



STATISTICS LITHUANIA

*International Co-operation
Newsletter No 1/2017 (11)*

For the period of **2016**, **86** specialists from Statistics Lithuania participated in **220** international events **abroad** (Eurostat Working Groups, European Commission committees, EU Council working group on Statistics, OECD and UNECE activities, seminars and conferences as well as various courses organized by international organizations) contributing with 42 presentations or papers in them. **17** international events with 83 presentations or papers produced by Statistics Lithuania staff were organized **in Vilnius**.

2016 Highlights

Statistics Lithuania management system certified for the fourth time by confirming its compliance with the requirements of ISO 9001:2015 standard



On 5–6 October, Statistics Lithuania management system certification audit was carried out. The audit certified that the system is in conformity with the requirements of the international standard for the quality management system ISO 9001:2015. The audit was carried out and the compliance with the standard was assessed by the auditors of the internationally recognized certification bureau *Bureau Veritas Lit.* The audit team established that Statistics Lithuania had successfully implemented the changes related with the transition towards the certification according to the ISO 9001:2015 version. The management system was certified to ISO 9001:2000 version for the first time in 2007.

The strengths identified for Statistics Lithuania: positive attitude of the management towards the importance and need of the quality management system, commitment to quality; attention to all statistical information stakeholders; reduction of administrative burden on data providers; a high level of expertise of the staff; continuous improvement of quality management system; identification and implementation of the applicable regulatory requirements and successful international cooperation.

The certificate awarded to Statistics Lithuania certifies that its management system complies with the provisions of the said standard in terms of development, production and dissemination of statistical information according to international and national requirements. The certificate also proves that the launched quality management system allows constantly improving the quality of the services provided to the users, satisfying not only the current needs of the users but also focusing on their future needs, as well as improving the efficiency of activity process and managing risks therein.

Visit of the OECD experts – Statistical Peer Review

On 26–27 October, Statistics Lithuania hosted the second meeting of the OECD experts on the Statistical Peer Review. The mission on Lithuania's accession to the OECD in the statistical and statistical policy domains was headed by Mr Paul Schreyer, Deputy Director of the OECD Statistics Directorate, with participation of Mr Julien Dupont from the Global Relations and Communications Division of the Statistics Directorate and Coordinator for Lithuania, and Mr Charles Aspden, the OECD consultant on national accounts, as well as invited OECD experts – Mr Hans Viggo Sæbø (Statistics Norway) and Mr Gerardo Durand Alcántara (National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico).

The aim of the visit was to discuss the course and plans of the Statistical Peer Review. The importance of the first legal instrument – Recommendation on Good Statistical Practice, adopted by the OECD Council in November 2015, to statistics and compliance of Lithuania's statistics with 12 recommendations of this document was highlighted.

The meeting with the OECD experts was also attended by the representatives of other producers of official statistics (the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Lithuania) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which coordinates the process of Lithuania's accession to the OECD. The specialists of Statistics Lithuania and other institutions presented the achievements and novelties implemented after the 2015 visit, discussed statistical domains, data preparation and transmission deadlines and methods.



Eurostat Dialogue visit regarding calculation of general government deficit and debt



On 19–20 May, a dialogue visit regarding the excessive deficit procedure (EDP) statistics took place at Statistics Lithuania. Every two years, the representatives of Eurostat together with the representatives of the European Central Bank and the Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs review how the calculation of the general government deficit and debt complies with the ESA2010 methodology in the EU countries. Data sources, process of the production of statistics and methodological matters are discussed.

Baltic cooperation – Statistics Lithuania hosted 2 meetings in 2016

Price statistics



On April 13–14, Statistics Lithuania hosted a meeting of Baltic States' statisticians over the further development of the price index system and implementation of new EU requirements. The meeting was attended by four specialists from Statistics Latvia and two specialists from Statistics Estonia. During the meeting, certain aspects and problems of consumer price index calculation, house price index calculation methodology, new EU requirements for short-term price indices and development of service price indices were discussed.

Further development of innovation and R&D statistics

On 20–21 October, the representatives of the national statistical offices of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia had a meeting on the innovation and R&D statistics development. The experts discussed the determination of economic effect of innovation on business sector, the indicators of the government support for innovation activities and accounting thereof, the R&D survey in government and higher education sectors, potential for the use of administrative data. The representatives of Statistics Lithuania shared the best practices in dealing with problems related to survey filling and data processing quality. The experts of the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia and Statistics Estonia presented the results of their innovation and R&D surveys and share experience in carrying out such surveys.



The matters discussed during the meeting also covered the survey sampling, calculation of estimates, provision of statistical information in electronic form and provision thereof to Eurostat and users. The meeting also focused on the preparation for the Innovation Survey 2017, preparation of a new questionnaire and improvement of data quality. The further cooperation for the improvement of innovation and R&D statistics was discussed.

