

Annual report
2013



INTRODUCTORY WORDS

Dear Reader,

The CSB offers for your evaluation its annual contribution in the field of statistics in 2013. The annual report provides information to our collaboration partners in Latvia and abroad, to each member of the society interested in the events taking place in various areas of statistics characterising economic, demographic, social and environmental phenomena and processes in the country.

The CSB is constantly working on strengthening its positions as the national leading statistical body and expanding the use of administrative data sources in production of statistics. Quality is and will be the core value of the official statistics; therefore, the CSB is doing its best to provide top quality products and services in order to meet the growing demands of data users.

The CSB uses progressive methods which improve work efficiency and develop information systems to create up-to-date, well-functioning infrastructure which facilitates convenient, fast and secure data collection, processing, storage, analysis and dissemination. The CSB improves cooperation with maintainers of external registers and information systems, and has made reduction of the administrative burden its key priority. During Walter Radermacher's, Director General of *Eurostat*, visit to Latvia we discussed directions of strategic development and the significant role of data in the today's information society. We formulated our future challenges to inform decision makers and to produce timely high quality data which meet the users' requirements. We must move towards modernisation, effectivisation and standardisation of statistics.

Last year a new Draft Law on Statistics was elaborated in order to implement the following factors in the national regulatory enactments: principles of work of statistical institutions identified in the European Statistics Regulation and European Statistics Code of Practice, the new requirements for the participants of the European Statistics System, responsibility and obligations in statistics, as well as improved regulation for statistical confidentiality, statistical methodology and publication of summary information. The Law specifies the key principles of the work of statistical institutions which must be respected carrying out any activity in production of official statistics and determines a special regulation to ensure professional competence of the statistical institution. We work hard to increase the role of the CSB as the leading coordinating statistical institution producing official statistics, also specifying functions and rights of the CSB. Last year we published the results of Population and Housing Census 2011 and now statistical information at regional and county level is available to data users. We are currently getting ready for Population Census 2021 - to be able to use only administrative data sources and information obtained from regular surveys conducted by the CSB. We continue work on development of the information systems and elaborate data warehouses and data processing systems, improve and supplement the Integrated Statistical Data Management System. We have implemented a new electronic work report system for interviewers elaborated by our experts, which reduces administrative burden and allows saving time and expenses. We also continue introduction of our quality management system to ensure systematic access to the processes management.

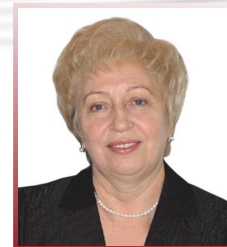
I would like to express my gratitude to all respondents for timely provision of high quality statistical data, as well as active support to our e-survey system. We focus on the reduction of administrative burden; however, there is still a lot to do to be able to use administrative data more extensively for statistical purposes.

The number of indicators available in the CSB data bases has grown significantly: now they are available in more detailed elaboration, data bases have been supplemented with new items. In order to increase the availability of free statistical data we publish press releases, organise press conferences, offer data visualisation.

Successful work and further development of the CSB is based on our competent and motivated employees, who are working hard to improve the methodology and enhance the use of information technologies, as well as participate in work groups and seminars in Latvia, and abroad, sharing their experience with statisticians from other countries.

I express my gratitude to everyone for their selfless work, creative approach and contribution to our development.

President of the
Central Statistical Bureau



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ABBREVIATIONS

UN	– United Nations
UNECE	– United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
SPPI	– Services Producer Price Index
CAWI	– Computer Assisted Web Interviewing
CSB	– Central Statistical Bureau
ECB	– European Central Bank
EC	– European Commission
ESA	– European System of Accounts
ESSC	– European Statistical System Committee
EU	– European Union
ESS	– European Statistical System
ESSnet	– European Statistical System network
Eurostat	– Statistical Office of the European Union
EU-SILC	– European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions
GDP	– Gross Domestic Product
Intrastat	– System on statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States
ISCED 2011	– International Standard Classification of Education
ISDMS	– Integrated Statistical Data Management System
ICT	– Information and Communication Technologies
IPA	– Multi-Beneficiary Statistical Co-Operation Programme – Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance for the Balkan States
LRATC	– Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre
RSS	– Rural Support Service
ADC	– Agricultural Data Centre
NACE Rev. 2	– Statistical Classification of Economic activities in the European Community
NRME	– National Reference Metadata Editor
SEA	– State Employment Agency
OECD	– Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPP	– Purchasing power parities programme
ILO	– International Labour Organization
HICP	– Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices
IMF	– International Monetary Fund
Twinning	– Twinning project
SRS	– State Revenue Service
NPSI	– National Programme of Statistical Information

MISSION, VISION, VALUES AND CSB ACTIVITIES



Mission

The main objective (mission) of the CSB is to provide local and foreign data users with timely, precise, complete, comprehensible and internationally comparable statistical information on the economic, demographic, social and environmental phenomena and processes, using contemporary solutions of information technologies and best practices in the field.

Vision

The CSB is the main coordinator of statistical processes and producer of the statistical information in Latvia. The quality of information produced by the CSB corresponds to standards of the European Statistics Code of Practice. The CSB data collection, processing and dissemination principles are appropriately documented, publicly available and entirely correspond to the international examples of best practice.

Within the process of data compilation the CSB applies data collection tools, alternative data sources, data processing methods and mathematical models, which enable reduction of respondent burden.

User-friendly methods are applied for dissemination of statistical data – Internet has become the primary dissemination channel. Statistical information is supplemented with quality reports.

The CSB experts are professional and well-educated, and can defend national positions and interests at the international level. Personnel training policy ensures rapid acquisition of new skills as well as facilitates improvement of current employee competences.

Values

The core value of the CSB is highly-educated, professional and goal oriented personnel possessing excellent communication skills.



CSB building
at 1 Lāčplēša Street, Riga

Mission, vision, values and CSB activities



Social Statistics

Provides data on social development in the country and its administrative territories, demography, employment and wages, material welfare and living conditions, health, education and science.

Price Statistics

Prices and rates of consumer goods/services, industrial production and business services, inflation. Within the programme of international comparisons the CSB price statistics sections provide *Eurostat* with the information on prices.

Business Statistics

Provides data on business activities in Latvia, group of economically active enterprises, financial and structural indicators of enterprises, investments, production, real estate and innovation, trade, industry, services and information technologies, business tendency researches and self-assessment of the activity of local governments.

Macroeconomic Statistics

Calculates Gross Domestic Product, compiles System of National Accounts, provides data on government finances, government budget deficit and debt, foreign trade of Latvia.

Agricultural and Environmental Statistics

Provides data on agricultural production and structure of agricultural holdings, fishery, forestry, environment and energy resources, transport, tourism and communications.

CLASSIFICATION OF EVENTS





CLASSIFICATION OF EVENTS

JANUARY

- **January 23**, Brussels (Belgium). **Aija Žigure**, President of the CSB, as a representative of the ESS delegation takes part in a strategic dialogue visit with **Koos Richelle**, Director General of the DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, to evaluate priorities in statistics and discuss data availability in social policy.

FEBRUARY

- **February 26 – March 1**, New York (United States of America). The CSB management participates in the 44th session of the UN Statistical Commission. The annual session focuses on the new international statistical standards and methodological materials, further development and improvement of international statistical system, and possible solutions for the reflection of extraordinary economic and social events in statistics.

MARCH

- **March 20 – 21**, Helsinki (Finland). In the workshop dedicated to 20-year cooperation among statistical institutions of the Baltic States and Statistics Finland, the CSB management discusses issues related to elaboration of strategies and their role in the development of statistical institutions, data standardisation options to raise data quality, broader use of administrative data, mutual compatibility of different databases and information flow automation.

APRIL

- **April 2**. Business Tendency and Territorial Statistics Section is included in the Business Statistics Department.

- **April 3–4**, Riga. Visit of **Walter Radermacher**, Director General of *Eurostat*, to the CSB on strategic development directions in official statistics of Latvia.

- **April 8-9**, Riga. The CSB holds EU institutions' expert dialogue meeting on government budget deficit and debt notification.

- **April 16**. The Cabinet reviews and confirms the informative report "On the Improvement of Preparation of Forthcoming Population and Housing Census 2021" prepared by the CSB. The CSB suggests conducting Population and Housing Census 2021 using only administrative data sources and information obtained from regular surveys carried out by the CSB, thus refusing from surveying population through the Internet or at place of residence.

- **April 18 – 19**, Vilnius (Lithuania). During a meeting at the Baltic States' level, experts in agricultural statistics share their experience on the survey of agricultural holdings structure, use of plant protection statistics and calculations of accounts for agriculture.

ESSnet



Visit of Director General of *Eurostat* to the CSB:

(from the left) **Norberts Tālers**, Vice President of the CSB,

Aija Žigure, President of the CSB,
Walter Radermacher, Director General of *Eurostat* and **Kaspars Misāns**, Vice President of the CSB

Classification of events

- **April 29–30**, Frankfurt (Germany). In a regional conference representatives of IMF, OECD, ECB and *Eurostat* discuss the initiative of G-20 data gap and SDDS Plus.

The IMF initiative for the elimination of G-20 data gap is the result of cooperation of several international institutions coordinated by interinstitutional group for economic and financial statistics. SDDS serves as a tool for the involved countries to provide information needed to estimate and analyse systematic risks in the domestic economy, as well as gives an opportunity to assess the global financial stability.

MAY

- **May 6–8**, Geneva (Switzerland). In UNECE, *Eurostat* and OECD work sessions CSB experts analyse information on the research carried out for the evaluation of conformity among GSIM, SDMX and DDI standards used in statistical data processing. The aim of the research is to identify any nonconformities and to find spots to be described additionally to improve the pattern.

- **May 9**. Informative event for the CSB staff on the current events of the European Year of Citizens and on measures to be taken for the introduction of the *euro*.

- **May 23–24**, Moscow (Russian Federation). The CSB participates in international conference "20 Years of Modernization of Russian Statistics: Experience and Perspectives" - one of the main events of the International Year of Statistics in Russia which is devoted to the 20th anniversary of the modernisation of the Statistical Bureau of the Russian Federation.

- **May 28–29**, Riga. An interinstitutional workshop on evaluation and reflection of pension liabilities accrued-to-date in social insurance pension schemes in statistics. **Christoph Müller**, representative of the Freiburg University, presents a concept of the future pension liabilities and use of microsimulation model in estimation of such liabilities in unfunded pension schemes. Representatives of the CSB, Ministry of Welfare, Ministry of Finance, Bank of Latvia and State Social Insurance Agency take part in the workshop which also foresees training of employees in the use of microsimulation model.

