



Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia

annual report 2015





annual report
2015

INTRODUCTORY WORDS



Dear Reader,

Another year of intensive work has passed, a year of development and international activities.

Owing to six preceeding presidencies efforts, during the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union amendments were adopted to the Regulation on European Statistics, strengthening the ESS governance, and professional independence of official statistical institutions. The amendments also affect statistical quality issues and reduction of respondent burden, entitling statistical institutes to take a more active role in production and use of administrative data sources.

The new Statistics Law which was drafted by the CSB and adopted by the Parliament this year is closely related to this. It includes legal framework of operating principles for statistical institutions set forth in the national legislation, the Regulation on European Statistics, and the European Statistics Code of Practice.

The CSB faces new challenges associated with the accession to the OECD; its recommendations are consistent with the development of the ESS and CSB operating strategy for 2014–2016. We have joined the Vision 2020 strategy by promoting standardisation of statistical processes, use of innovative solutions in infrastructure, quality improvement, identifying and meeting the needs of data users, as well as by taking measures for raising the level of competence, skills and knowledge of our employees.

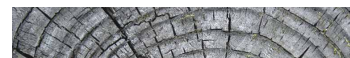
In 2015 the CSB received the highest e-index rating among the public authorities, thus proving efficiency of e-governance in the Central Statistical Bureau.

I am very happy and satisfied, since the expertise of CSB employees is the key drive towards our success. Thanks to the initiative and responsible work each and every day, I can say with confidence that by working together we can set even more ambitious goals.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our respondents and co-operation partners!

President of the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Zigmars', with a stylized flourish at the end.





CONTENTS, ABBREVIATIONS, MISSION

CONTENTS



INTRODUCTORY WORDS	3
VISION, MISSION, VALUES AND ACTIVITIES	7
CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2015	9
KEY PRIORITIES IN 2015	16
STATISTICAL DIMENSIONS	20
THE NEW STATISTICS LAW	32
ACTIVE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	35
RESPONDENT SURVEY	42
COMMUNICATION WITH SOCIETY	44
PERSONNEL	49
FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF 2015	54
KEY PRIORITIES IN 2016	57



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CAWI	CAWI - Computer Assisted Web Interviewing
CRAN	on-line library (http://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/surveyplanning/)
CSB	Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia
EC	European Commission
ECB	European Central Bank
ESA	European System of Accounts
ESS	European Statistical System
ESSnet	European Statistical System network
ESSPROS	European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics
EU	European Union
Eurostat	Statistical Office of the European Union
EU-SILC	European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions
FR	Farm Register
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNI	Gross National Income
HICP	Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
Intrastat	System for collecting information and producing statistics on the trade in goods between countries of the European Union
ISDMS	Integrated Statistical Data Management System
NACE Rev. 2	Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community
NPSI	National Programme of Statistical Information
NRME	National Reference Metadata Editor
OCMA	Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPP	Purchasing Power Parities
PRODCOM	List of Products of the European Community
QMS	Quality Management System
SBR	Statistical Business Register
SRS	State Revenue Service
SSIA	Social Security Insurance Agency
Twinning	Twinning project
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

VISION, MISSION, VALUES AND ACTIVITIES



Aim

The main aim of the CSB is to create and develop a unified national statistical system on economic, demographic and social phenomena, processes and environment, following internationally recognised principles.

Mission

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

Vision

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

Values

The CSB bases its activity on the following values: knowledge, cooperation, openness, rule of law and responsibility.
Our core value is highly-educated, professional, honest and reliable, quality and goal oriented personnel possessing excellent communication skills.

Within the process of data compilation the CSB applies data collection tools, alternative data sources, data processing methods and mathematical models, which enable the 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 employees are professional, well-educated, and able to defend national positions and interests at international level. The methods applied for personnel training allow junior staff members to efficiently acquire the required skills, as well as serve as a valuable tool for raising professional competences of senior employees.



CSB building
at 1 Lāčplēša Street, Riga

Vision, mission, values and activities

CSB activities

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

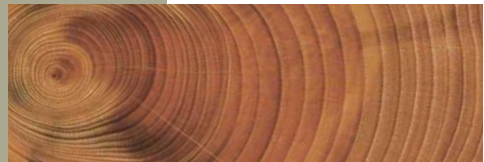
CSB priorities

- Effective methods and informative data sources: assessment of the impact of the normative regulation of statistics, introduction of updates to such regulation, and promotion of public participation.
- Reduction of respondent burden and development of cooperation.

Use of information provided by administrative data sources and regular
- CSB surveys in production of statistics. Preparation for Population and Housing Census 2021.

Development within the ESS according to its strategic decisions and
- progressive trends of collection, processing and dissemination of statistics.
- Implementation and development of the quality management system, systematic approach to processes and management, continuous improvement and development of products and services.
- Development of professional competences of the CSB employees.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2015





CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2015



The **Award of the Cabinet of Ministers** has been awarded to CSB President **Aija Žigure** (in the centre) for her long-term and highly professional work and innovative approach to the development of the national statistical system. The award was presented by Prime Minister **Laimdota Straujuma** (on the right) and Minister for Justice **Dzintars Rasnačs**

Aija Žigure: "Statistics is a knowledge intensive industry. It requires exploring the world, different sectors of the economy and social processes. Each estimated figure hides enormous work done by our employees in collecting, aggregating, analysing data, understanding what processes caused and influenced the result. Our knowledge is important and useful not only for us, but also for the European and global statistical system."

January

- 17–23 January, Amman (Jordan). CSB expert Mārtiņš Liberts advises Statistics Jordan on issues related to sample planning, sample size, survey data weighting and accuracy assessment.
- 21 January, Brussels (Belgium). CSB President Aija Žigure chairs a meeting of the EU Council Working Party on Statistics, held within the framework of the Latvian Presidency.

February

- 10–11 February, Budapest, Hungary. A CSB expert takes part in the final meeting of the ESSnet project on standardisation matters. Representatives of the Latvian, Hungarian, Dutch, Italian, British and Lithuanian national statistical institutes took part in the project on the basic elements of ESS standardisation.
- 11 February, Riga. CSB welcomes the shadows on the Job Shadow Day.
- 11 February, Luxembourg. CSB management participates in a seminar on strategic issues of modernisation.
- 11–12 February, Luxembourg. Aija Žigure takes part in a meeting of the Eurostat ESS Committee.
- 16–19 February, Paris (France). A CSB representative shares the Latvian experience in the grant project "Training Seminar of the Pilot Project for Improvement of National Statistical Business Registers and European Profiling".
- 18 February, Brussels (Belgium). Aija Žigure chairs a meeting of the EU Council Working Party on Statistics, held within the framework of the Latvian Presidency.

