



# STATISTICS LITHUANIA

*International Co-operation  
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For the period of 2015, 91 specialist from Statistics Lithuania participated in 207 international events (Eurostat Working Groups and European Commission committees, EU Council working group on Statistics, OECD activities, seminars and conferences as well as various courses organised by international organisations) contributing with 74 presentations or papers in them. 22 international events with 137 presentations or papers produced by SL staff were organised by Statistics Lithuania in Lithuania.

In 2015, 13 mono-beneficiary and 3 multi-beneficiary (one of them led by Statistics Lithuania) contracts were concluded with the European Commission and 3 joint ESS network contracts (for execution of ESSNet projects) in which Statistics Lithuania has been involved as a partner were signed.

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## 2015 Highlights

### The first OECD visit hosted by Statistics Lithuania

Since the beginning of 2015 Statistics Lithuania experts have started active preparatory activities for the Statistical review. **On April 14–16**, Statistics Lithuania hosted the first visit from OECD with participation of Mr. Paul Schreyer, Deputy Director of OECD Statistics Directorate and Mr. Julien Dupont as well as David Brackfield from the Global Relations and Communications Division. During the visit the OECD experts also met with representatives from other institutions involved in production of official statistics (the Ministry of Finance and the Banks of Lithuania) as well as from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – coordinator of the general accession to OECD process in Lithuania.



In 2015 experts from Statistics Lithuania participated in 14 meetings and events organized by both Statistics Division and other OECD divisions: OECD-CSSP meeting, SDMX Global Conference, National Accounts and Finance Statistics Working groups, and in statistics-related meetings organized by other OECD structures, e.g. in joint Eurostat-OECD-UNECE meeting of National Accounts experts, Working Party on International Trade in Goods and Trade in Services, Working Group on International Investment Statistics, Technical Workshop on Foreign Direct Investment and Global Value Chains, Health Accounts Experts and Correspondents for Health Expenditure Data meeting, together with the representatives of the Ministry of Environment in the Seminar on implementation of SEEA, Working Party on Environmental Information, OECD NESTI/EUROSTAT scoping workshop on the 3rd revision of the Oslo Manual, and etc.

### Vilija Lapėnienė appointed for the second tenure

**On April 23**, the Government appointed Vilija Lapėnienė as the Director General of Statistics Lithuania for the second four-year tenure, which started on May 5. Vilija Lapėnienė was appointed for the first tenure as a permanent leader of the institution in May 2011.

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## Baltic cooperation

### In May 2015 Statistics Lithuania had an honour to host the Baltic Steering Committee

The Baltic Steering Committee for Statistics was established in 1996, since then annual meetings take place on a rotation basis in one of the Baltic countries. In May 2015 Statistics Lithuania had an honour to host the Baltic Steering Committee. Specialists from the Baltic countries over the last year have met to discuss regional and urban statistics, sampling and imputation, business registers, national accounts, information society statistics. Three of ten meetings were held in the premises of Statistics Lithuania.



## Eurostat's visits to Statistics Lithuania

### Meeting of methodology specialists



On 14–16 January 2015, guests from Eurostat and statistical institutions of Germany, Italy and Netherlands visited Statistics Lithuania. The meeting was organized in the framework of the agreement regarding the project Adjustment of Statistical Data Validation Methods in the European Statistical System signed by the European Commission and Federal Statistical Office of Germany. Statistics Lithuania participates in the implementation of the project as a partner. The guests presented the project, discussed the tasks provided therein, shared responsibilities drew up a project implementation work plan and estimated possible obstacles.

### Eurostat's learning visit on business statistics

On June 10–11, representatives from Eurostat's Directorate G (Global Business Statistics) visited Statistics Lithuania – Ms Maria Helena Figueira, Director, Mr Axel Behrens, Head of Unit, Structural Business Statistics and Global Value Chains, and Mr August Gotzfried, Head of Unit, Short-term Business and Tourism Statistics. The meeting was attended by the specialists of Statistics Lithuania and the representatives of the Bank of Lithuania. The guests were presented the Lithuanian statistical system, statistical business surveys, the Business Register, new IT tools for statistical business data collection. During the meeting, structural business statistics and business demography indicators, tourism, innovation, R&D, international trade, short-term and production of commodities statistics were discussed. The representatives of the Bank of Lithuania presented an overview of the compilation of the balance of payments and FDI statistics in Lithuania. The representatives of Eurostat presented the prospects of integration of business statistics and discussed the importance of global business statistics.



### Assessment of the impact of euro introduction on the estimation of inflation



On September 18, Statistics Lithuania was visited by the representatives of Eurostat. The purpose of the visit – to assess the impact of euro introduction on the calculation of the harmonised index of consumer prices (HICP). The meeting was attended by the price statistics specialists of Statistics Lithuania, Eurostat's representatives and the specialists of the Bank of Lithuania.

During the meeting, a list of COICOP classes, containing products whose price changes could have influenced inflation, was agreed upon. Eurostat's specialists will present the final conclusions on the impact of euro introduction on inflation in Lithuania in a month.