- **May 29–31**, Riga. During the Baltic Steering Committee meeting the previous cooperation is evaluated, elaborating a plan for the next period. Management of the Baltic States' national statistical institutes discuss the possible creation of Baltic consortium to apply for implementation of different technical assistance projects.

JUNE

- **June 10–12**, Geneva (Switzerland). The CSB management attends the 61st plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians which covers the following topics: events that took place and methodological materials that were prepared during the reference period, work programme 2012 and its results, work programme 2013 and its coordination in the region, special task group notifications and themes for in-depth



Within the framework of the **European Day**, for the 15th time an event for the CSB employees was organised; in 2013 it was devoted to the European Year of Citizens and introduction of the **euro**



Participants of the Baltic Steering Committee meeting on 29 May 2013



EUROPEAN STATISTICAL SYSTEM



Representatives of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia become acquainted with HICP calculations

Classification of events

analysis recommended by the Conference Bureau: conceptual framework and indicators suggested for measuring sustainable development; report on identification of human resources capital; opportunities for harmonisation of the time use survey.

- CSB sports games.

JULY

- **July 1.** Legal and Corporate Services Department and Technical Operation and Maintenance Section were created in the CSB; four structural units were reorganised.

- **July 10.** The CSB confirms the quality management system with an aim to ensure high quality of statistical products and preparation process in accordance with EN ISO 9001:2008 and requirements of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

- **July 12, Brussels (Belgium).** CSB experts participate in the 3rd seminar of the EC Directorate-General for Research and Innovation "Europe 2020: Innovation Indicators" and acquaint themselves with a new innovation indicator which includes four result-oriented innovation components: impact of international patents; labour force knowledge in voluminous sectors; exports of voluminous services of hi-tech products and knowledge; dynamics of innovations in fast growing enterprises. In the elaboration of the indicator needs of policy makers, quality of the data used, data availability and international comparability, as well as sustainability of data and estimates were taken into account.

- **July 18.** In the press conference the CSB presents a new methodology for estimation of the number of population.

The CSB implements interviewers' documentation processing system elaborated by the CSB experts for the preparation and sending of interviewers' working time reports and reviews to statisticians - supervisors of the interviewers' work. The System ensures supervisors with analytical data which facilitate the decision-making process, allow saving time and expenses, as well as reduce administrative burden.

AUGUST

- **August 12.** Trilateral agreement between Statistics Estonia, the CSB and Statistics Lithuania is signed on exchange of microdata on foreign trade of goods, for research on data discrepancies and simplification of statistical calculation.

- **August 12–16, Riga.** Representatives of the Armenian National Statistical Service in a study visit organised within the framework of financial instrument TAIEX acquire the HICP calculation methodology.

- **August 25–30, Hong Kong (China).** The CSB management participates in the 59th World Statistics Congress - a global event bringing together 2 500 delegates from national statistical institutions, banks, international statistical institutions, universities and scientific circles.

Classification of events

SEPTEMBER

- **September 11–12**, Paris (France). In the international conference of Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange standards (SDMX) organised by *Eurostat* the CSB discusses introduction of SDMX and its role in the modernisation of official statistics, evaluates statistics of various countries and needs of SDMX in the field of data exchange.

- **September 30–October 3**, Geneva (Switzerland). Representatives of the CSB participate in the UNECE and *Eurostat* expert group meeting on the Population and Housing Census to discuss practice and experience of countries in organisation of Population Census 2010, and to agree on the main changes to be included in ESA recommendations for Population Census 2020. Countries presented extensive and detailed analysis of their experience, methods and practical work in the organisation of Population Census 2010, in particular on data processing and publishing summary results.

- **September 30–October 15**. As a part of the observers' group of the Council of Europe, CSB experts **Pēteris Vegīis** and **Andra Jansone** participate in Population Census in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

OCTOBER

- The CSB launches internal quality audit in structural units involved in the preparation of statistics to determine conformity of statistics preparation processes with the respective requirements and evaluate their efficiency.

- **October 2–4**, Geneva (Switzerland). In the 19th International ILO Conference of Labour Statisticians CSB experts evaluate and analyse standards for labour statistics and the renewed classifications.

- **October 10**. The CSB signs an agreement with Customs of Finland on the exchange of microdata on foreign trade of goods, research on data discrepancies and simplification of statistical production.

- **October 11**, Riga. The CSB participates in the Career Week and informs participants on the use of mathematical statistics in the CSB work, thus inciting interest on sample surveys and time series analysis in students.

- **October 21–22**, Riga. In a study visit representatives of the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics become acquainted with the CSB experience in Tourism statistics and Tourism satellite accounts.

NOVEMBER

- **November 12–13**, Tallinn (Estonia). In the 25th Conference of the Estonian Statistical Society "Demographic Processes in the Baltic Sea Region in the 21st Century" and in the 17th workshop on Population Census of the Baltic States, CSB experts analyse

World Statistics Day



Service • Professionalism • Integrity

October 20 - **World Statistics Day**, celebrated already for **the third time** to raise public awareness of the contributions and achievements of official statistics



Study visit of the representatives of the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics on Tourism statistics and Tourism satellite accounts

Classification of events

demographic processes in the Baltic Sea region: ageing of the population, new forms of family, migration and ethnic issues. Despite the similar weather conditions, the results of Population and Housing Census 2011 reveal a number of differences between the countries.

Representatives from Latvia present innovations implemented during the course of Population Census 2011, and introduce a new methodology for estimating the number of population taking into account unregistered migration. During Population Census 2011 data protection methods were examined in Latvia and it was concluded that there was no method available to ensure data protection in hypercubes.

- **November 13–15**, Riga. In a study visit representatives of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Montenegro statistical institutions cover issues related to the Household Budget Survey - organisation, practical procedure and data control measures.



Eduardo Barredo Capelot, Director of *Eurostat* Social Statistics Directorate, and CSB Social Statistics experts discuss ESS social statistics future challenges

DECEMBER

- **December 6**, Riga. Visit of **Eduardo Barredo Capelot**, Director of *Eurostat* Social Statistics Directorate, on achievements in ESS social statistics and future tasks.

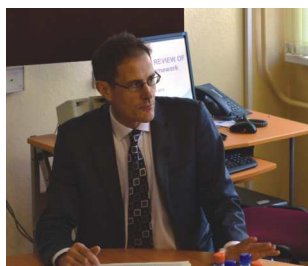
- **December 8–12**, Amman (Jordan). Within the framework of Twinning project "Strengthening the Capabilities of the Department of Statistics in Jordan" CSB expert **Mārtiņš Liberts** visits the Department of Statistics in Jordan with an aim to evaluate the use of sample survey and time series analysis methodology, and to provide support in the elaboration of the training plan for the employees of the Department of Statistics in Jordan.

- **December 9–10**, Riga. OECD representatives inform the CSB on the accession requirements.

- **December 10 – 11**, Vilnius (Lithuania). Meeting of representatives of the Baltic States was organised to debate over issues related to EU-SILC, Household Budget Survey and modernisation of social statistics: future development of social statistics and changes in the Baltic States, latest projects and approach of countries to data preparation and publication.

The countries are aware of the need for more extensive use of administrative data sources in the future.

- **December 17**. The Cabinet of Ministers adopts NPSI for 2014.
- **December 19**. Annual meeting of the CSB project managers.



David Brackfield, Administrator of OECD Statistics Directorate informs the CSB on the accession requirements

STATISTICAL DIMENSIONS





STATISTICAL DIMENSIONS

Insight into the daily work of the CSB in 2013

Training of statisticians of the Data Collection and Processing Centre on innovation and research statistics and on the use of report **1-e-commerce** "Report on the Use of Information Technologies in Enterprises". The training focused on practical issues and cooperation with respondents: introducing the aim of the survey, answering questions, and explaining the methodology.

To ensure timelier data, **shorter publication deadlines** were introduced to several indicators:

- by one day – industrial turnover index,
- by 5 days – data on the use of ICT,
- by 14 days – informative newsletter „Industrial Production Volume”,
- from 45 days to 30 days after the report period – for monthly milk statistics.

STATISTICAL DIMENSIONS

In order to enhance work efficiency and productivity last year the CSB developed in several directions. The main tasks included meeting the public needs for various statistical data, methodology improvement, development of new indicators and implementation of innovative methods. Data users were informed on the development trends in the national economy. The CSB compiled and published indicators of the system of national accounts of Latvia, ensured calculation of general government sector financial and non-financial accounts, improved foreign trade statistics, elaborated and published information on prices, agriculture and environment.

Last year the CSB improved statistical methodology, implemented mathematical modelling, and improved sample survey data weighting methodology in order to improve accuracy and coordination of statistics.

The institution was engaged in organisation, compilation, analysis and publishing of the national statistical information.

Each year the CSB prepares and submits the following year's NPSI to the Cabinet of Ministers for approval. This document lists the whole scope of **statistical information** for each statistical sector to be collected in the country, identifies the responsible institution and frequency of data collection. Preparing the NPSI for 2014 and studying the needs of other institutions, the CSB also compiled information on personal data used for the production of statistics. It was needed in order to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Personal Data Protection Law.

The **key courses of action** in 2013:

1. Provision of precise, reliable and timely statistical information to domestic and foreign data users for decision-making and research purposes, thus also promoting exchange of opinions.
2. Processing and publishing statistical information obtained from Population and Housing Census 2011. It includes both – general information on the situation in the country and information in breakdown by administrative territory.
3. Harmonisation of statistical indicators to be included in state registers and other information systems and implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice.
4. Provision of statistical information for the new European Union initiatives.

For implementing the **macroeconomic** policy the CSB prepared statistical information (including information on the macroeconomic situation in the country) needed for taking decisions by the Parliament, state and local government institutions. Statistical information was produced also to meet the needs of entrepreneurs and the general public. Data users are informed on the development trends in the national

Statistical dimensions

economy. In order to be able to compare the GDP and volume changes of its indicators against any year of the time series, in 2013 the base year used for the GDP calculations was changed. If previously data were available at constant prices of 2000, now they are recalculated to the prices of 2010. Base year is the year in the prices of which the GDP and time series of its indicators are recalculated. The new time series allow more efficient analysis of the processes taking place in the economy, because the comparable period is closer to the base year, which reduces impact of structural changes to the total amounts. Given that data users are more interested in the GDP data of recent years, in future the reference year will be changed every five years.

