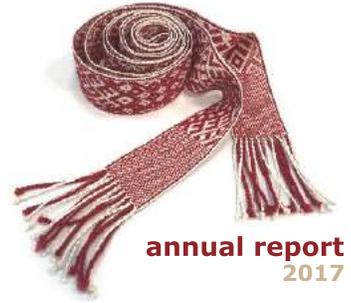




Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia

annual report 2017





annual report
2017

Foreword



Dear reader,

Data and information are highly valued in everyday life of our society thus the role of statistics is essential, especially nowadays. Globalization, population mobility, environmental change, research and development of ICT – the need for new indicators to monitor strategic goals of government serves as a driving force in continuous development of statistics. Now we have many new opportunities and challenges emerging in the use of latest technological solutions, development of knowledge-intensive methods for assessing global economic processes, and employment of new data sources that all may be utilised in the production of statistics and allow reducing response burden. As the main coordinating institution of the official statistics system CSB does arduous work to meet the needs of society and ensure confidentiality, update methodology of data acquisition and processing while simultaneously maintaining objectivity and quality of the statistics produced.

As a member of the European Statistical System, CSB has committed to achieve goals and accomplish its tasks, therefore in cooperation with other Member States we are working on the implementation of the Vision 2020 projects and striving to produce statistics that has high quality, is more harmonised, comparable, and flexible to meet rapid changes of the world. We are actively working to improve dissemination of statistics and communication with respondents; our latest statistics is also communicated in various social media.

Based on the user needs and financial resources available, we have expanded range and level of detail of our statistics by offering experimental statistics that is based on new data sources and calculation methods.

Successful operation in the changing environment and improvement of performance requires continuous development of process-oriented production of statistics, which is also one of our work directions. CSB is actively working to meet changing needs of data users, continuously improving standardization and quality, developing infrastructure of information technologies, as well as on other tasks required to achieve our strategic goals.

I would like to express my gratitude to respondents, our co-operation partners, as well as every member of our effective team for their creativity in achieving CSB tasks.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Zigmars'.

President of the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia

Contents



FOREWORD	3
CONTENTS	5
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	7
VISION, MISSION, VALUES AND ACTIVITIES	8
CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2017	10
KEY PRIORITIES 2017	15
STATISTICAL COUNCIL	18
APPLYING PRINCIPLE "CONSULT AT FIRST"	20
RESPONDENT SURVEY	23
DEVELOPMENT OF CSB WITHIN THE EUROPEAN STATISTICAL SYSTEM	25
CSB AND ADMINISTRATIVE DATA SOURCES	33
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	36
WORKSHOP ON EXPERIMENTAL STATISTICS	42
PERSONNEL	46
FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2017	50
ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2018	53



CONTENTS, ABBREVIATIONS, MISSION

List of Abbreviations



BSS	Business Structural Statistics
CAWI	Computer Assisted Web Interviewing
CSB	Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia
DG ECFIN	Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs
DGINS	conference of Directors General of the national statistical institutes
EC	European Commission
ECB	European Central Bank
ERG	EuroGroups Register
ESBRs	European System of Interoperable Statistical Business Registers
ESS	European Statistical System
ESS Vision 2020	development strategy of European Statistical System
ESSC	European Statistical System Committee
EU	European Union
Eurostat	Statistical Office of the European Union
FRIBS	Framework regulation integrating business statistics
GIS	geographic information system
HICP	Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices
IACS	Integrated Administration and Control System
ICT	information and communication technologies
IMF	International Monetary Fund
Intrastat	system for collecting information and producing statistics on the trade in goods between countries of the European Union
ISCED 11	International Standard Classification of Education
ISDMS	Integrated Statistical Data Management System
LCCI	Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPI	producer price index
SBR	Statistical Business Register
SDGs	sustainable development goals
SDMX	Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange
SLS	State Land Service
SRS	State Revenue Service
SSDW	social statistics data warehouse
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
VIP projects	projects of the ESS Vision 2020

Vision, Mission, Values and Activities

Aim

The main aim of the CSB is to provide official statistics on economic, demographic, social and environmental phenomena and processes, as well as to coordinate development of official statistics production system in line with internationally recognised principles.

Official statistics is produced to meet the following objectives:

- draw up, implement, monitor or evaluate laws and regulations or development planning documents, or draw up development scenarios or projections;
- implement functions of a public institution provided for in the laws and regulations, except for taking control and monitoring of as well as imposing penalties against natural persons;
- provision of comprehensive information to general public.

Mission

The mission of the CSB is to provide users of statistical information with independent and high-quality official statistics for decision-making, research and discussion.

Vision

Vision of the CSB: modern, innovative statistical institution, leader in providing qualitative statistics at national level.

CSB employees have necessary competencies, skills and knowledge, are motivated, result-oriented and able to introduce innovative solutions.

Values

CSB bases its activity on the following values: knowledge, cooperation, openness, the rule of law and responsibility.

Our core value is highly-educated, professional, honest and reliable, quality and goal-oriented personnel possessing excellent communication skills.



CSB building
at Lāčplēša 1, Riga

Vision, Mission, Values and Activities

Activities

- Provision of statistics and development of process-oriented production thereof.
- Development of availability of statistics by providing innovative solutions.
- Modernization of information systems for collection and processing of data and dissemination of statistics.
- Coordination of the official statistics system.

Priorities

- Timely perception and production of statistics on new economic phenomena, including globalization, innovations, migration flows, climate changes, or development of digital information.
- Partnerships with data users, new data owners and data users. Improvement of professionalism, activity efficiency and quality.
- Timely production and dissemination of statistics oriented to changing needs of data users, active informative support to experts analysing processes taking place in society, as well as partnership with research sector.
- Organisational development, implementing Generic Statistical Business Process Model.
- Development of the principle "Consult at First", moving towards united customer support service, surveillance of regular administrative burden with progress towards reduction thereof, active communication with the CSB data users on satisfaction with the statistics available and new data needed.
- Coordination of official statistics system development processes by creating united national statistics system.
- Continuous introduction of efficiency-enhancing innovative solutions in production of statistics.
- Efficient management of CSB resources, enhancing professional competences of employees and constantly moving towards optimization of institution support functions, digitalization of services and strengthening of e-solutions, including movement towards paperless office.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2017

Calendar of Events 2017



January

- Latvia (Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia) has been elected as a Member of the UN Statistical Commission from 1 January 2016 until the end of 2019 on a rotational basis.
- 31 January, Riga. Representatives of the Ministry of Economics, Partnership of Latvian Construction Entrepreneurs, State Construction Control Bureau and CSB reach an agreement on improving cooperation within the field of construction statistics.

March

- 6–9 March, Tallinn (Estonia). CSB expert I. Abražuns takes part (as an observer) in an informative visit on gross national income to Statistics Estonia organised by Eurostat.
- 13–16 March, Brussels (Belgium). Experts of the Mathematical Support Division M. Liberts, J. Jukāms and A. Jurševskis take part in the EU Big Data Hackaton and compete for the best data product that would answer the question "How would you support the design of policies for reducing mismatch between jobs and skills at regional level in the EU through the use of data?"

April

- 3 April, Luxembourg. CSB expert I. Kallione takes part in the Eurostat Seminar on Economic Globalisation: Addressing measurement challenges related to Multinational Enterprise Groups.
- 25–28 April, Tallinn (Estonia). Management of the Social Statistics Department (M. Behmane, B. Zukula and P. Veģis) takes part in the 20th Baltic Census Seminar.
- 26–27 April, Tallinn (Estonia). CSB experts R. Skakunova, I. Oksentjuka and J. Drozdova take part in the 1st Baltic meeting on Data Collection.
- On 28 April, CSB experts S. Jesiļevska and I. Liepiņa take part in the informative seminar "Implementation of Innovations in Enterprises. Support of EU Funds and Recommendations" organised by the Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Economics and CSB, and give presentations on innovation and research statistics.



Calendar of Events 2017

- 28–29 April, Riga. CSB expert J. Minkevica takes part in the 4th International Conference on Quality, during which managers and professionals of Latvian and foreign organisations discuss identification of risks and challenges, as well as change management.

May

- 10–12 May, Eltville (Germany). CSB expert N. Dubkova takes part in the 15th Meeting of the Ottawa Group on Price Indices organised by the Central Bank of Germany and shares experience on the calculation of consumer price indices and house price indices.
- 11 May, Riga. During a meeting with associations of various sectors, the CSB presents the draft forms of the new projects "Consolidated survey on operation in 2017" and "International organisation and transfer of business functions", circulating them for testing and evaluation.
- 18–24 May, Riga. Experts of the IMF visit CSB in relation to national accounts.
- 22–23 May, Tbilisi (Georgia). CSB expert S. Jesiljevskā takes part in the 5th Statistics Panel on Innovation, ICT, R&D Statistics of the Eastern Partnership, giving a presentation on Latvia's experience in carrying out an innovation survey.
- 23–24 May, Riga. CSB organises the seminar "Ensuring the Operation of the Quality Management System in Data Collection and Processing".

