financial asset is held at a portfolio level because this best reflects the way the business is managed and information is provided to management.

1.4.2 Classification of financial assets

The information considered includes:

- The stated policies and objectives for the portfolio and the operation of those policies in practice. These include whether management's strategy focuses on earning contractual interest income, maintaining a particular interest rate profile, matching the duration of the financial assets to the duration of any related liabilities, or expected cash outflows or realising cash flows through the sale of the assets.
- how the performance of the portfolio is evaluated and reported to the Authority's management.
- the risks that affect the performance of the business model (and the financial assets held within that business model) and how those risks are managed; and
- the frequency, volume and timing of sales of financial assets in prior periods, the reasons for such sales and expectations about future sales activity.

Transfers of financial assets to third parties in transactions that do not qualify for derecognition are not considered sales for this purpose, consistent with the Authority's continuing recognition of the assets. Financial assets that are held for trading or are managed and whose performance is evaluated on a fair value basis are measured at FVTPL.

Assessment whether contractual cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest:

For the purposes of this assessment, 'principal' is defined as the fair value of the financial asset on initial recognition. 'Interest' is defined as consideration for the time value of money and for the credit risk associated with the principal amount outstanding during a particular period of time and for other basic lending risks and costs (e.g. liquidity risk and administrative costs), as well as a profit margin.

In assessing whether the contractual cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest, the Authority considers the contractual terms of the instrument. This includes assessing whether the financial asset contains a contractual term that could change the timing or amount of contractual cash flows such that it would not meet this condition. In making this assessment, the Authority considers:

- contingent events that would change the amount or timing of cash flows;
- terms that may adjust the contractual coupon rate, including variable-rate features;
- prepayment and extension features; and
- terms that limit the Authority's claim to cash flows from specified assets (e.g. non-recourse features).

A prepayment feature is consistent with the payments of principal and interest criterion if the prepayment amount substantially represents unpaid amounts of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding, which may include reasonable additional compensation for early termination of the contract. Additionally, for a financial asset acquired at a discount or premium to its contractual par amount, a feature that permits or requires prepayment at an amount that substantially represents the contractual par amount plus accrued (but unpaid) contractual interest (which may also include reasonable additional compensation for early termination) is treated as consistent with this criterion if the fair value of the prepayment feature is insignificant at initial recognition.

1.4.3 Subsequent measurement of financial assets

Financial assets at amortised cost are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Amortised cost is the initial measurement amount adjusted for the amortisation of any difference between the initial and maturity amounts using the effective interest method. The amortised cost is reduced by impairment losses. Interest income, foreign exchange gains and losses and impairment are recognised in profit or loss. Any gain or loss on derecognition is recognised in profit or loss.

1.4.4 Impairment of financial assets

The Authority recognises loss allowances for ECLs on financial assets measured at amortised cost and debt investments measured at FVOCI to which the Authority is exposed.

It measures loss allowances at an amount equal to lifetime ECLs, except for the following, which are measured at 12-month ECLs:

- debt securities that are determined to have low credit risk at the reporting date; and
- other debt securities and bank balances for which credit risk (i.e. the risk of default occurring over the expected life of the financial instrument) has not increased significantly since initial recognition.

When determining whether the credit risk of a financial asset has increased significantly since initial recognition and when estimating ECLs, the Authority considers reasonable and supportable information that is relevant and available without undue cost or effort. This includes both quantitative and qualitative information and analysis, based on the Authority's historical experience and informed credit assessment and including forward-looking information.

The Authority assumes that the credit risk on a financial asset has increased significantly if it is more than 30 days past due, and it considers a financial asset to be in default when:

- the borrower is unlikely to pay its credit obligations to the Authority in full, without recourse by the Authority to actions such as realising security (if any is held); or
- the financial asset is more than 90 days past due.

The Authority considers a debt security to have low credit risk when its credit risk rating is equivalent to the globally understood definition of 'investment grade'. The Authority considers this to be Baa3 or higher per Moody's or BBB- or higher per Standard & Poor's or Fitch.

