



# STATISTICS LITHUANIA

*International Co-operation  
Newsletter No 1/2015 (9)*

In 2014, after the challenging Presidency period, Statistics Lithuania got back to the usual rhythm of events in international cooperation. In total, 89 employees participated in 213 international events: Eurostat working groups, committees, task force meetings, OECD, UNSD, IAOS and other. 18 international meetings were hosted by SL.

In 2014 SL was also engaged in 27 grants and 4 ESSnet projects, some of them continuing from previous years, some finishing at different periods in 2014. Six new contracts were concluded with the European Commission and 3 joint ESS network contracts joined (for execution of ESSNet projects) in which Statistics Lithuania has been involved as a partner.

## HOSTED BY STATISTICS LITHUANIA

### Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia: practical Presidency issues



On **February 26** the forthcoming Latvian Presidency team on the EU Council Working Party on Statistics (CWPS) arrived to Statistics Lithuania for a meeting. Practical Presidency-related issues were discussed. The chair of the Lithuanian Presidency, deputy chair, coordinators, lawyers and specialists on communication shared their experience with the colleagues from the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia.

Latvia holds its Presidency on CWPS in the first semester of 2015.



## Baltic cooperation

In 2014 in total 10 meetings on Baltic cooperation were held on ESA 2010, price, transport, foreign trade, energy, social statistics and dissemination of statistical information. Three of the ten were held in the premises of Statistics Lithuania.

### Meeting on business statistics

On **20-21 March 2014**, a meeting of Baltic countries' specialists over structural business statistics, statistics on foreign-controlled enterprises in Lithuania and Lithuanian-controlled enterprises abroad took place at Statistics Lithuania. Specialists from Statistics Lithuania, Statistics Latvia and Statistics Estonia attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the countries presented the most recent methodological developments implemented in the surveys, discussed difficulties related to the introduction of a new concept of statistical unit and other relevant survey-related issues.



## Meeting on quality management and classifications

On November 25-26, Statistics Lithuania hosted a meeting of the Baltic States' statistical offices over quality management and classifications.

During the meeting, the main changes in the countries' statistical offices since their last meeting were presented.

Quality management specialists made presentations on and exchanged experience in the field of the integration of quality requirements for statistics into national legal acts and institutions' strategic documents, introduction of quality management models, various statistics and statistical production process quality assessment and improvement measures, preparation for and participation in the peer review on the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice in national statistical systems.

Classification specialists discussed and exchanged experience in the field of classification databases and search systems, use of statistical classifications for administrative purposes, classification of economic activities according to NACE Rev. 2 in business registers.

The meeting was useful for the specialists of all three countries; therefore, a decision was made to organise similar meetings in the Baltic States' statistical offices on a biennial basis.



## 18<sup>th</sup> Baltic Population Census seminar

On December 17-18, the 18<sup>th</sup> Baltic Population Census Seminar took place at Statistics Lithuania. The seminar was attended by population and housing census specialists from the Baltic States.

The first day of the seminar was dedicated to the discussion of the preparation for the 2021 census round. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania plan on carrying out 2021 population and housing censuses based solely on administrative data sources. Experts on the main State registers (population, real estate, etc.) from Lithuania and Estonia informed about administrative data preparation and novelties. Emphasis was put on cooperation between national statistical offices and administrative data managers, which is an important precondition for the production of official statistics.

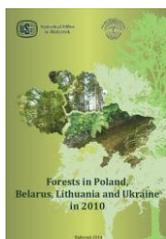
The second day of the seminar was dedicated to the discussion of preparatory work for the upcoming censuses and the problems faced in the course of the preparation and provision for Eurostat of multidimensional 2011 census tables (CENSUS HUB project), possibility to carry out population and housing censuses in the Baltic States based on administrative data sources, preparation of joint Baltic States' proposals concerning the legal basis for the 2021 census round to Eurostat. During the seminar, a decision was made to prepare a joint electronic publication on 2011 population and housing censuses in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in the first half-year of 2015.



## Cooperation with Poland

As a result of the long-lasting cooperation with the Polish Central Statistical Office GUS and its regional offices, experts of Statistics Lithuania contributed to joint publications and sets of data, in particular within the framework of the European Territorial programme, also involving statistics on Belarus and the Ukraine.

In 2014, the Regional office in Białystok prepared and published the publication on forestry concerning four countries, namely Poland, Belarus, Lithuania and Ukraine from the statistical angle.



## Other important events

### Meeting over the excessive deficit procedure and euro introduction

On March 5-6, Statistics Lithuania hosted a Eurostat's dialogue visit on the excessive deficit procedure (EDP) and euro introduction.

The participants of the meeting were First Deputy Director General of Statistics Lithuania Jonas Markelevičius, specialists of the Government Finance Statistics and National Accounts divisions of Statistics Lithuania, the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania, the Bank of Lithuania, an ECB representative Mr Robert Gatsby, a DG ECFIN economist Mr Giedrius Šidlauskas, Eurostat's representatives Ms Lena Frej Olsson, Mr Luca Ascoli, Mr Denis Besnard and Ms Rasa Jurkonienė.

During the visit, institutional obligations relating to the EDP and general government finance statistics production, data sources, methodological issues were discussed.



## Peer review



On October 20-24, a peer review on the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice in the Lithuanian statistical system took place at Statistics Lithuania. It was conducted by a high-level European Commission (Eurostat) expert group. The objective of this peer

review - to strengthen user, respondent and partner confidence in official European statistics and to ensure their quality at all stages of production.