March

- 2–5 March, Luxembourg. A CSB representative presents Latvian experience in profiling to the participants of the ESTP training programme "How to Collect Statistics on Global Enterprises".
- 3–6 March, New York (USA). Aija Žigure takes part in the 46th Session of the UN Statistical Commission.

Calendar of Events 2015

- 17 March, Brussels (Belgium). Aija Žīgure chairs a meeting of the EU Council Working Party on Statistics, held within the framework of the Latvian Presidency.
- 20 March, Stockholm (Sweden). CSB management takes part in the 56th meeting of the Partnership Group.
- 21–30 March, Amman (Jordan). CSB Expert Mārtiņš Liberts advises Statistics Jordan on issues related to sampling.
- 26 March, Riga. Eurostat expert Jens Gruetz welcomes elaboration of the calculations for the accrued pension liabilities.

April

- 8 April. At a meeting of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Latvia is elected to the Statistical Commission. The term of office of Latvia will run from 1 January 2016 until 2019, and it will be represented by CSB President Aija Žīgure.
- 20–24 April, Kiev (Ukraine). Expert's visit to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine within the framework of the twinning project on maintaining the Statistical Business Register and identifying enterprise groups.
- 21–23 April, Riga. Study visit of experts from statistical institutions of Balkan countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia) on prices and price index statistics in agriculture, on the methodology for the calculation of the Economic Accounts for Agriculture.
- 22 April, Riga. A meeting of the Parliament State Administration and Local Government Committee members and CSB representatives on the issues related to the draft Statistics Law and relevant matters under discussion.
- 24 April, Riga. Data user conference "Statistics for Knowledge-Based Society".
- 27 April, Riga. CSB specialists hold a bilateral meeting with experts of the Ministry of Economy on the Construction Information System to reduce the burden on respondents.
- 28–30 April, Abu Dhabi (UAE). International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) meeting on collection of statistical data on renewable energy: Līga Melko, Head of the Environment and Energy Statistics Section,

Calendar of Events 2015

presents the experience of Statistics Latvia.

- 29 April, Brussels (Belgium). Aija Žīgure chairs a meeting of the EU Council Working Party on Statistics, held within the framework of the Latvian Presidency.

May

- 5–6 May, Geneva (Switzerland). UNECE seminar on poverty measurement: Viktors Veretjanovs, Head of the Income and Living Conditions statistics Section, presents the Latvian experience in measuring poverty and income inequality indicators during the economic crisis. Invited by the OECD, he takes part in the World Forum "Statistics, Knowledge, and Policy: Transforming Policy, Changing Lives", as well as in the seminar on the role of national statistical institutes in producing composite, sentiment and leading indicators, organised by the UNECE.
- 7–8 May, Vilnius (Lithuania). CSB management and experts take part in a Baltic Steering Committee meeting.
- 13–15 May, Riga. A twinning project study visit of the representatives of the State Statistics Service of Ukraine on maintaining the Statistical Business Register and identifying enterprise groups.
- 19 May, Brussels (Belgium). Aija Žīgure chairs a meeting of the EU Council Working Party on Statistics, held within the framework of the Latvian Presidency.
- 20–21 May, Riga. Aija Žīgure takes part in a meeting of the Eurostat European Statistical System Committee.
- 26 May, Riga. Dana Reizniece-Ozola, Minister of Economy, approves the operating strategy of the institution.
- 26 May. CSB Statistician Svetlana Jesīļevska receives the Young Statistician Prize of the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS).

June

- 1 June–31 July, Riga. A student of Glasgow University undergoes a traineeship at the CSB and takes part in the analysis of timeseries.



Calendar of Events 2015

- 4 June, Riga. The Parliament adopts the new Statistics Law.
- 9 June, Riga. A study visit of Eurostat Directorate of Global Business Statistics. The CSB received high recognition for the work done in business statistics.
- 15–17 June, Geneva (Switzerland). Aija Žīgure takes part in the 63th plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians.
- 17–18 June, Geneva (Switzerland). Aija Žīgure takes part in a meeting of the OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy.
- 26 June, Stockholm (Sweden). Aija Žīgure takes part in the 56th meeting of the Partnership Group.

July

- 26–31 July, Rio de Janeiro (Brazil). The CSB management participates in the International Statistical Institute 60th World Statistics Congress.

September

- 1 September. 96th birthday of the CSB.
- 2 September. The CSB launches the Population Microcensus to validate the official statistics on number of population in Latvia.
- 7 September–24 January (2016), Riga. Four students of the Faculty of Physics and Mathematics of the University of Latvia undergo a traineeship at the CSB and get involved in various research activities.
- 8–9 September, Paris (France). The Latvian experience in cooperation with partner countries in profiling is presented in the grant project "Training Seminar of the Pilot Project for Improvement of National Statistical Business Registers and European Profiling".
- 14 September, Riga. Minister of Economy Dana Reizniece-Ozola and State Secretary Ringolds Beinarovičs award the Certificate of Recognition to CSB President Aija Žīgure, Ieva Začeste, Director of the Legal and Corporate Services Department, and Dace Deinate, Latvian specialised attaché at the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Latvia to the EU, for their work during the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.