Use and supply tables at current prices are elaborated on a regular basis. The CSB prepared use and supply tables for 2010; they provide users with information on the structure of production costs and flows of goods and services produced in the country.

Development of methodology and quality of government financial statistics are defined as the top priorities both at the European and national level. *Eurostat* works on the improvement of methodology, organises research on the current situation and clarifies opinions of member states on a regular basis, also involving CSB specialists in macroeconomic statistics.

Last year the CSB improved foreign trade data compilation procedure, combining data on trade with non-member countries received from the SRS with the information on dispatches and arrivals from the EU Member States obtained from CSB *Intrastat* surveys, thus on average processing data on 6.4 thsd respondents monthly.

Intense discussions lasting for several years on the methodology principles of the European System of National and Regional Accounts and statistical data contents, volume and submission deadlines, last year resulted in European Parliament and Council Regulation No 549/2013 on European System of National and Regional Accounts in the European Union (ESA 2010). With ESA 2010 there will also be new requirements for sending data of the national accounts; therefore in 2013 testing of new Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange standard was commenced.

At the same time the CSB was preparing for the introduction of the new ESA 2010, as well as working on the improvement of the methodology used in the calculations of national accounts in order to achieve compliance of the GDP calculations with the requirements of internationally recognised methodology. In 2013 impact of ESA 2010 changes on statistical indicators as well as on general government sector indicators was evaluated, recommending a number of possible changes to budget classification.

Experts' task group of the CSB and the Bank of Latvia has finished elaboration of revision policy for the harmonised statistical data.

A number of indicators were developed in **social statistics** in order to capture

In order to improve data quality and raise the awareness of enterprises on the methodology used in surveys, enterprises' report evaluation task group assessed the recommended improvements for **17 forms**

General government budget deficit at the end of 2013 decreased to **1.0%** of the GDP and comprised **223.8 mln euros**

General government sector debt at the end of 2013 was **8 873.3 mln euros** or **38.1%** of the GDP

Statistical dimensions



During the year **61.8 thsd** people and **36.4 thsd** households were interviewed

Within the framework of the **Labour Force Survey** 15.9 thsd households were surveyed and 26.4 thsd persons were interviewed; in **Household Budget Survey** data were obtained from 3 932 households

processes in the society more comprehensively. Eduardo Barredo Capelot, Director of *Eurostat* Social Statistics Directorate, assessed the accomplishments and topicalities in social statistics. He also acquainted himself with the new CSB - developed methodology for estimating the number of population on the basis of statistical classification. For convenient access to all the administrative data needed for the calculations, elaboration of Social Statistics data warehouse was launched. The course of this project was also presented to the representatives of *Eurostat*.

Issues related to publishing results of Population and Housing Census 2011 were also discussed. In June 2013 the CSB published data on housing, and in August – on households and families. Additional information was prepared on the professions and sectors of employment in breakdown by age and sex, level of education and place of residence (local government). For the first time the CSB prepared detailed data on the neighbourhoods of Riga, characterising their demographic and ethnic structure, use of languages, and housing conditions.

The CSB is constantly preparing for Population and Housing Census 2021. In 2013, after the revision of informative report "On Improvement of the Forthcoming Population and Housing Census 2021", the Cabinet of Ministers stipulated that Population Census must be carried out using administrative data sources, as well as information obtained from surveys carried out by the CSB on a regular basis. The CSB has elaborated new methodology for the estimation of the number of population. In order to evaluate its accuracy and assess information available from the administrative data sources, micro population census must be carried out.

We completed the research work on the possibilities to reduce respondent burden for Structure of Earnings Survey 2014, which in accordance with Regulation of Council of Europe No 530/1999 is carried out every four years. The research mostly focused on the optimisation of sample creation principles and possible use of administrative data.

In cooperation with other institutions the CSB also addressed the issues related to administrative burden of local governments by searching ways to reduce the number of reports to be submitted and to execute the task set by the Cabinet of Ministers: by 1 October 2014 prepare amendments in the regulations for examples of State Statistics reports and questionnaire forms and to ensure that in the future form No 2-labour is used to compile information on the compensation of local government expenditures.

In order to prepare for the introduction of new ISCED 2011 classification in the Labour Force Survey, a questionnaire was elaborated and a pilot survey was carried out. In accordance with the new classification questions on education were included in all household surveys in social statistics. Research on the options to use administrative data (SRS and SEA databases) is also carried out.

Use of administrative registers was expanded for conducting EU-SILC 2013 survey:

Statistical dimensions

for households participating in the survey for the first time several indicators characterising the housing conditions were added to the preprint. Closer cooperation was achieved in order to use local government data on the paid-out social benefits also in future EU-SILC surveys.

Carrying out the annual EU-SILC survey, new annex – module "Material Deprivation and Well-being" was elaborated and included in the form. Aim of this module is to obtain additional information on material deprivation, as well as data on the general life experience, emotional health and satisfaction with various factors of life.

Pilot seasonal adjustment of statistical data on job vacancies was carried out, as well as comparative analysis of the results and recommendations for choosing the most suitable method (direct or indirect) were created to prepare for the execution of requirements of European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No 453/2008.

For the first time the CSB prepared annual quality reports on the evaluation methods of acquisition, calculation and quality of indicators of short-term statistical data on employment and job vacancies prepared in the NRME environment, which ensures standardised methodological information on the data provided by all EU countries.

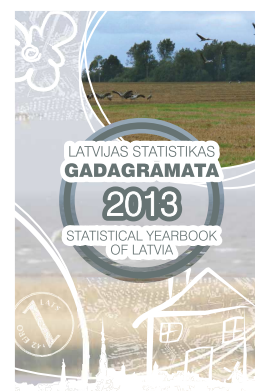
In order to send employment indicators of the four large sector groups to *Eurostat*, the CSB switched to index form and started seasonal adjustment of the other indicator – labour remuneration – as it is determined by the regulation on short-term statistics.

In **price statistics** last year house price index, consumer price index, producer price index in industry, as well as construction cost index, services producer price index and import and export unit value index was calculated and published in accordance with the schedule, optimising the use of different data sources. The sample and structure were updated for all indices to be calculated. For the research of formation mechanism of consumer prices the CSB prepared and submitted microdata array to specialists from the Bank of Latvia. In the reference year work on the update of consumer price index basket 2014 was completed.

To meet the short-term statistics requirements of the countries belonging to the *euro* area, import unit value index for 2013 was recalculated in accordance with the Statistical Classification of Products by Activity (CPA 2008). For the first time respondents had to indicate their nationality in the registration of producer prices in industry and import prices. It was needed to ensure calculation of price indices separately for export or import of goods and services from the euro area countries, non-*euro* area countries and the rest of the world.

At the beginning of 2013 HICP compliance monitoring was carried by *Eurostat* experts to ensure that transition to the *euro* in Latvia is carried out in accordance with

Owing to the reduction of administrative burden and the received SRS data it will be possible to exclude **16.4 thsd (24%)** enterprises from the list of enterprises to be surveyed in **2014**



Statistical dimensions

the EU requirements. Opinion of *Eurostat* is included in the ECB Convergence Report of June 2013 and it confirms comparability, accuracy and credibility of the HICP methodology calculated by the CSB.

This assessment of the work performed CSB specialists is particularly significant in the context of transition to the *euro*.

Price statisticians surveyed around 2.3 thsd outlet and service providers monthly and compiled around 20 thsd prices. In 2013 around 700 enterprises were included in the sample of producer price index in industry, each month obtaining around 3 300 prices. In turn, for the needs of SPPI experimental calculations were introduced in the new sectors, thus the SPPI sample has grown to around 4 000 enterprises. It was possible since the already collected and compiled data on hourly labour costs were used repeatedly for the needs of wages statistics.

Enterprise statistics next to the regular activities focused on the improvement of statistical data acquisition process in order to raise the quality of the information received and to reduce administrative burden in state statistical reports using data from state registers.

Upon processing statistical information particular attention was paid to the improvement of the use of internal and external data sources and technologies to ensure accurate, timely and comparable business statistics data. The quality of the Statistical Business Register data was evaluated: if earlier the register only used labour statistics information and information available in annual complex reports, with the changes of the register maintenance requirements it was concluded that for the provision of timely, accurate and coordinated information also other reports submitted by the CSB should be used. It allows improving the procedure for processing Statistical Business Register data and thus ensuring timeliness and accuracy of information provided by the external data sources. Besides, it also helps to raise quality of statistical information and reduce administrative burden of submitters of state statistical reports.

In accordance with the tasks foreseen for NPSI compilation, the CSB ensured processing and analysis of the statistical information, obtained from statistical reports, as well as data available in state registers and other information systems. The procedure for changing NACE codes was elaborated and is used in the daily work of the CSB.

In **agriculture statistics** the following data on crop production and livestock production were compiled: sown area of agricultural crops, harvested production and average yield, use of fertilisers for agricultural crops, number of livestock and production of livestock products. Before selection of holdings to be included in Farm Surveys 2013 the CSB updated the Statistical Farm Register information using both - telephone interviews and information of the administrative data sources (Animal Register of Agricultural Data Centre and Integrated Administration and Control System

A training on the use of Statistical Business Register in daily work and on enterprise selection for surveys was organised for the **employees responsible for the survey forms**

Statistical dimensions

of Rural Support Service) which, in turn, is used in recalculation of economic size of holdings.

Results on the survey on pesticide use on cereals and rape for yield of 2012 were compiled and analysed, drafting a quality report on statistical data on trade of pesticides in 2011.

The specialists also analysed and compiled results of Farm Survey 2012 on the plantation of apple trees. The final results were sent to *Eurostat*.

In 2013 methodology for the survey on farm crop production and livestock production was elaborated: for the selection of holdings for crop production survey standard output of crop production was used, and for the survey on livestock production – standard output of livestock production. For each survey the sample size was reduced from 4 thsd to 2.5 thsd holdings.

In **transport and tourism statistics** the CSB continued work with the following surveys: survey on lorries including 5.2 thsd respondents, survey on border crossings with 21.2 thsd respondents and population survey on recreational and business trips with 12.0 thsd respondents (households). Transport statistics data in breakdown by region were sent to *Eurostat*, for the first time using the new application programme in *eDAMIS* system which ensures high level of data protection.

For the survey on freight transport by road a respective method was developed and preliminary forecasting of the quarterly results was started, thus obtaining data on the activity results one month before the final results. Comparison of forecasts with the final results showed that offset is insignificant and this method can be used in the future.