Lifetime ECLs are the ECLs that result from all possible default events over the expected life of a financial instrument. 12-month ECLs are the portion of ECLs that result from default events that are possible within the 12 months after the reporting date (or a shorter period if the expected life of the instrument is less than 12 months). The maximum period considered when estimating ECLs is the maximum contractual period over which the Authority is exposed to credit risk.

Measurement of ECL

ECLs are a probability-weighted estimate of credit losses. Credit losses are measured as the present value of all cash shortfalls (i.e. the difference between the cash flows due to the entity in accordance with the contract

and the cash flows that the Authority expects to receive). ECLs are discounted at the effective interest rate of the financial asset.

Credit-impaired financial assets

At each reporting date, the Authority assesses whether financial assets carried at amortised cost and debt securities at FVOCI are credit impaired. A financial asset is 'credit-impaired' when one or more events that have a detrimental impact on the estimated future cash flows of the financial asset have occurred.

Evidence that a financial asset is credit-impaired includes the following observable data:

- significant financial difficulty of the borrower or issuer;
- a breach of contract such as a default or being more than 90 days past due;
- the restructuring of a loan or advance by the Authority on terms that the Authority would not consider otherwise;
- it is probable that the borrower will enter bankruptcy or other financial reorganisation; or
- the disappearance of an active market for a security because of financial difficulties.

Presentation of allowance for EGL in the statement of financial position:

- Loss allowances for financial assets measured at amortised cost are deducted from the gross carrying amount of the assets.
- For debt securities at FVOCI, the loss allowance is charged to profit or loss and is recognised in OCI.

Write-off

The gross carrying amount of a financial asset is written off when the Authority has no reasonable expectations of recovering a financial asset in its entirety or a portion thereof. For each of its financial assets that subject the Authority to credit risk, it makes an individual assessment with respect to the timing and amount of write-off based on whether there is a reasonable expectation of recovery. The Authority expects no significant recovery from the amount written off. However, financial assets that are written off could still be subject to enforcement activities in order to comply with the Authority's procedures for recovery of amounts due.

1.4.5 Financial liabilities

Issued financial instruments or their components, which are not designated at FVTPL are classified as other financial liabilities, where the substance of the contractual arrangement results in the Authority having an obligation either to deliver cash or another financial asset to the holder, or to satisfy the obligation other than by the exchange of a fixed amount of cash or another financial asset for a fixed number of own equity shares.

A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged or cancelled or has expired. Where an existing financial liability is replaced by another from the same lender on substantially different terms, or the terms of an existing liability are substantially modified, such an exchange or modification is treated as a de-recognition of the original liability and the recognition of a new liability, and the difference in the respective carrying amounts is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

1.5 Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less expected credit loss allowances. Trade and other receivables are recognised initially at the amount of consideration that is unconditional unless they contain significant financing components, when they are recognised at fair value. The Authority holds the trade and other receivables with the objective to collect the contractual cash flows and therefore measures them subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

1.7 Inventories

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is determined by the weighted average cost method. Cost is the invoiced value of goods and, in general, includes transport and handling costs. Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business, less applicable variable selling expenses.

1.8 Trade and other payables

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year

or less (or in the normal operating cycle of the business if not longer). If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade and other payables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.9 Impairment

The carrying amounts of the Authority's assets are reviewed at each end of reporting year to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If any such indication exists, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated. Whenever the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised and the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount. Impairment losses are recognised immediately in profit or loss, unless they relate to an asset which is carried at revalued amount, in which case they are treated as a revaluation decrease in accordance with the applicable Section in IFRS.

The carrying amounts of the Authority's assets are also reviewed at each end of reporting year to determine whether there is any indication that an impairment loss recognised in prior years may no longer exist or may have decreased. If any such indication exists, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated. An impairment loss previously recognised is reversed only if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the asset's recoverable amount since the last impairment loss was recognised. When an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, to the extent that it does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years. Impairment reversals are recognised immediately in profit or loss, unless they relate to an asset which is carried at revalued amount, in which case they are treated as a revaluation increase in accordance with the applicable Section in IFRS.

1.10 Non-derivative financial instruments

Non-derivative financial instruments comprise investments in equity and debt securities, trade and other receivables, cash and cash equivalents, loans and borrowings, and trade and other payables. Non-derivative financial instruments are recognised initially at fair value. Subsequent to initial recognition non-derivative financial instruments are measured as described below.