Dace Deinate (on the left) and
Ieva Začeste,
receiving the Certificate of Recognition
of the Ministry of Economy

Calendar of Events 2015

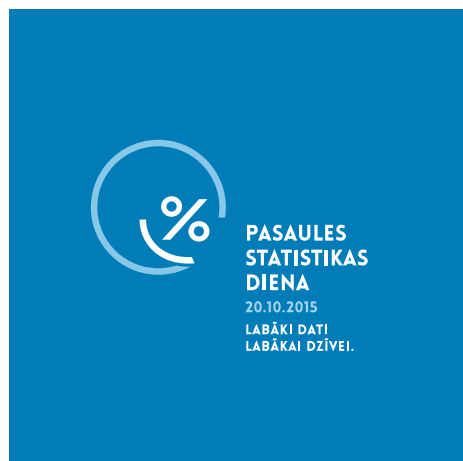
- 14–18 September, Kiev (Ukraine). An expert's visit to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine as a part of the twinning project on maintaining the Statistical Business Register and identifying enterprise groups.
- 21–24 September, Kiev (Ukraine). An expert visit to Statistics Ukraine on business structural statistics, held as a part of the twinning project "Support to the Development Process in Statistics Ukraine". The visit covered the following topics: methodology for the calculation of structural business statistics indicators, procedures for the calculation of data on natural persons, evaluation of the first results; a presentation was given on the Latvian experience in collecting data on foreign-controlled enterprises.
- 22–23 September, Lisbon (Portugal). Aija Žīgure takes part in the European Statistical Forum.
- 23–24 September, Lisbon (Portugal). Aija Žīgure takes part in the conference of Directors General of the National Statistical Institutes (DGINS).
- 25 September, Lisbon (Portugal). Aija Žīgure takes part in a Eurostat ESS Committee meeting and in the 56th meeting of the Partnership Group.

October

- 9 October, Riga. The CSB welcomes 70 school students to the Open Doors Day in public administration.
- 20 October. World Statistics Day.
- 20–21 October, Riga. Study visit of Statistics Hungary to the CSB as a part of the grant project "Revision and Harmonisation of Data Flows in Agricultural Statistics".
- 21–22 October, Luxembourg. Within the framework of the grant project "Final Seminar of the Future Stages of the Implementation of the Revised Definition of Statistical Units" a CSB expert presents the outcome of the project "Latvian Experience in Automatic Profiling".

November

- 16 November, Cēsis. The Award of the Cabinet of Ministers is presented to CSB president Aija Žīgure.



Calendar of Events 2015

- 19 November, Luxembourg. Aija Žīgure takes part in a meeting of the Eurostat European Statistical System Committee.
- 24–25 November, Paris (France). CSB experts take part in a meeting of the OECD working group on environmental information, presenting the Latvian experience.

December

- 3–4 December, Bratislava (Slovakia). CSB experts Jolanta Minkevica and Ieva Paujuka visit Statistics Slovakia to share their experience on ISO 9001-compliant QMS.
- 11 December, Stockholm (Sweden). Aija Žīgure takes part in the 56th meeting of the Partnership Group.
- 17 December, Luxembourg. CSB management and experts take part in the Presidency handover meeting.



Kaspars Misāns, Vice-President of the CSB (on the left) presents the system of economic accounts for agriculture to the representatives of the statistical institutes of Balkan countries.

KEY PRIORITIES 2015



KEY PRIORITIES 2015



In line with the **operational strategy for 2014–2016**, the CSB had set the following tasks for 2015:

- provide domestic and foreign data users with statistics on Latvian economic, demographic, social and environmental phenomena and processes in line with the National Programme of Statistical Information for 2015;
- improve collection of statistical data to reduce administrative burden in official statistical reports, use data of state registers, continue cooperation with administrative data holders to raise data quality and timeliness;
- develop IS architecture to build centralised data warehouse and data processing systems to ensure their integrity, confidentiality and accessibility; continue work on a unified register for social statistics, by including information from administrative data sources and CSB surveys;
- ensure availability of statistics to meet the needs of data users:
 - improve data dissemination on-line, by offering additional options of data analysis.
 - use interactive visualisations enabling data comparisons and promoting public discussion.
- develop administrative data sources and facilitate the use of CSB survey information for production of statistics;
- implement the Action Plan for Population and Housing Census 2021 in collaboration with other organisations; improve population assessment methodology, conduct a microcensus;
- adoption of the Statistics Law by the Parliament.

Key Priorities 2015

CSB operating results

Performance indicator for 2015	2014 actual	2015	
		Planned	Acutual
CAWI data collection system introduced (% of the total number of household surveys)	14	28	28
Statistical indicators published in on-line databases (mln indicators)	959	950	1 228
National Programme of Statistical Information prepared and approved	1	1	1
Data visualisations (number)	10	6	10
<i>School Corner</i> – new themes (number)	8	8	8
Public-use files available (number of surveys)	4	16	16

Key Priorities 2015

Performance indicator for 2015	2014 actual	2015	
		Planned	Actual
E-reporting (% of reports)	87	88	88
Implementation of the Statistics Code of Practice (number of national quality reports)	603	700	755
Statistical indicators and methodologies have been introduced and improved; final project reports sent to Eurostat (number of reports)	27	19	20



Janina Dišereite, Director of the Strategic Planning and Resources Management Department, (fifth from the right) presents the results of resources management and performance indicators to her Lithuanian and Estonian colleagues

STATISTICAL DIMENSIONS



STATISTICAL DIMENSIONS

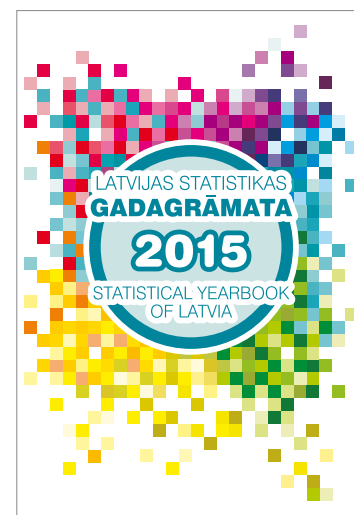


The CSB is constantly evolving and strengthening its role as the leading statistical institute. Our work is focused on meeting the set goals and providing high quality services. The CSB enhances the use of technologies and is moving towards paperless office.

In 2015 the most significant changes were related to development of information production process, by introducing and improving methodologies and technological processes, as well as by promoting the use of administrative data sources to reduce respondent burden.

Key Events and Activities:

- Latvian Presidency of the Council of the EU.
The CSB chaired the Council Working Party on Statistics and got actively involved in addressing issues related to drafting and improving laws and regulations.
- Amendments to the Regulation on European Statistics.
Legislative changes strengthened the ESS governance, as well as professional independence of official statistical institutions. The changes also affect the quality issues and reduction of respondent burden entitling the statistical institute to take a more active position in production and use of administrative data sources.
- Accession process to the OECD.
OECD experts concluded that Latvia had a sound legislative basis and institutional framework for statistics, and the practice implemented in Latvia complies with the OECD standards and good practice.
- The Parliament adopted the Statistics Law drawn up by the CSB, which entered into force on 1 January 2016.



