

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE

Lithuania

I. General information

The European Statistics Code of Practice (hereafter Code) sets a common quality framework for the ESS in developing, producing and disseminating European statistics. 15 principles of the Code and related indicators of good practice cover the institutional environment, the statistical processes and the statistical outputs.

Statistics Lithuania (SL) is strongly committed to complying with the Code and is working towards its full implementation. There are a plenty of procedures, activities, methods and tools already in place to ensure close compliance of SL with Code's principles. Quality management system of SL, introduced in 2007 and based on the ISO 9001:2015 standard, provides a good framework for the implementation of the Code. Commitments of SL aimed to improve statistical outputs and process on a continuous basis are established in the [Quality Policy](#).

Implementation of the Code in the [National Statistical System](#) is ensured by the agreements on the organization, quality assurance and dissemination of official statistics, signed with all Other National Authorities (ONAs), i.e. ministries, other state and municipal institutions and agencies, producing official statistics, and strengthened by activities of the cross-institutional working group on the implementation of the Code¹, as well as regular seminars on quality issues or other consultations and methodological support provided to ONAs by SL.

[Agreements on the organization, quality assurance and dissemination of official statistics](#) include the commitment of top management of ONAs to adhere to the principles of the Code, to establish measures for the implementation of the provisions thereof, and to submit, on an annual basis, their implementation reports to SL. The agreements are available on the website of SL.

On 20–24 October 2014, a peer review on the implementation of the Code, initiated by Eurostat, took place in Lithuania. The objective of the peer review was to determine compliance of the national institutions producing official European statistics with the Code and to identify the areas to be improved, to strengthen users', respondents' and other stakeholders' confidence in official statistics.

Generally, the experts who conducted the peer review considered that SL has a high level of compliance with the Code. The following strengths of SL were identified: professionalism and professional independence, strong coordination role, very high emphasis on quality management, reduction of the burden on respondents, good relationship with the academic community, efficient performance management, highly educated and well-motivated staff and a very participative culture.

¹ Cross-institutional working group on the implementation of the Code involves representatives of 16 institutions producing official statistics in Lithuania. The Bank of Lithuania also participates in the working group meetings as an observer. The main task of the group – to discuss the issues related with coordination of Code implementation in national institutions producing European statistics and draw conclusions and proposals regarding the improvement of conditions for the Code implementation and statistics quality assurance.

To further enhance compliance with the Code, 23 recommendations were provided. These recommendations, together with peer review conclusions are presented in [the Peer Review Report on Compliance with the Code of Practice and the Coordination Role of Statistics Lithuania](#). The improvement actions of SL planned with regard to the peer review recommendations are presented in [the Peer Review Recommendation Implementation Action Plan](#).

II. Progress on implementation of the Code (situation 31/12/2017)

Regarding the peer review recommendations, 39 improvement actions were planned. All whereof have already been completed, as listed below.

Completed actions

SL conducted a study on the possibilities to adapt the Official Statistics Portal (OSP) to mobile devices. The study concluded that the OSP would be adapted to mobile devices after the new version of the Content Management System (CMS) is introduced. The new CMS was included in the new investment project on OSP services and functionality development which also covered implementation of such actions as the creation of a Database of Indicators wizard, optimization of the database interface (main window, dimensions, indicator tree), improvement of the homepage design, optimization of the search function, development of database functionality (possibility to visualize, derivative indicators), development of GIS. The new interface portal has been accessible to all users since March 2017.

SL developed a mobile application to represent the main statistical indicators. The app “Lietuvos statistika” can be found on [Google Play](#).

SL has created a special section for regional statistics on the OSP to allow users to access regional statistics in one place. Information on Lithuanian administrative territorial division and territorial development indicators is published in the section “[All indicators/Regional statistics](#)”.

SL changed the functionality of the Official Statistics Calendar in order to allow users to access statistical news releases dating from longer than a 2-year period (i.e. from 2013 when the OSP was launched). Furthermore, users can now access [archived news releases from 2012](#). The number of statistical news releases in English is being increased every year by 5 or more percent, which currently makes up about 70 percent of all news releases. Also an action to publish all metadata descriptions in English on the OSP has been carried out.