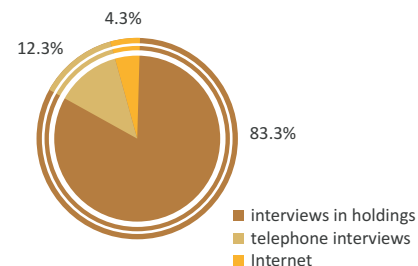
QUALITY IN STATISTICS AND MATHEMATICAL SUPPORT

In order to raise the data accuracy level last year the CSB improved statistical methodology, implemented mathematical modelling, and updated the sample survey methodology.

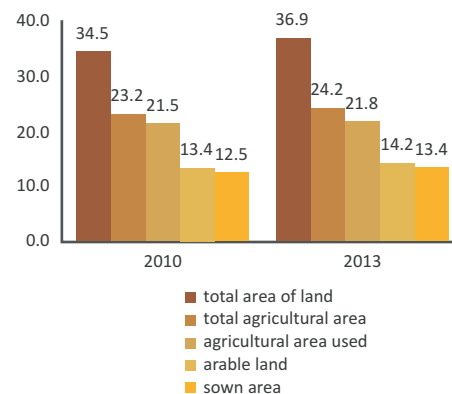
To ensure high quality statistical information and efficiency of the data preparation process, the CSB continued work on the elaboration and implementation of the quality management system for the main activities. The CSB quality management system was elaborated in accordance with EN ISO 9001:2008, European Statistics Code of Practice and other international recommendations on the preparation of statistical information. The CSB also identified the general aims and directions in the field of quality management and adopted the quality policy.

To ensure that the quality management system is well-functioning, theoretical and practical training was organised for the CSB employees. 470 employees acquired the following themes: maintenance and improvement of the system, internal quality audit,

Data acquisition methods for Farm Structure Survey 2013, %



Average size of holdings, ha



Within the framework of the first CSB internal quality audit **107** processes and **88** employees were audited in 2013

Statistical dimensions

and quality management processes in the institution.

In 2013 the CSB launched the internal quality audit in the structural units involved in the production of statistics to check the conformity between the quality management system processes and the respective requirements.

CSB specialists got involved in the improvement of ESS quality provision framework participating in *Eurostat* Task Force meetings on the elaboration of detailed expertise methodology of European Statistics Code of Practice. The Task Force elaborated the methodology needed for carrying out detailed expertise in member states with an aim to verify conformity with the European Statistics Code of Practice in the institutions producing official European statistical information.

The key principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice stipulate that burden related to data provision has to be commensurable with the needs of users and respondent burden must not be excessive. Work environment and capacity of the CSB is increasingly affected by the growing requirements for acquisition of indicators, which are directly related to balancing respondent burden with the needs of data users. To reduce respondent burden, the CSB tends to use information from national administrative registers, databases and information systems more extensively. In cooperation with other state institutions the CSB coordinates information flow and data submission deadlines, specifies and supplements methodological explanations, ensures data quality, as well as controls and analyses data to be submitted in order to obtain as complete and qualitative information from administrative data sources as possible. An analytic report on the possibilities for using administrative data for reduction of respondent burden was developed, identifying possible the factors and problems.



Mārtiņš Liberts, Deputy Head of the Mathematical Support Section of the CSB, delivers a lecture on the novelties in methodology for estimating the number of population to members of the Latvian Statisticians Association

In the **mathematical support area** work on improving the statistics production methods was continued and new methods were elaborated both for full scope surveys and sample surveys, as well as for time series analysis. Different options for using administrative data sources in the elaboration of direct and indirect estimation methods were studied.

Elaboration of a new population statistics method was the top priority in the field of research. The methodology developed at the beginning of 2013 is based on statistical classification. The aim of the statistical classification is to divide population registered in Latvia into two classes (groups) – those who actually live in Latvia (resident population) and those who live abroad. Model of the statistical classification was created using logical regression analysis. Nine administrative data sources and information from the Population and Housing Census is used in the model.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF STATISTICS





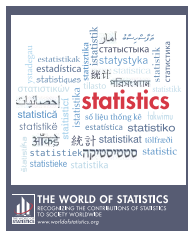
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF STATISTICS

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF STATISTICS



2013 was the **International Year of Statistics**. It was the first worldwide International Year of Statistics. 1 810 organisations got involved in the activities of the International Year of Statistics in the whole world to explain and promote the increasing role of statistics in the contemporary world. Why has statistics gained such attention and why is its significance emphasised today? What is statistics? On the one hand, this is dry theory which rarely can captivate. Basically it belongs to the social sciences sector which investigates facts and processes in the society, changes and interaction of different factors. Statistics provides access to summarised data, draw conclusions, and reduce uncertainty on the processes taking place in the society and national economy, model various processes. Not only it helps to clarify the situation, it also allows implementing corresponding policies at national, municipal and enterprise level. The role of timely and quality statistical information in the process of taking political decisions has increased. Within the framework of the International Year of Statistics the role of statistics was explained to each member of the society: it provides information on easily comprehensible and interesting processes, an opportunity to access databases in the Internet and to model sets of data needed.

The International Year of Statistics involved professional statistics institutions, higher education institutions and other educational establishments, state institutions and enterprises, research organisations and associations, among which - the Central Statistical Bureau and Latvian Statisticians Association.



EUROPEAN YEAR OF CITIZENS





EUROPEAN YEAR OF CITIZENS

EUROPEAN YEAR OF CITIZENS

Section 20 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union:

"1. **Citizenship of the Union** is hereby created. Each person with citizenship of some member country, is citizen of the Union. Citizenship of the Union supplements, not replaces country citizenship.

2. Union citizens have Agreement granted rights and imposed obligations. Inter alia they have:

a) the right to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States;;

b) the right to vote and to stand as candidates in elections to the European Parliament and in municipal elections in their Member State of residence, under the same conditions as nationals of that State;

c) the right to enjoy, in the territory of a third country in which the Member State of which they are nationals is not represented, the protection of the diplomatic and consular authorities of any Member State on the same conditions as the nationals of that State;;

d) the right to petition the European Parliament, to apply to the European Ombudsman, and to address the institutions and advisory bodies of the Union in any of the Treaty languages and to obtain a reply in the same language.

These rights shall be exercised in accordance with the conditions and limits defined by the Treaties and by the measures adopted thereunder."

The European Parliament announced 2013 a **European Year of Citizens** to inform the society on the rights given by the status of an EU citizen. The main aim of the initiative is to enhance the understanding of the EU citizens on the Union, as well as to involve society in discussions on the EU future.

Twenty years have passed since the Maastricht agreement, which implemented the EU citizenship. To all Europeans this means free movement within the territory of the EU, rights to work anywhere in the EU, rights to use consular aid of other EU countries. EU citizens have the rights to turn to the EU official institutions, to use European Ombudsman's assistance in human right issues, as well as to receive help in the territory of their own country from the EU institutions.

The European Year of Citizens reminds us how important it is to know the individual rights and to be able to exercise them correctly.

European citizenship was deemed to become the main status of citizens of member states, lowering citizens in similar situations to use their legal rights regardless of their nationality. However, opportunities of the EU citizenship are not close to being exhausted. We all must work hand in hand to strengthen the European values and raise awareness of our responsibility for our future.

The origin of the citizenship dates back to the Ancient Greece where the citizens of the poleis considered it as a guarantee of their freedom.

Today the significance of citizenship has developed so far that it is practically impossible to separate it from the daily life. Citizenship means not only belonging to a particular country and society, but also society's ethical and behaviour standards and understanding on what is acceptable, right and wrong.

The European Year of Citizenship is a part of a broader set of measures, aiming at strengthening our European identity and raising our awareness of the fact that we live in one of the largest democratic societies, world's largest economy, peace and welfare, which is missing in a number of other places all around the world. In 2014 we will have an opportunity to elect the next parliament which is the only institution directly elected by the **European citizens**.

The CSB organised an event devoted to the **European Day** with motto "European Year of Citizenship", where representatives of the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Finance presented their programme for the European Year of Citizens, provided information on the progress in the introduction of the *euro* and discussed topics related to rights and obligations of European citizens.

PROJECTS





www.cros-portal.eu



Implementation of the first grant project in 2003 was supervised by **Dzintra Bērziņa**, Deputy Director of the Business Statistics Department

MAIN RESULTS OF THE PROJECT ARE AVAILABLE ON EUROSTAT HOMEPAGE:

publication –

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-NP-06-026/EN/KS-NP-06-026-EN.PDF

database –

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/european_business/special_sbs_topics/demand_services

PROGRAMME OF EUROPEAN UNION INITIATIVE FORMATION – 10 YEARS WITH THE CSB

Over the last ten years a lot of work was put into ESS to satisfy the increasing demand for new and high quality statistical information on economic, social and environmental processes and to support the existing and future directions of policies. The importance of statistical data used to analyse the management of European economics has increased significantly. More than ever before accessibility of timely, precise and comparable statistical information is a significant precondition to implement the policy, both at the European and national level. The CSB, in order to work successfully in the dynamic ESS environment, needs to improve its work and data processing solutions in accordance with the requirements on a regular basis. Activities of such new initiatives are financed in line with the European Union grant agreements.

Since 2003 – already for **10 years** – the CSB has been implementing projects financed by grant scheme, aim of which is to enhance development of statistics. Projects are implemented in all statistical areas – new statistical data and data bases are created, and methodologies and data quality - improved. Recently both the number and the volume of projects was variable. Due to raising the minimum value of the EU co-financing to 50 000 *euros* in 2011, annual amount of projects implemented has decreased. Comparing the same work amount invested in the implementation of the project in Latvia and in other EU Member States, due to the low remuneration the CSB could not reach the minimum threshold set in the project proposal. However, starting with 2012, in line with the implementation guidelines of the grant projects *Eurostat* has determined the minimum amount of the EU part's agreement of 25 000 *euros*, which gives an opportunity to reach the minimum amount set by *Eurostat* in project applications and to increase the number of applications. Every year there are more than **40 active projects** in the institution. The CSB also successfully implements *ESSnet* research projects, aim of which is improvement or elaboration of statistical methodology, and the result of projects (for instance, forms, methodologies) is available and obligatory to all ESS countries. The CSB will continue participating in projects, since it allows attracting significant extra financing for implementation of requirements set in the EU regulations, to gain international experience, to promote achievements of Latvian statistics and to contribute to the ESS development. Over ten years Latvia has implemented 184 initiative projects in the amount of 7.7 mln *euros*.