Macroeconomic Statistics

Just like statistical institutes of other EU Member States, the CSB continued to improve national accounts data, introducing new data sources in the estimates, and improving the methodology to eliminate the deficiencies, pointed out by the EC through special reservations (for example, improved calculation methodology for VAT fraud; revised methodology related to housing services and maintenance costs).

On 24–25 November 2015 Eurostat information visit was organised on the pending GNI data reservations. In connection with the elimination of the

Statistical Dimensions

deficiencies in GNI data, CSB specialists made improvements to the national accounts methodology according to the requirements of the European System of Accounts, also updating the GDP data for 1995–2013.

CSB experts have already started and until 2019 will gradually continue the work to eliminate all the reservations of the Commission Implementing Decision granted to Latvia. By 2020, Latvia must ensure calculation of all national accounts data with mandatory status.

Working in an inter-institutional working group, the CSB prepared a Cabinet informative report on tentative calculation of the **GDP** and value-added **for the cities under state jurisdiction** and the necessary funding for this activity. As of 2016, within the limits of the existing budget the CSB will make an experimental calculation of regional GDP of the nine cities under state jurisdiction at current prices. The Cabinet also supported introduction of new indicators characterising economic development of the cities under state jurisdiction. Indicators will be identified and calculation methods developed only after allocation of the required additional funding.

In order to improve the process of preparation of the **government deficit and debt notification**, on 22 December the Cabinet approved Regulation No.756 drawn up by the CSB "Procedure by which the Notification of General Government Deficit and Debt Shall be Prepared", which replaces Cabinet Regulation No. 748 of 4 October 2011. The new regulatory framework has been developed in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No. 479/2009 of 25 May 2009 on the application of the Protocol on the excessive deficit procedure and Regulation (EU) No. 549/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013 on the European system of national and regional accounts in the European Union.

The new regulation requires that by 2017 all EU national statistical institutes prepare data on the **accrued pension liabilities of social security pension schemes**. This information will enable Member States to forecast, summarise and make international comparisons the amount of money payable to future pensioners expressed in today's value, based on the contributions accrued at the time of reference. This information will also be used to estimate the amount needed for future pension payments to current pensioners, based on life expectancy.

Latvia is among the first EU Member States to adopt the macro-simulation model for the calculation of the state accrued pension entitlements, and has presented the first results to Eurostat.

Statistical Dimensions

Social Statistics

In 2015 work in social statistics was mainly focused on **Census 2021**, which will be first administrative data based census in Latvia. Implementing the action plan approved in the Cabinet meeting of June 2, 2015, the CSB organised a microcensus to verify the quality of the methodology for estimating the number of population.

To improve the methodology for **population estimates** by including additional administrative data, cooperation agreements were signed with the Prison Administration, 29 higher education institutions, Administration of Studies and Science, State Education Quality Service and Riga Municipal Limited Liability Company "Rīgas satiksme". In collaboration with statistical mathematicians, an algorithm was developed to obtain information on family structure using the administrative data. A quality analysis of the Population Register data was drawn up and submitted to the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs for examination. There is still an ongoing analysis of the available administrative data on employment.

To acquire all the information from administrative registers only, additional funds are needed for the Ministry of Interior (the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs) for improvement of the Population Register Information System software; and for the Ministry of Justice (the National Land Service) for improvement of the National Real Estate Cadastre Information System and data quality. Additional funding for these purposes so far has not been allocated in the budget.

In order to timely identify changes in the labour market, as of 1 September 2015 the CSB publishes seasonally adjusted monthly estimates on the **number of employed population, unemployed persons and unemployment rate**. Monthly estimates are broken down by sex and time as of January 2002.

To mark the 20th anniversary of the Labour Force Survey, the CSB organised a seminar for users of employment statistics, with the participation of representatives of ministries and banks. For this occasion the CSB also prepared data collection "Labour Force Survey 1995–2014".

The CSB participated in Eurostat pilot project on SDMX standard for the **ESSPROS data**, and for the first time transferred the data of the ESSPROS module "Net Benefits" in the new SDMX format. Latvia and the Netherlands have proved to be the most successful at this stage of the project. The Latvian



Statistical Dimensions

experience was presented in the Eurostat task force. An inter-institutional meeting on the ESSPROS issues was organised with the State Social Insurance Agency as the main data provider.

The CSB in cooperation with Riga Stradiņš University took part in a World Health Organisation project, and elaborated an analytical report on the impact of **health expenditure** on household consumption in Latvia.

Price Statistics

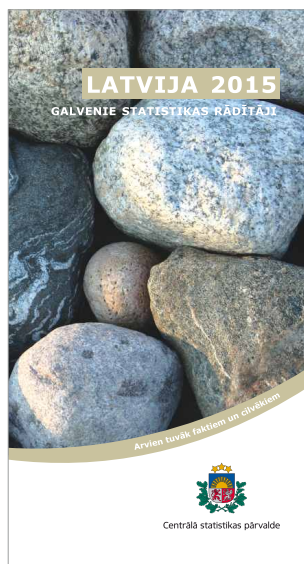
At the end of 2015, the **CPI** calculation system was adapted to the transition to the new ECOICOP classification. To meet the requirements for the new index base period, also the indices of 2015 were recalculated according to the ECOICOP classification. Price statistics specialists took part in three European International Comparison Programme meetings on **purchasing power parity** calculations: in March – Lisbon (Portugal), in September – Newport (the United Kingdom), in November – Cork (Ireland). In 2015 an expert in the issues related to the Consumer Price Index took part in the EU Council Working Party on Statistics for the new EU draft regulation on the compilation of HICP.

Business Statistics

For the first **time structural business statistics** and **annual non-financial investment** experimental calculation data in cities under state jurisdiction were published in breakdown by main activity or location of the office. These data are provided to users together with quality indicators and calculation methodology developed by mathematical statisticians.

An action plan has been developed for the implementation of the statistical unit "enterprise" in structural business statistics. Sampling has been improved, the number of enterprises to be included in the survey has been reviewed, additional sources of information have been identified for sampling purposes, and the acquired additional information has been analysed. For example, the size of the sample for "2-research" has been reduced by 50 %. 2.6% of the respondents included in the sample of the Report on Production and Sale of Industrial Production and on Provision of Industrial Services in 2015 were exempted from reporting, because administrative data sources will be used in the future.

