

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS TO THE  
GOVERNMENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA  
(STATISTICS LITHUANIA)

European Affairs and International  
Co-operation  
News Letter No 1/2007

Foreword

Over the recent years, participation of Statistics Lithuania in international co-operation has been enormously growing. Therefore, applying good practice of some of the countries we present our first News Letter on international issues in 2006. We hope that it will be interesting for you to know more on how and what we are doing in the international arena.

Take a spare minute and get acquainted.

Introduction

The European Affairs and International Co-operation Division of Statistics Lithuania was established in 1992. Its functions cover the following basic issues:

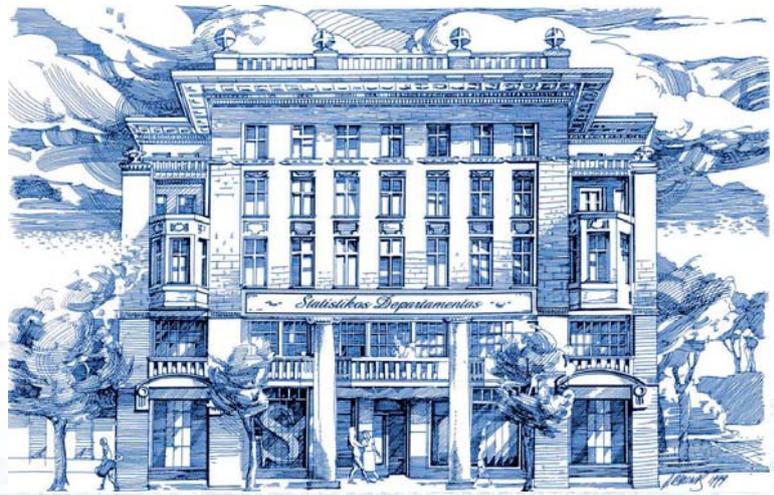
- European related affairs - coordination of SL work in the Eurostat working groups, Committees, Task Forces, Council working group as well as participation in decision making process and development of the ESS; monitoring of implementation of EU Grants in statistics;
- international co-operation with other NSIs and international organizations, preparation of co-operation agreements, projects in statistics and monitoring their implementation;
- organization of technical assistance - coordination of provision of methodological support for countries establishing fundamental principles of official statistics;
- organization of international events (seminars conferences, high level visits, etc.).

While implementing its tasks, the European Affairs and International Co-operation Division, follows the Strategy of Statistics Lithuania for 2005-2007.

Strategic Guidelines of International Co-operation  
of Statistics Lithuania for 2005-2007

Within the three years period Statistics Lithuania committed to take further measures and steps to:

- continue integration into the ESS focusing on the quality of statistical information;
- search for the best experiences of other countries and international organizations and apply in practice;
- improve participation in the EU decision making process in statistics;
- become an active technical assistance provider.



International Co-operation

During 2006, specialists of Statistics Lithuania have been actively participating in the European and worldwide conferences and seminars and other international events presenting latest achievements of Statistics Lithuania on general issues, like quality management, strategic planning, and burden on respondents as well as statistical matters. Guided by the principle not to invent the wheel, lots of initiatives have been taken to share experience with the NSIs on overarching issues, new ways and methods used for development of different statistical subjects as well as general management of statistical offices. Therefore, a number of bilateral events have been organized.

Historically, since 1995 very close co-operation has been developed with the neighboring countries - the statistical offices of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Currently the co-operation became more organized and structured and lead by the **Baltic Steering Committee meeting** held annually in one of the three Baltic States Statistical Offices.

The Steering Committee considers strategic issues, development projects, EU related topics, and renews the annual trilateral co-operation plan which usually bursts of proposals for co-operation submitted by the specialists of the three NSIS. The Baltic Steering Committee takes a decisive role in defining priorities.



*Participants of the Baltic Steering meeting, May, 2006  
Front row: Mr Algirdas Šemeta, Director General, SL, Ms Aija Žigure, President, CSB Latvia, Ms Tuulikki Sillajoe, Deputy Director General, Statistics Estonia, Mr Jonas Markelevičius, Deputy Director General, SL.  
Middle row: Ms Mare Zaneva, Head, Int. co-operation div., Statistics Estonia, Ms Daiva Norkevičienė, Head, European affairs and int. co-operation div., Mr Kaspars Misans, Deputy Director General, CSB Latvia.  
Last row: Ms Gabija Ramšaitė, Chief specialist, European affairs and int. co-operation div., Ms Vija Jace, Head, Int. co-operation div., CSB Latvia and Mr Priit Potisepp, Director General, Statistics Estonia.*

In 2006, Baltic Steering Meeting was organized in Lithuania. Three countries shared the latest achievements of the NSIs and experiences on the introduced innovations, discussed the issues related

to the European Code of Practice and presented developments in tourism statistics, NACE 2 revision and health statistics.