A number of CSB specialists have gained significant experience in supervision and implementation of grant projects. For instance, **Natalja Kaljiņa**, Senior Officer of the Business Statistics Department Trade and Services Statistics Section, has supervised and ensured implementation of **10** projects, **Inga Kunstvere**, Director of Price Statistics Department, has implemented **9** projects, and **Andra Lazdiņa**, Senior Officer of the Agricultural and Environment Statistics Department Environment and Energy Statistics Section, – **8** projects.

Projects

First project in 2003 was supervised by **Dzintra Bērziņa**, Deputy Director of the Business Statistics Department. Work in project "Demand for Services" lasted two years. The aim of the project was to determine the meaning of the services – to find to what extent services offered by other enterprises are used in business and how much work is done on own account. Within the framework of the project, information available to the CSB on the amount of services bought was analysed, also obtaining data on the use of services by enterprises. The survey included enterprises of various sectors. Grant agreement determined that during the implementation of the project, a form needs to be elaborated and tested according to the united methodology, developed by task force, data must be collected, results must be compiled in technical size tables and sent to *Eurostat*. Dzintra Bērziņa recalls that there were no guidelines or suggestions on the introduction of the project available at that time; however, *Eurostat* highly appreciated the work done by the CSB within the framework of this project. Results achieved were included in the joint final report on the project.

Project manager **Natalja Kaļiņina** coordinates work in grant projects by organising surveys on the use of ICT. The surveys are developed working closely with EU Member States and the OECD; they are also adjusted to the ever changing needs of users and policy makers.

Starting with 2004, the CSB with financial support of the EU annually carries out **survey on the ICT use in households and by individuals**. The aim of the survey is to ensure data users with high quality statistical information on the use of computer and Internet. The data obtained show that since 2004 the share of population which use Internet has increased by 34.4 percentage points, in 2013 reaching 77.9% of the total number of population aged 16-74 years.

Detailed data on the use of ICT among population in breakdown by population age group and sex, by economic activity (occupation) and educational level attained, as well as by statistical region obtained during the implementation of project were published in the CSB homepage. In turn, data on households are broken down by demographic type of households, level of income and statistical region.

To obtain additional data on the development of the information society, **each year** ICT surveys are supplemented with a special section containing questions on the use of mobile internet for enterprise needs, use of social media, e-administration services, ICT safety, e-skills, electronic and automatic data exchange with systems outside the enterprise, identification of radio frequency and use of various technologies.

Each year the CSB also carries out **survey on the use of ICT and e-commerce in enterprises**. Such survey, according to united methodology, is carried out in all EU Member States. The aim of the survey is to ensure data users with quality statistical



Senior Officer of the Business Statistics Department Trade and Services Statistics Section, project manager **Natalja Kaļiņina** (from the right) and Senior Officer of the Mathematical Support Division **Jeļena Voronova** perform non-response analysis for the survey on the use of ICT and e-commerce in enterprises



Projects

information on the use of computers and the Internet in enterprises and development of e-commerce.

In the survey on the use of information and communication technologies and e-commerce in enterprises with 10 and more employees use of computers and Internet, as well as Internet homepage of enterprises are considered as the main indicators in ICT development, since the use of other ICT options for various needs of enterprise mainly depend on these three factors. 10 years ago the CSB included enterprises of financial sector in the ICT survey, but at the moment there is no such need since today all banks use the Internet.

Work conquers everything

(Latin phrase)

More and more enterprises use the Internet for cooperation with state and local government institutions. Since 2006 the share of such enterprises has doubled, therefore in surveys of 2013 special attention was paid to this issue.

Evaluating own experience of many years, **Natalja Kalijina** emphasises that CSB employees engage in the implementation of projects willingly, since it is an opportunity to gain new knowledge and skills, analyse and evaluate correlations, communicate with statisticians and ICT experts from other EU countries, participate in international task force and elaborate new methodology.

During the last few years Director of Price Statistics Department **Inga Kunstvere** has supervised 9 projects on provision of main information for PPP. Statistical surveys included in the programme are coordinated and supervised by *Eurostat*, OECD and World Bank (in task of UN).



Director of Price Statistics Department **Inga Kunstvere** (from the right) and Head of Consumer Price Indices Section **Natalja Dubkova** discuss provision of main information for Purchasing Power Parities programme and calculations of Consumer Price Index

The aim of the projects implemented by the CSB is to ensure *Eurostat* with information that is needed for calculating purchasing parities. Purchasing parities even up impact of differences in price level measures and thus allow carrying out dimensional comparisons for Gross Domestic Product of Member States. Results of the calculations of purchasing parities are applied in assignment of EU structural funds. **Inga Kunstvere** admits that a professional team was formed for the implementation of the project, and emphasises benefits from the participation in projects. This is professional experience, cooperation, contacts, a chance to share knowledge and experience with colleagues of other countries.

Under the supervision of Senior Officer **Andra Lazdiņa** various grant projects on environmental statistics and accounts were implemented. Environmental statistics and accounts include various issues: air emission accounts, waste statistics, environmental taxes, material flow, forest accounts, energy flow accounts, environmental protection expenditure accounts, etc. As subjects of the projects are very different, each following project is a challenge since each subject must be started from a scratch. Environment accounts are a comparatively new statistical area which still is being developed and

Projects

expanded with new environmental account subjects, also improving the methodology.

Often during the implementation of projects it appeared that methodology manuals elaborated by *Eurostat* are too theoretical – classifications and definitions are described in detail, but methods for data calculations are very general, mainly examples from experience of other countries are provided. Therefore during the implementation of projects creative approach must be used, experience of other countries must be adopted to the situation in Latvia or even new calculation methods must be discovered.

Andra Lazdiņa indicates that most important projects were devoted to air emission accounts, environmental taxes and material flow accounts. They were implemented to prepare for the implementation of European environmental account regulation.

In December 2013 work in *ESSnet* project on conformity of concepts and methods used in business and trade statistics was completed. The project lasted for three years, and CSB specialists worked in two out of three project components: 1st component – on conformity of statistical units and 2nd component – on target population, sample frames, reference periods, classifications and their use. The **common aim** of the project was to evaluate conformity of definitions and methods used in business and trade statistics, as well as to make recommendations for perfection of business statistics data compilation and for ensuring comparability in the EU.

Participation in *ESSnet* project is a team work and challenge for employees who would like to promote own career prospects, improve communication and presentation skills, gain experience in the organisation of activities and advance own country's visibility. Even though implementation of the project was affected both by conceptual changes, and by change of employees, EU task force approvingly evaluated the contribution of Latvia. Significant contribution in the implementation of the project and elaboration of the new methodology was provided by employees from Business Statistics Department: in the framework of the 1st component – **Sarmīte Prole**, **Svetlana Jesijevska** and **Sandris Matīšiņš**, in the framework of the 2nd component – **Elīna Markaine**, **Inga Malašenko** and **Madara Liepiņa**.

Project managers confirm that aims and tasks of the projects were successfully reached and statistical information for creation of new EU initiatives - prepared.

On average projects in the amount of 280-450 thsd lats are implemented in the CSB annually, absorbing funds of budgetary programme "**Preparation of Statistical Information for the Creation of New European Union Initiatives**".

In the reference year there were 46 active grant projects, 18 projects were started from a scratch, work on 17 projects was completed, and final reports of 12 projects were prepared and sent to *Eurostat*. In total funds in the amount of 486.8 thsd lats were



Senior Officer of Environment and Energy Statistics Section **Andra Lazdiņa** positively evaluates implementation of projects supervised and aims achieved



Head of Business Register Section **Sarmīte Prole** (from the right) and project implementers – Senior Officers **Sandris Matīšiņš** and **Madara Liepiņa** – analyse results for the voluminous *ESSnet* project on the conformity of concepts and methods used in business and trade statistics

Projects

absorbed in the programme.

The largest projects implemented by the CSB in 2013:

- **Implementation of ISCED 2011**

Aim of the project – to support EU Member States in formation of such national classification of education which would correspond to the requirements of ISCED 2011.

To better prepare for implementation of national classification of education, a questionnaire for pilot survey was elaborated, which was carried out in the 3rd quarter of 2013. Opportunities for using administrative data (SRS and SEA) in the Labour Force Survey were studied.

- **Provision of basic information for purchasing power parities in 2011–2012**

Aim of the project – to provide *Eurostat* information needed for calculating purchasing parities. Calculations of EU purchasing power parities are used in allocation of EU structural funds. This information is used in the EU, as well as by other international organisations (IMF, World Bank, OECD). In 2011 – 2012 within the framework of the project the CSB carried out surveys on prices of consumer goods and presurveys, surveys on prices of capital goods, surveys on housing agencies, prepared information on the rent of housing, wages and GDP structure, as well as updated data descriptions. Data on purchasing power parities provided by the Member States are processed by *Eurostat*.

- **Farm Structure Survey 2013**

Aim of the project – to ensure data users with qualitative and internationally comparable statistical information on structure of holdings, which will be used to evaluate development trends of agricultural sector, as well as to plan and evaluate the agricultural policy.

Farm Structure Survey is a sample survey which is carried out once in three years. In the survey information on 30 thsd holdings was obtained: on 25 thsd holdings information was received with the mediation of interviewers from Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre, on 3.7 thsd – by carrying out telephone interviews and 1.3 thsd holdings submitted data electronically.

To reduce respondent burden for provision of data for Farm Structure Survey, the CSB used administrative data sources:

- on the number of cattle, sheep, goats, horses, rabbits and bee colonies, as well as organic livestock production by species – Agricultural Data Centre (ADC) Animal Register;



CSB project managers evaluate the annual accomplishments

Projects

- on sown area of organic agricultural crops – ADC Organic Farming Statistics Information System;
- on farm development support activities over the last three years – Rural Support Service (RSS) Information on the Integrated Administration and Control System.

- **Energy resources accounts**

The project will last until June 2014. In the course of the project data on energy resources flows in Latvia from 2008-2012 will be obtained in physical units (terajoules), also studying the methodology and data collection and calculation practice.

- **Survey on disability and social inclusion**

The survey was carried out for the first time; it provides internationally comparable statistical indicators on the quality of life of the Latvian residents with long-term health problems and functional disability, their inclusion in society and social collaboration – employment, accessibility to environment and transport, access to the Internet, participation in social activities and leisure activities.