A financial instrument is recognised if the Authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets are derecognised if the Authority's contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial assets expire or if the Authority transfers the financial asset to another party without retaining control or substantially all risks and rewards of the asset. Regular way purchases and sales of financial assets are accounted for at trade date, i.e., the date that the Authority commits itself to purchase or sell the asset.

Financial liabilities are derecognised if the Authority's obligations specified in the contract expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Reserves

The accumulated fund includes all current and prior year retained surpluses and deficits.

1.12 Revenue

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable by the Authority for services provided. Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the Authority, and these can be measured reliably.

The following specific recognition criteria must also be met before revenue is recognised:

- The Authority has transferred to the buyer the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the services provided. This is generally when the customer has approved the services that have been provided;
- The amount of revenue can be measured reliably;
- It is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Authority; and
- The costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transaction can be measured reliably.
- Government Grants and EU Grants are not recognised until there is a reasonable assurance that the Authority will comply with the conditions attaching to them and that the grants will be received.
- Government Grants and EU Grants are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income on a systematic basis over the years in which the entity recognises as expenses the related costs for which the grants are intended to compensate.
- Government Grants and EU Grants related to assets are presented in the Statement of Financial Position by setting up the grant as deferred income and is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income on a systematic basis over the useful life of the asset.

- Government Grants and EU Grants that are receivable as compensation for expenses or losses already incurred or for the purposes of giving immediate financial support to the Authority with no future related costs are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the year in which they become receivable.

Interest income

Interest is accrued on a time basis, by reference to the principal outstanding and at the effective interest rate applicable, which is the rate that exactly discounts the estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset to the asset's net carrying amount.

1.13 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis, which assume that the Authority will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. With reference to the Malta Statistics Authority Act, 2000 Part 4 article 19 sub-article 3, the Government shall pay the Authority to meet any of its expenditure that cannot be met out of its revenue and the costs of specified works to be continued or otherwise carried out by the Authority, being works of infrastructure or of a similar capital nature

2 Financial risk management

The Authority is exposed to a variety of financial risks: market risk (including fair value interest rate risk and price risk), credit risk and liquidity risk. The Authority's risk management is coordinated by the Board members and focuses on actively securing the Authority's short to medium term cash flows by minimising the exposure to financial risk.

Cash flow and fair value interest rate risk

The Authority has no significant interest-bearing assets and liabilities, and its income and operating cash flows are substantially independent of changes in market interest rates.

Credit risk

The Authority's exposure to credit risk is limited to the carrying amount of financial assets recognized at the end of the reporting date, as summarised below.

The Authority's exposures to credit risk as at the end of the reporting periods are analysed as follows:

	2021	2020
	€	€
Financial assets measured at amortised cost		
Cash and cash equivalents (<i>Note 5</i>)	4,338,739	3,917,732

The Authority applies the low credit risk simplification for all instruments that are externally rated at a rating of BBB- (or equivalent) or better; and the EGL provision for these instruments is accordingly measured at an amount equivalent to the 12-month ECLs. The Authority thus applies the simplification for its bank deposits.

Liquidity risk

The Authority is exposed to liquidity risk in relation to meeting future obligations associated with its financial liabilities, which comprise trade and other payables (Note 7). Prudent liquidity risk management includes maintaining sufficient cash reserves to ensure the availability of an adequate amount of funding to meet the Authority's obligations.

The Authority monitors liquidity risk by reviewing expected cash flows and ensures that no additional financing facilities are expected to be required over the coming year. The Authority's liquidity risk is not deemed material in view of the matching of cash inflows and outflows arising from expected maturities of financial instruments and commitments.

2.1 Capital risk management

The Authority's equity, which constitutes its capital base, is disclosed in the Statement of Financial Position. The Authority's objectives when managing capital are to safeguard the respective entity's ability to continue as a going concern in order to provide benefits for other stakeholders, and to maintain an optimal capital structure to reduce the cost of capital.