To find out how the statistical office is performing, what could be improved or changed, bilateral exchange of experience is the way to be followed. Therefore, Statistics Lithuania annually plans strategic meetings with the top-management of other NSIs.

In May 2006, a delegation of Statistics Lithuania visited the National Statistical Institute of Spain. Discussions were held on the quality management system in statistical offices, implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice, EU-related issues, like EU Presidency.

In July last year, Mr Jan Plovsing, Director General, Statistics Denmark, Mr Kim Voldby Pedersen, Head, International Secretariat and Mr Lars Erik Gewalli, Head, International Consulting division visited Statistics Lithuania. During the high level visit development of the Lithuanian and Danish statistical systems have been discussed, strategic guidelines and implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice have been shared.

#### *High level visit of Statistics Denmark*

*On the left: Mr Lars Erik Gewalli, Head, Int. Consulting division, Statistics Denmark, Mr Jan Plovsing, Director General, Statistics Denmark, Mr Kim Voldby Pedersen, Head, Int. Secretariat, Statistics Denmark.*



*On the right: Ms Daiva Jurelevičienė, Chief specialist on quality management, SL, Mr Algirdas Šemeta, Director General, SL, Mr Jonas Markelevičius, Deputy Director General, SL, Mr Vygandas Norkus, Deputy Director General, SL.*

In 2006, Statistics Lithuania hosted the 14<sup>th</sup> Partnership Group (DG of SL was a member of the PG) which took place at the premises of Statistics Lithuania in September.

#### *The 14<sup>th</sup> Partnership Groups meeting*

*On the left: Ms Gabija Ramšaitė, Chief specialist, European affairs and int. co-op. division, SL,*

*Mr Johann Hahlen, President, Federal Statistical Office, Germany, Ms Irena Krizman, Director General, Statistics*



*Slovenia, Ms Daiva Norkevičienė, Head, European affairs and int. co-operation div., SL, Ms Ada van Krimpen, Director, Int. Relations Office, CSB Netherlands, Ms Heli Jeskanen-Sundstrom, Director General, Statistics Finland, Ms Marie Bohatá, Deputy Director General, Eurostat, Mr Luigi Biggeri, President, National Institute of Statistics, Italy, Ms Sabine Koehler, Head, Int. coordination unit, Federal Statistical Office, Germany, Mr Steffen Schneider, Head, Legal, Institutional & International Affairs unit, Eurostat, Mr Algirdas Šemeta, Director General, SL, Mr Stephen Kaiser, Director of Resources, Eurostat, Ms Karin Luedemann, Interpreter and Mr Herve Carre, Director General, Eurostat.*

## Co-ordination and Implementation of Projects

Statistics Lithuania continues to benefit from the Multi-beneficiary programmes. In 2006 implementation of Multi-beneficiary Transition Facility Program 2004 started and at the end of the year a contract with Eurostat on the implementation of Transition Facility Multi-Beneficiary Programme 2005 was signed. The latter is to be implemented in the period of 2007-2008 and this is the last programme of Multi-beneficiary nature provided for statistics and aimed at the integration of new EU member states into the European statistical system by strengthening administrative capacities and co-ordination role in the country's statistical system by satisfying needs of users and strengthening their trust in statistics by increasing the quality of statistical information.

### Technical Support

While implementing the strategy of Statistics Lithuania for 2005-2007, in 2006 technical support projects were carried out to help statistical offices of less experienced countries to develop their statistical systems.

In co-operation with Statistics Sweden expert's support was given to the Kosovo Statistical Office. The project was financed by the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency. Experts of Statistics Lithuania continued further assistance in developing business statistics by introducing annual business statistical survey.

Specialists of Statistics Lithuania took part in the implementation of the project on improving information and communication technologies in the Turkish Statistical Institute. The project was organized by the Consortium which is led by the ICON Institute (Germany). Evaluation of the Turkish statistical institute's metadata base model was accomplished, possibilities to apply alternative models in the census data repository, software requirements of metadata management were revised and recommendations for the strategy of data repository establishment were prepared.

The year 2007 is rich with different international activities. The next newsletter will reflect them more thoroughly.



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