To reduce administrative burden on local governments, the CSB and the Ministry of Finance drafted a quarterly report form "2-labour-local governments"; therefore as of 2015 local governments no longer need to provide the Ministry of Finance with monthly information on expenditure on



Statistical Dimensions

compensation, since this information is provided by local governments on a quarterly basis by filling in the new form.

The short version of form "2-labour" has been prepared for small and micro enterprises and the SRS databases will be used to obtain the rest of the information. . The survey form will be introduced in 2016 to reduce the burden on small and micro enterprises.

Release date for short-term **construction** statistics has been reduced by one day, and for **manufacturing turnover** data in 2016 – by four days.

Since 2015 trade and services turnover statistics will be monthly statistics for sectors that have been included in the new framework Regulation on business statistics. This innovation will contribute to data quality for GDP flash estimate, as well as enable timelier provision of information on trends in the field of services. So far data on services were available only in quarterly breakdown.

To ensure more efficient communication and save resources, electronic form of correspondence is used more extensively. In 2015, 84% of the informative letters to respondents were sent by e-mail with secure electronic signature.

Also the number of respondents who choose to submit reports electronically is increasing. Currently, practically all business statistics reports may be submitted electronically, and over 88% reports are filed in the e-reporting system.

Respondents were offered an option to start completing the e-reporting forms already on the first working day after the end of the reporting period: forms "1-investments", "2-investments" and "5-investments" were available 40 days earlier than before, and form "1-FAP" – 7 days earlier.

Agriculture, Environment and Energy Statistics

In 2015 the CSB continued work on more extensive use of administrative data in production of **agricultural statistics**.

Last year, a seminar "Energy statistics: Development, Trends and Quality" was held with the participation of representatives of Eurostat, the Ministry of Economy, and other ministries. The seminar focused on energy statistics development according to the needs of policy makers, researchers, non-governmental organisations, and other data users.

In 2015 the working group for evaluation of survey forms reviewed sample forms of **24** state statistical reports and questionnaires to improve their content and reduce respondent burden



Statistical Dimensions

The results of the seminar showed that all in all energy statistics meets the current needs of data users. This is the only data source on energy available to policy makers and researchers. However, in the near future additional data will be needed to ensure a higher level of detail of energy statistics required by energy and climate policy-makers, researchers and local governments. Energy policy makers need more thorough consultations with the official statistical institutions before proposing new statistical indicators that would be suitable for the assessment and monitoring of the respective policies. As set forth in the draft Regulation (to enter into force in 2016) on gas and electricity prices, in order to compare gas and electricity prices in Member States, the network prices are to be broken down by component: in distribution and transmission prices. To do this, it is necessary to reach a new agreement with the energy distribution operators in 2016, which would be sufficient to ensure enforcement of the draft Regulation.

Last year the CSB implemented a number of changes identified in the seminar. Some of them include: consultations between Eurostat and Member States have been initiated on timelier data collection and processing for the purposes of the national energy balance, an agreement has been reached with energy distribution operators on breakdown of prices of gas and electricity in individual components, etc.

Quality Management

The **Quality Management System (QMS)** foresees standardisation, optimisation and documentation of the CSB processes to establish common and effective procedures for production of statistics, and to create a sound CSB knowledge base. The QMS ensures systematic approach to processes and management.

In 2015 to monitor the CSB critical processes, quality indicators and targets were identified in collaboration with the process owners. The CSB continued working on the improvement of QMS website design, content, use and visualisation of process schemes. Partial internal QMS audit was carried out to determine compliance of the process implementation with the QMS and provisions of other laws and regulations.

National **standardised quality reports** on 152 projects prepared and published by the CSB were made available on the CSB home page, providing statistical users with the relevant methodological information.

Statistical Dimensions

The CSB as the leading institution of official statistics

The **final report of the Eurostat peer review** on the compliance of Latvia with the European Statistics Code of Practice and the coordinating role of the CSB, as well as **a report on the integration of Latvia into the European Statistical System** was harmonised and published in 2015.

In the reporting year the CSB worked on the implementation of the peer review recommendations. The CSB has successfully introduced the recommendation made by the experts regarding the new Statistics Law and establishment of the Statistical Council. The CSB has begun to organise quarterly meetings with the statistical institutions on various topical issues, thus implementing the recommendations on creation of a system of production of national official statistics that would be consolidated and co-operation oriented.

The recommendation to disseminate and position statistical information produced by all statistical institutions as a product of a single statistical system with a unified visual design is scheduled to be implemented by the CSB in 2018. By that time the work started in 2015 to develop the official statistics portal will be completed, and users will be offered all official statistics and related information in a single portal.

In 2015 to strengthen the role of the CSB as the leading national statistical institution, the CSB co-ordinated the system of production of official statistics. The CSB provides consultations to statistical institutions, updates the information on issues related to official statistics system and current events, coordinates and monitors implementation of and compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice in all statistical institutions.

Methodological Development

Statistical mathematicians in 2015 continued active research on the use of **imputation methods** in population and household surveys, in particular in the EU-SILC and the Population Health Survey to replace the missing values of the survey data with consistent and reliable values. The purpose of imputation of the missing data is to provide data that can be processed more conveniently for the needs of a survey.

In the field of employment, statistical mathematicians helped to develop the **monthly assessment** methodology using the quarterly Labour Force Survey data and the monthly data of the State Employment Agency. As a result, in September for the first time the monthly data on the number and share of



CSB president **Aija Žigūre** chairs a seminar on official statistics issues

Statistical Dimensions

employed and unemployed persons were published. Now users of statistics are provided with monthly employment statistics.

The work done for the improvement of the service turnover methodology will facilitate a broader use of the administrative data and enable production of statistics on a monthly basis (currently – quarterly statistics).

In 2015 statistical mathematicians designed and developed the **sample design** and carried out random sampling for the microcensus to assess the quality of the methodology used for the estimation of the number of population. Using the expertise of Statistics Germany, the list of **counting areas** was drawn up. A procedure was developed which automatically generates maps with dwellings for the counting areas that have been included in the sample.

