



Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia

annual report 2016





annual report
2016

FOREWORD



Dear reader,

Information is a key factor having impact on societal and economic development, therefore the main task of producers of official statistics is to provide data to various user groups – population, decision-makers, scientists and journalists. Owing to the responsible work carried out by our employees on a daily basis, we have accomplished all of the tasks set in the Official Statistics Programme, by providing statistical information for national needs, as well as the fulfilment of international commitments. The professionalism of employees of the CSB is a crucial precondition in ensuring high quality and international comparability of official statistics.

During the past year, new laws and regulations came into force in the field of statistics, and the implementation of requirements set forth in them was a true challenge for our employees. For the first time, we developed a three-year programme of official statistics by linking it to medium-term budget planning. By implementing international recommendations, we formed a Statistics Council, which provided the CSB with independent and consultative support.

The professional knowledge of our specialists is highly valued at an international level. They are invited to take part in various activities as high-level experts in their respective fields of statistics.

By carrying out work in the UN Statistical Commission and being active in the dynamic environment of the ESS, we are implementing new tools for co-operation, which facilitate the sustainability of the resources invested; we also take part in the Vision 2020 activities that include the use of innovative solutions in the production and dissemination of statistics, and our experts take part in the work of OECD within their own competence.

I would like to express my gratitude to our co-operation partners, respondents, as well as every member of our work collective for the efficient work carried out in the achievement of the main goals of the CSB.

President of the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia



CONTENTS,
ABBREVIATIONS, MISSION

CONTENTS



FOREWORD	3
CONTENTS	5
ABBREVIATIONS	6
VISION, MISSION, VALUES AND ACTIVITIES	7
CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2016	9
KEY PRIORITIES 2016	17
STATISTICAL DIMENSIONS	21
STATISTICS AND RESEARCH	32
STATISTICS LAW AND INTRODUCTION OF REQUIREMENTS THEREOF	36
CENTRAL STATISTICAL BUREAU AND ADMINISTRATIVE DATA SOURCES	40
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	46
COMMUNICATION WITH THE SOCIETY	53
PERSONNEL	57
FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2016	63
ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT YEAR	66



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BSS	Business Structural Statistics
CAWI	Computer Assisted Web Interviewing
Code of Practice	European Statistics Code of Practice
CSB	Central Statistical Bureau
EC	European Commission
ESA	European System of Accounts
ESS	European Statistical System
ESSPROS	European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics
EU	European Union
Eurostat	Statistical Office of the European Union
EU-SILC	European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions
FRIBS	Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics
FSS	Farm Structure Survey
GNI	Gross National Income
HBS	Household Budget Survey
HICP	Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices
IACS	Integrated Administration and Control System
Intrastat	system for collecting information and producing statistics on the trade in goods between countries of the European Union
ISDMS	Integrated Statistical Data Management System
LIAA	Investment and Development Agency of Latvia
OCMA	Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPP	Purchasing Power Parities
PRODCOM	List of PRODUcts of the European COMMunity
QMS	Quality Management System
SDMX	Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange
SER	Statistical Business Register
SLS	State Land Service
SSDW	social statistics data warehouse
Twinning	twinning project
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
VIP	Vision Implementation Project
Vision 2020	common strategy the European Statistical System

VISION, MISSION, VALUES AND ACTIVITIES



Aim

The main aim of the CSB is to create and develop a unified national statistical system on economic, demographic and social phenomena, as well as processes taking place in society and environment in line with internationally recognised principles.

Official statistics is produced in order to meet any of the following objectives:

- elaboration, implementation, monitoring or evaluation of laws and regulations or elaboration of planning documents or development scenarios or projections;
- implementation of functions of a public institution provided for in the laws and regulations, except for monitoring, surveillance and prosecution of natural persons;
- provision of comprehensive information to general public.

Mission

The main objective (mission) of the CSB is to provide users of statistical information with independent and high quality official statistics.

Vision

Vision of the CSB: internationally recognised institution which is a producer and coordinator of high quality official statistics in Latvia.

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

Values

The CSB bases its activity on the following values: knowledge, society, 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

CSB Activities

- Collection, processing and analysis of statistical information.
- Provision of information required by data users.
- Improvement of official statistics quality.
- Development of information technologies.

CSB Priorities

- Effective methods and informative data sources: assessment of the effects produced by the normative regulation of statistics, introduction of updates to such regulation and promotion of public participation.
- Reduction of respondent burden and development of cooperation.
- Use of information provided by administrative data sources and regular CSB surveys in production of statistics. Fieldwork for Population and Housing Census 2021.
- Development within the ESS according to its strategic directions and progressive trends of collection, processing and dissemination of statistics.
- Implementation and development of the quality management system, systematic approach to progress and management of processes, continuous improvement and development of products and services provided.
- Development of professional competences of the CSB employees.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2016



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2016

January

- 1 January 2016–end of 2019, Latvia (Central Statistical Bureau) in a rotatory order is elected in a status of a member of the UN Statistical Commission.
- January 1, Riga. **Statistics Law** comes into force.

February

- 10–11 February, Luxembourg. A. Žīgure, the President of the CSB, takes part in the meeting of the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC) and shares experience in the ESSC strategic Workshop on Quality in the ESS.
- 15–16 February, Brussels (Belgium). Consumer price index expert N. Dubkova works in the meeting of the Council lawyers-linguists working group, discussing final updates in the basic text of the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on harmonized indices of consumer prices and housing prices, as well as the national version of the text.
- 18–19 February, Paris (France). CSB expert V. Veretjanovs takes part in OECD Meeting of Providers of the Income Distribution Data.
- February 22, Riga. The CSB sets unified general quality requirements for 55 statistical institutions.

March

- 1 March, Riga. The first meeting of the Statistical Council takes place. A. Žīgure, president of the CSB, is elected as Council chairperson.
- 1 March, Riga. The CSB submits to the Ministry of Economics informative report on the implementation of the activities included in the Action Plan for preparing for and organization of the Population and Housing Census 2021.
- 9–11 March, Paris (France). CSB expert I. Vanovska participates in *Eurostat*/ILO/IMF/OECD Workshop on Pensions and presents the good practise of the CSB.
- 7–11 March, New York (USA). A. Žīgure, the President of the CSB, takes part in the 47th Session of the UN Statistical Commission. Latvia is elected as a member of the Commission, and A. Žīgure is a reporter. Indicator framework for monitoring Sustainable Development Goals is approved.



Calendar of Events 2016

- 15–16 March, Tallinn (Estonia). Baltic Meeting on structural business statistics and foreign affiliates statistics takes place where CSB expert O. Nikoluškina shares experience.
- 15–18 March, Bucharest (Romania). K. Misāns, Vice President of the CSB, J. Dišereite, Department Director, and I. Balode, Department Deputy Director, take part in high level ESS workshop on ESS Vision 2020 implementation and ESS Modernisation Workshop.
- 17–18 March, Paris (France). OECD 2016 Meeting of the Working Party of National Experts on Science and Technology Indicators is attended by the CSB expert S. Jesiļevska.
- 21–24 March, Paris (France). The CSB expert L. Laganovska takes part in OECD meeting of the Working Party on Trade in Goods and Services and Statistics and in the Workshop on Linking Trade and Business Statistics.
- 21–22 March, Riga. Eric Schulte Nordholt, an expert from Statistics Netherlands, conducts a training workshop in the CSB and presents the Netherlands' best practice in evaluating quality of administrative data.

April

- 1 April, Riga. The CSB presents to statistical institutions the Quality Management System for statistics.
- 13–14 April, Vilnius (Lithuania). Topical questions on compiling price indices, compliance with Eurostat recommendations, as well as future development are discussed in the Baltic workshop.
- 25–26 April, Paris (France). A. Žīgure, the President of the CSB, participates in the 13th Session of the OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy (CSSP).
- 27–28 April, Cardiff (United Kingdom). In the 11th Workshop on the Labour Force Survey (LFS) methodology CSB experts A. Fisenko and Z. Pallo-Mangale present the development of monthly estimate methodology for the Latvian LFS.
- 27–29 April, Paris (France). A. Žīgure, the President of the CSB, participates in the 64th plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES).

Calendar of Events 2016

- 28–29 April, Luxembourg. In Eurostat Workshop on Housing Statistics the CSB consumer price indices expert N. Dubkova presents the experience of Latvia in compiling owner-occupied housing price indices.

May

- 2 May, Riga. The CSB takes part in the international project “Third Network for the Analysis of EU-SILC (Net-SILC3)”.
- 11–12 May, Orebro (Sweden). CSB experts P. Veģis, S. Meldere and M. Liberts take part in the consultations with Statistics Sweden on obtaining population census data from administrative data sources (VIP.ADMIN).
- 12–14 May, Newport (United Kingdom). The CSB expert T. Ballode participates in experience exchange and training workshop on the Index of Services Production (ISP) and shares experience with representatives from other countries on trade and services short-term statistics indexes.
- 17–18 May, Riga. The CSB organizes a training seminar “Assurance of the Quality Management System Process in Collecting and Processing of Statistical Data”.
- 18–19 May, Luxembourg. A. Žīgure, the CSB President, participates in the Workshop on Modernisation of Intra EU Trade in Goods Statistics and in the 29th meeting of the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC).
- 19–20 May, Copenhagen (Denmark). Producer price index experts B. Alksnīte and Ļ. Ņemsadze discuss methodological issues and experimental and alternative data collection methods in the Nordic Seminar on Producer Price Indices for Services statistics.
- 23–27 May, Baku (Azerbaijan). The CSB expert I. Zabarovska takes part in an expert visit within the framework of 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”.
- 30–31 May, Riga. Eurostat experts visit the CSB to discuss Purchasing Power Parity programme 2016–2017.
- 31 May, Riga. The Cabinet approves “Rules for the Classification of Nationalities”.
- 31 May–1 June, Paris (France). M. Behmane, Department Director, attends



CSB expert **Jolanta Minkevica** (second on the left) participates in Madrid conference on quality in official statistics

Calendar of Events 2016

OECD Forum 2016.

June

- 1–3 June, Madrid (Spain). CSB experts J. Minkevica, I. Aināre and A. Irbe take part in the Conference on Quality in Official Statistics (Q2016) and present the new Statistics Law, experience of the CSB in coordination of the national statistical system.
- 6–10 June, Riga. European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP) – Government Finance Statistics and Excessive Deficit procedure, Part I takes place.
- 20–23 June, Geneva (Switzerland). CSB experts M. Liberts and M. Liepiņa present the developed R package “Vardpoor” in the 5th International Conference on Establishment Surveys.
- 22–25 June, Geneva (Switzerland). N. Tālers, the CSB Vice President, participates in the Joint UNECE/Eurostat Workshop on Implementing the Common Statistical Production Architecture.
- 28–29 June, Riga. Vice President of the Bulgarian National Statistical Institute visits the CSB to make inquiries about the CSB experience in organization of the Latvian Presidency of the European Union Council, preparing for the Bulgarian Presidency in the second half of 2018.

July

- 7 July, Riga. A. Ašeradens, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economics, visits the CSB to get acquainted with the organization of the statistical production process in the institution, organizational structure, official statistical programme, works accomplished and still in progress.