In accordance with section 19(3) of the provisions of the Malta Statistics Authority, the Authority shall be paid by the Government of Malta out of the Consolidated Fund such sums as Parliament may from time to time authorise to be appropriated to meet any of its expenditure that cannot be met out of its revenue and the costs of specified works to be continued or otherwise carried out by the Authority, being works of infrastructure or a similar capital nature.

2.3 Fair values of financial instruments

At 31 December 2021 and 2020 the carrying amounts of cash at bank, receivables, payables and accrued expenses reflected in the financial statements are reasonable estimates of fair value in view of the nature of these instruments or the relatively short period of time between the origination of the instruments and their expected realisation.

2.4 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and based on historical experience and other factors including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. In the opinion of the Authority Board, the accounting estimates and judgements made in the course of preparing these financial statements are not difficult, subjective or complex to a degree which would warrant their description as critical in terms of the requirements of IAS.

3 Property, plant and equipment

	€	€	€	€	€	€
Cost						
As at 1 January 2021	238,049	922,669	358,165	248,981	23,474	1,791,338
Additions	-	485,463	5,733	6,465	-	497,661
As at 31 December 2021	238,049	1,408,132	363,898	255,446	23,474	2,288,999
Depreciation						
As at 1 January 2021	96,028	868,572	312,705	226,912	19,016	1,523,233
Charge for the year	5,828	200,737	11,563	6,598	4,458	229,184
As at 31 December 2021	101,856	1,069,309	324,268	233,510	23,474	1,752,417
Net book value as at 31	136,193	338,823	39,630	21,936	-	536,582
Net book value as at 31	142,021	54,097	45,460	22,069	4,458	268,105

4 Trade and other receivables

	2021	2020
	€	€
Trade receivables	41,041	103,315
Accrued income	442,296	432,221
Indirect taxation	19,609	-
Prepayments	44,610	16,224
	<hr/> 547,556	<hr/> 551,760

5. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of the following:

	2021	2020
	€	€
Cash at bank	4,338,739	3,917,732

6 Inventory

	2021	2020
	€	€
Books and publications	10,358	34,641
Stationery	13,502	13,745
	<hr/> 23,860	<hr/> 48,386

Publications which are given for free are valued at their original cost.

7 Trade and other payables

	2021	2020
	€	€
Non-current		
Deferred income from Eurostat grants	196,352	256,148
Deferred income from Government grants	292,209	152,60
Amounts received in advance	730,785	690,475
	1,219,346	1,099,224
Current		
Trade payables	116,811	18,726
Deferred income from Government grants	194,401	62,240
Deferred income from Eurostat grants	166,660	121,848
Indirect taxation	-	8,286
Other payables from service pension	681,567	546,005
Accruals	46,299	115,090
	1,205,738	872,195

Short term financial liabilities are carried at their nominal value which is considered a reasonable approximation of fair value. Deferred income from Government grants refers to capital grants relating to improvements to premises which are deferred over the assets' useful lives and prepaid income from grants relating to expenses pertaining to a project which will be implemented in 2022.

	2021	2020
	€	€
As at 1 January	214,841	217,154
Additions	497,661	68,392
Amounts transferred to income and expenditure account	(225,891)	(70,705)
As at 31 December	486,611	214,841

	2021	2020
	€	€
Non-current deferred income:		
Between 2 and 5 years	217,856	70,841
After more than 5 years	74,353	81,760
	<u>292,209</u>	<u>152,601</u>

8 Revenue

	2021	2020
	€	€
Government subvention		
Directly paid to Malta Statistic Authority	5,350,000	5,299,998
Programs and initiatives	1,400,000	1,150,000
Refurbishment of premises paid by Ministry of finance	399,631	211,608
Income received for census of population	816,290	-
Government grant capital nature	225,891	70,705
EU grant agreement	252,332	438,755
Sale of publications and surveys	247,632	458,412
Other income	1,936	4,506
	<u>8,693,712</u>	<u>7,633,984</u>