June

- 7–9 June, Riga. Latvia hosts a dialogue visit for experts of EU institutions (Eurostat, DG ECFIN and ECB) on matters related to general government budget deficit and debt notification.

August

- 3 August, Riga. The CSB concludes an agreement on launching the "Portal of Official Statistics" project financed by ERDF.

September

- 1 September – CSB celebrates its 98th anniversary.
- 11–12 September, Luxembourg. CSB expert I. Oksentjuka takes part in the

Calendar of Events 2017

Eurostat workshop "Large Cases Units in the context of addressing measurement challenges related to Multinational Enterprise Groups".

- 18–21 September, Riga. Experts of the CSB introduce the heads and specialists of other Latvian statistical institutions with general quality requirements for statistical institutions and hold a discussion on the implementation of requirements and conformity assessment.
- 20–22 September, Budapest (Hungary). A. Žģure, President of the CSB, takes part in the 34th meeting of the ESSC and the DGINS conference on ESS Vision and priorities beyond 2020. Latvia chairs one of the break-out sessions on ESS' strategic response and priorities beyond 2020.
- 21 September, Riga. CSB receives a certificate issued by the international certification body Exova BM TRADA, assuring that the information security management system of CSB complies with the requirements of the international standard ISO 27001..

October

- 3–5 October, Rome (Italy). CSB expert A. Plāte takes part in the UNECE Expert Forum for producers and users of climate change-related statistics and presents the results of the pilot project on main climate change indicators, which serves as basis for the development of the main climate change indicators for international use in the UN.
- 10–11 October, Riga. CSB hosts the Eurostat Working Group on Population Projections at the Academic Centre for Natural Sciences of the University of Latvia: experts of 28 EU Member States and Norway discuss matters related to the methodology of fertility, mortality and migration projections.
- 26–28 October, Tallinn (Estonia). CSB expert S. Jesijevska takes part in the 4th Eastern Partnership Business Forum "Digital Economy: Innovative Platform for Transparent Borderless Business".

November

- 9 November, Riga. Representatives of CSB meet with experts of the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications and the Ministry of Transport to discuss matters regarding the updated correction coefficient.
- 12 November, Riga. Experts of CSB hold a discussion with representatives of the Ministry of Economics and the Bank of Latvia regarding the planned changes in the methodology of the index of production in construction.

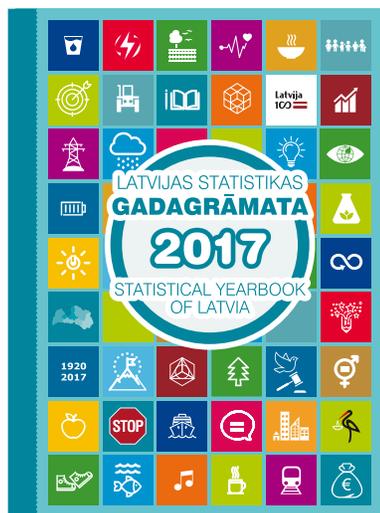


Calendar of Events 2017

- 14–20 November, Washington (USA). CSB expert D. Tomase takes part in the 5th IMF Statistical Forum with the theme "Measuring the Digital Economy".
- 21–22 November, CSB experts I. Kallione and I. Malašenko take part in the meeting of the special task force and methodological support group on the international organisation of business functions, development of new statistical indicators for the assessment of business globalisation.

Decembris

- 6 December, Riga. Specialists of CSB hold a discussion with other Latvian statistical institutions regarding legal solutions for improving response rates and the EDAMIS 4 platform of Eurostat.



KEY PRIORITIES 2017



Key Priorities 2017

In 2017, CSB fulfilled provisions of the Statistics Law by strengthening its role of the main coordinating body in the production of official statistics.

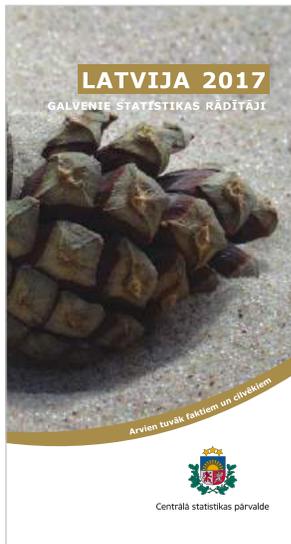
Changes in the CSB work were related to the improvements to production of official statistics. CSB continued its cooperation with holders of administrative data, thus enhancing use of various data sources, solving different methodological issues and reducing response burden.

Last year, CSB established active communication with data users in respect to satisfaction with the statistics available, as well as provided informative support to analysts and partnership with research sector.

CSB took optimization measures and found innovative solutions to increase efficiency of its work: reviewed functions and continued introduction of general statistical process model in the organization of work.

Key activities of the CSB:

- accomplishment of tasks provided for in the Statistics Law and implementation of Official Statistics Programme 2017–2019;
- introduction of principle "Consult at First";
- georeferencing of Population and Housing Census 2000 data and development of data array for research purposes;
- taking measures to reduce response burden and expanding use of administrative data sources in production of official statistics;
- getting ready for the Population and Housing Census 2021;
- increasing quality of statistics and improvement of methodology;
- work on the Official Statistics Portal project;
- activities in international cooperation – UN International Committee, OECD, Eurostat high-level work groups and committees, as well as among statistical institutes of the Baltic states;
- implementation of grant projects within the programme "Production of Statistical Information for the New EU Initiatives" as well as of Vision 2020 development projects;
- improvement of professional competences of the CSB employees.



Key Priorities 2016

CSB operating results

Performance indicator	2016, actual	2017	
		planned	actual
CAWI data collection system introduced in household surveys (as per cent of total survey number)	42	57	71
Statistical indicators published in on-line database (mill. indicators)	1 342	1 323	1 444
National Programme of Statistical Information for 2017–2019 (number)	1	1	1
Interactive data visualisations used in data dissemination (number)	7	4	7
School Corner – expanded with new themes (number)	8	2	2
Public-use files available (number of new surveys)	3	3	3
E-reporting (share of reports submitted to EDC system, per cent)	90	91	91
Methodology; experimental territorial statistics published using indirect estimation method (indicators published)	x	3	3
Social statistics data warehouse developed for processing and analysis of Population and Housing Census 2021 data (data types integrated, number)	20	17	17



STATISTICAL COUNCIL

Statistical Council



Aim of the Statistical Council is to promote development of the production system of Official Statics, to provide statistical institutions with recommendations on official statics production system, to facilitate cooperation between statistical institutions, respondents and users of official statistics, as well as provide opinion on the draft Official Statics Programme.

Members of the Statistical Council:

- discussed activity highlights of various statistical fields and measures for modernisation of statistics, work done by the CSB in ESS development processes and feedback of these activities.
- provided opinion on the reform of Intrastat system development and introduction of innovative solutions in geospatial statistics, estimated different experience of data users in data use, monitored process of implementation of Official Statistics Programme in 2017–2019.
- supported implementation of the principle "Consult at First" of initiative of the Ministry of Economy, accepted activities planned by the CSB – creation of united customer centre, provision of consultative telephone line, individual approach and operative communication which provides support to respondents in different situations.
- listened to CSB specialists on the work done in the provision of Vision 2020 activities of the ESS development strategy concerning implementation of improving statistics methodology, administrative data use and other development projects, and expressed certain suggestions on how to coordinate cooperation among official statistics institutions in drawing up a tender.
- estimated aspects related to quality development in European Statistics Code of Practice, gave opinion on the project "Official Statistics Programme 2018–2020" and analysed other official statistics development issues thus promoting efficiency of activity of statistical institution.

More information on activities of the Statistics Council csb.gov.lv/padome



Work in one of
the **Statistical Council** meetings



COUNSULT AT FIRST

Applying Principle "Consult at First"

On 15 June 2017, CSB President Aija Žigūre signed a cooperation memorandum on establishment of principle "**Consult at First**" aimed at improving cooperation with entrepreneurs. By signing the memorandum, CSB undertook to ensure that entrepreneurs know and understand requirements they need to fulfil and do that in good faith.

In respect of the memorandum "Consult at First" signed, CSB developed guidelines for statisticians which are published in the CSB website section For Respondents. Client-oriented CSB activity is characterised by three principles: support, clarity, availability. The CSB undertakes to ensure availability of high-quality client support, which will always strive to provide fast, precise and competent answers to respondents' questions.

The CSB has implemented various initiatives to improve cooperation with respondents – consultative phone and e-mail, consultations on completion of questionnaires, prompt answers to the questions submitted, promoting close and efficient cooperation.