August

- 17–19 August, Maastricht (Netherlands). In the Conference on the Estimation of Small Domains, the CSB expert M. Miglinieks makes a presentation “The First Attempt to Estimate Small Domains in the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia”.
- 22–26 August, Kiev (Ukraine). CSB experts J. Breidaks and M. Liberts participate in the Summer School on Survey Statistics, studying and delivering lectures (M. Liberts “Introduction in Applying R”, J. Breidaks



Irina Senņikova, Rector of the RISEBA University of Business, Arts and Technology, (on the left) and **Aija Žigure**, President of the CSB, on 8 June 2016 signing an agreement on information exchange between the RISEBA and CSB



Arvils Ašeradens, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economics, (on the right) on introductory visit

Calendar of Events 2016



“OECD accession is a significant benefit gained by Latvia in the field of statistics.

We may share our best practice in the development and use of new and innovative statistical methods with other OECD Member States.

Production of data for OECD research projects and publications will be one of CSB priorities, thus ensuring statistical information on social and economic processes and changes taking place in Latvia, and that, in turn, shall contribute to the national policy planning”,

said Aija Žigūre (in the middle) when together with CSB colleagues was awarded with the Prime Minister Certificate of Recognition

“Survey Planning, Package “Surveyplanning”).

- 31 August–3 September, Mainz (Germany). The CSB expert B. Zukula and University of Latvia specialists participate in the European Population Conference 2016 – Demographic Change and Policy Implications.

September

- 1 September, 97 years since the CSB foundation.
- 5– 6 September, Riga. Annual Baltic meeting on agriculture statistics takes place in the CSB.
- 7–9 September, Krakow (Poland). V. Kisička, Section Head, takes part in UNECE Workshop on Human Resources Management and Training-Developing Capabilities for the Future.
- 8 September, Riga. A. Žigūre, the CSB President, N. Tālers, the CSB Vice President, and I. Zemeskalna, Division Head, receive Award of the Prime Minister for the significant input, ensuring successful Latvia's accession to OECD.
- 9 September, Riga. The CSB management awards the Certificate of Recognition to the best CSB employees for conscientious work and achieved results.
- 26–28 September, Vienna (Austria). A. Žigūre, the CSB President, participates in the 102nd Conference of Directors General of National Statistical Institutes (DGINS) and in the High-Level Working Group on Quality in Statistics.
- 28 September, Vienna (Austria). A. Žigūre, the CSB President, takes part in the 30th meeting of the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC).
- 30 September, Riga. The CSB welcomes 80 young people from 4 Riga educational establishments to the Open Doors Day in Public Administration.

October

- 3–4 October, Geneva (Switzerland). The CSB expert A. Lazdiņa participates in Joint OECD/UNECE Seminar on Implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) where is shared knowledge and experience on the implementation of SEEA and its use for various policy needs.

Calendar of Events 2016

- October 3–5, Hague (Netherlands). R. Skakunova, Department Director, takes part in UNECE 4th Workshop on Data Collection and shares experience.
- October 5, Riga. Experts of the Korean Statistical Information Institute come to the CSB on business registers study visit.
- 7–8 October, Riga. CSB experts J. Breidaks and M. Liberts take part in the Invention and Innovation Exhibition MINOX 2016, presenting R package “vardpoor” developed by the CSB.
- 13–14 October, Zagreb (Croatia). A study visit to the Croatia Bureau of Statistics on PPP issues takes place.
- 20 October. European Statistics Day.
- 20–21 October, Budapest (Hungary). A. Žīgure, the CSB President, participates in the 2nd Conference of European Statistics Stakeholders.
- 24–27 October, Paris (France). CSB experts V. Veidemane and I. Medne take part in OECD Joint Meeting of the Working Party on Financial Statistics/Working Party on National Accounts.
- 31 October–2 November, Sochi (Russian Federation). V. Veretjanovs, Section Head, participates in UNECE/Rosstat/CISSTAT High-level Seminar on Harmonisation of Poverty Statistics in CIS Countries, presenting implementation of EU-SILC in Latvia.

November

- 1–2 November, The Hague (Netherlands). The CSB expert I. Kallione in SBS Workshop on the Enterprise as a Statistical Unit presents Latvian experience in implementation of the statistical unit “enterprise”.
- 7–11 November, Riga. European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP) – Government Finance Statistics and Excessive Deficit procedure, Part II takes place.
- 14–15 November, Paris (France). The CSB expert A. Grinšpone participates in OECD Working Party on Measurement and Analysis of the Digital Economy.
- 17 November, Riga. Minister of Economics A. Ašeradens praises CSB



Participants of European Statistical Training Programme organised by the CSB are discussing financial statistics

Calendar of Events 2016



CSB employees are awarded with the Certificate of Recognition of the Ministry of Economics

employees J. Dišereite, G. Kuzmina, S. Prole and V. Veretjanovs and presents Recognitions of the Ministry of Economics.

- 17 November, Luxembourg. A. Žīgure, the CSB President, takes part in the meeting of the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC).
- 17–20 November, Washington (USA). D. Tomase, Department Director, participates in the work of IMF Fourth High-Level Forum on Statistics for Inclusive Growth.
- 23 November, Luxembourg. Concluding meeting on the 2015 Grants on Steps towards implementing the definition of statistical units for business statistics takes place. CSB experts I. Oksentjuka and L. Liepiņa present the results obtained.
- 30 November, Riga. The CSB submits Informative Report on the Use of Administrative Data, Problems and Possible Solutions to the Ministry of Economics for further moving to the Cabinet.

December

- 5–8 December, Yerevan (Armenia). CSP expert D. Zemīte visits the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia to evaluate the compliance of tourism statistics.
- 6–8 December, Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates). A. Žīgure, the CSB President, takes part in the 15th Conference of the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS).
- 6–7 December, Paris (France). The CSB expert L. Arnicāne participates in OECD Seminar on Measuring Sustainable Development Goals.
- 16 December, Riga. The CSB meeting with representatives of associations economic sectors takes place on urgent issues of business statistics and future development trends.
- 19 December, Riga. The CSB organizes a meeting on application of the European Code of Practise in 12 public institutions producing official European statistics.
- 20 December, Riga. The Cabinet approves Regulations on Official Statistics Programme 2017–2019 and Regulations for Approval, Submission and Completion of Official Statistics Model Forms.

KEY PRIORITIES 2016



KEY PRIORITIES 2016

Key Priorities of the Central Statistical Bureau in 2016

In 2016, the CSB moved towards meeting the goals and objectives provided for in the operating and personnel management strategies. CSB employees kept enhancing their professional skills and providing data users with the necessary information, continued to work on systemic improvements to work processes and technological solutions for data processing in line with the principles of good governance established in the institution.

Since the new Statistics Law entered into force on 1 January 2016, the CSB initiated introduction of the new Law provisions, in particular by strengthening the role of the CSB as the main coordinating body in the production of official statistics.

The CSB worked on implementation of Vision 2020 initiatives, implemented grant projects. Within own competence, CSB experts actively participated in OECD activities by taking part in OECD international conferences and giving presentations on CSB good practice in production of statistics and by working on the methodology development in this field.

Key activities of the CSB:

- The Statistical Council started its work.
- To provide data users with the available official statistics, for the first time CSB worked out Official Statistics Programme for a period of three years (2017–2019).
- CSB developed guidelines for introduction of the Code of Practice. To ensure that all statistical institutions have common understanding and implementation of the Code requirements in respect to the production of official statistics, the guidelines are supplemented with explanations meeting the situation in Latvia.
- CSB also developed an Official Statistics Portal project description for the application for the ERDF project within the operational programme "Growth and Employment" (specific (functional) objective 2.2.1 To Ensure Increase in the Re-Use of Public Data and Efficient Interaction of the Public Administration and the Private Sector, action 2.2.1.1 Creation of Centralized ICT Platforms, Optimization and Development of Public Administration Processes) and submitted it to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development.



Statistics Council is evaluating the first draft version of the Official Statistics Programme

Key Priorities 2016

- With an aim to introduce common, standardized approach to evaluation of administrative data quality, a table models for assessment of administrative data sources, metadata and indicators were created, by developing an administrative data quality assessment system to ensure that the administrative data used for the production of official statistics are evaluated and documented systematically and commonly.
- CSB worked out and submitted to the Cabinet an informative report about use of administrative data, problems faced by the CSB in this respect as well as containing suggestions on the solutions thereto.
- Social statistics data warehouse was improved.
- CSB processed and analysed the data acquired in the micro-census, thus contributing to the improvement of the methodology used for population projections in Latvia and its regions; also an informative report on implementation of the action plan envisaged for preparation and organisation of the Population and Housing Census 2021 was submitted to the Cabinet.
- The acquisition of data for the Latvian Smart Specialisation Strategies was started.

CSB Operating Results

Performance indicator	2015, actual	2016	
		Planned	Actual
CAWI data collection system introduced (% of the total number household surveys)	28	42	42
Statistical indicators published in on-line databases (mln indicators)	1 228	1 100	1 342
<i>National Programme of Statistical Information for 2017–2019*</i> prepared	1	1	1

* As of 2016, in line with the Statistics Law the programme title and period was changed.

Key Priorities 2016

Performance indicator	2015, actual	2016	
		Planned	Actual
Interactive data visualisations (number)	10	6	7
<i>School Corner</i> – expanded with new themes (number)	8	8	8
Public-use files available (number of new surveys)	16	3	3
E-reporting (% of reports)	88	90	90

Work in the dynamic ESS environment allowed CSB to maintain active international cooperation and develop new collaboration instruments contributing to sustainability of the resources invested. CSB also took part in production of statistics for the needs of the new EU initiatives.

CSB implemented also measures of the ESS development plan Vision 2020 envisaging innovations in production and dissemination of statistics.

With active participation in European Council and Eurostat working groups, committees, development of EU legislation CSB promotes development of the statistical system.

STATISTICAL DIMENSIONS



STATISTICAL DIMENSIONS

Statistical Dimensions, Projects, IT and Quality

Over the previous year, advancements in the work of the CSB were mainly related to the improving the already existing methodologies and implementing new ones, as well as improving the technologies used, increasing the overall quality of statistics, using administrative data sources more extensively and by decreasing the respondent burden. An electronic Operational Plan of the Central Statistical Bureau was used for planning and monitoring work, the application allows to select information in a standardised, fast and convenient manner and monitor the implementation of tasks.

Macroeconomic Statistics

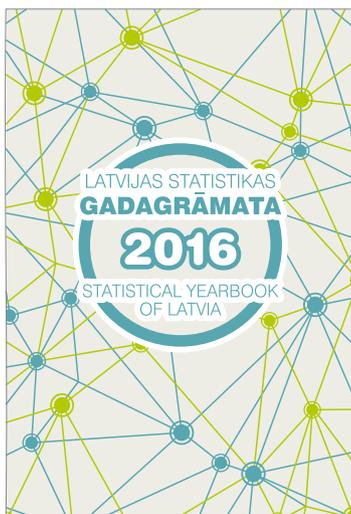
Latvia has been currently granted derogations from the requirements of the EU Regulation on the European System of National and Regional Accounts. The CSB provided all national account data, for which the derogations ended in 2016. The CSB prepared input-output tables for the year 2010 and sent them to Eurostat. Experts of the CSB will continue the work on eliminating all derogations until 2019, as Latvia must ensure the calculation of all national accounts data of mandatory status by 2020.