Innovations have been introduced for further development of the **R** project for statistical computing library to enable quick and convenient sampling error calculation. CSB experts improved the *Vardpoor* package by introducing new features and by testing sampling error estimation. *Vardpoor* package makes it possible to quickly and efficiently estimate sampling errors (coefficient of variation, standard error, confidence interval, design effect). In 2015 for the first time sampling errors were calculated for estimation change between data of successive periods. Package *Surveyplannig* has been developed in the **R** programme. In 2015 a new package *Surveyplannig* developed by CSB experts Juris Breidaks, Mārtiņš Liberts and Jānis Jukāms was published on the CRAN server; it gives an opportunity to calculate the sample size, estimate the expected accuracy and make optimal sampling location calculation. In 2015 the library was used for planning the sample design of surveys of both – enterprises and population/households.



Svetlana Jesiļevska

The International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) organises the annual **Young Statistician Prize** competition to promote the interest of young statisticians in official statistics. New statisticians who are employed by national or international statistical institutions are invited to submit articles on methodological or strategic issues of official statistics at regional, national or international level.

Svetlana Jesiļevska, a CSB Statistician, was awarded the Young Statistician Prize of the International Association for Official Statistics. In the contest in competition of 35 researchers from 27 countries Svetlana Jesiļevska received the award for her research "Iterative Method for Reducing the Impact of Outlying Data Points: Ensuring Data Completeness".

Statistical Dimensions

The study is relevant because outlying data values are frequently encountered in sample surveys. Checking the survey data for possible data problems is essential. In working with data, the correctness of the reported values must be verified, and if a reported value constitutes an outlier, its appropriate treatment needs to be considered. The iterative method developed by Svetlana Jesiljevska offers several steps in identification of outlying data points and reduction of their impact on the overall results and data quality.

Within the framework of the research the iterative method was tested using the results of the Latvian Innovation Survey.

The Young Statistician Prize award ceremony took place in the World Statistics Congress in Rio de Janeiro on 31 July 2015. The winners of the Young Statistician Prize were presented with a certificate and monetary prize, and were offered the opportunity to become a member of the International Association for Official Statistics.

Outcomes of the research will be published in the Statistical Journal of the IAOS, available: <http://ej.uz/rwku>.

Information on the Young Statisticians Awards is also published in the brochure "Awards Brochure of the ISI and Associations 60th ISI World Statistics Congress Rio de Janeiro, Brazil", which is available on the homepage of the International Statistical Institute, in the section Activities – ISI Awards – 2015 Awards Brochure, available at: <http://www.isi-web.org/images/WSC/2015/2015-Awards-Brochure.pdf>.

More information about the International Association for Official Statistics is available on the website: <http://isi.cbs.nl/IAOS/>. Information about the Young Statisticians Awards 2015 can be found in the IAOS website section Young Statisticians Prize.

Information Technology Infrastructure

The CSB develops a state-of-the-art, well-functioning infrastructure that enables easy, timely and safe data collection, processing, storage, analysis and dissemination, improving cooperation with maintainers of external registers and information systems.

In 2014 a number of improvements were introduced to the ISDAVS system to facilitate the use of the e-reporting system, therefore in 2015 all units producing statistics were involved in **testing and development of the new**

Statistical Dimensions

version of ISDAVS, for example, by collecting and processing source data timelier and in better quality. To rationalise the collection of statistical data, the **metadata description** ISDAVS has been revised and expanded, enabling a broader use of administrative data and performing automatic calculations. According to the description for the improvement of the functionality of the **ISDAVS SUR** module, testing of the SUR database was launched in September. The improved ISDMS SUR module ensures data maintenance in accordance with the recommended methodology and contributes to the optimisation of data transmission to Eurostat.

In the ISDAVS environment innovations were also introduced to **Intrastat** report data processing, and they enhance the efficiency of Intrastat data processing.

ISDAVS-CASIS processes have been improved for incoming data control, data analysis and processing. For the development of **SSDW** and ISDAVS-CASIS systems the required additional functionalities have been identified; work on the development of the technical specification has been started.

The CSB statisticians use the corresponding metadata editor (NRME web application) of the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (**SDMX**) standard.

Project Management

The CSB implemented a number of grant projects within the framework of the "Production of Statistical Information for the New EU Initiatives" programme (there were 46 active grant projects in 2015). The CSB launched 19 projects; 23 projects were completed, and final reports of 20 projects were sent to Eurostat. In total, funds in the amount of EUR 639 807 were absorbed in the programme.

Major Projects in 2015:

- "GNI Inventories" and "Implementation of SDMX and the Data Structure Definitions (DSDs) in the National Accounts according to ESA 2010";
- "Data Collection on ICT Usage and E-commerce in Enterprises in 2015" and "Data Collection on ICT Usage in Households and by Individuals 2015";
- "Pilot Studies in the Framework of Linking IACS and Other Administrative Registers and Statistics";

Statistical Dimensions

- Agricultural data revision, harmonisation and transmission to Eurostat, and other Commission or international organisations.

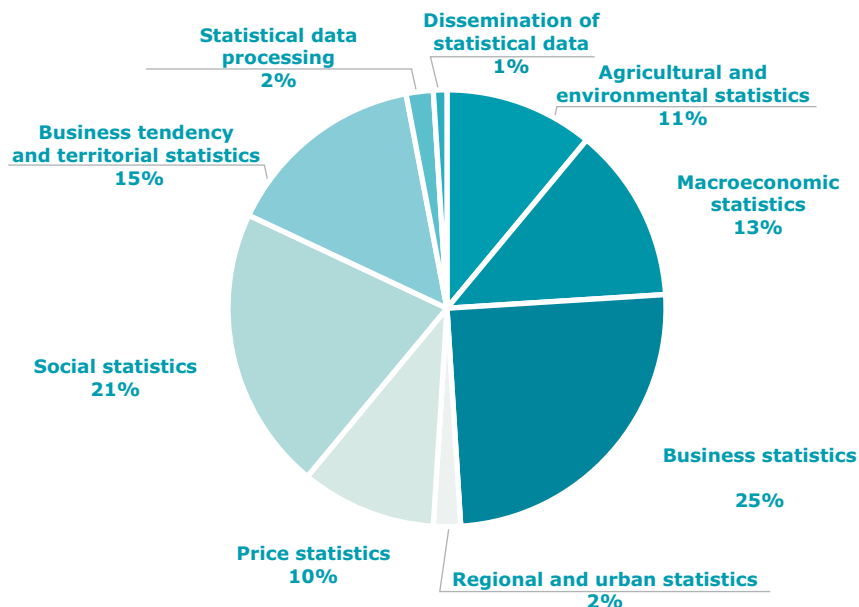
The project resulted in development of descriptions of agriculture statistical data flows of national institutions, assessment of duplication possibilities, elaboration of recommendations for data flow optimisation, as well as in formulation of proposals for improved cooperation between institutions. Eurostat **highly** valued the work done within the project.