As CSB is moving towards paperless office and widely using e-solutions, 86 % of the letters informing respondents about their inclusion in survey sample sent in December 2017 and December 2016 were sent electronically, the rest 14 % were sent in paper form by regular mail to the enterprises not having e-mail address. In 2015, 73 % of letters were sent electronically and in 2014 – 44 %. Letters are sent automatically, using ISDAVS.

In 2017, 9.7 thousand respondent calls were received to the consultative phone and 1.7 thousand e-mail letters were answered. Last year, also 8.3 thousand e-report requests were received. The average response rate of 90 % set in the CSB quality register was met.

The CSB promotes client-oriented service culture. Last year, **employee training** in professional area and to improve their communication skills with clients was organized. Statistician's Manual was updated and improved.

During the **trainings organised for employees responsible for the survey forms**, topical issues on how to increase data submission level and improve their quality were analysed, organization of data collection and processing in previous year was evaluated, and challenges for 2017 were determined. A two-day **seminar for employees collecting data** on the quality management in statistical data collection and processing helped to understand CSB processes and overall strategy better, as well as helped to improve knowledge on the latest trends both in technological and financial areas, allowed to exchange experience and take over best practices. As statisticians are the ones who consult respondents on issues regarding questionnaire completion, employees responsible for the survey forms continued statistician training on methodology



Consult at First

used when completing questionnaire, changes in questionnaires, as well as other issues that improved understanding of various indicators and necessity thereof.

For the first time, Estonia held a **seminar on data collection and processing in the Baltic countries**. Within the framework of it, the topics discussed covered data collection, cooperation and communication with respondents, as well as use of information technologies in data processing. The information obtained assured that we are moving in the right direction by improving cooperation with respondents, carrying out respondent surveys, and organizing trainings for statisticians aimed at creating professional team working with respondents and consulting them on questionnaire indicators and methodology.

Next tasks to be accomplished in cooperation with respondents – providing of feedback and improvement of electronic questionnaires by making them respondent-friendly.



CSB Deputy President **Kaspars Misāns** (on the left) and statisticians discussing ways to improve cooperation with respondents

RESPONDENT SURVEY





Respondent Satisfaction Survey on Quality of CSB Services

Once in two years CSB carries out respondent satisfaction survey. The information acquired is used to determine cooperation improvement tasks for the next two years.

In 2017, 4 thousand regular respondents had a chance to fill in on-line questionnaire consisting of 12 questions. Answers were given by 30 % of respondents.

During the survey, respondents were able to make suggestions regarding improvements in cooperation, for example: evaluate questionnaire submission terms and express opinion on number of statistical questionnaires, use of administrative data sources, validations or instructions, as well as on the use of pre-prints, etc. Proposals are compiled and analysed thus helping to improve communication and make EDC system more convenient.

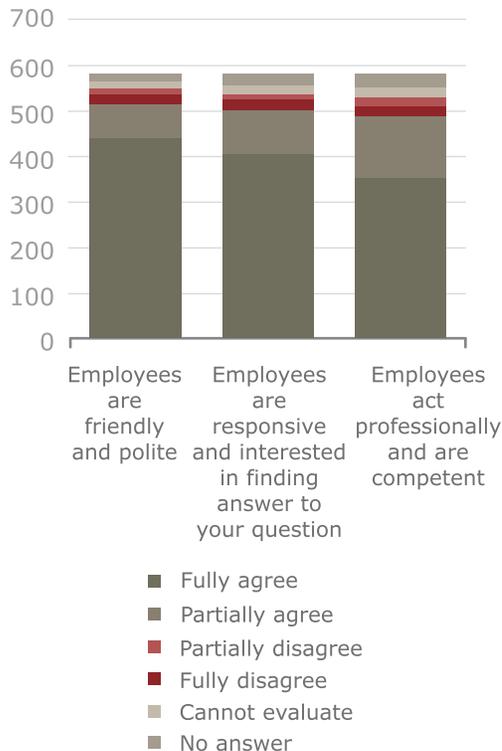
Half of the enterprises indicated that have contacted (via phone or e-mail) CSB. The cases and issues mentioned the most often were consultations on questionnaire completion (34 %) and correction of errors (24 %), followed by the issues on use of EDC system (12 %) and extension of questionnaire submission deadline (11 %).

91 % out of respondents are not interested in CSB seminars on design of statistical questionnaires, while 8 % would like to participate in a seminar on financial, investment or labour costs questionnaires.

One third of the respondents would like to receive specific financial indicators on their enterprise and sector.

One of the most important tasks was to get respondent evaluation of communication culture and level of professionalism in CSB, and the results acquired are very good.

Communication culture and level of professionalism in communication with respondents



DEVELOPMENT OF CSB WITHIN
THE EUROPEAN STATISTICAL
SYSTEM

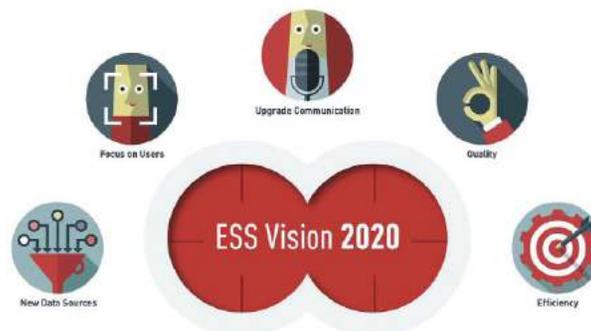


Development of CSB within the ESS

CSB is greatly involved in the activities of the ESS Vision 2020, which foresees the development of innovative solutions for the production and dissemination of statistics in Latvia, considering such phenomena as globalisation, migration flows, climate change, as well as the advancement of digital information and use of big data. The CSB also develops new ways for acquiring statistics by establishing new methods for the assessment of global economic processes and by using data sources that facilitate the reduction of the respondent burden and administrative costs.

The most efficient way for solving new challenges and finding the best solutions for the preparation and modernisation of statistics constitutes further cooperation with ESS members – Eurostat, EU Member States and EFTA countries – and implementation of measures included in the ESS Vision 2020.

The Vision 2020 is founded on a clear need agreed by all the members of the ESS to modernise the production of European statistics to ensure that the ESS remains competitive in the future. In 2014, it was agreed that the ESS Vision 2020 was the guiding frame for ESS development up to 2020 with **five priority areas**: identifying user needs and cooperation with stakeholders, new data sources, quality, efficient and robust statistical processes, and dissemination and communication.



The objectives of the ESS Vision 2020 are achieved by implementing projects in the following fields:

- SIMSTAT – testing of micro-data exchange for the collection of EU trade statistics data;
- REDESIGN – studying alternatives to Intrastat;
- ESBRs – a joint European network of statistical business registers;
- VALIDATION – common data validation policy (validation standards and laws);
- ADMIN – promotion of the use of administrative data for statistical purposes;
- DIGICOM – digital communication, user analysis and new data dissemination tools;
- ESDEN – European statistical data exchange network;
- BIGD – use of new data sources (focusing on big data);
- SERV – shared services.

Development of CSB within the ESS

In 2017, experts of the CSB took part in the implementation of the following projects:

"Improvement of the use of administrative sources (ESS.VIP ADMIN WP6 pilot studies and applications)". Manager – **Pēteris Veģis.**

The project studies the availability of data and metadata required for the Population and Housing Census and assesses the quality of data in administrative data sources, as well as foresees the preparation of suggestions for the assessment of missing data.

The aim of the project launched in 2016 is to study the availability of indicators of the Population and Housing Census in relation to the highest level of education acquired by residents, and as a result:

1. the possibility of using administrative data sources and results of the Population and Housing Census 2011 in the identification of the highest level of education acquired by residents in the Population and Housing Census 2011 has been studied;
2. suggestions have been prepared for the possible recoding of data of the Population and Housing Census 2011 to the new ISCED 2011, thus making it possible to link the data to the SSDW, assess the missing data and/or use imputation methods;
3. a final technical report on research results has been prepared, and the project has been presented at the Baltic Population and Housing Census Seminar, as well as to Eurostat.

In 2017, bilateral agreements on the transfer of education data to CSB were reached with several holders of administrative data. Also, the possibilities to use data of CSB's sample surveys on the highest level of education acquired were assessed. The respective data were gathered in the period from 01.01.2016 to 01.01.2017. The missing data were imputed, and the data array was included in SSDW. Data from the accumulative education database were partially used as pre-print in CSB's regular sample surveys. Moreover, a mapping table for the transition from ISCED 1997 to ISCED 2011 was prepared.

The project launched in 2017 foresees to study the availability of data of the Population and Housing Census in relation to household, family and dwelling indicators.