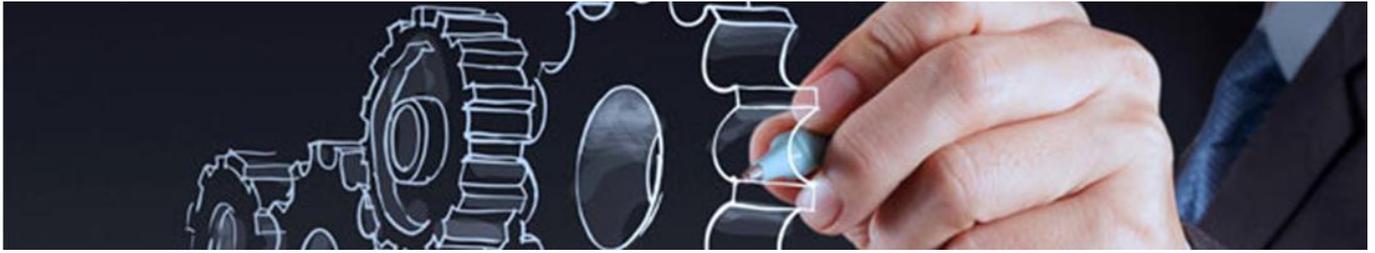
UNECE event on gender equality

On May 31, Statistics Lithuania hosted a joint international event of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Statistical Division, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) and Statistics Lithuania over gender equality. The event was attended by over 30 participants from Eastern Europe and Caucasian countries, representatives of international organizations (Eurasian Economic Commission, UN Development Programme) and other participants. During the seminar, the key gender and equality statistics-related issues, production of indicators, future plans were discussed, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, release of statistical information and other topics were presented.



The specialists of Statistics Lithuania presented official statistics production processes, production of gender and equality statistics in Lithuania, interactive presentation of gender statistics on the Official Statistics Portal, etc.

Technical assistance in 2016



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.

Twinning projects in cooperation with Statistics Denmark

Together with partners from other EU countries' statistical offices, the implementation of the twinning project of



Statistics Denmark "Strengthening of the national statistical system in **Armenia**" was further carried out in 2016. The experts of Statistics Lithuania provided assistance in the improvement of demographic and innovation statistics. Three visits of Statistics Lithuania experts to Yerevan were organised. Statistics Lithuania hosted one visit of specialists from the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia, with participation of the representatives of the Information Centre of the Institute of Hygiene and the Migration

Department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania; Lithuanian official statistics system, production and dissemination of demographic and migration statistics were presented during the meeting.

At closure of the twinning project of Statistics Denmark in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the specialists of the statistical office of **Bosnia and Herzegovina** visited Statistics Lithuania to consult about structural business statistics.

Twinning project in cooperation with INSEE and ISTAT

The implementation of the twinning project "Modernisation of Statistics **Tunisia**", guided by Statistics France (INSEE) and Statistics Italy (ISTAT), started. Statistics Lithuania participates in the project as a partner. The experts of Statistics Lithuania consulted the colleagues from Tunisia about the certification of the statistical system according to the ISO standard.



Assistance to Statistics Moldova

Within the framework of the EU project "Development of regional statistics in **Moldova**", carried out by GFA Consulting Group (Germany), DevStat (Spain), AAM Management Information Consulting Ltd. (Hungary) and Statistics Slovakia, Statistics Lithuania hosted **two** study visits of the specialists of Statistics Moldova on the use of administrative sources (in participation with the representatives of the Lithuanian State Social Insurance Fund Board (SODRA)) and the reform of regional statistical offices.



Assessments in cooperation with DevStat

Within the framework of the EU project implemented by DevStat and Statistics Lithuania, the experts of Statistics Lithuania participated in the assessment of business statistics in **Palestine** and national accounts in **Belarus**.

Assistance for ENP-East countries



In July, within the framework of the EU project "Assistance for **ENP-East countries** in implementing EU standards" (ENP-East, Second Platform (Statistics)), implemented by Expertise France and Statistics Lithuania, specialists of Statistics Lithuania contributed to organisation of a technical seminar on business statistics for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia in Krakow. An expert of Statistics Lithuania also participated in the seminar with the presentations on short-term statistics.

WB Twinning project in cooperation with DESTATIS

Within the framework of the World Bank's twinning project in **Mongolia**, implemented by Federal Statistical Office of Germany (DESTATIS), an expert of Statistics Lithuania consulted the colleagues from Mongolia about industrial statistics and calculation of industrial production index.

Participation in TAIEX

Statistics Lithuania continued active participation in TAIEX programme actions. On 18–19 April at Statistics Lithuania, the specialists of Statistics **Macedonia** were given consultations on methodology of sampling methods. The purpose of the study visit was to familiarize with the experience of Statistics Lithuania in implementation of statistical methods and surveys based on sampling methods.



Cooperation with statisticians of other countries based on partnership

Representatives of Statistics **Korea** visited Statistics Lithuania to discuss calculation of industrial and construction production indices. The guests presented how Statistics Korea calculates the production indices, and the specialists of Statistics Lithuania presented the short-term statistics in Lithuania. Our experts also shared the best practices in calculation of the industrial production index (sources and methods), producer price index (the main industrial production deflator) and construction production index (sampling, methods applied), reviewed the definitions and rules applied for goods sent abroad for reprocessing, chain-linking method for the calculation of time series.



Representatives of Hungarian Central Statistical Office together with representatives of Service and Foreign Trade Statistics Department of **Hungary** visited Statistics Lithuania and exchanged experiences on development and production of Service Producer Price Indices (SPPI). The purpose of visit was to discuss development of new SPPIs according to the expected FRIBS/STS package, development of SPPIs for Real estate activities (L68) and other specific aspects on the compilation of the SSPIs.

Within the framework of the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Kosovo Project, the delegation of the administration and institutions (Ministries of Labour and Welfare, Science and Technologies, Trade and Industry, National Statistical Agency, trade unions and employers' associations, etc.) of the Republic of **Kosovo** was organized in Lithuania.

The delegation expressed interest in the Lithuanian statistical system, cooperation with other producers of official statistics, as well as the quality management system. Kosovo plans to launch ISCO-08 classification; therefore, specialists of Statistics Lithuania presented the use of this classification in statistical surveys, i.e. Labour force survey, Structure of earnings survey, Income and living conditions survey and Population and housing census.



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