The following activities took place with the framework of grant projects in macroeconomics statistics:

- **Improvement of the quality of national accounts**, which consists of two components:

- Adaptation and implementation of ESA 2010 methodology in the social insurance pension area. Until now an unprecedented methodology aspect is the requirement to carry out calculation of pension liabilities accrued-to-date in pension schemes. According to the agreement concluded by the CSB, Freiburg University has elaborated **macrosimulation model** in Latvian pension schemes for forecasting pension liabilities accrued-to-date. The model was elaborated on the basis of statistical indicators and information on the normative regulation covering activity of pension schemes compiled by the CSB. CSB specialists are fully trained for work with the model and are able to make calculations foreseen for ESA 2010. With the help of the model mentioned it is also possible to analyse impact of various macroeconomic indicators to the liabilities accrued in pension schemes and to evaluate impact of various pension reforms. It is also possible to evaluate how much elimination of some pension scheme would cost (indirect repayment of debt to pensioners made by pension scheme). Therefore this project is **unique**. Owing to this project Latvia is one of the few EU Member States which already is able to unaided ensure implementation of new ESA 2010 requirements for the reflection of liabilities accrued in social insurance pension



To check the new skills, questions of the test must be answered!



Visit to Freiburg University during the elaboration of microsimulation model: (from the left) CSB project manager **Inta Vanovska**, Freiburg University experts **Christoph Müller** and CSB Senior Officer **Daina Medveckā**



In the meeting of 17 December 2013 CSB Project Monitoring Committee evaluates implementation results of the EU grant projects

Projects

schemes in national statistics.

- Research to improve estimates of equity capital consumption taking into account ESA 2010 requirements in relation to expenditure on research and development was carried out.

CSB Project Monitoring Committee analyses implementation of projects on a regular basis, evaluates applications of new projects, as well as analyses results of projects accomplished and aims reached. Evaluating results of projects accomplished, the committee has concluded that aims defined and results expected in general are achieved in the projects.

In August and September 2013 *Eurostat* audited five grant projects of the CSB programme "Preparation of Statistical Information for Development of New EU Initiatives" which were concluded within the framework of European Statistics Programme 2008-2012. The aim of the audit was to verify if activities financed by *Eurostat* were correctly implemented by the CSB, if costs within the framework of project complied with the conditions of the financial regulation, and if the CSB has taken into consideration the correct financial management principle determined in the regulation. In their opinion auditors emphasised that effective internal control system is elaborated in the CSB, there is a policy that regulates all procedures, there are qualified specialists that administrate all these procedures and, if needed, they can control them. *Eurostat* auditors did not find any drawbacks or imperfections in the internal control and therefore did not give any recommendations.



Director of the Strategic Planning and Resources Management Department **Janīna Dišereite** (from the right) and project coordinators **Arturs Jaunzems** and **Dana Zariņa** discuss financial management issues of the EU grant projects

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION





INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In the EU context the CSB is a rather small player with a relatively small number of employees; however, it has active international cooperation which enhances integration of the Latvian statistical system in the ESS and promotes professional growth and rise of qualification of CSB specialists, as well as ensures defence of interests of Latvian statistics in the EU.

To qualitatively and timely prepare for and successfully organise Council of the European Union Statistics Task Force during the meeting, when Latvia will be the EU council presidency country, participants of the CSB Task Force have participated in training on a number of EU-related issues, e.g., "Institutional Framework and Legislative System of the European Union", as well as studied practical organisational work experience in Statistics Denmark and elsewhere.

COOPERATION WITH INSTITUTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

In 2013 CSB specialists continued active participation in meetings of *Eurostat* Committee, Task Force, special Task Force, EU Council Statistical Task Force, as well as in training within the framework of the programme of European Statisticians Training.

In the meetings CSB specialists presented and defended Latvia's opinion on the new EU legislative acts, participated in formulation of defence of Latvia's national interests in statistics, within the framework of own area of responsibility participated in discussions on other significant ESS development issues. CSB experts have prepared comments on about 30 draft EU legislative acts in statistics, as well as have considered, harmonised and commented on national positions and instructions under responsibility of other Latvian institutions, which are partially compulsory to the statistical sector as well, for instance, on EC notifications to Iceland, Montenegro, Georgia and Moldova.

In 2013 new legislative acts on business, foreign trade, prices, social, information society and energy statistics, data confidentiality for scientific research and ESS programme for 2013-2017, as well as Memorandum of Understanding among ESS members and members of the European Central Bank System on cooperation in the statistical area were adopted. At the end of the year there were 376 compulsory legislative acts in the statistical area in the CSB.

In 2013 *Eurostat* and OECD experts arrived to the CSB in supervision missions and consultative visits to discuss topical issues in statistics, as well as to provide information on the requirements that will be compulsory when Latvia enters the OECD:

1. Visit of **Walter Radermacher**, Director General of *Eurostat*, on strategic development directions in official statistics.
2. EU institution expert dialogue meeting on government budget deficit and debt

376 compulsory legislative acts in statistics area in the CSB

International cooperation

notification.

3. Visit of Eduardo Barredo Capelot, Director of Eurostat Social Statistics Directorate, on achievements in ESS social statistics and future tasks.

4. Visit of OECD experts on explanatory issues regarding entrance in the organisation.

PARTICIPATION IN TECHNICAL AID PROJECTS COFINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The CSB continued cooperation with Statistics Denmark in preparation of various project applications and implementation of projects financed by the EU. At the end of 2013 a twinning project for strengthening capabilities of the Department of Statistics in Jordan was taken up, consultative visit of CSB expert **Mārtiņš Liberts** took place to Department of Statistics in Jordan on the evaluation of the use of sample survey methodology to enhance conversion of Department of Statistics in Jordan in accordance with the EU methodological requirements. Together with employees of Department of Statistics in Jordan training needs were evaluated and determined and training plan was prepared. A twinning project for strengthening capabilities of the State Statistics Service of Ukraine was launched at the end of 2013; however, within its framework no activities were carried out.

Within the framework of cooperation project IPA representatives of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Montenegro statistical institutions arrived to the CSB in a study visit on the organisation of Household Budget Survey. CSB expert **Lidija Spārīte** provided information on Latvia's experience, which was highly appreciated by participants of the workshop.

Within the framework of TAIEX programme experts from the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia arrived to the CSB in experience exchange visit on HICP.

COOPERATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF BALTIC REGION

Cooperation among statistical institutions of the Baltic States was continued in coordination of EU projects and activities, and harmonisation of opinions, as well as in exchange of experience. Within the framework of trilateral cooperation, employees from Baltic States' statistical institutions met in four events: in Lithuania – in two events, in Estonia and Latvia – in one event in each country.

The most important of these events was Annual Baltic Steering Committee Meeting (in Riga) on evaluation, planning and organisational issues of **trilateral** cooperation and cooperation opportunities in implementation of projects financed by the EU. The meeting on the EU-SILC, Household Budget Survey and Modernisation of Social Statistics was also of great significance.



Study visit of representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Montenegro statistical institutions regarding organisation of the Household Budget Survey and practical procedure and data control issues



Pēteris Veģis, Deputy Director of Social Statistics Department, reports on Latvia's experience in Population Census in conference organised by the Estonian Statisticians Association "Demographic Processes in the Baltic Sea Region in the 21st Century"

International cooperation

Several bilateral consultations also took place last year: with colleagues from Statistics Estonia – on dissemination of Population and Housing Census data, and with colleagues from Statistics Lithuania – on solutions for remote access to confidential statistics data for scientific needs.

COOPERATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF VARIOUS PROJECTS FINANCED BY INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Within the framework of UN cooperation project experience exchange visit of representatives of the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova took place in the CSB on the organisation of social statistics survey and data quality control; in its turn, CSB expert **Andra Jansone** together with specialists from Moldova in Chisinau carried out practical organisational work of the survey and advised her Moldavian colleagues on how to carry out data quality control. In the Council of Europe Monitoring Group CSB social statistics experts **Andra Jansone** and **Pēteris Veģis** took part in Population Census in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

CSB experts **Edīte Miezīte** and **Dita Virse** shared their experience in tourism statistics and elaboration of tourism satellite accounts with representatives of the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics.

PARTICIPATION IN SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Leading employees and specialists from the CSB participated in several international activities important for statistics on the development of sector, statistical standards and methodology, and growth of importance of statistics in global financial crisis. Main of them:

- annual conference of heads of the EU statistical institutions, where the main issue was discussion of memorandum on the use of Big data. Priorities and possibilities to simplify processes using cost efficiency analysis at the same time providing high quality statistics were evaluated.
- the 59th World Statistics Congress of the International Statistical Institute during which it was possible to acquire information on the most progressive and daring ideas and research on data collection, processing and publication, as well as to inform foreign colleagues on novelties, experience and achievements in Latvian statistics.
- the 61st plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians. Its participants identified problems concerning coordination of statistical work, actively discussed possibilities of modernising statistics, as well as introduction of environmental economic accounting and determination of aims and indicators of sustainable development. Participants also formulated challenges caused by the use of microdata in researches.



Representatives of the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova on a study visit to the CSB are gaining experience on the organisation of social statistics surveys and data quality control

COMMUNICATION WITH THE SOCIETY





COMMUNICATION WITH THE SOCIETY

We are working hard to expand the diversity of the available data

The amount and scope of data available in databases keeps developing and expanding, and by the end of 2013 it exceeded 2 000 data tables with more than 828 million data entries. On 1 October **an updated version of the database** was created, which provides data users with a number of improvements, and facilitates use of the information published. Data files are no longer duplicated in two languages – it means that identical data are available in Latvian and English, thus eliminating errors, as well as providing faster and more convenient language change at any moment of the use of databases. Users are offered a wider range of data processing options in the database environment without changing the file format to *Excel*. This means that more diverse data processing options are available, and data users can save the created graphs in jpg format. Both - data and indicators - can be arranged in ascending or descending order, immediately obtaining minimum and maximum values.

Database content has been supplemented with results of two surveys, creating two new database sections: "Housing Conditions" and "Self - perceived Health Status". The two new sections contain data starting from 2005 and the time series will be updated every year in accordance with the data release calendar. The new sections contain information on types of housing, living conditions in housings and housing costs, as well as information on health status of the population and visits to medical establishments.

Population Census results by neighbourhood of Riga

More information is also available on Population Census 2011. Data on education, employment and household composition are offered at a more detailed level. The CSB has developed a new subsection with data on Riga and its 59 neighbourhoods, including data on residents of Riga, households and dwellings.