The following actions will be performed within the framework of the project:

1. administrative data sources that include information on dwellings and

More information on ESS Vision 2020 projects:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/ess/about-us/ess-vision-2020>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKyZ8f_F2Qw



UNITED IN STATISTICS

Development of CSB within the ESS

addresses will be studied, and a description on the availability, completeness and quality of data will be prepared regarding dwelling and household indicators, which are necessary for the Population and Housing Census 2021;

2. the possibilities to use data of the Population and Housing Census 2021, as well as the evaluation methods of missing data, will be assessed;
3. data of the National Address Register and National Real Estate Cadastre Information System of the State Land Service will be studied;
4. the initial data array to be included in SSDW will be prepared.

"Steps towards implementing the definition of statistical units for business statistics and profiling in the framework of the ESS.VIP ESRs project (actions 2, 3 and 4)". Manager – **Sarmīte Prole**.

General objective of **ESS.VIP ESRs projects**: ensuring that the Statistical Enterprise Register serves as a common base for the collection, aggregation, sending and assessment of statistics on enterprise structure and activities.

Objective of **Activity 2** – carrying out analysis of Latvian and European profiling by ensuring the identification of Latvian statistical units and contributing to the work of the ESRs Business Architecture Task Force for the further development of national and European profiling.

As a result of the implementation of the project:

1. an interim report on the analysis of Latvian and European profiling was prepared with suggestions for the ESRs Business Architecture Task Force;
2. a joint report with a description of the linkage between national and European profiling, the benefits thereof, identification of enterprises and their integration in the national Statistical Business Register will be prepared;
3. in February 2018, a methodological report on the work progress, results, identified problems, benefits, as well as issues that ought to be analysed in more detail in the future was sent out.

Objective of **Activity 3** – finding the best solutions for the use of the EGR Interactive Module, as well as determining and improving the process for raising efficiency by taking into account the possible cooperation between the statistical institutes of EU Member States.

Development of CSB within the ESS

As a result of the implementation of the project:

1. a report on the quantitative results of EGR online validated data – enterprise groups, legal units and the links thereof – was prepared;
2. a report on the use of EGR IM was prepared, including suggestions on the further development and necessary improvements;
3. a report with a filled-out survey containing suggestions regarding the duties and responsibilities of EU's statistical institutes was prepared by using the EGR Interactive Module.

Objective of **Activity 4** – ensuring quality indicators for EGR 2015 in order to determine the quality of the process (EGR input and output data).

As a result of the implementation of the project:

1. an interim report on 15 quality indicators regarding EGR input data has been prepared;
2. a methodological report on 8 quality indicators regarding EGR output data has been prepared;
3. quality assessment of the EGR data set has been carried out and criteria for the comparability assessment of EGR and FATS have been prepared.

The most significant benefits from the implementation of the projects:

- statistical units have been implemented in correspondence with the methodology recommended by Eurostat;
- a common approach to data processing has been developed;
- vertical and horizontal data comparability has been improved;
- EGR data processing and quality data coverage has been ensured;
- common European profiling methodology has been prepared;
- the business architecture of ESRs has been ensured.

The most significant challenges in ensuring the sustainability of the projects' results:

- the ability to continuously ensure the necessary competence level of employees for the successful processing of information;
- the ability to ensure technical solutions corresponding with rapidly changing requirements;
- ensuring the institution's future direction of growth in accordance with the activities realised in the framework of the projects.

Development of CSB within the ESS

Last year, work was completed on several ESS Vision 2020 projects:

"Further Research of Data Validation in Livestock Production Statistics Within the Framework of the VIP Validation Project". Manager – **Lolita Lazda-Lazdiņa.**

The results of the project will improve the quality of livestock production statistics, as well as simplify and ease the preparation of summary data and the sending thereof within the Eurostat eDamis system. Work on the improvement of the application will also continue after the conclusion of the project.

By implementing the project:

1. data validations at the level of source data have been analysed by assessing the already existing validation descriptions, as well as the possibilities to improve them;
2. a detailed analysis of the former data collection, input, processing and control, as well as summary preparation and dissemination system has been carried out, especially regarding the validations used in each of the processes;
3. validation descriptions for data at microdata level have been prepared, correspondence tables of indicator codes from source data (including information from administrative data sources) have been prepared at the summary level;
4. with the aim to optimise the processing of statistical data on livestock production, carry out additional analysis and validation, as well as prepare summaries and import data via eDamis webforms, the "Livestock Production" application was developed in the Microsoft Visual Basic environment, and it will ensure:
 - timely prevention of errors in Eurostat datasets by additionally validating summary data before the sending thereof via eDamis;
 - automatic export of validated data in the form of a csv file and the import thereof in eDamis webforms, thus there is no need for manual input of data, eliminating the possibility of making errors by entering data manually;
 - storage of all data sent to Eurostat and disseminated for national purposes, improvement of the quality of time series;
 - descriptions of summary formation for all livestock production domains, thus easing the data analysis process.
5. a final report has been prepared, with Eurostat approving it. The results of



Development of CSB within the ESS

the project were presented at the concluding meeting of the project in Luxembourg on 17 March 2017.

In the case of Latvia, the validation system of livestock production statistical data corresponds with the validation system of Eurostat, which operates in accordance with the Manual on the Validation of Livestock Production Statistics.

"Experimental Research within the Framework of the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) and Other Administrative Registers and Linking of Statistics". Manager – **Guna Karlsona**.

Within the framework of the project, the possibilities of improving direct and indirect use of administrative data sources (IACS, Farm Animal Register, Organic Farming Register) was assessed, as this would ensure quality information of agricultural statistics and would reduce the burden of respondents and statistical personnel in the long term. The use of administrative data sources for updating the information of the Statistical Farm Register will improve the quality thereof, as well as the quality of samples of statistical surveys on agriculture.

In crop farming statistics, IACS information may be used only for forecasts and data quality control (as pre-print in surveys).

The CSB may note several specific examples of project implementation that have facilitated developments in statistics. For example, the CSB took part in the implementation of the ESS.VIP.REDESIGN project. By using REDESIGN, an analysis was carried out on how to modernise Intrastat in accordance with the

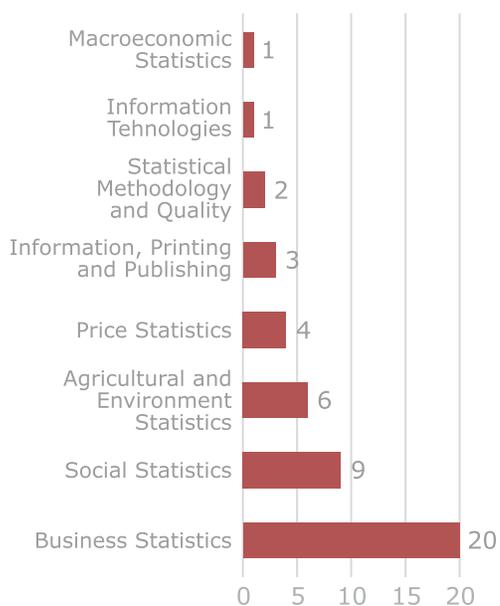


Managers of **EU-funded projects** in one of running meetings

Development of CSB within the ESS

situation present in Latvia and the objectives set by Eurostat. Exchange of opinions with other ESS members made it possible to assess options for reducing the respondent burden by maintaining high quality of data. Significant contribution was also provided by the Eurostat study on the administrative burden of Intrastat.

Projects implemented in 2017
by department

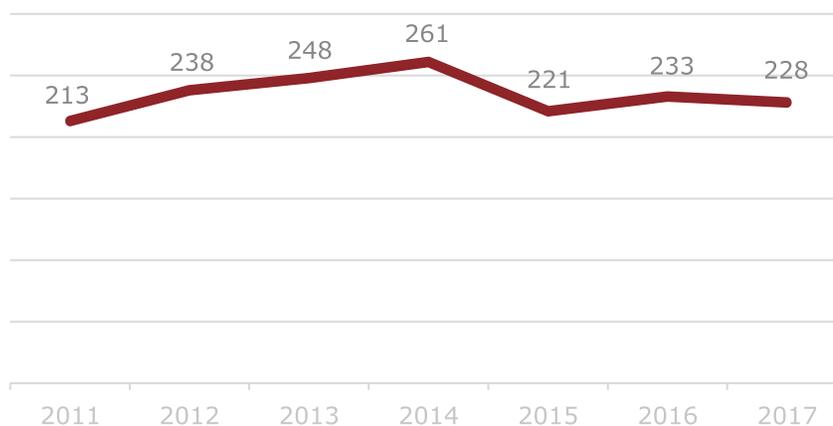


Participation in the ADMIN project facilitated the use of administrative data in the daily work of statisticians. The developed Social Statistics Data Warehouse shows a good example of how the CSB makes use of new data sources. The main aim thereof is the storing of administrative data in a single place and providing all users with the possibility to process and analyse social statistics data.