- SIMSTAT micro-data exchange testing. Project outcomes include: micro data exchange between Member States, micro data exchange plan, assessment of efficiency of the data exchange system, analysis of the data obtained through data exchange. By implementing this project, it will be possible to exchange external trade statistics in a much timelier manner.

The annual report of the programme for 2015 is available in the CSB homepage section /documents/EU/ projects:

<http://www.csb.gov.lv/en/dokumenti/eu-projects-30865.html>

BUDGET ACQUISITION IN PROJECTS, BY STATISTICAL FIELD, % 2015



LEGISLATION





The New Statistics Law

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

The new **Statistics Law** was adopted because the previous legal framework, which had been in force since 1997 was outdated and did not suit the current situation, and in some cases was restricting the CSB in the application of the Law.

The new Law entitles the CSB as the leading statistical institution with more extensive rights in the coordination of the official statistical system; the CSB exercises functional subordination with respect to other statistical institutions, by providing methodological guidance, monitoring compliance with the law, as well as by issuing orders needed to produce official statistics. As required by the Law, the **Statistical Council** was established to perform the advisory function. The Council has the following tasks: to promote development of the production system of Official Statics, to give recommendations to statistical institutions, to facilitate cooperation between statistical institutions, respondents and users of official statistics, and provide opinion on the draft Official Statics Programme. The regulation and members of the Statistical Council are approved by the Minister of Economy. The Statistical Council serves for a term of four years. Members of the Statistical Council may be appointed repeatedly.

The new Law sets out the criteria for the Official Statistics Programme and official statistics:

- production of statistics is substantiated with the Law, legal acts of the Cabinet, directly applicable legislation of the European Union or an international agreement binding on Latvia;
- production of statistics complies with the statistical standards.

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

- to elaborate, implement, monitor or evaluate laws and regulations or development planning documents, or to draw up development scenarios or forecasts;

Legislation

- to implement functions of a state institution provided for in the laws and regulations, except monitoring, surveillance and prosecution of private individuals;
- to provide comprehensive information to general public.

The **Official Statistics Programme** is a list of official statistics to be produced during the respective planning period. The Official Statistics Programme is approved by the Cabinet by means of a Cabinet Regulation. The programme period will be three years instead of the current one-year. Thus programme period corresponds to the medium-term budgetary planning period.

The Law provides for the following: procedure by which the Official Statistics Programme is elaborated, data sources and forms of data collection, respondent's rights and obligations in data provision, as well as cooperation between statistical institutions with public institutions in the production of official statistics.

The Law specifies the existing administrative data sources and sets a new procedure for creating registers, databases and information systems for statistical purposes. The new legal framework also provides for measures to reduce respondent burden, costs for production of statistics, as well as to eliminate duplications in collection of administrative data.

The new Law also provides guidelines on disclosure and confidentiality issues, as well as protection of data for research purposes.

The Cabinet approves questionnaire and survey form samples for official statistics, and prescribes the procedure for submitting and completing questionnaires and survey forms. Questionnaires and survey forms for official statistics are published in a catalogue.

Official statistics, metadata and dissemination calendar of official statistics of all statistical institutions are to be published on the **portal of official statistics**, the operation of which technically and organisationally is ensured by the CSB.

The Statistics Law entered into force on 1 January 2016, replacing the Official Statistics Law.

In November 2015, the CSB held a meeting for representatives of Latvian statistical institutions to present the new framework of the Statistics Law with regard to the production system and coordination of Official Statistics.

ACTIVE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION





ACTIVE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Participation in technical assistance projects financed by the European Commission

CSB experts actively continued the work in the Twinning project "Strengthening the capabilities of the Department of Statistics in Jordan". The objective of the project was to improve the capacity of the Department of Statistics in Jordan by ensuring the quality control of statistical data, improving sampling methodology, implementing international and European calculation methods of National Accounts, and by developing IT systems and on-line dissemination of statistical data.

In the final stage of the project the CSB expert **Mārtiņš Liberts** participated in the implementation of several project recommendations in regard to sampling methodology, evaluated the results achieved during the project and gave recommendations for sustainability of the achieved results.

M. Liberts: *"It was my first experience working in such a project. Very important is effective time planning – preparing for each visit took a lot of time that had to be reconciled with my other tasks. Jordan is a country with different culture and mentality but it did not hinder to achieve the aims of the project. Although the project has been concluded, the CSB experts are open for further cooperation with the Department of Statistics in Jordan."*

Within the framework of the Twinning project "Support to Development Process in the State Statistics Service of Ukraine with the Objective to Enhance its Capacity and Production" experts **Sarmīte Prole** and **Inga Oksentjuka** during their visits in the State Statistics Service of Ukraine consulted and shared their experience in methodological items on enterprise groups. In order to get acquainted with the experience of the CSB in setting up and maintaining a statistical business register, in defining and profiling enterprise groups and collecting statistics on foreign affiliates, Ukrainian experts came on a study visit to the CSB. In her turn, **Ilona Kallione** during her visit to Ukraine shared her experience in items concerning structural business statistics.

S. Prole, I. Oksentjuka: *"The main thing is to dare to participate, to give up doubt and accept this challenge. During the project in the State Statistics Service of Ukraine a considerable progress was achieved and we evaluate it positively. Before the project Ukrainian experts had good theoretical knowledge but we shared our practical experience. Our knowledge of the Russian language facilitated the work – we could answer the questions more exhaustively. In general, the participation in the Twinning project is the development not only for the target country but also for us as experts. It is also*

Active International Cooperation

the benefit for popularizing the name of the CSB outside Latvia."

Within the framework of the Twinning project "Support to the State and Entity Statistical Institutions of Bosnia and Hercegovina" the CSB expert **Kārlis Smudzis** took part in working out the activity plan for improving the compilation of data of the European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS) in Bosnia and Hercegovina, and participated in drawing up a questionnaire and an activity plan for second pilot project data collection for ESSPROS . Colleagues from Bosnia and Hercegovina visited the CSB to get acquainted with the experience and knowledge of the institutions responsible for preparation of social protection statistics in Latvia.