The data were sent to Eurostat by using the data converter that was prepared within the framework of the grant project "Implementation of SDMX and the Data Structure Definitions (DSDs) in the National Accounts according to ESA 2010". The new tool was also used to send statistical data on foreign trade by business characteristics.

Experimental calculation of the GDP and value added of cities under state jurisdiction was carried out, and hereafter the respective information will be published every year.

By cooperating with representatives of Eurostat and experts of the Bank of Latvia, the CSB took part in the testing activities for GNI calculation methods and data sources. There was a lot of work done to gain full confidence regarding the quality of GNI calculations, as well as the calculation methods and data sources in accordance with the ESA 2010 methodology.

In 2017, all NSIs of the EU must prepare data on the accrued pension liabilities of social security pension schemes. This information will enable the Member States to forecast, summarise and compare at international level the amount of money, which is expressed in today's value and should be paid to future pensioners, based on the contributions accrued at the time of reference. This information will



Statistical Dimensions

also be used to estimate the amount needed for future pension payments to current pensioners, taking into account life expectancy.

Latvia was among the first EU Member States, which adopted a macro-simulation model for the calculation of the state accrued pension entitlements in 2015 and presented the first results to Eurostat. In 2016, a new questionnaire – “Survey on Lifetime Pension Liability Accounting” (1-lifetime pension) – was developed for preparing the new Table 29 “Accrued-to-date pension entitlements in social insurance” of ESA 2010. The questionnaire will be filled out by life insurance companies, which have access to state-funded pension scheme (Level 2) capital. The questionnaire has been approved by the Cabinet of Ministers, and it will be filled out for the first time in 2017 (reference year 2016).

Social Statistics

In 2016, several development activities have been realised in social statistics.

One of the prerequisites for successful survey is the quality of a questionnaire, therefore cognitive testing of the questionnaire is of major importance. In 2016, the CSB started testing questionnaires with focus groups.

In demographic statistics, the number of residents in private households was calculated according to the new methodology, based on the data of OCMA. According to the Eurostat initiative, work has been started with other EU Member States on the development of a common methodology for short- and long-term population projections.

Fieldwork has been completed for the ad hoc module “Young People on the Labour Market” of the LFS, and the results are being analysed. The questionnaire and instructions for interviewers of the ad hoc module “Self-employment” have been prepared, and cognitive testing of the questionnaire has been carried out.

In the income and living conditions statistics, the module “Availability of Services” was added to the EU-SILC survey in 2016 to acquire additional information on services that are used by the population. Respondents had to answer questions regarding formal education and training, childcare, health and domestic care. The questionnaire on the health of adults and children of the 2017 module has been prepared. In December (9 months earlier than required by the EU-SILC regulation), the database of the EU-SILC 2016 survey was sent to Eurostat. The online version of the EU-SILC questionnaire (CAWI) has been prepared **for the first time**, and a pilot survey for assessing the electronic survey of respondents has been carried out.

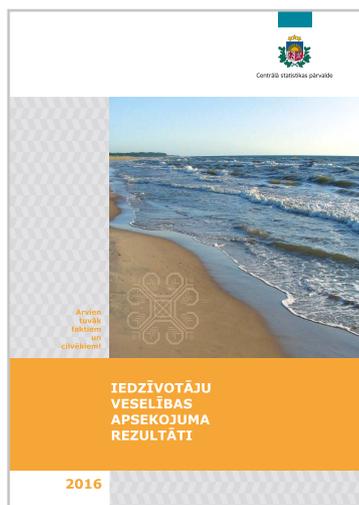


CSB expert **Inta Vanovska** (first on the left) in OECD seminar is telling about the best practice of the CSB in introduction of macro-simulation model



CSB expert **Baiba Zukula** (first on the left) together with the representatives of University of Latvia and Association of Statisticians of Latvia on European Population Conference

Statistical Dimensions



In education statistics, non-financial and financial data on the Survey on the Careers of Doctorate Holders carried out by the CSB in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science within the framework of the project "Participation in International Research on Education" financed by the European Social Fund have been prepared within the framework of the joint education data collection project of UNESCO, OECD and Eurostat carried out in 2016. **37 %** of respondents of the survey o fill out the questionnaire online (CAWI), which facilitated a significant drop in fieldwork costs.

In health statistics, data tables of the European Health Interview Survey and the analysis of results has been published in the statistical data collection "Results of the Health Interview Survey" in cooperation with Ģ. Briģis, Professor of the Public Health and Epidemiology Department of the Riga Stradiņš University.

While preparing for the Population and Housing Census 2021, the inter-institutional work group formed by the Ministry of Economics got acquainted with the report on the preparation of necessary laws and regulations, results of the Population Microcensus 2015, as well as the problems to be solved by the CSB, SLS, and OCMA. The issue regarding the lack of financing for ensuring the activities prescribed by the decision of the Cabinet has been brought forward repeatedly.

Price Statistics

Price index calculations have been provided every month and quarter within the terms specified and according to the quality requirements foreseen in methodological materials. In 2016 experimental services producer price indices were started for service activities incidental to land transportation, renting and leasing of motor vehicles, travel agency, tour operator and other reservation services and related activities. Work has been started on alternative data sources for the needs of CPI/HICP and development of additional statistical indicators on households. The main information for purchasing power parities in 2015–2016 is being ensured, and work has been started on the new 2017–2018 project.

Business Statistics

Data have been prepared on structural business statistics and foreign affiliate statistics, as well as innovation survey statistics and other enterprise statistics. **For the first time** SBS has been produced on credit institutions, insurance companies and pension funds, and has been handed over to users. In November, provisional data on non-financial investments by type of activity in 2015 were

Statistical Dimensions

published. **For the first time**, indicators used for data calculations were obtained from administrative (SRS) data. These indicators are no longer obtained from statistical surveys. A provisional set of local units for the year 2015 was prepared in the SBR for the first time to ensure provisional labour statistics on the large cities and regions. Provisional data on the sales of manufactured industrial products in 2015 were prepared and sent to Eurostat.

To ensure more efficient processing of short-term statistical data on industry and construction, data automation models reducing the time of data analysis were created. 11 % of respondents of the survey on the use of ICT in households filled out the questionnaire online (CAWI). Several methodological changes were implemented:

- a change from a household sample to a person sample;
- the data collection period has been extended from 3 months to 4.5 months.

As a result of the work that was carried out, the response rate amounted to 63 %.

Submission deadlines are being extended for specific surveys (for example, for the annual survey "1-costs" – from 10 May to 10 June), and the number of indicators was reduced. In the 1st quarter of 2016, the shortened questionnaire "2-work (short)" for micro- and small entrepreneurs of the private sector – a total of approximately 4 000 entrepreneurs or 57 % of the respondents was implemented. The number of indicators of the respective survey has been reduced (44 indicators, compared to 61 indicators). By cooperating with the Ministry of Economics, work is being carried out on the implementation of the Construction Information System – the available data have been tested and assessed in the use of statistics and replacement of data of the 1-BA questionnaire.

In 2016, the Questionnaire Evaluation Group of the CSB looked for solutions on how to improve the questions and reduce the time required for filling out the questionnaires. For example, the order of indicators was changed to reduce the risk of errors, and definitions of indicators were harmonised in all statistical surveys. The work group has proposed to reduce the number of indicators in specific surveys, for example, in the questionnaire "5-housing fund".

Agriculture, Environment, Energy and Transport Statistics

In 2016, development projects of ESS have been implemented, activities for national requirements have been carried out and issues regarding the reduction

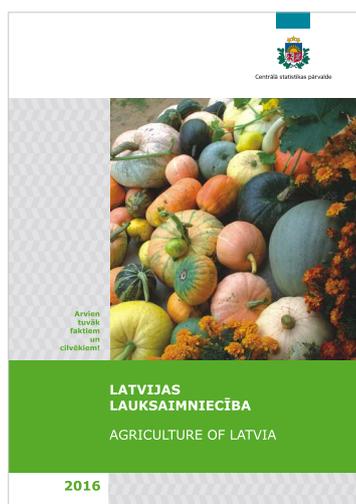


In 2016, ad hoc questionnaire assessment group evaluated **33** templates of state statistical reports and questionnaires thus striving to improve their content and reduce respondent burden

Statistical Dimensions

of respondent burden have been addressed. Work was carried out within the framework of the project "Reviewing and harmonisation of agricultural statistics that is developed for national needs or sent to Eurostat, other bodies of the Commission or international organisations" in cooperation with experts of the Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation Council of Agricultural Organisations, Farmers Parliament, Institute of Agricultural Resources and Economics, and Organisation of Gardeners and Fruit-Growers. Benefits of the project:

- data provision frequency has been reduced;
- the number of indicators for livestock farms has been reduced (by 58 %);
- the number of quarterly respondents has been decreased (by 30 %);
- the number of indicators has been reduced by 52 % in the questionnaire "1-waste (agriculture)" of the 2017 and it is also planned to reduce the number of respondents by 53 %;
- the number of respondents of the questionnaire "21-ls (crop farming)" reduced by 30 %.



Last year, FSS 2016, which takes place every three years according to the requirements of the regulation, was organised – a data input programme was developed, methodological instructions and informative materials of the survey were prepared, sampling of farms and updating of the statistical farm register was carried out by using information from various administrative data sources, and the economic size of farms was also recalculated. The Farm Structure Survey 2016 concluded a stage of data collection, which consisted of electronic data submission (10 % of respondents), face-to-face interviews (80 %) and telephone interviews (10 %). Overall, data were acquired on 27.5 thousand farms or 92 %. The data processing and analysis stage is still ongoing.

For the first-time data on the owners/ holders of registered agricultural machinery were received from the State Technical Control Agency. Further use these data will be assessed.

In **tourism** statistics, the survey on border crossings was optimised by replacing it resident data from the "1-C" survey. An agreement was reached with the Bank of Latvia that henceforth the "Trips" item of the balance of payments will be based on survey data, and residents will no longer be interviewed in the survey on border crossings starting with 2017. It is expected that optimisation will save 312 working hours for the CSB in 2017. Outsourcing costs will decrease by

Statistical Dimensions

approximately 36 thousand euros.

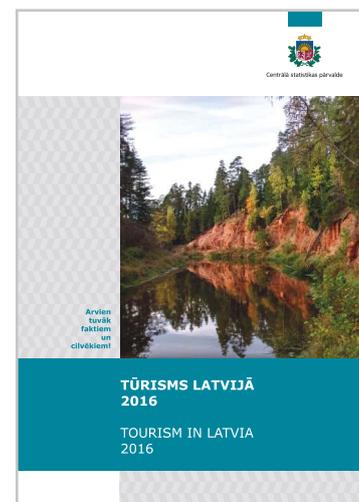
Considering the need of the Tourism Department of the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia to ensure statistics on tourist attractions in Latvia, the CSB will include additional questions. In order to ensure up-to-date list of Latvian accommodation establishments, the CSB cooperates with the Latvian Association of Tourism Information Organizations LATTŪRINFO and tourism information centres. The CSB will assess the possibility to provide statistics according to the needs of tourism information centres.