9 Administrative expenses

	2021	2020
	€	€
Air conditioning running costs	4,451	4,216
Auditor's remuneration	2,288	2,288
Bank interest and charges	1,131	1,217
Board members' remuneration	19,500	19,500
Cleaning expenses	44,088	38,893
Conference expenditure	-	1,144
Depreciation	229,183	74,136
European Social Fund	-	121
General expenses	11,597	4,749
Hire of equipment	12,430	11,950
Hospitality and entertainment	607	3,851
Insurance fees	13,597	13,450
IT Support	166,966	135,076
Consultancy and professional fees	149,622	75,963
Licences, memberships, and subscriptions	99,357	75,011
Medical services	915	801
Motor vehicles running expenses	6,070	5,302
Pensions payable to ex government employees	135,562	80,201
Postage and couriers	97,090	23,316
Print and stationery fees	89,995	39,854
Publicity fees	162,010	10,265
Rental fees	29,183	21,133
Repair and maintenance	20,140	18,191
RPI Advisory Committee members' remuneration	9,830	9,831
Salaries	6,558,435	5,946,142
Surveys and interviews	508,031	365,075
Training costs	3,794	2,901
Telecommunication costs	40,686	36,644
Travelling expenses	1,081	17,995
Bad debt	2,000	-
Uniform expenses	3,009	2,672
Water and electricity fees	17,895	17,379
Premises maintenance	16,570	26,360
Security services	29,510	18,647
	8,486,623	7,104,274

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During the current year the National Statistics Office has performed the Census of Population and Housing. The Census is the responsibility of the Census Officer who is the Director General of the National Statistics Office as per the Census Act (Cap 118 laws of Malta) of 28 February 1948. The following expenses were incurred which are included in the administrative expenses:

	2021	2020
	€	€
Salaries	273,423	-
Rental fees	7,828	-
Motor vehicles running expenses	2,787	-
Print and stationery fees	48,923	-
Telecommunication costs	3,180	-
Publicity fees	144,595	-
Survey and interviews	1,948	-
Consultancy and professional fees	94,508	-
Licences, memberships, and subscriptions	21,845	-
IT Support	1,101	-
Hire of equipment	580	-
Cleaning expenses	1,144	-
General expenses	10,308	-
Repair and maintenance	721	-
Hospitality	87	-
Postage	81,305	-
	<hr/>	
	694,283	-
	<hr/> <hr/>	

10 Salaries and social security costs

	2021	2020
	€	€
Wages and salaries	6,558,435	5,946,142
Board Members remuneration	19,500	19,500
RPI advisory committee members remuneration	9,830	9,831
	6,587,765	5,975,473
Average number of MSA employees	192	190
Average number of casual survey interviewers	45	51

11 Taxation

The Board as per previous practice, considers the Authority as tax exempt and did not provide for taxation at 35% in the financial statements. A request in terms of Article 12(2) of the Income Tax Act to obtain a tax exemption on its surplus will be made with the Ministry for Finance. To date, no such exemption has been received.

12 Related party transactions

Malta Statistics Authority is an autonomous public institution enacted by the Malta Statistics Authority Act (Cap. 422) as well as the Census Act (1948), Chapter 118 of the Laws of Malta. The Authority is the regulator for official statistics in Malta. In accordance with article 26 (4) of the Malta Statistics Authority Act, audited financial statements shall be laid on the table of the Maltese Parliament by the Authority's line Minister.

During the year under review, the Authority entered into transactions with a number of Government-related entities. As at 31 December 2020, the Authority had an outstanding receivable balance due from other governmental entities amounting to €442,296 (2020: €432,221), and an outstanding payable owed to other governmental entities amounting to €681,567 (2020: €546,005).

Unless otherwise stated, none of the transactions incorporate special terms and conditions and no guarantee was given or received. Transactions with related entities are unsecured and interest free.

Income recognised for the year under review relating to subventions received from the Government of Malta are disclosed in note 7.

13 Comparative information

Comparative figures disclosed in the main components of these financial statements have been reclassified to conform with the current year's presentation format for the purpose of fairer presentation.

14 Statutory information

The Malta Statistics Authority (MSA) ("the Authority") is the Authority which ensures that official statistics produced independently by its executive arm, the National Statistics Office, are reliable, robust, timely and impartial. The Authority is enacted by virtue of the Malta Statistics Authority Act, (Chapter 422 of the laws of Malta).