From 1 October statistical databases are also available in euro

To get ready for the introduction of the *euro* in Latvia "Guidelines for Recalculation and Publishing of Statistical Time Series" elaborated in line with the Latvian National Euro Changeover Plan were approved in February 2013. They stipulate that during the Period of Dual Price Display starting with 1 October 2013 the monetary data published on the website and in the databases must be available in two currencies - the *euro* and lats. For this purpose already in September 2013 data were recalculated and information to be presented both in *euros* and lats was identified in metadata and elsewhere on the homepage, thus already **since 1 October providing information in both currencies**.

The CSB website was visited 1.04 million times during 2013. Visitors were mostly interested in the following statistical topics: population, bank indicators, consumer prices, gross domestic product and results of Population and Housing Census 2011.

Despite the growth of the volume of the published statistical information the CSB continues to receive numerous requests for additional information. In 2013 the CSB received 1528 data requests. In the majority of cases the answer contained a link to

Communication with the society

information published on the CSB homepage or in statistical databases. The CSB also performed quite time-consuming data provision work to international organisations (such as the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Statistics Division) and Latvian authorities.

Since 2013 all publications issued by the CSB are available **free of charge** on the CSB homepage in PDF format for all data users and anyone interested. The most popular publications: informative leaflet "Results of Population and Housing Census in Brief", downloaded 2158 times, informative leaflet "Key Indicators of Demographic Statistics in 2012" (393 downloads) and "Tourism in Latvia" (344 downloads).

Last year digitalisation of historical publications was launched, publishing these publications on the CSB website. Publications are intended for researchers of history and social processes, as well as for anyone interested.

The most often viewed publication was "All-Union Census Results 1898: the Latvian SSR (demographics)."

Also the **info graphs** made in 2013 were very popular. The most often viewed info graph was on agricultural producer prices in 2012, while the most discussed info graph in social networks contained information on youth in Latvia in 2013.

Since 2004 the CSB works as *Eurostat* data user support centre in Latvia. In 2013 *Eurostat* Data Support Centre responded to 267 requests received electronically, by telephone and in person.

From 28 February to 3 March, *Eurostat* Data Support Centre participated in the annual exhibition "Latvian Book Fair 2013", which was attended by about 15 000 visitors. During the exhibition more than 200 participants took part in a quiz on *Eurostat* data. 21 visitors were given in-depth consults on the use of the *Eurostat* database and opportunities to order publications. During the exhibition a number of invitations to organise workshops and presentations were received.

In order to present the *Eurostat* Data Support Centre and CSB information available in the statistical databases, a number of off-site seminars were organised covering a range of topics related to the CSB information resources, as well as providing insight into statistical terminology. Here are some of the most important seminars organised in 2013:

- 3 April - a seminar for second - year students of the University of Latvia, Programme of Library Sciences; held in the CSB premises.
- 25 April - in Limbaži county library.
- 13 August, at the International Youth Day Cultural Summer Home "Esplanāde

All CSB publications are available for downloading on the CSB website

Data of the previous Population and Housing Census were of great interest.



Kaspars Blūms - Blūmanis, known as Kašers, the event host, and Sanda Rieksta, CSB Public Relations Specialist, at the International Youth Day event



Number of Latvian population - 2 million 24 thousand - that's right!

Communication with the society

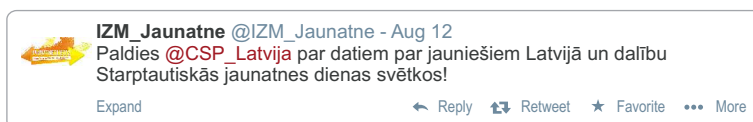


Director of the Information, Publishing and Printing Department **Uldis Ainārs** in a seminar organised by *Re: Baltica* talks about the importance of methodological information

2014" organised by the Ministry of Education and Science, the CSB introduced young people in Latvia to the portrait of Latvian youth in figures and facts. Participants had to answer a question about the current number of population in Latvia - 308 435 young people between the age of 13 and 25 account for 15% of the total number of population.

- On 11 September in a seminar organised by *Re: Baltica* journalists were informed about ways to search comparative information on the EU on *Eurostat* and CSB homepage. Participants were explained the most popular economic terms, such as the Gini coefficient, income per household, poverty rate, etc, as well as terms that are often used incorrectly.
- On 27 November in a food industry forum organised by the news agency LETA, 100 participants were informed about the latest data on the place of food industry in the Latvian economy, food exports and imports, major manufacturers, the most significant sales markets etc.

For the communication in social networks the CSB actively uses *Twitter* accounts @CSP_Latvija (in Latvian) and CSP_Latvia (in English). Over the year the number of followers @CSP_Latvija increased by 1000, exceeding 2500 followers. Also the number of followers for CSP_Latvia has increased and is over 500. As usual, the CSB *Twitter* account is used for publishing press releases on both - statistical data and other CSB news. We also use *Twitter* to inform the society about the issued publications, info graphs, *Eurostat* publications, etc. We retweet commentaries of economists on the data distributed by the CSB. In addition to the informative function, *Twitter* also contributes to facilitating discussions among data users. It provides quick answers to questions or comments, related to the activity of the CSB or the distributed data.



Work with media - in 2013 about 200 reports on the statistical data and the CSB events have been distributed through mass media. We held two press conferences - on 8 March on consumer price changes in 2012, and on 18 July on the number of population and migration trends in 2012. We prepared answers to about 150 questions of mass media. CSB representatives gave interviews on the television, radio and in the

Communication with the society

press about current and socially important statistical data on the economic, demographic and social processes in the country. In the distribution of statistical data the CSB ensures neutral approach and independence from any external influences.

In order to improve the quality of the content of the information provided by the CSB, "Guidelines for the Preparation of Information to be Published: How to Write News about Statistical Data and Figures" were elaborated. Guidelines were prepared applying similar content guidelines of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and experience of CSB public relations specialist. They include information on writing techniques and preparation of visual information (graphs, tables, maps). Within the framework of the Annual CSB Human Resources Training Plan, the CSB public relations specialist educated her colleagues on preparing CSB press releases in line with the above-mentioned guidelines

At the international level the CSB developed a publication "*What Makes Attractive Statistics Latvia to the European Statistical Market*" for the OECD statistics 60th edition in January 2014 providing information on the integrated statistical data automated management system.



„What Makes Statistics Latvia Attractive to the European Statistical Market“

PERSONNEL



PERSONNEL



Successful work and further development of the CSB is based on our competent and motivated employees, who are improving methodology, ensuring that work processes and methods are more efficient, developing use of information technologies, as well as participating in work groups and seminars in Latvia as well as abroad, sharing their experience with statisticians from other countries.

The CSB employs a large number of people with considerable experience in statistics; however, contribution of some of them in developing statistics in Latvia as well as abroad in the field of statistics should be particularly emphasised.

In 2013 the Ministry of Economics awarded a **recognition** to the Director of the Business Statistics Department **Ilze Skujeniece** for long-term selfless work and valuable contribution to the development of business statistics.

Ilze Skujeniece has been working in the statistical system already since 1 August 1983. Over the years, her work has been related to industry statistics, and later - to business statistics. Since 2004 Ilze Skujeniece is the Director of the CSB Business Statistics Department, one of the largest departments of the CSB. Ilze is characterised by determination, amazing energy, high demand on herself and others, she knows how to motivate her employees to set and achieve high goals. Ilze Skujeniece has made a significant contribution to the development of business statistics; under her leadership, the department is actively implementing international projects related to the modernisation of the ESS - this project aims at improving the comparability of business statistics in different areas of statistics at the Latvian and EU level.



Minister of Economics **Daniels Pavļuts** awards **recognition** to **Ilze Skujeniece**

PERSONNEL AND PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

At the end of 2013 there were **556 posts** at the CSB - 254 civil servants and 302 employees. There were also 9 freelancers who performed technical functions or implemented international projects within the framework of the programme "Preparation of Statistical Information for Development of New EU initiatives".

A number of changes were introduced to the CSB positions and structure: eliminated several positions for execution of simple functions, creating positions with a higher degree of complexity. Changes were needed because of the increased number of statistical indicators in the *Eurostat* work programme, development of methodology and the need to address development issues, and to introduce changes to other statistical indicators.

43 competitions for 26 vacant civil servant positions (including two management positions) and 25 employee positions were announced in 2013. Of the total number of job competitions 16 were announced for the period of maternity leave.

Last year, 31 new employees commenced work at the CSB. The CSB did not find

Personnel

suitable candidates for all positions, since applicants did not possess the required professional knowledge and skills. It was particularly difficult to find professionals in computer sciences.

In order to ensure good governance and implementation of tasks of the structural units and to improve the skills of civil servants 10 civil servants were promoted, 7 of them to managing positions.

In 2013, 50 employees terminated service or labour relations with the CSB. Employee turnover was nine per cent.

According to the Cabinet Regulations No 494 of 10 July 2012 "Regulations on Public Administration Institution Employee Performance Evaluation" in November and December the CSB conducted employee performance evaluation using the new national information system "Electronic Information System of Evaluation Forms", compiling and analysing annual information on the performance and work of civil servants and employees, and ensuring transition from qualification levels to categories.

STRUCTURAL OPTIMISATION

In order to optimise the use of resources for the production of statistics, structural changes have been introduced to the Business Statistics Department, incorporating Business Tendency and Territorial Statistics Section. In order to raise data collection and processing quality and timeliness, as well as to improve the mutual consistency of data and to ensure effective cooperation with respondents, the Statistical Data Processing Department was reorganised and its functions optimised. The following sections were created in the department: Statistical Data Collection Organisation Section, Large Enterprises' Data Collection and Processing Section, State and Local Government Budgetary Institutions' Data Collection and Processing Section, Annual Statistics Data Collection and Processing Section, Short-term Statistics Data Collection and Processing Section.

A number of optimisation measures were introduced also to support units. In order to ensure good governance and facilitate work organisation in support function structural units, a new department was established on 1 July - Legal and Corporate Services Department, incorporating the following structural units: Legal Division, Personnel Management Division and Record's and Archives Division. The key task of the department is to ensure compliance with the applicable Latvian and EU laws and regulations (legal support), to ensure development of human resource processes in accordance with the CSB objectives and strategies, as well as to ensure CSB recordkeeping and archival work. The Administrative Department was liquidated and a new independent structural unit was created - Technical Operation and Maintenance Section with the aim to ensure maintenance and improvement of the CSB buildings,

21% of the CSB employees work in Valmiera, Kuldīga, Preiļi or other regions of Latvia.