In **environment** statistics, work has been started to produce statistical data on the primary energy sources of Latvia by actions included and not included in the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS). Simultaneously the data on activity reported by Latvian operators of EU ETS in the ETS emission reports and energy surveys will be checked.

Quality in Statistics

Work on improving the quality of statistics and developing the methodology has been carried out in several directions, and was mainly related to ensuring the requirements of the new Statistics Law. The Official Statistics Programme for 2017–2019 has been prepared in cooperation with ONAs, and the Cabinet of Ministers has approved it. It includes information on official statistics that will be provided by 51 state institutions during the next three years. The catalogue of official statistics questionnaires has been developed and published. Information on the official statistics system has been updated on the CSB website, and methodological information on 151 statistical surveys and calculations has been published. Standardised table layout for quality assessment of administrative data sources, metadata and indicators for the needs of official statistics was prepared.

The QMS sets forth how to standardize, optimize and document processes for production of statistics to promote common and effective procedures for similar processes of production of statistics, and to create a sound CSB knowledge base. The QMS ensures a systemic approach to processes and management. External expert assessed the conformity of the QMS with the new requirements of ISO 9001:2015 and identified what improvements should be carried out. Among the suggestions are the creation of a risk and opportunity management system in the CSB, development and description of support processes, updating of statistics production processes and product requirements, improvement of quality control etc. Last year, 5 new processes were implemented in the QMS and 11 processes were changed.



Statistical Dimensions

Project Management

There were 47 active grant projects within the framework of the "Production of Statistical Information for the New EU Initiatives" in 2016: 23 new projects were launched, 17 projects were completed, 18 project reports were sent to Eurostat.

In total, funds in the amount of 871 944 euros were absorbed in the programme.



CSB project managers in annual meeting on 26 February 2016

Being an active member of the ESS, the CSB takes part in the activities of the ESS Vision 2020 and realises the projects of the network implementing Vision 2020. Projects ESS.VIP.SIMSTAT and ESS.VIP.REDESIGN have been concluded with positive results. Both projects were aimed at updating the Intrastat system. Objective of the ESS.VIP.SIMSTAT project – carrying out the exchange of micro data on exports of goods between Member States in test mode, assessing the quality of export data – whether it is possible to replace the import data of the Member State receiving the goods with export data. In turn, the objective of the ESS.VIP.REDESIGN project – creating alternative options for the transformation of the Intrastat system, carrying out an assessment regarding the reduction of costs and the administrative burden. In May 2016, the ESS Committee agreed that the respondent burden should be reduced by at least 25 %: harmonised result of statistical data, use of several data sources and new data sources –

Statistical Dimensions

exchange with micro data on exports of goods, creation of an innovative and flexible methodology.

During the reporting year, the ESS.VIP project "Further Research of Data Validation in Livestock Production Statistics Within the Framework of the VIP Validation Project" was launched. The quality of livestock farming statistics will be increased by improving the data validation.

The **Vision 2020** project "Experimental Research within the Framework of the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) and Other Administrative Registers and Linking of Statistics" (to be concluded in April 2017), will be identify how to improve the linking of survey and administrative data. During the project, new methodology for improving statistical surveys and administrative data use (IACS, Organic Farm Register) in the provision of agriculture statistics. By implementing the project, all available data sources will be used in the production of quality agriculture statistics with the aim to reduce the load of the respondents, as well as the costs.

In 2016, the CSB applied for the implementation of **three new** Vision 2020 projects – "Improvement of the Use of Administrative Data Sources (ESS.VIP ADMIN WP6 Pilot Studies and Application)", "Further Stages for the Implementation of the Statistical Unit Definition in Business Statistics and Profiling According to the ESS.VIP ESBRS Project (Activity 2)" and "Further Stages for the Implementation of the Statistical Unit Definition in Business Statistics and Profiling According to the ESS.VIP ESBRS Project (Activities 3 and 4)".

The CSB also provided its opinion on the 4 work packages of the Vision 2020 DIGICOM project – user analysis, innovative and re-usable products and tools, open data dissemination and communication.

In 2016, the CSB was involved in **ten** Vision 2020 projects.

Other Projects in 2016:

Project "Improvement of the Use of Administrative Data Sources (ESS.VIP ADMIN WP6 Pilot Studies and Application)".

Aim of the project: pilot studies on the possibilities to use administrative data and information acquired from CSB surveys for ensuring information on the highest educational attainment of residents in the Population and Housing Census 2021, as well as development of proposals for the implementation of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED).



Statistical Dimensions

- business process analysis with the aim to ensure the standardised and automated processing of statistical data;
- CAWI is used more extensively;
- ISDMS authorisation and user management has been modernised and improved, the Electronic Data Collection system has been improved. A new website of e-surveys and e-interviews has been introduced. Users can authorise by using "latvija.lv". The interface has been more user-friendly;
- data automation modules have been developed in enterprise statistics and the SDMX standard has been implemented in macroeconomic statistics;
- ensuring of operational continuity – the data storage system has been modernised and standardised by consolidating SQL servers, telephony modernisation works have been carried out.

The Project Supervisory Committee has assessed implementation of Vision 2020 and other projects regarding the objectives and achieved results.

The annual report of the programme for 2016 is available in the CSB homepage section /documents/EU/ projects:
<http://www.csb.gov.lv/en/dokumenti/eu-projects-30865.html>.



STATISTICS AND RESEARCH

RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF STATISTICS



Last year, statistical mathematicians continued active research work by introducing innovative solutions.

Development and Utilisation of Methodology for Estimating Small Domains

In 2016, work on the development of methodology used for estimation of small domains was continued. The results will be used for production of more detailed statistics by still observing confidentiality and quality requirements. CSB is experimentally researching possibilities of estimating at-risk-of-poverty rate in administrative territories.

Research Project Net-SILC3

On 2 May 2016, statistical mathematicians started their participation in international project "Third Network for the Analysis of EU-SILC" (Net-SILC3). The project is aimed at in-depth methodological work and analysis of social and economic data acquired in EU-SILC survey (by covering also cross-sectional and longitudinal dimension), as well as at development of shared tools and approaches with respect to various aspects of data production. The task devoted to the CSB experts within the framework of the project was comparison of EU-SILC survey calculation weights and calibration methods and researching of the possibilities of calibrating weights based on the information available in registers. The project was commissioned by Eurostat, and it combines experience of the national statistical institutes and academic knowledge at international level. The project is broken down into two clusters: work under the first cluster is devoted to non-sampling errors, while that done under the second cluster – to development and analysis of indicators. Within the project, CSB mathematicians currently are comparing methods used for calculation and calibration of weights, and afterwards they will study possibilities of using register information in weight calibration. During the first project phase, Latvian specialists are researching weight calculation and calibration methods used in the EU-SILC survey and evaluating them by comparing with the methodological guidelines provided for the EU-SILC survey. As a result, recommendations for weighting EU-SILC survey data will be worked out. The second project phase covers a research made on possibilities of using registered income data in weight calibration. Both phases of the project are aimed at precision of the EU-SILC survey results. It has been intended that at the final phase of the project two EU-SILC conferences will be held (in 2017 and 2019) and four workshops on the best practice will be organised. The results of the project will be summarised and published in two NetSILC3 books, as well as other publications will be issued.

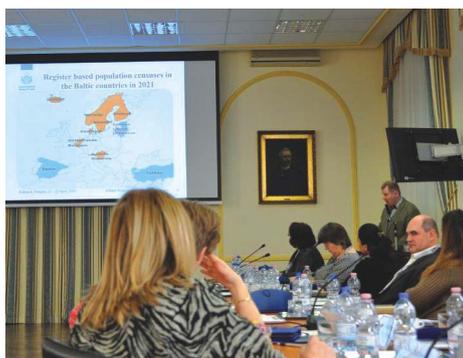
Statistics and Research

Improvement of Imputation Methods Used in Personal/ Household Surveys

Last year, statistical mathematicians improved and developed research on use of imputation methods for individual/ household surveys, especially EU-SILC survey and HBS. In the EU-SILC survey a nearest-neighbour method was introduced and in HBS – interval regression method. It allows substituting missing values in the survey data more precisely and with harmonised and credible values.

Micro-Census and Work on the Upcoming Population and Housing Census 2021

In 2016, statistical mathematicians analysed results of micro-census. It was aimed at evaluation of population statistics precision and methodology used for population projections. While preparing for the Population and Housing Census 2021, the goal of the micro-census was alternative estimation of population statistics. Comparisons of the estimated population number and structure with the data acquired in other surveys and micro-census showed that population living in private dwellings is over-estimated. It requires solutions for more precise calculation of the population size living in private dwellings. In 2016, mathematicians improved methodology used to produce population statistics by supplementing it with new information from administrative registers (methodology was supplemented with the information on students in Latvian higher education institutions) thus ensuring that actual Latvia population is estimated more precisely. The improved methodology was used when producing statistics on usually resident population of Latvia in 2016.



CSB expert **Pēteris Vēģis**
in ESSnet seminar on quality
of multisource statistics

R Package "Vardpoor" for Sampling Error Estimation

Statistical mathematicians introduced innovative solutions by improving R package "Vardpoor", testing sampling error estimation and creating new functions. The R package "Vardpoor" allows to estimate sampling errors (variation coefficients, standard deviation, margin of error, confidence interval, the design effect) more efficiently. Last year, the functions allowing to estimate sampling errors for indicator change between successive periods were improved.

R Package "Surveyplanning" for Sample Survey Designing

Last year, also R package "Surveyplanning" was improved. It was developed for efficient calculation of the sample size, estimation of the expected accuracy and calculation of optimal sampling location. The package was supplemented with

new procedure that performs additional validations.

Seasonal Adjustment of Time Series in Software Jdemetra+

The CSB has gradually moved from the seasonal time series adjustment software Demetra+ to new software JDemetra+. Currently, seasonal adjustment is made with the help of JDemetra+. Compared to Demetra+, the improvements available in JDemetra+ cover data modelling and seasonality tests. By using software JDemetra+, the CSB will be able to ensure data users with more qualitative seasonally-adjusted data.

CSB experts in statistical mathematics were involved in activities of the Vision 2020 support network. By acknowledging successful activities in the field of seasonal adjustment performed in previous years, from 3 October 2016 to the end of 2019 the CSB seasonal adjustment experts A. Sadovska (until the end of 2016) and I. Getiņš will work in the Seasonal Adjustment Centre of Excellence. The Centres of Excellence is one of the ESS Vision 2020 supporting network (ESSnets) activities that are aimed at assisting European statistical institutes in work with seasonal adjustment issues, developing common seasonal adjustment tool (software JDemetra+) and seasonal adjustment methods for whole European Statistical System. Within the framework of the Centre, active testing of the JDemetra+ (identification of errors, suggestions on necessary additions/ improvements), promotion of cooperation among user groups and software developers will be continued. The Seasonal Adjustment Centre of Excellence will engage also experts from France, Spain, Belgium, Portugal and United Kingdom. The CSB is responsible for seasonal adjustment user support, as well as is engaged in improvement of JDemetra+ and development of the documentation thereof.