In order to widely promote its products and services, SL adopted a promotion action plan in February 2015. Subsequently, meetings with different user groups were organized and their statistical literacy was cultivated, thematic leaflets were updated, advertisements were placed in publications and the creation of new infograms has started. Also, 13 OSP banners have been created and placed on the websites of other national institutions producing official statistics. Hyperlinks to officially disseminated statistical information in the social media are provided and the number of Twitter messages in English is being increased every year.

SL carried out an analysis on how to improve the Official Statistics Portal and website search results. Possible solutions were identified. Furthermore, the example of promotion package to

advertise products and services was created and used while promoting the new OSP version . It includes different channels and forms from news release to social media and posters. New [info graphics on sensitive and important indicators](#) have been produced and circulated to media, politicians and other users. Profiles of SL and the OSP have been created in [Wikipedia](#).

The latest OSP development project started in 2017 following the identified user needs. Since then several major improvements have been made in the user interface, responsive design and etc., usability of [classifications](#) and [foreign trade data](#) has been improved, [web services](#) have been introduced. The Official Statistics Calendar 2017 has been corrected providing [information on changes made to the Calendar](#), also informing about the respective official orders of Director General.

[A video guide about e-Statistics](#) for respondents: population and enterprises has been created.

In order to further develop and promote the remote access system to anonymised microdata for research purposes, SL has:

- Updated the rules for microdata provision for research purposes in line with Commission Regulation (EU) No 557/2013;
- Adopted a promotion action plan for remote access to microdata in June 2015;
- Prepared a detailed description on how to use the remote access to the microdata published in the OSP.

Researchers are being consulted on the conditions to get remote access and the functionality of the system.

In order to standardise the methodology, editing rules and algorithms for data editing and imputation, SL has made methodological recommendations, approved by the Director General of SL in June 2015, for data editing and imputation, and has revised statistical data editing rules/algorithms used in data entry programs. Moreover, statistical data editing and imputation methods used in statistical surveys on short-term statistics have been revised.

In order to develop the standard environment for questionnaire testing, a description for questionnaire revision and testing was prepared in January 2016 and has been introduced.

SL analysed the possibilities to align the internal statistical processes to the [Generic Statistical Business Process Model](#) (hereafter GSBPM). Proposals for the centralisation of certain functions related to the following sub processes: „Create frame & select sample“, „Calculate weights“, „Calculate aggregates“ (for sample surveys and seasonal adjustment) for all surveys have been made and introduced.

SL completed [the electronic data collection system for population \(households\) surveys](#).

In order to set up a single contact point for centralised management of administrative data, the position for the centralized administration of received administrative data was established. The rules for administrative data access and management were updated and approved in November 2015, as well as the list of administrative data sources used in SL was updated, agreements with

administrative data owners were made systematic; the list of Interservice tax data repository users was updated; a special section "Use of administrative data" was created on the internal website of SL; and updated procedures on administrative data access and management were provided to staff.

In order to improve the exchange of knowledge on quality, methodology and other issues between SL and ONAs, a plan of seminars and workshops was adopted in December 2015 and is being developed and implemented every year taking into account the requests of ONAs on specific themes.

In December 2015 SL established a working group for performance of statistical survey audits. Inspections of 4 statistical surveys were carried out in 2016.

SL made improvements to the Career planning system in order to give priority to staff that had experience in different positions or domains.

In order to further develop the skills and knowledge of English of its staff, SL has created facilities for self-learning of English.

At the end of 2015, a workload and productivity analysis of data preparation divisions of SL for 2012–2015 was carried out and recommendations made, including proposals to align the internal organisation to the GSBPM.

In order to have all official statistics published on the OSP, according to a common release calendar, accompanied by the standard metadata and quality reports, release of statistical information prepared by 13 ONAs was integrated into the OSP.

Moreover, SL created an IT-based platform for information sharing and communication with ONAs. The platform covers such themes as implementation of the Code; preparing the Official Statistics Work Programme and reporting on its implementation; preparing methodological descriptions and statistical questionnaires; dissemination of official information and related meta-information via the Official Statistics Portal; statistical data or statistical information transmission to Eurostat and (or) international organizations; participation in the legislative process, international cooperation; seminars.