By implementing ESS Vision 2020, the CSB invests in its modernisation and increases efficiency.

Last year, in addition to the ESS Vision 2020 projects, the CSB also realised other grant projects by regularly improving and developing new methods for acquiring indicators and improving various methodologies. There were 46 active grant projects over the reporting year.

Employees engaged in Grant projects



CSB AND ADMINISTRATIVE
DATA SOURCES





CSB and Administrative Data Sources

The creation of new administrative registers, databases and information systems (hereinafter – administrative data sources) corresponding to the needs of statistics, as well as the use of already existing ones, is crucial in the production of statistics. If an administrative data source is fully correspondent with the definitions used in statistics and data quality requirements, then statistics may be produced by using the respective resource. This allows reducing the respondent burden and the costs of statistical production, as well as provides additional possibilities for verifying statistical data. The CSB follows the principle of data reuse: if data may be acquired from an administrative data source, they are not collected in statistical surveys. The CSB regularly cooperates with owners of administrative data sources regarding data quality, as problems in the wider use thereof are related to discrepancies with standards of statistical production. The CSB looks for possibilities to create/find new data sources for the production of statistics, as it is of crucial importance to get involved in the process of creating new administrative data sources, for more attention to be drawn to the methodological and quality aspects.

The need to use administrative data is facilitated by the increasing demand for timely and detailed statistical information, as well as the growth of resource costs (labour and finance) and the need to reduce the administrative burden of entrepreneurs, as well as households. By using administrative data, institutions that produce statistics may receive and use a variety of already collected and compiled information. Technological advancements make it possible for statistical institutes to overcome several restraints that may occur while processing large data sets, as well as receive, prepare data and provide support to data users more rapidly.

At the Cabinet sitting of 17 January 2017, the CSB was requested to prepare suggestions for improving administrative data sources, finding solutions regarding methodological issues and inter-institutional cooperation, as well as for reducing the administrative burden, thus forming preconditions that are necessary for the use of more comprehensive administrative data sources in the provision of official statistics by foreseeing specific measures, indicative financial resources and financing sources. The working group that included experts of the Ministry of Economics, CSB, State Revenue Service, Ministry of Justice, State Land Service, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments and Latvian Association of Large Cities studied the situation and prepared an informative report.

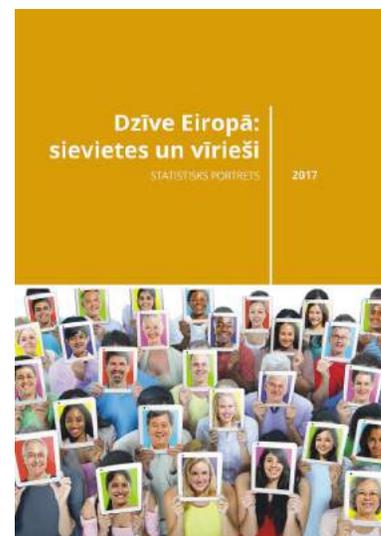
The more CSB uses administrative resources and other secondary data sources in the production of statistics, the more statistics becomes dependant on the quality of these sources. This calls for complex measures of national level, in order to determine the quality of such data sources in a systematic, objective and standardised manner, i.e. by carrying out the quality assessment of national administrative data, including the identification of deficiencies thereof,

CSB and Administrative Data Sources

developing actions for the implementation of the required improvements, as well as ensuring the harmonisation of classifications and terminology used in administrative data sources and facilitating the documentation and availability of metadata of administrative data.

The experts put forward a suggestion to create a document (manual) binding to all holders of administrative data sources, which would provide common methodological guidelines for assessing and ensuring data quality. By decreasing the volume of data to be obtained, the availability of quality, diverse and comprehensive information for characterising various processes/ events important to the society is reduced and limited, and the fulfilment of goals is controlled at a lesser level. Therefore, it is necessary to carry out strict analysis of the available data, so that the reduction of the respondent burden does not affect the quality of statistical data.

The CSB will gather information on the measures implemented over the previous year until 1 March of every year (in 2019, 2020 and 2021) and will publish the results on its webpage by 1 April.





INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

International Cooperation

Exchange with experience and good practices has provided a significant contribution to the development of national institutions/ systems in the field of statistics. The CSB is always open to share its experience with interested parties within its competence.

Development cooperation

CSB expert **Ieva Zabarovska** continued work on the twinning project "Support to the State Statistical Committee in Modernisation of the National Statistics System of the Republic of Azerbaijan in line with European standards". The expert shared CSB's experience in the use of administrative data for the needs of ESSPROS by improving the data quality of statistics on persons with disability.

Within the framework of the World Bank project on the national strategy for development of statistics, tourism statistics expert **Dita Zemīte** went to the national statistical institute of Tajikistan and presented Latvian tourism statistics and international tourism methodology, assessed the tourism statistics reports of Tajikistan and trained employees on the realisation of tourism surveys within the country.

Statistics expert **Zaiga Priede** took part in a visit to Armenia by representing a Eurostat project. In cooperation with the independent expert Alois Van Bastelaer, our expert assessed the correspondence of the Armenian labour force survey with EU and international standards.

Cooperation within the Baltic region

As part of trilateral cooperation, employees of the statistical institutes of the Baltics met at thirteen events: one in Latvia, five in Lithuania and seven in Estonia. Baltic colleagues shared with their experience in gender statistics, agricultural statistics, foreign trade statistics, as well as in regional and urban statistics etc.

During the annual Baltic Steering Committee meeting that took place in Estonia, the planning and organisation of trilateral cooperation was evaluated, as well as the latest trends in the work of statistical institutes and challenges related to ESS development were discussed.

Sharing experience

Transport statistics experts of the CSB visited Statistics Netherlands to get acquainted with the experience of Netherlands in the realisation of the passenger mobility survey. Whereas price statistics experts took part in an experience exchange visit in Statistics Netherlands on matters related to the purchasing power parity programme. During the visit, representatives of all



CSB expert **Dita Zemīte**
in Statistical Agency under
President of the Republic of Tajikistan



Representatives of **Baltic statistical institutes** in annual meeting
held on **1 June 2017**

International Cooperation

countries compared working methods in the organisation of surveys and shared with experience.

Experts of the CSB took part in an experience exchange visit regarding the Quality Management System (QMS) in Statistics Lithuania, where they acquired practical information on how to organise the work of QMS according to the requirements of ISO 9001:2015 in a simpler way and without excessive load.

Employees of the Institute of Statistics of Albania (INSTAT) and the Kosovo Agency of Statistics (KAS) came to CSB on a training visit regarding labour force surveys. While preparing the project, two expert reports were drafted in order to assess the quality of data in labour force surveys.

Other activities

CSB expert Viktors Veretjanovs was invited to do a presentation on the experience of Latvia in the harmonisation of poverty statistics at the Workshop on harmonisation of poverty statistics organised by UNECE. He also did a presentation on future challenges in the measuring of material deprivation at the Expert meeting on measuring poverty and inequality.

An expert of the CSB was invited to attend the 6th Eastern Partnership Panel on Statistics on SILC held in Odessa (Ukraine). Eurostat selected experts of three EU Member States (Latvia, Hungary and Poland) for them to provide information on the organisation of the "EU statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC)" survey.

CSB hosted the Eurostat Working Group on Population Projections at the Academic Centre for Natural Sciences of the University of Latvia. During the meeting, methodology of fertility, mortality and migration projections was discussed.

Participation in other important international activities

Within the framework of ESS, Aija Žīgure, President of the CSB, took part in four ESSC meetings. A. Žīgure has also been delegated as the co-chair of the High-Level Group on Quality in Statistics. In 2017, the group continued reviewing and updating the European Statistics Code of Practice, with Mrs Žīgure providing information on the work carried out by the High-Level Group to those present at the 35th ESSC meeting and the members of the ESSC approving the final version of the Code of Practice. Experts of the CSB also provided significant contribution to the revision of the Code.



Colleagues from
Albania and **Kosovo**
during experience exchange visit

International Cooperation

Aija Žigūre also took part in the 61st World Statistics Congress, organised by the International Statistical Institute. The congress included several discussions, the topics of which were of interest to the CSB – modernisation of statistics, including modern legislation, use of big data and other new data sources, population and agricultural censuses, measuring of Sustainable Development Goals, digital communication and storytelling.

48th Session of the UN Statistical Commission

On 7–10 March 2017, the 48th Session of the UN Statistical Commission took place in New York, where Latvia was represented by Aija Žigūre, President of the CSB (accompanied by Ieva Zemeskalna, Head of the EU Affairs Coordination Division). There were more than 700 participants from all over the world present in the Session. Latvia has been elected as a Member of the Statistical Commission from 1 January 2016 until the end of 2019.