STATISTICS LAW AND INTRODUCTION OF REQUIREMENTS THEREOF

STATISTICS LAW AND INTRODUCTION OF REQUIREMENTS THEREOF



On 4 June 2015, Latvian Parliament adopted new framework for the statistical system and organisation of work, which has been drawn up in accordance with the obligations undertaken by Latvia as an EES Member State. The **Statistics Law** contains a legal framework for the implementation of the new legislative requirements in accordance with the amendments to the Regulation No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council regarding the European statistics.

The **Statistics Law** entered into force as of 1 January 2016, and last year CSB implemented provisions of the new Law in its daily work.

The new Law entitles the CSB – the leading national statistical institute – with more extensive rights in coordination of the official statistical system; the CSB exercises functional subordination of other statistical institutes, by providing methodological guidance, monitoring compliance with the law, as well as issuing ordinances necessary to produce official statistics.

In December, Official Statistics Programme (OSP), which for the first time was worked out for the next three years, was approved by the Cabinet; such a term meets a mid-term budget planning period. The **OSP** is a list of official statistics to be produced during the respective planning period. It summarises information on official statistics that within the next three years (2017–2019) will be produced by 51 public authorities in Latvia in line with the goals and criteria stipulated by the Law. For the statistics user convenience, the OSP consists of three mutually related sections. The first section includes statistical information to be compiled and published by ministries and other public authorities within the budget granted to fulfil all the requirements stipulated by international, EU or Latvian legislation.

Second section is a significant novation and improvement; it includes information on official statistics indicators to be published in 2017, as well as level of detailed elaboration and publication periodicity thereof. The table included in this section consists of indicators to be published next year, thus it will be updated each year. Users of statistics may access the information included in the second section of the OSP free of charge on the websites of statistical institutions.

With an aim to protect respondent rights and interests and ensure awareness, the third section of the OSP stipulates volume of personal data that responsible institutions are planning to acquire from administrative data sources within a three-year period as well as types in which this information will be used. The OSP and information on the planned terms for statistics dissemination are available in

Statistics Law and Introduction of Requirements Thereof

the CSB website section *Documents* (in Latvian).

In line with the Law requirements, draft regulations of the Cabinet as concerns the list of statistical classifications used in the production of official statistics have been worked out. The draft regulations of the Cabinet as concerns the Classification of Administrative Territories and Territorial Units have been developed and submitted to the Ministry of Economics for re-approval. CSB has updated also Catalogue of Classifications available on its website thus providing data users with concise information on aims and accessibility of the classifications.



Members of the Statistics Council
on the first meeting

In line with the Statistics Law, in December the Cabinet approved "Regulations for Approval, Submission and Completion of Official Statistics Model Forms". The official statistics questionnaires are included in the catalogue of forms for official statistics that are available on website (in Latvian): <http://www.csb.gov.lv/dokumenti/oficialas-statistikas-veidlapu-katalogs-45196.html>.

With an aim to facilitate implementation of its coordinating role as far as possible, the CSB has set common general quality requirements for the whole official statistics, emphasizing that official statistics shall be produced by fulfilling the requirements of the Code of Practice. As it is stipulated by the Statistics Law, the CSB direction is binding to all Latvian statistical institutions. CSB has developed Code of Practice introduction guidelines that include explanations meeting the situation in Latvia to ensure that all statistical institutions have common understanding and introduction of the Code requirements in respect to production of official statistics. Moreover, CSB organises quarterly meetings with statistical institutions on various topical issues, thus creating consolidated and cooperation-oriented national official statistics production system.

For example, the meeting of statistical institutions producing official European statistics was aimed at giving explanations on implementation of the Code of Practice requirements in Latvian statistical institutions, as well as at preparation for the assessment of the compliance to the Code of Practice.

The CSB website now has separate section devoted to all issues related to the coordination of the official statistics, and functional e-mail address **oficiala.statistika@csb.gov.lv** was created as well.

The Law stipulated formation of the **Statistics Council** that has the following tasks: promotion of the development of the official statics production system, making recommendations to statistical institutes, facilitation of cooperation

Statistics Law and Introduction of Requirements Thereof

among statistical institutes, respondents and users of official statistics, and providing an opinion on the draft Official Statistics Programme.

In 2016, **four** meetings of the Statistics Council were held, and the topics discussed were:

- grant projects – aims and benefits;
- statistics community role in measuring UN sustainable development targets;
- communication with users of statistics;
- preparation for Population and Housing Census 2021;
- data quality in official statistics questionnaires;
- Official Statistics Programme for 2017–2019;
- statistical confidentiality and availability of statistical data;
- national official statistics – what kind of data shall be included in the Official Statistics Programme;
- Official Statistics Portal – discussion of designing-related issues.

The Statistics Law stipulates that official statistics, metadata and official statistics release calendar of all statistical institutions shall be published on the **official statistics portal** (hereinafter – the Portal), which technically and organisationally is managed by the CSB, is included in the indicative project list approved by the Cabinet and which shall be created by attracting ERDF funding.

Within the project development phase, CSB researched statistics available on websites of 55 institutions producing official statistics and statistics production practice thereof, conceptually evaluated potential tools used for publishing statistics (PX-Web, OECD.Stat), studied solutions used for publishing geospatial statistics, as well as developed portal concept and detailed project description. The inclusion of the Statistics Portal in target architecture was approved by the ordinance of the Cabinet “On Introduction of Information Society Development Guidelines in Public Administration Information Systems (rev. 3.0 of target architecture)”.

CSB has worked out project application in line with the procedure set by the Central Finance and Contracting Agency. The Portal will be based on experience of other countries and solutions worked out for the publication of statistics. Statistics Portal and common principles will ensure high-quality dissemination of official statistics in line with the Code of Practice, OECD Council recommendation in respect to the good practice in the field of statistics, etc. international standards. Society, in its turn, will benefit from common navigation principles and user-friendly information services.



CENTRAL STATISTICAL BUREAU
AND
ADMINISTRATIVE DATA SOURCES

CENTRAL STATISTICAL BUREAU AND ADMINISTRATIVE DATA SOURCES



General Information

One of the priorities set in the operating strategy of the CSB is the reduction of the burden on respondents and improvement of data acquisition through increased quality of information and effective use of information available in registers and databases, thus eliminating the requests for the same information in different surveys. It is set in the European Statistics Code of Practice that the reporting burden should be proportionate to the needs of the users and should not be excessive for respondents. Moreover, the Statistics Law of the Republic of Latvia foresees that administrative data sources are primary sources to be used for producing official statistics, and statistical institutes are entitled to use alternative data sources only in specific cases indicated in the law.

Use of administrative data is promoted by the increasing demand for timely and detailed statistics, as well as need to reduce resource costs (labour and finance) and the administrative burden of respondents. By using administrative data, data producers may receive and use a variety of already collected and compiled information. As the public demand for information grows with every day, it is important to take full use of the administrative data: there are no additional costs for data collection, there are no additional burdens on the respondents. Technologies make it possible to process large data sets, as well as receive, prepare data and disseminate data more rapidly. Thus, administrative data sources are used for statistical purposes more often than ever, becoming a generally accepted practice all over the world.

The increasing use of new data sources is also one of the strategic objectives of the ESS Vision 2020¹, which the CSB is also a part of. Progress towards the objective will allow ESS to gain real benefits by reducing data collection costs and the burden of respondents, as well as by increasing data diversity and availability. As common methods and new technological solutions are implemented in the data processing, the quality of official statistical data is bound to increase.

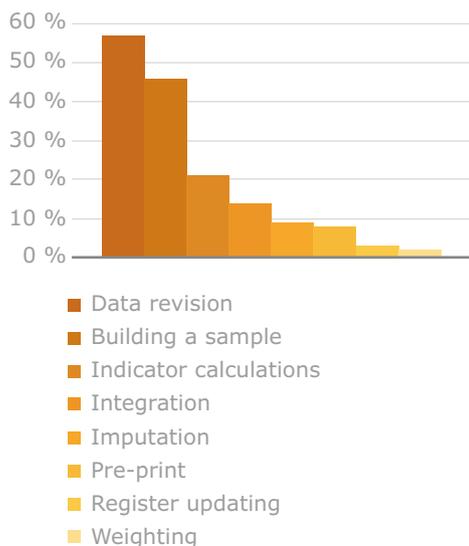
The work is aimed at improving the access to administrative sources and promoting the development of methodological knowledge required for the CSB to successfully integrate administrative data in the process of statistics production, to be able to assess the quality of the results, as well as support the implementation of theoretical elaborations in specific fields of statistics. By regularly improving and upgrading the use of administrative data, the CSB has gained undeniable experience and has achieved meaningful results. The number

¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/ess/about-us/ess-vision-2020>

Central Statistical Bureau and Administrative Data Sources

of persons responding to statistical surveys decreases every year, whereas the volume of information used from administrative data sources increases. The CSB regularly studies the experience of other countries by taking part in training courses and conferences, as well as by implementing development (grant) projects. In 2014–2015, the CSB worked on the grant project “Development of Methodological Basis for the New Index of Service Production”, the aim of which was to study the use of VAT declaration information in short-term statistics and monthly calculations of the index of service production. Cooperation with NSIs of the Nordic countries (Finland, Sweden), is significant in the preparation and implementation of the population census.

Use of administrative data in data processing
(% of the number of questionnaire sections)



In 2016, the CSB started work on creating its own framework to implement a standard for the quality assessment of administrative data for the needs of official statistics on the basis of the experience of Statistics Netherlands and according to the results of the BLUE-ETS project realised by the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission.

A training seminar was held in March 2016, during which an expert of Statistics Netherlands provided the employees of the CSB with information on the best practice of Netherlands regarding the assessment of administrative data. The CSB started a pilot project, during which a description of the Population Register data and SRS data has been made by using standardised tables for the assessment of administrative data sources, metadata and indicators. The assessment of the pilot project was carried out at the end of the year.

As mentioned previously, the volume of administrative data used in the production of official statistics is growing, however, the CSB still does not have the possibility to use the information stored in the registers and databases of other state administration institutions to full extent due to various reasons, and respondents are sometimes required to repeatedly submit the same information to several state administration institutions.

The CSB currently uses 131 different administrative data sources from 89 owners of data sources. The quantitative and qualitative indicators of information services are improving every year, and the CSB monitors changes in data sources, the development processes thereof, and carries out cooperation on the basis of laws and regulations² in order for the information to be used more comprehensively in the production of official statistics.

Depending on administrative data sources and the volume and quality of

² Statistics Law, Regulation No 223/2009

Central Statistical Bureau and Administrative Data Sources

information available in them, data are used directly or indirectly in several ways:

- maintaining and updating the Statistical Business Register and Farm Register;
- preparing and updating the list of economically active enterprises;
- creating samples and weights;
- data integration (direct use of data in surveys);
- pre-printing data;
- data imputation;
- data adjusting;
- calculating statistical indicators;
- quality checking.

Assessment of the Use of Administrative Data

In order to list administrative registers available but not used for the production of statistics or used incompletely, as well as to find out reasons for that and define improvement actions to be taken, the CSB carried out an exhaustive assessment of statistical forms.

