



# STATISTICS LITHUANIA

*International Co-operation  
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2013 was the year full of challenges in the field of International cooperation of Statistics Lithuania (SL). The main focus was on the Lithuanian Presidency in the second half of the year. However, taking into account the preparation for the Presidency period, the first half of the year was as intensive as usual in other activities.



During the year 153 international events abroad were attended by 70 unique SL employees: 3 Baltic meetings on demography, foreign trade and the Baltic Steering Committee, 18 ESSnet meetings and seminars, 48 Eurostat Working Group meetings, 13 Committees and 9 Task Forces, 9 conferences, 5 consultations, 15 various seminars, 5 courses and etc.

Statistics Lithuania hosted 18 various international events: 2 high level meetings, 2 Baltic meetings, 4 expert consultations, 3 ESSnet events, etc.

## The Compliance Monitoring Visit on the Harmonisation of Consumer Price Indices

It took place on 12 March 2013 in order to assess the quality of the harmonised consumer price index (HICP) produced in Lithuania. Major attention was paid to compliance with the EU standards in the area of the HICP.

A wide range of issues was discussed during the meeting with the experts of Statistics Lithuania. An introduction to an overview of the consumer price statistics system in Lithuania was made at the beginning of the meeting; then, general and specific issues related to the production process and methodological aspects of the compilation of the HICP in Lithuania were discussed. Price developments, specific questions concerning index compilation (e.g. treatment of seasonal products, quality adjustment methods), price index weights and specific time series



characteristics were covered as well. Practical issues related to the compilation of price indices based on products that have a significant impact on the overall inflation rate were considered.

## Eurostat Director General's visit to Lithuania



On April 2-3, Lithuania was visited by the Director General of Eurostat and the Chief Statistician of the EU Walter Radermacher.

During the visit Mr Rademacher met with the top management and division heads of Statistics Lithuania. The Director General of Statistics Lithuania Vilija Lapėnienė presented the Lithuanian statistical system, the main statistical projects under implementation and the strategic objectives of statistics for 2013-2017.

Mr Radermacher highlighted the novelties and challenges of the European Statistical System, discussed draft legislation on statistical issues that could be considered during the Lithuanian Presidency.

On April 3, a meeting of Mr Radermacher with the Prime Minister A. Butkevičius, the Chancellor of the Prime Minister A. Mačiulis, the Minister of Finance R. Šadžius and their advisors took place in the Prime Minister's Office.

Another meeting was organized with the Bank of Lithuania. The meeting was attended by the following representatives of the Bank of Lithuania: Deputy Chairman of the Board R. Kuodis, Director of the Economics and Financial Stability Service R. Rodzko, Director of the Statistics Department R. Likša, Head of the General Statistics Division E. Tvarijonavičiūtė, and Head of the External Statistics Division A. Vėberis.

The main issues discussed during the meetings were: the place of Statistics Lithuania as a Government institution in the general government system; ensuring the professional independence of Statistics Lithuania; the importance of official statistics for decision-making and monitoring of the implementation of those decisions; the Government's attitude towards the possibility of signing the Commitment on Confidence, the purpose of which is the implementation of the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice in all national institutions producing European statistics; the possibility of signing an agreement on working relationships and procedures between Statistics Lithuania and the Ministry of Finance; the chairmanship of the Council Working Party on Statistics.

## Meeting of the Baltic NSI's specialists on agricultural statistics

On April 18-19, a meeting of the Baltic NSI's specialists in agricultural statistics took place at Statistics Lithuania. The meeting was attended by the specialists from Statistics Latvia, the Latvian Institute of Agrarian Economics, Statistics Estonia, Statistics Lithuania, and the Lithuanian Institute of Agrarian Economics. During the meeting, organisational and methodological issues relating to the statistical farm structure and plant protection product use in agriculture surveys, issues relating to the compilation of economic accounts for agriculture and other issues relevant to the production of agricultural statistics were discussed.



## ESSnet meeting on micro data linking and data warehousing in statistical production

On June 3-4, a meeting of the ESSnet on micro data linking and data warehousing in statistical production took place at Statistics Lithuania. During the meeting, the specialists of the Methodology and Quality Division of Statistics Lithuania together with a representative of Statistics Netherlands Pieter Vlag analyzed final

Methodological Evaluation of the DWH Business Architecture and Data Linking Aspects of Combining Data (Survey/Administrative), including Options for Various Hierarchies (S-DWH context) project reports.

## Technical assistance in 2013

In 2013, the specialists of Statistics Lithuania participated in the implementation of the IPA 2011 multilateral programme for candidate and potential candidate countries (a seminar on harmonised indices of consumer prices (HICPs) in Montenegro).

twinning project in the Ukraine as one of the most successful ones. The specialists of Statistics Lithuania participated in the training programme for the Eastern European Neighbourhood countries - delivered lectures on statistical metadata.

Further expert assistance was provided within the framework of twinning projects of Statistics Denmark in the statistical offices of the Ukraine (phase I) and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Assistance was provided on business and social statistics; advice was given on the reduction in the administrative burden for respondents. The said projects were finalised in 2013. In 2012, the European Commission in its activity report on twinning, TAIX and SIGMA instruments for the Eastern European Neighbourhood countries, mentioned the

Together with foreign partners, Statistics Lithuania, as a consortium partner, continues submitting applications for participation in new EU tenders for the implementation of technical assistance projects in various countries. Under the guidance of Statistics Denmark, tenders were won for twinning projects in the Ukraine (phase II) and Kosovo. A project in the Ukraine was launched in 2013, in Kosovo - will be launched in 2014.

## Seminar for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia Countries (EECCA) on "Quality in Statistics: Administrative Data and Official Statistics"



On 4-6 September, a high-level seminar for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia countries (EECCA) entitled "Quality in Statistics: Administrative Data and Official Statistics", organised by

(UNECE, EFTA), invited speakers from the statistical offices of Estonia, Romania, Poland, Hungary, Norway, Turkey and Lithuania. The seminar covered such topics as quality systems of the statistical offices of different member states and the European Statistical System, quality issues in the statistical offices of

Eurostat, took place in Vilnius.

As the seminar was held during the Lithuanian Presidency of the EU Council, Statistics Lithuania assisted in organising the event. Moreover, experts from Statistics Lithuania prepared 4 presentations for the seminar.

The seminar was attended by 22 representatives of statistical offices of 11 countries, Eurostat, international organisations



Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia countries, further co-operation strategy and plans.



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