During the opening of the Session on 7 March, Aija Žigūre gave a speech at the UN General Assembly Hall in honour of the 70th anniversary of the UN Statistical Commission as one of the few long-standing presidents of national statistical institutes. A. Žigūre underlined the significance of the occasion:

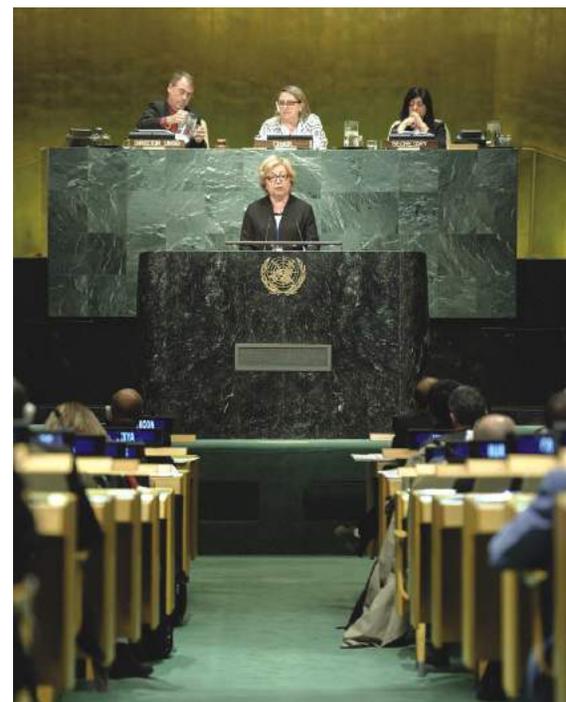
"It gives me a great pleasure to address all of you at today's event, commemorating the 70th anniversary of the UN Statistical Commission. My working life has been related to the development of the field of statistics, and the opportunity to be on this podium is a tremendous honour."

During her speech, A. Žigūre stressed the role of the UN Statistical Commission in the development of national statistical institutes and indicated that:

"Data and information represents great value in the everyday life of our society. During modern times, the role of statistics is of utmost importance in increasing the respective value, as we regularly come across such economic and social phenomena as globalisation, social inequality, poverty, climate change, demographic shifts and many others."

At the 2016 and 2017 sessions, Latvia (A. Žigūre) was also elected as a member of the Commission Bureau and performed the duties of Rapporteur by providing suggestions in the preparation of the Session's conclusions before the distribution thereof to delegations. At the end of the Session, A. Žigūre presented the draft conclusions.

The most significant decision of the 48th session was the adoption of the draft resolution on the global indicator framework for the SDGs. On 7 June, the



CSB President **Aija Žigūre**
giving speech in UN

International Cooperation

resolution "Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" was adopted by ECOSOC, which meant the adoption of the global indicator framework for the SDGs at political level. On 11 July 2017, the resolution was also adopted at the highest political level, i.e. at the UN General Assembly plenary session.

Phone conference with the Bureau of ECOSOC and UN functional commissions

On 20 January 2017, A. Žigūre took part in a telephone conference with the Bureau of ECOSOC and functional commissions of the UN as the Rapporteur of the UN Statistical Commission.

During the phone conference, A. Žigūre represented the UN Statistical Commission and expressed its views. The main theme chosen for the 2017 session of ECOSOC was "eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges." A. Žigūre informed those participating in the conference about the contribution of the UN Statistics Division to the preparation of the report on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the additionally prepared Sustainable Development Goals report, in which data and analysis on SDGs has been provided in a user-friendly form.

61st Session of the Commission on Status of Women

On 20 March 2017, during a panel discussion of the 61st Session of the Commission on Status of Women taking place in New York, A. Žigūre presented the view of the statistical community regarding cooperation with stakeholders with the aim of improving data availability for the measuring of Sustainable Development Goals.

Videoconference "Gender perspectives in the work of functional commissions in the context of HLPF 2017"

On 7 July 2017, A. Žigūre represented the UN Statistical Commission as its Rapporteur at a panel discussion, which took place within the framework of the UN High-level Political Forum, participating in it via a videoconference. She provided information on the work of the Statistical Commission in the field of gender statistics, as well as the future challenges within it, especially in the context of Sustainable Development Goals.

Panel discussion of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs

On 7 December 2017, Aija Žigūre took part in a panel discussion organised by the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna (Austria). Representing the

UN Statistical Commission as its Rapporteur, A. Žigire provided information on the role of national statistical institutes in producing statistics on narcotic drugs, as well as the main aspects in collecting the necessary data.

Activities related to Sustainable Development Goals

During the reporting period, the CSB carried out a self-assessment on the availability of global SDG indicators, also involving other institutions in the process. The summary of the self-assessment results was sent to UNECE. Current calculations indicate that the CSB is responsible for and/or is involved in the production of 85 indicators, which amounts to approximately 37 % of the total amount of indicators. This shows that cooperation with other institutions/organisations in the production of global indicators is very important. By cooperating with sectoral ministries, in the first half of 2017 the Cross-Sectoral Coordination Centre (CSCC) carried out the mapping of SDGs according to the long-term planning documents currently in effect.

The CSB has undertaken to ensure assistance to policy makers by providing information on the indicators offered by international organisations for the measuring of SDGs, as well as measuring national indicators. Upon the request of the Ministry of Economics, experts of the CSB reviewed the list of global SDG indicators translated by the State Language Centre.

The Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators developed the global indicator framework that was agreed upon, including refinements on several indicators, at the 48th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission held in March 2017. The list includes 232 indicators, on which general agreement has been reached.

On 9 May 2017, Europe Day was marked for the 19th time with a cycle of educational seminars. CSB hosted Gundars Bērziņš, Dean of the Faculty of Business, Management and Economics of the University of Latvia, and Aldis Austers, researcher at the Latvian Institute of International Affairs. Those present at the seminars had the opportunity to hear the presentation of G. Bērziņš on the post-Brexit strategy of Latvia, as well as the presentation A. Austers on the future perspectives of the European Union. As usual, employees of the CSB took part in a quiz at the end of the seminar.



Europe Day in the CSB



WORKSHOP ON EXPERIMENTAL STATISTICS

Workshop on Experimental Statistics

In April 3–4, in cooperation with the World Bank, workshop "Latest methods of spatial and other experimental statistics" took place, aim of which was to introduce data users with the latest research on poverty, benefits and earnings for small areas in Latvia, as well as with other experimental statistics. It presented preliminary results of poverty mapping for Latvia, and there was a discussion on ideas about use of new sources and methods for small areas estimations.

The Ministry of Welfare, the Ministry of Economics, the Cross-Sectoral Coordination Centre, the University of Latvia, Riga Technical University, the Bank of Latvia, the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments, Kurzeme Planning Region, Ventspils, research centre "Baltic International Centre for Economic Policy Studies", as well as the World Bank and the CSB took part in the workshop. The workshop was also broadcasted via the Internet, which was followed by 250 viewers from several countries – Latvia, Lithuania, Belgium, Austria, the Great Britain, the USA. Video recording and presentations of the workshop are available at csb.gov.lv/telpiska_statistika

Experimental statistics by parishes and Riga neighbourhoods

In 2017, detailed territorial statistics was published: number, sex, mean age and nationality of the population by parishes and Riga neighbourhoods in 2000, 2011, 2016, 2017. Significant reasons for changes in the number of population were analysed and published – inward and outward internal and external migration in parishes and Riga neighbourhoods.

This dataset, which is based on geocoded data of the Population and Housing Census 2000 and 2011, is new and useful source of information with high analytical potential.

Top Latvian names: 100 most popular names of girls and boys in the past 100 years

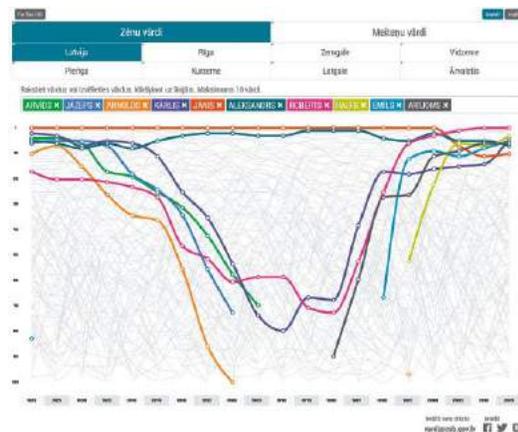
As the 100th anniversary of Latvia approaches, the CSB, by using the data of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs (OCMA), has carried out research on the most popular names since 1918 and developed interactive tool (vardi.csb.gov.lv) on Top 100 Latvian names of the past 100 years, which is a statistical present to Latvia on its 100th anniversary.