The gathered data show that **17 %** of the sections of forms include indicators, which may be ensured directly (by replacing them or not gathering them at all) or indirectly (imputation, pre-print, sample building) by using administrative data. Additional analysis of data sources still must be carried out for **11 %** of the sections. Administrative sources are not used for ensuring statistical data in **72 %** of the sections, due to lack of necessary administrative data. There is a total of **91** indicators identified in statistical forms, for which administrative data could be potentially used. There are currently several factors limiting the use thereof: the quality of administrative data for **45 %** of the indicators does not correspond with the requirements of official statistics – they are inaccurate or incorrect, **30 %** of the indicators do not correspond with definition of the statistical unit, **13 %** of the indicators may not be acquired within the processing and publication terms set for ensuring official statistics, whereas **12 %** have an unsuitable definition. By preventing the main previously mentioned discrepancies, administrative data

Central Statistical Bureau and Administrative Data Sources

could be used to a larger extent for various statistical purposes: sample building, pre-printing, data imputation, data adjustment, calculation of indicators, weighting, integration, updating of registers.

Factors Limiting the Use of Administrative Data

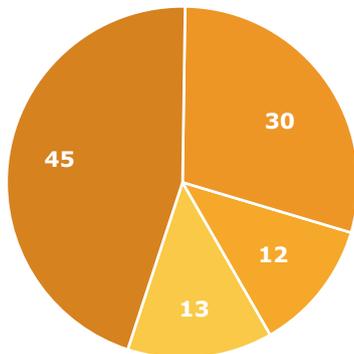
The CSB regularly follows the development processes of administrative data sources to the extent possible and tries to affect them in order to acquire additional information and use it more comprehensively in the production of statistics, as well as to prevent the repeated requesting of data available in administrative sources at the statistical institute. Although the use of administrative data reduces the load of respondents significantly, it increases the work load and costs of the CSB in data adaptation for the needs of official statistics. The CSB must invest additional resources in the assessment of the conformity of the scope, frequency, term and definitions of administrative data, as well as in the development of new methods, in-depth data analysis, exchange of experience, and takeover of good practice. At the same time, any changes must be assessed critically in order not to increase the burden in one field while decreasing it in another one, furthermore for a larger number of enterprises or persons (for example, by supplementing the VAT declarations with the missing indicators for all enterprises (~80 thsd) instead of the turnover report to be submitted by only ~7–8 thsd statistical respondents).

Even though the quality of administrative data sources is increasing year after year, the CSB must cooperate with holders of administrative data and continue the work on coordinating the flow of information by harmonising the terms of data submission, adjusting and supplementing methodological explanations, solving issues in case of the non-conformity thereof, as well as by ensuring the quality of data to be submitted.

There are still certain problems present that could be defined as follows:

- legal problems – there are no regulations for recording specific meaningful indicators in the registers, there are legal norms that are not being fully realised in practice;
- methodological problems – differences in definitions of indicators, frequency, collection and aggregation terms etc.;
- technical problems – not all information is available electronically, the same codes, symbols are not always used.

Reasons for not using administrative data (%)



- Definition of the unit used in administrative data does not meet that used in statistics
- Definition of administrative source indicators does not meet that used in statistics
- Data cannot be acquired from administrative sources within the terms set for processing and dissemination of official statistics
- Administrative data are inaccurate or incorrect

Central Statistical Bureau and Administrative Data Sources

Main Directions for the Further Expansion of Administrative Data Use

In order for it to be possible to assess further prospects for using administrative data for the needs of official statistics, the CSB believes that it is necessary to form a working group. Taking into account the strategic objectives, as well as possibilities to expand the use of administrative data (regarding amount, quality, terms), it is necessary to solve specific methodological and inter-institutional issues that would allow the CSB to receive information on a regular basis. It is required to invest additional resources in the implementation of these measures, as benefits will be gained by the CSB through improving the organisational process of regular statistical surveys, working on the reduction of respondent load and improving the quality of data, as well as by government and local government institutions, which use the information stored and gathered in the respective administrative data sources for the realisation of their functions, and by managers of the administrative data sources who maintain and update the data.

Considering the identified problems, the CSB developed an informative report on the problems and possible solutions for effective use of administrative data within the CSB, and it was submitted to the Ministry of Economy in September to be handed over further to the Cabinet of Ministers.

In order to reduce the administrative burden (time and resources), the CSB is developing the Social Statistics Data Warehouse (SSDW) – creating a basis for the processing and analysis of data for Census 2021. The SSDW, which has been put into operation and is regularly updated, contains sets of administrative data that are used in social, business, agricultural and price statistics. The SSDW is regularly updated, imported data are analysed, linked for further use. There are currently 20 types of data integrated within the warehouse.

In March 2016, the CSB informative report on the preparation and organisation of the Population and Housing Census 2021, which was submitted to the Ministry of Economics and included in the “Informative Reports” section of the policy planning database of the Cross-Sectoral Coordination Centre on 16 May.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In 2016, the CSB continued regular international co-operation activities, representing the interests of Latvia in the EU working groups and committees when working out and coordinating methodology items on various statistical areas.

Development Cooperation

The CSB expert Ieva Zabarovska started 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". Within this project, the quality of statistics on persons with disability was improved. The expert gave a general overview of social protection expenditure (ESSPROS) methodology and structure, including in relation to the EU legislative acts in this area. The CSB expert shared her experience in introduction of ESSPROS, data availability, identification of social benefits in the country, development of ESSPROS schemes, as well study of the possible data sources. As a result, an action plan was prepared for gradual implementation of ESSPROS in the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The CSB experts have implemented several activities within the framework of the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument of the European Commission.

The objective of the expert mission on energy efficiency statistics in the State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia was to support collection and calculation of disaggregated gas and electricity prices data following the liberalisation of the energy market.

The expert mission on tourism statistics in the Ministry of Tourism of Lebanon aimed at enhancing the capacity of beneficiary data collection to conduct a survey on rural accommodation establishments with a view to a more efficient planning and promotion of the tourism sector.

The CSB expert Dita Zemīte as an international tourism statistics expert together with the Czech colleague made a sectoral review of the tourism statistics in Armenia to assess the compliance of the tourism statistics with European standards and practices. The expert's mission was implemented within the framework of Eurostat project that supports European Neighbourhood Policy countries in aligning their statistical production with EU and international standards and assessing their statistical systems.



CSB expert **Ieva Zabarovska**
(first on the right)
on visit in Statistics Azerbaijan



CSB expert **Dita Zemīte**
(first on the left)
in Statistics Armenia

International Cooperation

Cooperation within the Baltic Region



Steering Committee meeting
in Latvia

The long-term cooperation among Baltic statistical institutions was continued by coordinating different EU projects and activities, viewpoints and sharing experiences. Within the framework of trilateral cooperation, experts of the Baltic statistical institutions met in seven activities: (two) in Lithuania, (one) in Estonia and (four) in Latvia. Statisticians of the Baltic countries discussed and shared their experience on topical items in business structural and foreign affiliates statistics, price and agricultural statistics and discussed the Labour Force Survey and preparation and organization of the Population and Housing Census and further development of innovation and research and development statistics.

Traditional annual Steering Committee meeting took place in Latvia, where planning and organization of the trilateral cooperation was evaluated, and the latest tendencies in the work of statistical institutions and challenges related to the ESS development trends were discussed. According to the usual practice, also the best practices of statistical institutions were presented.



CSB Vice President
Kaspars Misāns (fourth on the right)
and experts from the Statistics Korea
on visit in CSB

Sharing Experience

Great contribution to the development of statistical institutions/ systems was made by sharing experience and good practices. The CSB, within own competence, is always open for sharing experience with others.

Thus, following the initiative of the Korean Statistical Information Institute, its experts came to the CSB on a study visit regarding business demography and related statistical areas. During this study visit, CSB experts shared experience and gave advice on business demography data estimates, development and maintenance of statistical data collection and processing system, and introduction and maintenance of statistical units in the Statistical Business Register.



Diana Yancheva,
Deputy President of the National
Statistical Institute of Bulgaria,
(on the right)
during working visit in CSB

During a two-day study visit of the Vice President of the National Statistical Institute of the Republic of Bulgaria, the CSB experts discussed their experience obtained during the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Bulgaria will hold the Presidency of the Council of the EU in the first half of 2018.

The CSB experts have presented their experience also in international activities held at UN level. In UNECE, Rosstat and CISSTAT high-level seminar "Harmonisation of Poverty Statistics in CIS Countries", the CSB expert Viktors Veretjanovs was invited to take part in discussions, and he made a presentation on poverty measurement.

International Cooperation

During the workshop "Bioenergy from the Forest Sector" on collecting wood energy and bioenergy data, organized by the International Renewable Energy Agency, UNECE and UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the CSB expert Līga Meļko was the moderator of Russian-speaking countries and presented summary on strong and weak sides of collecting wood energy data.

The CSB experts are happy to contribute to the UNECE initiative regarding identifying common elements of statistical legislation and developing best practice guidelines in line with fundamental principles of Official Statistics, the European Statistics Code of Practice and recommendations of the Council of OECD. The CSB experts Ieva Začeste and Madars Deaks together with colleagues from United Kingdom lead the group of experts drafting documents and guidelines that would allow national statistical institutes to gain ideas on provisions worth to be included in the national legislation and perhaps much more.

The CSB experts also benefit from study visits to discuss topical statistical items, in particular those related to new methodological solutions. The CSB experts appreciate the time of Swedish colleagues allotted for consultations on obtaining population census data from administrative data sources; advice of Estonian colleagues on ESA 2010 input – output tables as well as sharing experience with the Croatian Bureau of Statistics on purchasing power parities items.

Participation in Other Important International Activities

The CSB top-level officials and experts have taken part in several important international activities where international statistical standards and methodological materials were discussed and approved, and further development and improvement of the European Statistical System was agreed.

Within the ESS context, the CSB president Aija Žīgure is delegated for the work in the High-Level Group on Quality in Statistics, and one of the trends of its activity was to draft the ESS Quality Declaration. The objective of the ESS Quality Declaration is to explain the quality management of European statistics. According to the working group's mandate and following the approval of the Quality Declaration by the ESSC, the high-level group discusses and gives proposals for further steps in the communication of the Quality Declaration and discusses the revising process of the ESS Code of Practice.

From 1 January 2016 until the end of 2019, Latvia on a rotational basis is elected as a member of the United Nations Statistical Commission. In the Statistical Commission, Latvia is represented by Aija Žīgure, the President of the CSB. At

International Cooperation

the 2016 Session, Latvia was elected also in the Commission Bureau and performed duties of rapporteur. In this position, Mrs A. Žīgure took an active part in sessions, expressing opinion on items concerning the framework of indicators for measuring Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), use of big data for the needs of official statistics, national accounts, migration and ICT statistics. As a rapporteur, A. Žīgure also gave proposals for preparing Session's conclusions before they were disseminated to delegations, and in the end of the Session she presented draft conclusions. After the Session of the UN Statistical Commission, Latvia took an active part in improvement of the draft conclusions.

In 2016, 16 new EU legal acts were adopted on macroeconomic, social, price, industry, energy and other statistical domains. Considering the initiative of the Commission's Regulatory Fitness and Performance (REFIT) programme, also legal acts in respect to statistics are simplified to streamline the production of European statistics. By integrating legislative acts of one statistical area within a single framework, the number of legal acts shall decline gradually, while the amount of work will not change or even grow, considering increasing data user demands.

At the end of 2016, there were 393 EU legal acts in the statistical area binding for the CSB.