## Technical assistance in 2015



**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, actively participated in Technical assistance projects carried out by other countries statistical offices and various foreign companies.**

In 2015 the twinning project of Statistics Denmark at Statistics Ukraine (Phase II) was finalised. Over two years ten specialists of Statistics Lithuania participated in 17 actions in Ukraine, five study visits were organised to Statistics Lithuania. Ukrainian colleagues were given advice on business, social, price and agricultural statistics, investment survey, application of sampling methods, website creation.

Together with partners from other EU countries statistical offices, the implementation of a new twinning project of Statistics Denmark "Strengthening of the national statistical system in *Armenia*" was started. The experts of Statistics Lithuania provide assistance in the improvement of demographic and innovation statistics.

On 24-26 March 2015, within the framework of the project entitled "IPA – Improving Statistical Information System – Montenegro", run by a Hungarian company AAM Management Information Consulting, 8-person delegation from *Statistics Montenegro* (MONSTAT) visited Statistics Lithuania to familiarise with IT development, statistical information dissemination and methodological issues at Statistics Lithuania.

In April 2015 within the framework of an EU-funded project "Statistical training programme for the ENP-East countries", carried out by Expertise France and ICON-Institute (Germany), four-day training course on the application of sampling methods was organised at Statistics Lithuania. The course was attended by 20 specialists from the statistical offices of Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asian countries. Experts from Statistics Lithuania shared their experience in the field of simple random, stratified, cluster, two-stage sampling methods.

In 2015, within the framework of an EU project, carried out by DevStat (Spain) and ICON-Institute, an expert from Statistics Lithuania participated in the assessment of business statistics in Moldova, Albania, Belarus, and Serbia. Upon winning a tender for the development of the assessment of statistical systems and branch statistics in ENP countries in consortium with DevStat in 2014 Statistics Lithuania will continue this work. Eurostat has selected and confirmed the experts from Statistics Lithuania who will participate in the assessment of business statistics in Palestine and national accounts in Belarus in 2016.

In July 2015, within the framework of an EU project "Development of regional statistics in Moldova", carried out by GFA Consulting Group (Germany), DevStat, AAM Management Information Consulting Ltd. (Hungary) and Statistics Slovakia, a high-level 12-person delegation from Statistics *Moldova* visited Statistics Lithuania.



During the visit, the guests adopted the best practices in the fields of improvement of the statistical system, strategic planning, organisation and coordination of official statistics, quality assurance, dissemination and development of information systems.

Upon winning a tender for the implementation of the project "Assistance for ENP-East countries in implementing EU standards" (ENP-East, Second Platform (Statistics))" in consortium with Expertise France, the representatives of Statistics Lithuania participated in two expert meetings: over business statistics in Belarus, and over labour statistics in Georgia.

Within the framework of a Eurostat's project on the organisation of seminars for ENP-South countries, an expert of Statistics Lithuania participated in seminars on quality management in statistics in Ghana and Portugal.

Within the framework of the multilateral IPA 2012 statistical cooperation programme, Statistics Lithuania was visited by the specialists of Statistics Serbia – to consult on harmonised indices of consumer prices, of the Agency for Statistics of *Bosnia and Herzegovina* – on short-term statistics, of *Statistics Croatia* – on agro-monetary statistics.

In December 2015, within the framework of bilateral cooperation (partnership), Statistics Lithuania was visited by the specialists of *Statistics Azerbaijan*: Head of the Administration Vahab Mammadov, Head of the Quality Management and IT Department Gasim Aliyev, Head of the Coordination of Statistical Works Department Toghrul Ajalov, Head of the Database and Technologies Division Kamil Humbatov, and Head of the Web Technologies Division Elgun Khalilzade.



Specialists of *Statistics Azerbaijan* came with the aim to broaden experience in the fields of the modernisation of the statistical system, improvement of the statistical metadata system, IT usage in statistics. During the five days of the visit, the guests received from the representatives of Statistics Lithuania information on the efficient management and optimisation of the statistical system, improvement of the metadata system and use of IT systems in statistics.

In 2015, Statistics Lithuania continued active participation in TAIEX programme actions. The specialists of *Statistics Georgia* were given advice on strategic planning, of *Statistics Serbia* – on quality assurance in statistics, of *Statistics Ukraine* – on demographic statistics.

### Sharing experience with Ukrainian statisticians

On 19-21 May 2015, Statistics Lithuania hosted a delegation from Statistics Ukraine within the framework of a twinning project of Statistics Denmark. The objective was to familiarise Ukrainian colleagues with the experience of Statistics Lithuania in the field of work with users, user opinion surveys, estimation of the user satisfaction level, advise them on other statistical information production and dissemination issues.

On 31 August–2 September 2015, representatives of the State Statistics Service of Ukraine visited Statistics Lithuania once again, this time with the aim of familiarizing with the Official Statistics Portal of Statistics Lithuania, its development and implementation, technical and other requirements, problems faced during the implementation of the project, as well as dissemination of statistical information and its regulation, coordination activity of Statistics Lithuania when preparing national official statistics.



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