Conversation festival LAMPA

On June 30, the CSB took part in conservation festival LAMPA in Cēsis where, in cooperation with Data school, organized discussion "Dati un statistika – mūsdienų jaunais zelts" (Data and statistics – the new gold of nowadays), which was moderated by Baiba Zukula, Deputy Director of the Social Statistics



representatives from the CSB,
World Bank and BICEPS



Workshop on Experimental Statistics



Special award presented to "**Smiltenes piens**" by the **CSB**

Department of the CSB. Nowadays such valuable raw material as data is everywhere around us. Each of us is a small part of statistics, part of gold laying everywhere. But, how many of us know how to find, dig and sift from sand to use this gold? CSB and data experts (Miķelis Grīviņš (sociologist), Raivis Vilūns (Delfi), Nika Aleksējeva (Data school), Kārlis Andersons (Mission Possible), Mārtiņš Hiršs (SceptiCafe)) discussed data openness, availability, data literacy in schools, higher education institutions and throughout the lifecycle.

CSB special award

Already for the third time the CSB praised enterprises with whom there was excellent cooperation. On November 15, in the TOP 500 Largest Latvian Companies Award Ceremony organised by newspaper "Dienas Bizness" CSB presented special award for excellent cooperation in provision of qualitative statistics to "Lattelecom" and "Smiltenes piens".

Study visits to the CSB

On February 15, the CSB participated in the Job Shadow Day where 8 shadows followed work of statistics mathematician, but 1 – followed daily work of hardware engineer and 1 – of social statistician.

On May 25, 16 youngsters from Valmiera Technical School visited CSB where they learned general information on the CSB, demography and population income statistics and process, how enterprises submit data to the CSB.

On September 12, 14 youngsters from Riga Trade vocational secondary school visited CSB and learned general information on the CSB, data collection on enterprises and their processing, and mathematics in statistics – from sample to results.

In 2017, CSB also hosted three clerk groups from education center "BUTS". Clerks-to-be learned document management system of the CSB and acquired general information on the CSB.

On December 21, at school's invitation for story on personal names (Top 100 Latvian names of the past 100 years), the CSB visited Riga Secondary School No. 49 and met pupils of the 6th grade within the framework of project on exploration of their kin.

Publicity in media and social network

In 2017, CSB published 157 news releases and other information on the latest CSB activities. Media have mentioned CSB 8 590 times (1 350 times more than in 2016): 83 % of mentions were in Latvian and 17 % in Russian. The greatest



Youngsters from Valmiera Technical School

Workshop on Experimental Statistics

number of mentions was observed in online media (43 %), radio (16 %), news agencies (14 %) and national newspapers (12 %). Name of Aija Žigure, President of the CSB, appeared in media 72 times. Also other CSB employees and public relations managers were quoted.

The CSB news hottest topics are: demography, inflation, employment, imports and exports, GDP, etc. The press conference on changes in the number of population in 2016, was followed by a record number of mentions on one press release – 109.

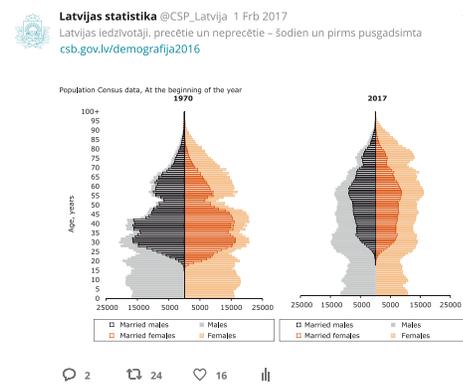
Interview with Aija Žigure, President of the CSB, "Kā tie skaitļi rodas" (Figures: How They Arise) was published in the magazine "Praktiskais Latvietis" (No. 44, 6–12 November). On November 13, the President also appeared in Latvia National Television (LNT) morning news program "900 sekundes" (900 Seconds).

To facilitate communication with data users, CSB has Twitter (Latvian (@CSP_Latvija) and English (@CSB_Latvia)) and Facebook accounts. Twitter account is used for interactive communication with data users to give prompt replies to the follower questions or comments on the statistics published by the CSB.

At the end of 2017, account @CSP_Latvija had 4 650 followers. The account had 483 posts that were viewed, commented or shared 1.9 million times (0.6 million times more than in 2016). @CSB_Latvia account had 2 000 followers at the end of the year. Facebook account had 620 followers, during a year 346 followers joined.

Information requests

In 2017, CSB replied to 1 100 information requests from individuals, public administration institutions and enterprises, and 22 data users received regular tailor made datasets. CSB also sent answers to 270 media requests/ questions. Dienas Bizness, Latvijas Avīze, Latvijas Radio, Latvijas Televīzija were the media requesting statistics or CSB comments the most often. In addition, 59 answers were given to Eurostat (Statistical Office of the European Union) data users regarding EU statistics.





PERSONNEL

Personnel



In order to achieve CSB's operational objectives and tasks for raising performance, as well as to be able to function successfully in a changing environment, activities of the Action Plan are being carried out for reaching the objectives set in the "CSB Personnel Management Strategy for 2017–2019". The strategy has been developed with a systematic approach to human resources management, by focusing on changes and challenges at institutional level, as well as within the framework of the ESS. Personnel management at CSB is based on such core values as knowledge, cooperation, openness, the rule of law and responsibility.

The Action Plan activities for meeting the strategic goals of personnel management are aimed at improving employee motivation, as well as ensuring positive social and psychological conditions in the working environment.

Structural units and composition of staff

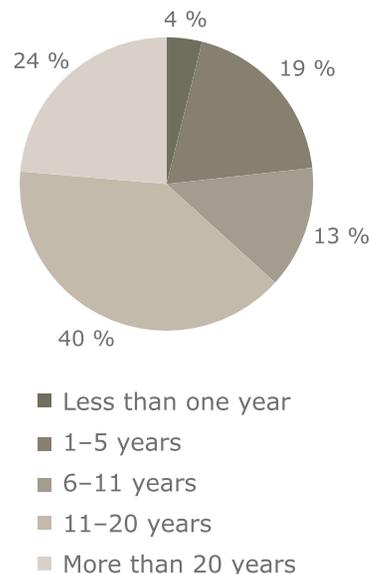
The main function of CSB – provision of official statistics – is carried out by the Price Statistics Department, Agricultural and Environment Statistics Department, Macroeconomic Statistics Department, Social Statistics Department, Business Statistics Department, Information and Communication Department, as well as the Statistical Methodology and Quality Department. Statistical data are collected from respondents by the Statistical Data Processing Department and three Data Collection and Processing Centres (in Kuldīga, Preiļi and Valmiera).

Support functions of the CSB are carried out by the Legal and Corporate Services Department, Information Technologies Department, EU Affairs Coordination Division, as well as the staff of the President's Office.

With the aim of improving performance and saving resources, last year the CSB continued developing a process-oriented organisational structure in the provision of statistics on the basis of the internationally recognised Generic Statistical Business Process Model, which has been approved as the recommended operational process model of statistical institutes within the framework of the UN. The functions of several structural units of the CSB – Statistical Data Processing Department, Business Statistics Department, Macroeconomic Statistics Department and Information Technologies Department – have been assessed and the work thereof has been optimised. On 1 October 2017, as an uncharacteristic action for the CSB, the Printing Section was terminated. As a result of function assessment and work optimisation, 7 positions have been eliminated.

On 31 December 2017, the number of employees amounted to 512 persons, of which 251 were civil servants, whereas 261 – workers; 31 employees were on a long-term leave.

Time worked for the CSB



Personnel

The CSB employs 439 women and 73 men. The average age of employees amounts to 47 years. 83 % of the persons working at CSB have been here for more than 3 years, 11 % have been with the CSB for 1 to 3 years, whereas 6 % – for less than a year. Out of all employees, 77 % have acquired higher academic or higher vocational education, of which 40 % have a master's degree.

On 31 December 2017, the CSB had 3 high-level managers, 11 medium-level managers and 54 lower-level managers (excluding Deputy Heads of sections) – all together there were 63 managers, which is 12 % of the total number of positions.

Over recent years, **staff rotation** has been increasing rapidly (from 9 % in 2013 to 12 % in 2017). Last year, 41 persons were hired and 63 persons left the office. Uncompetitive wages are among the main reasons behind the termination of the labour contract, especially in professions, the average wages of which are notably higher on the labour market: IT developers, data analysts, statistical mathematicians.