Employment period with the CSB%

5.4 - under 1 year
15.2 - 1 to 5 years
40.8 - 5 to 10 years
20.0 - 10 to 20 years
18.6 - more than 20 years

Personnel

premises and keeping record of the received material values, proper storage and accurate issuance thereof.

In order to streamline the reception of primary data from administrative registers, processing of primary data and its subsequent use, a new section - Administrative Data Processing Section - was created under the Information Technologies Department.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

In line with the training plan a number of professional trainings were organised in 2013. 107 employees have improved their English language skills by attending 60 hours of training. In collaboration with the School of Public Administration seminar "Effective Presentation" was organised in the CSB premises and it was attended by 20 staff members. Heads of 14 structural units attended the course "Principles of Leadership in Daily Work of Managers". Given the positive feedback received from the participants, at the end of the year the course was held repeatedly, and another 15 CSB employees improved their knowledge of management principles. In order to provide better statistical representation of the CSB interests at *Eurostat* working groups and committees, ten CSB employees were given an opportunity to improve their English language and presentation skills in courses "Effective Presentation in English." To timely prepare for and successfully organise the Council Working party on Statistics meetings at a time when Latvia will hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the CSB team members participated in training "European Union Institutional Framework and Legal System", "EU Decision-Making Process", "Chairing a Meeting, Negotiating and Public Speaking", and "European Union Document Production, Information Flow and Management."

In 2013, 359 employees attended external training courses and seminars in various educational establishments. Within the framework of the European Statistical Training Programme 20 CSB employees attended courses abroad and gained knowledge on a variety of current statistical issues. There were also in-house trainings and awareness-raising events organised involving more than a thousand participants - the CSB staff members attended various training courses held by CSB experts of different fields. Some workshops, such as "Personal Data Legal Protection in Theory and Practice", "Public Administration and the CSB", "Administrative Procedure and the CSB" were offered to both employees working at the central office, as well as for those working at regional units. In turn, the Statistical Methodology and Organization Division trained 398 employees on the topic of "CSB Developed Statistical Production Processes Implementation, Non-compliance and Change Management in Accordance with ISO 9001:2008 Requirements Using the QPR Process Management Software".

In 2013 the CSB continued its cooperation with the University of Latvia. The CSB

Employees' activities



Sports games



CSB annual flower exhibition

Personnel

The most popular leisure activities:

1. sports (cycling, swimming, skiing, volley-ball),
2. gardening, and floriculture,
3. reading,
4. travelling, handicrafts (knitting, beading, jewellery making),
5. geocaching



Easter

participated in the Career Week and informed students of the Faculty of Physics and Mathematics on the use of mathematical statistics in the work of the CSB in order to raise the students' interest for sample surveys and analysis of time series.

During the reporting period, the CSB has provided internship opportunities for eight university students. Under the cooperation agreement internship positions were offered to three students of the Faculty of Physics and Mathematics of the University of Latvia, who are specialising in the profession mathematician - statistician.

CSB employees participated in *Eurostat* committees, working parties and task force meetings, as well as in the training of European statisticians and a high level international activities on the development and harmonisation of new statistical standards and methodology. Altogether 97 employees took part in 221 meetings (including 68 *Eurostat* working group meetings, 17 *Eurostat* task force meetings, 13 *Eurostat* committee meetings, 8 Council Working Party on Statistics meetings).

Knowledge and skills of CSB experts are highly appreciated also at the international level. CSB experts provided training to the Jordanian Statistical Authority, shared their experience with a number of European, Uzbek and Armenian statistical authorities.

The CSB will continue developing a systematic approach to human resources management, focusing on the changes and challenges not only in the CSB, but also working within the ESS. The CSB will continue working on improving the existing management system, as well as based on harmonised HR processes, the CSB will improve a recruitment, evaluation, development and remuneration system, which will contribute to raising the level of expertise of all CSB employees, regardless of their position, in order to ensure execution of the CSB main functions and tasks.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF 2013





FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF 2013

1. Subsidy from general revenue, total	LVL 6 567 034
including:	
programme "Provision of Statistical Information"	LVL 6 085 112
programme "Implementation of European Community Initiative Projects and Activities"	LVL 481 922
2. Revenue from chargeable services and other own income	LVL 115 973
Total revenue	LVL 6 683 007

Implementation of the budget of the Central Statistical Bureau in 2013



■	Total CSB budget
▲	Goods and services
■	Wages and salaries
×	Capital expenditure
×	Transfers of maintenance expenditure

* Including expenditure on Population and Housing Census 2011

1. Current expenditure	LVL 6 042 054
including:	
1.1. Wages and salaries	LVL 3 795 903
1.2. state social insurance contributions	LVL 1 262 404
1.3. business trip expenses	LVL 129 091
1.4. payment for services, purchase of materials	LVL 854 655
of which:	
payment for postal, telephone and other communication services	LVL 97 682
expenditure on public utilities	LVL 117 228
expenditure on the purchase of goods and equipment	LVL 37 732
2. Transfers of maintenance expenditure	LVL 207 096
3. Capital expenditure	LVL 372 515
including:	
intangible assets	LVL 105 138
vehicles	LVL 16 514
hardware, communication, and other office equipment	LVL 250 249
other fixed assets not classified above	LVL 614
Total expenditure	LVL 6 621 665

4. Repayment of expenditure in the state budget for the European Union co-financed projects	LVL 224 409
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ACTIVITIES PLANNED





ACTIVITIES PLANNED

The CSB bases its work on cutting-edge, high-efficiency techniques, works on developing the information system, creating a modern, well-functioning infrastructure that provides easy, fast and safe statistical data collection, processing, storage, analysis and dissemination, improving cooperation with maintainers of external records and information systems, with emphasis on the reduction of administrative burden, as well as to implementing structural changes and good governance principles.

In **2014** the CSB must take a series of priority actions that will contribute to functioning of the institution:

1. By 31 March 2014 - create 59 Population and Housing Census 2011

multi-dimensional tables (hypercubes) on the population and housing conditions, and make them available to users in all EU countries.

According to the decision of the Cabinet the CSB must get ready for Population and Housing Census 2021 to be able to use only administrative data sources and information obtained in regular CSB surveys, to work on further development of information systems architecture in order to build as far as possible centralised data storage and processing systems to ensure data integrity, confidentiality and availability, and to supplement and improve the Integrated Statistical Data Processing and Management System (ISDAVS).

2. For simplification of regulatory enactments for the statistical areas and the reduction of administrative burden the CSB must submit the draft Statistical Law to the Cabinet for further advancement to the Parliament. This will pave the way for more detailed legal framework of the National Programme of Statistical Information, to achieve that the need for a specific indicator is evaluated prior to its inclusion in the National Programme of Statistical Information.

The CSB as the official statistical system managing authority will have a larger role in standardisation of administrative data sources, in coordination of activities and processes. In order to implement a common policy of the state statistical information management, compilation, analysis and publication, it is necessary to achieve understanding and cooperation with respondents in order to reduce the administrative burden.

3. The CSB must continue work on the implementation of quality management system, ensuring a systematic approach to the process management, continuously improving and developing the CSB services and the quality of statistics. Gradual implementation of the CSB quality policy and objectives must also be ensured. Within the framework of the implementation of the quality management principles, the CSB must start elaboration and documentation of support and management processes in the process management software QPR, as well as organise internal audit of the quality management system.



Activities planned

4. Within the limits of its competence the CSB must get ready for the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. It also includes participation in high-level training courses for acquiring experience of the Danish Statistical Office, and creating a website for the Council of the European Union Statistical Working Group activities.

5. The CSB must implement projects within the framework of the programme "Preparation of Statistical Information for Development of New EU Initiatives" and prepare 27 final reports on the implemented projects to *Eurostat*.

TASKS OF MACROECONOMIC STATISTICS

- Recalculate all national account indicator time series, taking into account the new principles laid down in ESA 2010.
- Introduce revision policy of the harmonised macroeconomic statistics data.
- Within the framework of foreign trade statistics carry out Intrastat system modernisation; in the field of the Single Market Statistics (SIMSTAT) perform data analysis and introduce proposals to reduce the burden on respondents, while maintaining adequate data quality.

TASKS OF PRICE STATISTICS

- Start calculation and publication of a new index - Owner-Occupied Housing Price Index.
- Optimise the use of different data sources, calculate and publish the construction cost, business service prices, as well as import and export unit value indices as needed by data users.

TASKS OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS

- Conduct a survey of pesticide use on crops in 2014, surveying 4 000 farms.
- Process and analyse the Farm Structure Survey 2013 data, preparing individual data array in accordance with *Eurostat* mathematical and logical relations and national methodological report, and start getting ready for Farm Structure Survey 2016.
- Continue the survey on carriage of goods by road, surveying 5 200 truck owners or tenants.
- Within the framework of the Survey on Border Crossings, survey 20 000 Latvian citizens who have returned from abroad, as well as 24 000 foreign visitors.

TASKS OF SOCIAL STATISTICS

- Perform the preparatory work for organising administrative data-based micro-census in 2016 with around 10-20 thousand respondents.



Latvian euro coins

1 euro



2 euro



cents



Activities planned

- Conduct the third population health survey with the sample including 9 thousand persons.
- Initiate research work for residents to be able to complete the online CSB household sample survey questionnaires (CAWI) by themselves.
- Labour Force Survey: get ready for the implementation of a survey organisation system based on individual modules.
- Continue work on developing a unified statistical register of social statistics, including information from administrative data sources and surveys conducted by the CSB.

BUSINESS STATISTICS

- Ensure measures needed for the implementation of the new statistics regulation FRIBS: harmonising indicators, definitions and methodologies with the new requirements.
- Retail sales indices are calculated using chain index with weight update once a year together with the methodology used; and thus compare results and evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of the new method.
- Conduct a survey on wholesale trade turnover in breakdown by the goods sold under the Classification of Products by Activity and survey around 2 000 respondents.

In order to ensure that statistical information is available and meets the data users' needs:

- improve the statistical data dissemination in the internet providing additional data analysis options and creative use of information technology capabilities.
- use a variety of interactive data visualizations in data dissemination, where users can make their own data comparisons, which further promote public discussion of important issues.
- complement and expand the CSB's database on population and demographics, improving the functionality of the CSB databases.
- implement a caring, encouraging cooperation with respondents to reduce the administrative burden.
- actively participate in the Council of Europe and Eurostat working groups, committees, EU legislation process, in order to promote the development of the international statistical system.

CENTRAL STATISTICAL BUREAU OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

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