Activities in the Context of Sustainable Development Goals

After conclusion of the previous UN Global Development Program (Millennium Development Goals), member states, civil organizations and other partners laid down the new Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 that was approved by the UN General Assembly in autumn 2015. It contains 17 SDGs and 169 sub-goals, the implementation of which is expected until 2030 to ensure development that considers economic, social and environmental factors. Millennium Development Goals mostly concerned developing countries, however the new Agenda 2030 invites all UN Member States to include SDGs in their national sustainable development programmes in accordance with national priorities and needs.

To ensure monitoring of the Agenda 2030 implementation and measurement of SDGs, the UN Statistical Commission has been given a mandate to develop the framework for global statistical indicators as well as to provide support in building statistical capacity of countries. In March 2016, the 47th session of the UN Statistical Commission approved the framework for 230 global indicators as a practical starting point for the further work.

The work on the development of the indicator framework is continued by the

Sustainable Development Goals



International Cooperation

Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators (IAEG-SDGs) that though regular open consultations also engage Member States and other partners in the process. Development of indicators is affected also by the capacity of the national statistical systems, and this dimension is in the hands of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In order to enhance cooperation, coordination and exchange of experience in the development of official statistics among different parties involved in the production of SDGs statistics, the First United Nations World Data Forum was organized, and Lelde Arnicāne was the expert representing the CSB in this event. Discussions in the Forum reflected the most pertaining questions for the national statistical systems in the nearest future: adoption of innovations and modern technologies in the production of statistics, promotion of statistical and data literacy among users, and the challenge to ensure disaggregation of statistics, especially on vulnerable groups. The CSB, as the coordinating institution of the national statistical system, has a significant role in facilitating the data reporting from the national level to the global SDG indicator database, both in regard to assessing the data availability and relevance.

Latvia has also started implementation of the SDGs in the context of its national policy planning, coordinated by the Cross-Sectoral Coordination Centre. During a comprehensive review process, SDGs will be mainstreamed into the existing medium- and long-term planning documents – the Latvian National Development Plan 2014–2020 and the Latvian Sustainable Development Strategy 2030.

The CSB has undertaken to provide the necessary support for the line ministries and other responsible institutions by informing about global and regional sets of SDG indicators and by consulting the setting of the national indicators.

In spring 2016, the CSB made an initial assessment of the availability of global SDGs indicators in Latvia, determining the data available in the CSB and identifying other national institutions that would be responsible for providing the respective data. The UN Global Indicators are classified into three tiers based on their level of methodological development and data availability. The CSB assessed availability of the indicators of the first two tiers, i.e., on 65 % of the total number of indicators. This initial assessment shows that in Latvia there are approximately 34 % of global SDGs indicators which correspond to the Eurostat self-assessment on data availability in the European Statistical System for the UN global indicator framework.

International Cooperation

Both the European Union and OECD also are working on the integration of SDGs in their activities. The CSB participates in international and regional activities in relation to SDGs aimed at maintaining the link of national processes with the most important international activities for Latvia.

European Day

On 9 May 2015, with an educational seminar the CSB celebrated the European Day for the 18th time. Leons Teivāns, Professor, University of Latvia, Faculty of Humanities, Asian Studies gave a presentation on interaction of African, Asian and European culture, religion and history, impact on the refugee crisis in Europe and migration projections in Latvia. Kristaps Mijevskis, the person responsible for the information security in the CSB, presented the latest issues in personal data protection legislation as regards personal data processing. In the conclusion of the seminar, the CSB employees took part in a quiz by actively guessing capital cities of the European countries.

European Day



COMMUNICATION
WITH THE SOCIETY



COMMUNICATION WITH THE SOCIETY



Opening of the CSB Information Centre

Information Centre in New Premises

The new premises of the CSB Information Centre located at street Lāčplēša 1 were made available for visitors on 2 February. All data users still are welcome to visit Centre on working days from 10.00 to 17.00 o'clock (to 16.00 o'clock on Fridays). Information Centre helps data users with ordering publications, finding statistical information also on other countries, as well as with drawing up and submitting of tailor made datasets. Premises of the Information Centre now are suitably equipped and may be used for various workshops and presentations.

Job Shadow Day

On 10 February, CSB participated in Job Shadow Day by offering eight vacancies for positions of EU affairs coordinator, sociologist-statistician and statistical mathematician. The highest interest was attracted by statistical mathematician profession, therefore CSB mathematicians had six *shadows*.



Participants of the Job Shadow Day with CSB representatives

Open Doors Day

On 30 September, within the framework of Open Door Day, CSB was visited by 80 students from four Riga educational institutions. Four lectures given by CSB experts were devoted to the CSB activities and its role in Latvian and European statistical system, latest statistics about young people and their life after graduation – further education, career and situation faced by youth in labour market. Students acquiring logistics programme found out about production of transport statistics and characteristics of the sector in numbers, as well as they had opportunity to look for and visualise transport statistics by themselves. Business and commerce students found out something more about success stories and failures in Latvian export field.



Data Expedition

Data Expedition

On October 20, within the European Statistics Day, CSB in cooperation with School of Data Latvia organised Data Expedition inviting storytellers, programmers, analysts and other data enthusiasts. During the Expedition, the participants sought for stories in CSB foreign trade, socio-economic, spatial, etc., data. The Expedition resulted in data-based stories, application prototypes, etc. projects.

Central Statistical Bureau Special Award

On 9 November, in the TOP 500 Largest Latvian Companies Award Ceremony organised by newspaper "Dienas Bizness" CSB President Aija Žīgure awarded

Communication with the Society

joint-stock company "Latvijas Finieris" with a special award for excellent cooperation in producing high-quality statistics. Every year, CSB is helping newspaper "Dienas Bizness" to issue publication "TOP 500 Largest Latvian Companies" by providing statistics on companies with largest exports and imports in the previous year, as well as enterprises having the greatest annual rise in imports and exports volume, etc.

Publicity in the Media

In 2016, CSB published 140 news releases and other information on the latest CSB activities. Media have mentioned CSB 7 240 times: 78 % of mentions were in Latvian and 22 % in Russian. The types of articles mentioning CSB were: news (70 %), reports (14 %), other types of publications (comments, interviews and broadcasts) (10 %).

The greatest number of mentions was observed in online media (38 %), news agencies (28 %), radio and national newspapers (11 % in each), regional newspapers (7 %), television (3 %), as well as journals (2 %).

The CSB news topic charts consist of following subjects: employment, demography, inflation, gross domestic product and foreign trade.

In 2016, two interviews with CSB President Aija Žīgure were published: on 29 November, newspaper "Neatkarīgā Rīta Avīze Latvijai" published Juris Paiders interview "IKP unikalitāte ir pārspīlēta" (GDP Uniqueness is Too Exaggerated), while a day later, on 30 November, journal "Ieva" published Lolita Lūse interview "Aiz skaitļiem redzēt dzīvi" (To See Life Behind the Numbers). After CSB President appearance in Latvia National Television (LNT) morning news program, newspaper "Diena" on 30 August published a caricature depicting upcoming Latvian population census.

Social Media

To facilitate communication with data users, CSB has also Twitter and Facebook accounts. CSB has Latvian (@CSP_Latvija) and English (@CSB_Latvia) accounts on Twitter, both are used to share all news reports of the CSB, infographics, as well as information on the latest CSB activities and publications. For additional informative function, Twitter account is used for discussions with data users, since it allows giving prompt replies to the follower questions or comments on the statistics published by the CSB.

At the end of 2016, account @CSP_Latvija had 4 320 followers. Over the year, the account had 425 posts that were viewed, commented or shared 1.3 million



CSB President **Aija Žīgure** has given CSB award to the Sales Director of the "Latvijas Finieris" AS **Valdis Kulpe**



Caricature drawn by **Zemgus Zaharāns** that was published in newspaper "Diena" on 30 august 2016

Communication with the Society

times (520 thousand times more than in 2015). Facebook account had 274 followers.

In 2016, six statistical infographics were worked out and published on social media: Happy Easter (LV and ENG), Consumption of Food Products (LV), Latvia as a 100 people (LV and ENG), Midsummer (LV), Pumpkin Statistics (LV and ENG), and Christmas Season Greetings (LV and ENG).

Information requests

In 2016, CSB replied to 1 144 information requests from individuals, public administration institutions and enterprises, and 28 data users received regular tailor made datasets. CSB also sent answers to 235 media requests/ questions. Dienas Bizness (48), Latvijas Avīze (24), Latvijas Televīzija (17), Latvijas Radio (10), Diena (9) and LNT (9) were the media requesting statistics or CSB comments the most often. In addition, 142 answers were given to Eurostat (Statistical Office of the European Union) data users regarding EU statistics.



IEVAŠ SARUNA
Ar ALJAI ŽIGUREI sarunājās LOLĪTA LŪSE

Aiz skaitļiem redzēt dzīvi

Centrālās statistikas pārvaldē ik dienu pēta un rēķina, kāda ir mūsu valsts un kādi mēs tajā. Pārvaldes vadītājai statistiķei ALJAI ŽIGUREI šī ir vienīgā darbavietā – te viņa nostrādājusi visu mūžu. Stingra, mūsdienīga, sievišķīga un, lai kā gājīs, bez aizvainojuma par to, kas dzīvē bijis lemts. «Kāda kārts likta priekšā, ar tādu jāspēlē,» tā saka Aija.

Sūktā ziņa visur ir labā ziņa
LOLĪTA: Būdamas Centrālās statistikas pārvaldes vadītāja, nolūki vienābāc zina, kā mums Latvijā kājas.
ALJA: Vēl, kas kairī to stādu par Latviju, pamatā izmanto mūsu apkārtos oficiālos datus – par ekonomiku, mēģinājumiem, valsts finansēm, pašaplojumiem, kuriem, parādusim dzīvi: cik saņemam, cik ierējam, cik kas maksā. Tāpat svarīgs vienmērīgais sabiedrība, kā mums kājas. Izaspēne ir, bet ne katrs valsts iedzīvotājs to jūt. Strādājam izaspēni izjūt veiktspēja uzpēnēji un viņu darbības, bet ļoti daudzām cilvēkiem ir grūta dzīve. Aizņemot uz savu dzīvi Gulbēni, ar dālu sarūgtinājumu skatu, kā cilvēks veikalā šit mašīnā pērci, jo ir domājis, ka šit jāmaksā 2.00 eiro, bet izrādās, ka jāmaksā 2.00 eiro. Vai redzi, kā cilvēks skata mūsu saņemam par gaudam pieticīgi pērci kārtu. Katram cilvēkam attārtā valstī vajadzētu būt padomam un siltumam. Zē, ka ne visiem ir normāls sadzīves līmenis. Pats nolūkojām kārti ir tas, ka tā ir nevīdīga cilvēka izvēle – viņi nav bijuši sīkāk, viņi ir strādājis – bet maldā, ir tāda situācija ir nolūki ja veselība ir saņēmušies – tā šitā nav cilvēka izvēle!

Lasot ziņas par jaunākajiem statistikas datiem, bieži sūkst, ka apzīmēt valstī tiek uzvērti negatīvie rādītāji.