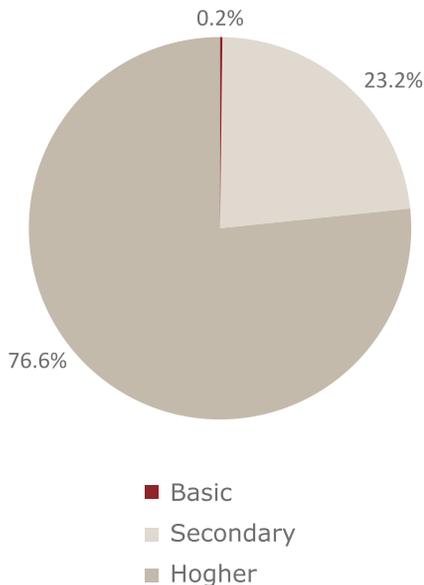
Recruitment and training

In 2017, CSB announced 98 vacancies for civil servants and workers. As a result, 57 candidates were hired. In turn, 47 vacancies were not filled – candidates did not correspond to the requirements of the position, the knowledge or skills of the candidates were not sufficient enough for the vacant positions, or the candidates chose to decline the offered position.

Training needs are defined based on the CSB's strategic direction, as well as functions of each structural unit and other criteria that justify training necessities for the efficient execution of work tasks. According to the approved Training Plan and priorities of the CSB, managers have been trained in change management and development of professional competence, and training has also been organised for employees carrying out support functions. The personnel training process is being regularly improved, internal lecturers and the competence thereof is being determined, and participation in professional development courses for European statisticians is being supported. Training has been organised for medium- and lower-level managers.

The e-training website serves as one of the internal communication channels for testing own knowledge, carrying out internal staff testing, ensuring training feedback, as well as facilitating experience exchange. An introductory course for new employees is being developed in the CSB's e-school. Last year, there was an informative seminar for new employees, an experience exchange meeting-seminar for managers of international projects, internal training on data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination, as well as seminars for price registrars and interviewers.

Educational attainment



Personnel

The CSB highly appreciates employees who are active and come up with new ideas and suggestions for the improvement of work processes or display extensive knowledge and an analytical approach in solving various issues, as well as take responsibility and think wider than is expected of them with regard to their direct responsibilities. Specialists of the CSB have the possibility to work in interinstitutional work groups and represent our institution, take part in high level international activities regarding the development and coordination of new statistical standards and methodologies, take part in international conferences organised by the OECD and present CSB's best practices in the provision of statistics, participate in meetings of Eurostat committees, working groups and special task forces, as well as raise their qualification in professional development courses for European statisticians. CSB's experts are delegated to take part in or manage international projects and are entrusted to train other employees of the CSB, thus acquiring valuable experience.

The Ministry of Economics recognises the high level of professionalism and significant contribution of our employees in the development of statistics. **Certificates of Recognition** have been awarded to: **Ramona Skakunova**, Director of the Statistical Data Processing Department, **Baiba Zukula**, Deputy Director of the Social Statistics Department, **Anita Raubena**, Deputy Director of the Agricultural and Environment Statistics Department, and **Vija Veidemane**, Head of the Government Finance Section of the Macroeconomic Statistics Department.

The CSB management highly values the accomplishments of the employees in meeting the objectives set, ensuring high quality of work, as well as promoting international recognition.



Representatives from the Ministry of Economics awarding CSB employees on 10 November 2017

The Central Statistical Bureau **Certificate of Recognition** was awarded to **Lolita Sokolova**, Deputy Head of the Financial Resources Accounting Section, for significant contribution to the development of accounting processes of the CSB.

The Central Statistical Bureau **Certificate of Gratitude** was awarded to:

Dāvis Liberts, Deputy Head of the Consumer Price Indices Section, for innovative contribution to the development of statistical processes;

Ilze Rutka, Senior Officer of the Wage Statistics Section, for high achievements, professionalism and exemplary execution of duties;

Elmīra Seņkāne, Senior Officer of the Social Statistics Data Compilation and Analysis Section, for long-term and valuable work within the statistical system;

Jeļena Voronova, Senior Officer of the Mathematical Support Division, for outstanding work in the development and improvement of mathematical methodology;

Baiba Buceniece, Senior Officer of the Mathematical Support Division, for outstanding work in the development and improvement of mathematical methodology.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2017

Financial Statement 2017



	Euros
1. Total revenue	10 778 409
1.1. Subsidy from general revenue	10 469 860
■ programme "Provision of Statistical Information"	9 672 323
■ programme "Implementation of Community Initiative Projects and Activities"	780 544
■ programme "Implementation of European Social Fund Initiative Projects and Activities"	392
■ programme "Implementation of European Regional Development Fund Initiative Projects and Activities"	12 925
■ programme "Sector Management and Policy Planning"	3 676
1.2. Revenue from chargeable services and other own revenue	302 590
1.3. Transfers	5 959
■ programme "Implementation of Other Projects and Activities of European Union Instruments"	5 959

2. Total expenditure	10 808 131
2.1. Current expenditure	10 036 541
■ wages and salaries	6 384 323
■ compulsory social security contributions	2 059 926
■ business trip expenses	194 262
■ payments for services, purchased materials	1 398 030
■ postal, telephone and other communication services	158 011
■ public utilities	153 141
■ purchase of goods and inventories	151 513
2.2. Maintenance expenditure transfers	41 559
2.3. Capital expenditure	730 031
■ intangible assets	329 609
■ hardware, communication, and other office equipment	394 838
■ other fixed assets not classified above	5 584
3. Financing	29 722
3.1. Money assets	29 722

ACTIVITIES PLANNED
FOR 2018

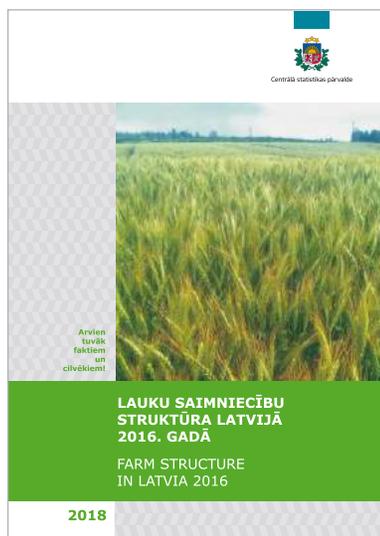
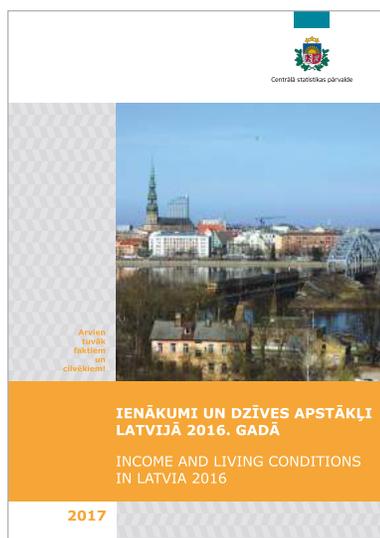


Activities Planned for 2018

The key activities of the CSB planned for 2018 include provision of qualitative official statistics, coordination of system development, work towards client-oriented institution, implementation of principle "Consult at First", effective management of resources and development of modernization processes implementing Generic Statistical Business Process Model in work organization.

Activities:

- implementation of Official Statistics Programme 2018–2020 within own competence;
- ensuring that official statistics is easily accessible, available and comprehensible;
- work on development of Official Statistics Portal;
- attraction of business associations and data users in introduction of new data acquisition/ calculation methodology and improvement of existing methodology;
- use of administrative and other (also private) data sources in production of statistics, thus improving quality of administrative data sources;
- development of technical solutions making administrative data used in production of official statistics available on-line;
- reduction of administrative burden both on businesses and households;
- improvement of methodology used to estimate usually resident population of Latvia and produce population indicators of higher quality;
- production of separated energy balances for operators included in the EU emissions trading system and those not included in it;
- launch of automated calculation of national accounts system;
- acquisition of experimental territorial statistics and making it available;
- use of Statistical Business Register and EuroGroups register as a base to compile European business statistics as well as for statistical analysis of business population;
- development of data warehouse to be used in Population and Housing Census 2021 and Agricultural Census 2020;



CENTRAL STATISTICAL BUREAU OF LATVIA

Report developed by:

Dzidra Ceihnere

Information for the report was provided by:

Aiga Babre, Armands Plāte, Dace Tomase, Dace Kravale, Dana Zariņa, Ieva Začeste, Ilze Skujeniece, Guna Graudiņa, Gundega Kuzmina, Janīna Dišereite, Jolanta Minkevica, Lolita Grase, Maranda Behmane, Pāvels Onufrijevs, Ramona Skakunova, Sarmīte Prole, Uldis Ainārs, Vita Kisļicka

Typesetting, design:

Maija Graudiņa

Photographs by:

Kaspars Vasaraudzis, Ministry of Economics, Business Newspaper "Dienas Bizness"

www.csb.gov.lv
Lāčplēša iela 1, Rīga, LV-1301
Phone +371 67366850, fax +371 67830137
e-mail csb@csb.gov.lv