For five days the experts were inspecting the Lithuanian statistical system, its functioning and organisation principles, talking to respondents, representatives of other institutions producing official statistics, users of statistics - public authorities and agencies, research and business communities, the media.



## Technical assistance in 2014

In pursuance of the objective set in the Strategy for 2013-2017 - to take over and spread best practice - Statistics Lithuania provided technical assistance to foreign statistical offices. The specialists of Statistics Lithuania, as short-term experts, were actively participating in technical assistance projects carried out by other countries' statistical offices and various foreign companies.

In 2014, within the framework of twinning projects of Statistics Denmark, where Statistics Lithuania participates as a partner, expert work - consultations - at the statistical offices of Ukraine (Phase II) and Kosovo was continued. The specialists of Statistics Lithuania provided assistance in business, social, price statistics, gave advice on investment in tangible fixed assets survey and application of sampling methods, compilation of an annual official statistics work plan.

In 2014, the specialists of Statistics Lithuania, as experts, participated in a TAIEX seminar on energy balance compilation issues for the specialists of the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources in Ankara (Turkey).

In 2014, within the framework of the multilateral IPA 2012 statistical cooperation programme, Statistics Lithuania won a tender for the provision of services in relation to the implementation of the harmonised index of consumer prices at the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.

Together with foreign partners, Statistics Lithuania, as a consortium partner, continues participation in the submission of applications for the participation in newly announced EU tenders for technical assistance projects in various countries. In 2014, in consortium with a consulting company DevStat (Spain), Statistics Lithuania won a tender for the development of the assessment of statistical systems and statistical domains in the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) countries.

A call for proposal was won for the participation in the twinning project of Statistics Denmark in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Phase VI). It is planned that the specialists of Statistics Lithuania will be providing assistance in the field of business statistics and business demography. A call for proposal was won for the participation in the twinning project of Statistics Denmark in Armenia.



### Timetable on participation of specialists of SL in Technical assistance in 2014

Twinning projects with Statistics Denmark	Consultation on Structural Business statistics	February 10-14	Kiev, Ukraine
	Consultation on Sampling	March 31-April 5; September 8-12; November 24-28	
	Consultation on Household and living conditions survey	June 5-6	
	Consultation on Methodology for calculating the Index of user satisfaction with the quality of statistical information	September 30 - October 3	
Twinning projects with Statistics Denmark	Consultation on Quality reports	November 10-14	Pristina, Kosovo
	Consultation on SBS	March 9-15	
TAIEX	Consultation on Methodologies for development and follow up on 2014 annual work plan	May 4-10; September 14-20	Ankara, Turkey
Multilateral IPA 2012 statistical cooperation programme	Workshop on preparation of general energy balance tables and scenario building modelling	September 29-30	Ankara, Turkey
	Consultation on Price statistics: HICP	December 15-19	Belgrade, Serbia



## Consultation on Standard of living statistics for specialists from Ukraine

On April 8-10, Statistics Lithuania was visited by the representatives of Statistics Ukraine to consult on standard of living statistics.

It was a study visit, organized in the framework of Twinning Project of Statistics Denmark. The aim of it was to familiarise themselves with the organisation of the survey on income and living conditions (EU-SILC), use of administrative data sources, discuss possible improvements in household income, poverty and material deprivation statistics compilation methodology taking into consideration EU requirements.

Before that, the specialists of Statistics Lithuania had visited Kiev - to familiarise themselves with and to assess the organisation of an analogous survey in Ukraine.

## Implementation of sampling methods and seasonal adjustment

On 25-27 June 2014, five representatives of Statistics Ukraine visited Statistics Lithuania. It was a study visit, organised to consult on implementation of the sampling methods and seasonal adjustment.

The consultations were provided by five experts in methodology and sampling methods from Statistics Lithuania and covered peculiarities of sample selection and estimate calculation in the surveys on domestic trade and energy, as well as seasonal adjustment.



## The implementation of sampling methods in the survey on investment

The last visit of specialists from Statistics Ukraine in 2014, within the framework of twinning project of Statistics Denmark, was held on 9-11 December. The aim of the visit was to familiarize with the experience of Statistics Lithuania regarding the implementation of sampling methods in the survey on investment.

Methodology and investment specialists of both countries took part in the meeting. Guests from Ukraine focused not only on the sample design and calculation of statistical estimates and errors, but also various organizational issues related with changes in statistical survey methodology. This is not the first meeting of the specialists in this field leading to mutually beneficial discussions.



## Visit of specialists from the Turkish Statistical Institute

On 11-13 June 2014, Statistics Lithuania was visited by three representatives of the Turkish Statistical Institute. The study visit over the compilation of service producer price indices (SPPIs) lasted for three days.

The legal and methodological basis for the compilation of short-term price statistics were discussed, best practice in the field of the organisation of statistical surveys, production and dissemination of statistical information was shared. Up to now, the Turkish Statistical Institute has not compiled SPPIs. In order to have comparable statistics, meeting EU requirements, Turkey plans on starting the compilation of SPPIs of certain economic activities from 2015. In Lithuania, SPPIs have been compiled since 2007.



European Affairs and International Co-operation Division

[www.stat.gov.lt](http://www.stat.gov.lt)

Ph. +370 5 236 4814, +370 5 236 4778

Fax +370 5 236 4875 Statistics Lithuania

Gedimino Avenue 29, LT-01500, Vilnius, Lithuania