FOTO: IVA ANDRIJENKO / LIA PHOTOGRAPHY/ISTOCK

30

PERSONNEL





PERSONNEL

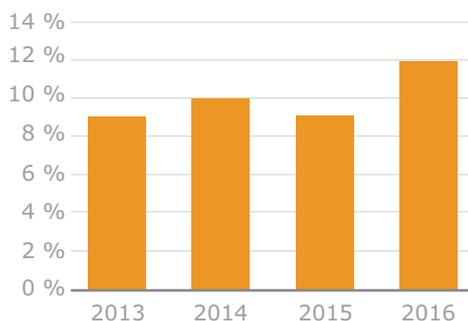
In 2016, the CSB **personnel management strategy** for 2016–2018 with a systematic approach to human resources management was approved by focusing on changes and challenges at institutional level as well as taking place within the framework of the ESS. CSB personnel management is based on a **core values** such as knowledge, cooperation, openness, the rule of law and responsibility.

Manpower

At the end of 2016, CSB system had 560 positions employing 271 civil servants (48 % of total staff) and 289 workers (52 %). During the reporting period, CSB engaged eight freelancers.

The majority of personnel is employed in the central bureau in Riga (75 % of total staff), whereas the rest are working in regional structural units: Kuldīga, Preiļi and Valmiera data collection and processing centres. Interviewers and price registrars working in various regions of Latvia constitute 21 % of the total manpower.

Employee turnover in the CSB



The functions of the CSB structural units have been evaluated: with an aim to work out suggestions for improvement of the organisation of the upcoming Population and Housing Census, from 4 January 2016 to 30 December 2023 the Population Census Section will have three additional senior officer positions and Mathematical Support Division will have one statistical mathematician post.

The workload related to the customer service in Information Centre has been assessed as well, therefore, due to the fact that users tend to use CSB online databases increasingly more, one Information Centre civil servant was made redundant. With an aim to improve monitoring of the CSB economic resources and legal contracts, the Technical Operation and Maintenance Section is now supervised by the Legal and Corporate Services Department.

During the recent years, the staff rotation has been increasing sharply – from 9 % in 2013 to 12 % in 2016. Last year, 52 persons were hired, and 63 persons were made redundant. Uncompetitive wages are among the main reasons behind the termination of the labour contract (10 employees moved to work in private sector or were rotated to posts within the public administration system), followed by reaching of the retirement age (7), various health conditions (4), unsuccessful probationary period (6), change in the place of residence (2), abolition of position (3), as well as termination of the labour contract on own initiative or by common agreement between the parties (31).

Personnel

In 2016, CSB announced 80 vacancies for 93 positions – for 43 civil servants and 37 workers. Out of all recruiting activities, 24 ended without result, because applicants did not have the necessary skills or knowledge, whereas for 7 vacancies no applications were received, therefore, CSB employees are invited to apply for the posts as well. In order to ensure good governance and implementation of the tasks undertaken by the structural units and improve skills and knowledge of civil servants, 6 civil servants were rotated for work in other structural units.

Recruiting of interviewers for positions in Riga, specialists in the field of informatics and mathematical statistics, as well as system analysts still is very challenging due to uncompetitive wages and high qualification requirements.

Personnel: Qualification and Demographic Breakdown

Out of the total CSB employees, 76.7 % have acquired higher academic or higher vocational education, 22.7 % have gained secondary vocational education or secondary education and 0.6 % have basic education.

The greatest proportion of employees (60 %) have attained education in the field of statistics, economy or IT, the most common educational fields represented by the rest (40 %) cover sociology, communication sciences, mathematics and law.

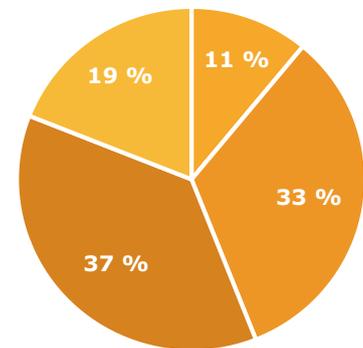
Men constitute 14 % and women 86 % of all CSB employees.

Professional Development and Training

The training needs are defined based on the CSB strategic direction, functions of each structural unit, etc. criteria that are substantiating each training necessity required for efficient execution of work tasks when the Training Plan for the running year is approved. Training of the CSB employees is organised via external and internal training, supporting participation in the professional development courses for European statisticians. In 2016, an *e-training* website was developed as one of the internal communication channels for testing own knowledge, internal staff testing, ensuring training feedback, as well as experience exchange.

The Action Plan activities for meeting the strategic goals of personnel management are aimed at improving employee motivation, provision of positive social and psychological conditions in working environment. Within the Action Plan implementation measures, three competence-increasing trainings about

Personnel by age group



- aged under 29
- aged 30-44
- aged 45-60
- aged over 60

Personnel

performance management and strategic vision were held for 36 mid- and lower-level heads over a three-month period.

In 2017, training aimed at the development of management competences will be continued, providing it also to the top-level managers and department directors. In line with the approved training plan, a training for media on communication with the public and communication in general, a training for price registrars on communication and interaction, a training for interviewers and staff responsible for the collection of statistical reports, training International Accountancy Reports in the field of financial management, as well as other trainings were held. The performers of support functions took training on legal issues, Labour Law, personal data protection, accounting, quality management and information technologies. Last year, an expert from the Statistics Netherlands consulted CSB employees on assessment of administrative data quality.

Regular internal training is organised on data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination, as well as a workshop for the new employees, price registrars, interviewers, project leaders as well as other employees to develop their knowledge. In the last quarter of the year, also internal training for improving computer literacy (Access) is provided.



CSB employees participating in training

Personnel

In 2016, 16 CSB employees had opportunity to develop their professional competences by participating in workshops on various subjects organised by European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP).

In total, external trainings (both held outside and inside the CSB premises) were attended by more than 350 CSB employees.

The management process improvement measures taken by the CSB, efficient utilisation of e-management system for work organisation and inter-institutional cooperation has ensured that the tasks planned for 2016 were accomplished timely and with high quality. By implementing active change management, the CSB is working on the acquisition of new skills and knowledge necessary for efficient use of new technologies in CSB – those are the steps taken towards *paperless office*. Among all Latvian public administration authorities, in February 2016 CSB was announced as the winner of the Latvia's E-Index.

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

Appreciation for conscientious daily work and results achieved was expressed also to other employees of the CSB in a form of **CSB Certificates of Recognition and Gratitude**:

Dāvis Kļaviņš, Geographical Information Specialist of the Information Publishing and Printing Department in Publishing Section for innovative approach to statistical analysis by showing geospatial dimension of statistics and popularising it;

Dzidra Ceihnere, Head of the Strategic Planning and Resources Management Department in Resources Planning, Analysis and Coordination Section for important contribution towards and merits in development of Latvian statistical system and promotion of the activities thereof;

Ieva Aināre, Deputy Director of Statistical Methodology and Quality Department in Mathematical Support Division for important contribution towards the development of Latvian statistical system and promotion of the activities thereof.

Central Statistical Bureau **Certificate of Recognition** was granted to:

Maruta Miķelsone, Senior Officer of Agricultural and Environment Statistics Section in Agricultural Statistics Section for high achievements, professionalism and exemplary execution of duties;

Personnel

Nora Gojdina, Statistician of Agricultural and Environment Statistics Section in Agricultural Statistics Section for long-term and professional work within the statistical system;

Darja Goreva, Senior Officer of Social Statistics Department in Income and Living Conditions Statistics Section for innovative contribution towards the development of collection of statistics by successfully implementing CAWI version in EU-SILC survey;

Liene Āboliņa, Senior Officer of Social Statistics Department in Income and Living Conditions Statistics Section for innovative contribution towards the development of collection of statistics by successfully implementing CAWI version in EU-SILC survey;

Inese Basova, Senior Officer of Business Statistics Department in Enterprise Finance and Investment Statistics Section for important contribution towards ensuring quality of statistics and development of employee skills.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT
2016





Financial Statement 2016

1. Subsidy from general revenue, total (euros)	10 307 711
of which:	
■ programme "Provision of Statistical Information"	9 435 767
■ programme "Implementation of Community Initiative Projects and Activities"	871 944
2. Revenue from chargeable services and other own revenue	146 260
3. Transfers, total (euros)	10 307 711
of which:	
■ programme "Implementation of European Social Fund initiative projects and activities"	27 712
■ programme "Implementation of Other Projects and Activities of European Union Instruments"	3 043
<i>Total revenue (euros)</i>	10 484 726

Central Statistical Bureau budget execution in 2016 (euros)

1. Current expenditure	9 529 600
of which:	
1.1. wages and salaries	5 912 155
1.2. compulsory social security contributions	1 990 625
1.3. business trip expenses	212 155
1.4. payments for services, purchased materials	1 414 665
of which:	
■ payments for postal, telephone and other communication services	154 703
■ expenditure on public utilities	162 999
■ expenditure on purchase of goods and inventories	205 302

Financial Statement 2016

2. Subsidies, grants and social benefits	254 580
3. Maintenance expenditure transfers	2 194
4. Capital expenditure	725 935
of which:	
■ intangible assets	385 289
■ hardware, communication and other office equipment	214 531
■ other fixed assets not classified above	126 112

Total revenue (euros)

10 512 306

CSB budget execution (euros)





ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT YEAR

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT YEAR



Key Priorities in 2017

The key activities of the CSB planned for 2017 include production of official statistics and development of infrastructure in line with the user needs by reducing administrative burden on respondents and increasing data quality:

- to accomplish tasks stipulated by the Statistics Law and ensure implementation of the Official Statistics Programme for 2017–2019 within own competence:
 - ensure acquisition, processing and analysis of macro-economics, business, agricultural and environmental, price and social statistics;
 - ensure acquisition and availability of territorial statistics.
- to provide statistical data users with information characterising situation in national economy;
- to perform georeferencing of Population and Housing Census 2000 data and create research data file;
- to take measures to reduce respondent burden and expand utilisation of administrative data in the production of official statistics;
- to prepare for the Population and Housing Census 2021;
- to enhance quality of statistics and improve methodology;
- to improve information technologies (IT) and utilisation thereof in the production of official statistics, as well as to continue working on the project Statistics Portal;
- to work on the promotion of international cooperation by active participation in activities organised by OECD, Vision 2020, UN Statistical Commission, Eurostat working groups and committies, and statistical institutes of the Baltic countries;
- within the framework of the programme “Production of Statistical Information for the New EU Initiatives”, to implement grant projects, including Vision 2020 projects, as well as to improve existing and work out new methodologies.

CENTRAL STATISTICAL BUREAU OF LATVIA

Report developed by:

Dzidra Ceihnere

Information for the report was provided by:

Armands Plāte, Arturs Jaunzems, Dace Tomase, Dana Zariņa, Ieva Aināre, Ieva Zemeskalna, Ieva Začeste, Ilze Skujeniece, Guna Graudiņa, Gundega Kuzmina, Janīna Dišereite, Jolanta Minkevica, Lolita Grase, Madara Ose, Maranda Behmane, Pāvels Onufrijevs, Ramona Skakunova, Uldis Ainārs, Vita Kisljicka

Typesetting, design:

Maija Graudiņa

Photographs by:

Kaspars Vasaraudzis, Pēteris Veģis, Baiba Zukula, Inta Vanovska, State Chancellery of Latvia

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



annual report
2016