K. Smudzis: *"I consider that the participation in this project was valuable not only for my own development and raising my competence – I shared the experience gained in the project with colleagues of my unit."*

Cooperation within the Baltic region

The long-term cooperation among Baltic statistical institutions was continued by coordinating different EU projects and activities, viewpoints and sharing experiences. Within the framework of trilateral cooperation experts of the Baltic statistical institutions met in 8 activities: in Lithuania (three), in Estonia (one) and in Latvia (four). Statisticians of the Baltic countries discussed and shared their experience on resource management and performance indicators, business registers, items regarding regional and urban statistics, the implementation of ESA 2010 in national accounts.

The traditional annual Steering Committee meeting took place in Lithuania, where planning and organisation of the trilateral cooperation as well as the latest tendencies in statistical business processes and challenges in connection with ESS development were discussed.

Participation in other international activities

The CSB management and experts took part in several important international activities where international statistical standards and methodological materials were discussed and approved, agreement on further development and improvement of the European Statistical System reached.

- The strategic European Statistical System Committee (ESSC) seminar on the ESS Vision 2020 in Luxembourg 11.02.2015.
- Eurostat ESSC meetings in Luxembourg 11.–12.02., 20.–21.05., 19.11.



Steering Committee meeting
in Lithuania

Active International Cooperation

and in Lisbon (Portugal) 25.09

- 46th Session of the UN Statistical Commission in New York (USA) 03.–06.03.
- Partnership meetings in Stockholm (Sweden) 20.03., 26.06., 11.12. and Lisbon (Portugal) 25.09.
- 63rd Plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians in Geneva (Switzerland) 15.–17.06.
- OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy (CSSP) meeting in Geneva (Switzerland) 17.–18.06.
- 60th World Statistics Congress – ISI2015 in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) 26.–31.07.
- 3rd meeting of the European Statistical Forum in Lisbon (Portugal) 22.–23.09.
- Conference of the Directors General of the National Statistical Institutes (DGINS) in Lisbon (Portugal) 23.–24.09.
- Handover meeting of the Trio Presidency of the Council WP on Statistics (CWPS) in Luxembourg 17.12.

Last year 15 new EU legal acts were adopted on macroeconomic, business, agricultural, social and other statistical domains. In 2015 amendments to Regulation No. 223/2009 on European Official Statistics were approved. These amendments strengthen the ESS governance and professional independence of official statistical institutions. The changes will also facilitate improvement of the quality of statistics and reduction of the response burden. To strengthen the ESS governance the amendments to the regulation outline that the NSI designated by each Member State shall be responsible for coordinating all activities at national level for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics defined in the European statistical program. The amendments to the regulation extend the right of the NSI to take part in the development, maintenance and improvement of administrative data sources, including registers thus facilitating their further use for the needs of producing statistics.

At the end of 2015 there were **399** EU legislative acts in the statistical area binding for the CSB.

Active International Cooperation



Members of the CWPS during the Latvian Presidency

The Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

In the first half of 2015 Latvia **for the first time** held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. In the framework of the Latvian Presidency the CSB was responsible for preparation and chairing of the Council working party on statistics meetings.

In the first half of 2015 Latvia chaired the Council working party on statistics (CWPS) meetings with two items on their agenda:

1. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 184/2005 on Community statistics concerning balance of payments, international trade in services and foreign direct investment as regards conferring of delegated and implementing powers upon the Commission for the adoption of certain measures;
2. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EC) No 2494/95 on harmonized consumer price indices repeal.

Under leadership of the Latvian Presidency discussions on both proposals were concluded on the level of the CWPS and the Latvian Presidency compromise proposals for both draft regulations were approved in the COREPER meetings. After written consultation launched by the Latvian Presidency in the COREPER meeting in January 2015 recommendations of the European Central Bank regarding the collection and use of statistics of the system of the European Central Bank were approved. Accordingly, on 7 March in the Official Journal of

Active International Cooperation

the European Union Council Regulation (EU) No 2015/373 of 5 March 2015 amending Regulation (EC) No 2533/98 concerning the collection of statistical information by the European Central Bank was published.

Thanks to endeavours of the six previous presidencies, on 19 May 2015 in the Official Journal of the European Union Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU) No 2015/759 of 29 April 2015 amending Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics was published.

During each meeting the Latvian Presidency informed the Member States on the work done and progress achieved regarding other open draft regulations in the statistical domain (Extrastat, inland waterways and railway transport statistics).

The work of the CSB during the Latvian Presidency was positively evaluated also by foreign colleagues. In November 2015 a group of experts from Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic visited the CSB in order to get acquainted with our experience in organization of the Presidency work and prepare for the Slovakian Presidency in the second half of 2016.



Colleagues from Statistics Slovakia on a visit to the CSB to exchange experience in holding the presidency

OECD

The CSB is representing interests of Latvia in the OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy (CSSP).

The OECD Statistics Directorate experts during their visits evaluated the compliance of Latvia's juridical and institutional frame in the area of statistics with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics developed by the United Nations Statistics Division, statistical infrastructure (use of international standards and classifications, use of the statistical business register, conduct of population and agricultural censuses and the Labour Force Survey), data quality aspects (e.g., compliance, timeliness, precision, reliability, accessibility, coherence) and the capacity of Latvia to join in the OECD data reporting systems.

On 18 June 2015 during the confidential CSSP session **Latvia's accession interview** was conducted. The representatives of the OECD Statistics Directorate presented conclusions from their two missions and the associated assessment report on the compliance of Latvia with OECD requirements in the area of statistics and statistical policy. In general it was concluded that Latvia's practice in the area of statistics comply with OECD standards and sound practice. OECD also concluded that there is a strong legal basis and

Active International Cooperation

institutional frame in the area of statistics in Latvia. OECD followed the process of adoption of the new Statistics Law and especially evaluated the regulation of the Statistics Law that strengthens the professional independence of the CSB and its coordinating role as well as facilitates use of administrative data sources, and formation of the Statistics Council. It was also underlined that development of a portal giving access to all official statistics will bring many advantages for dissemination.

During the accession interview the president of the CSB presented an overview of the Latvian statistical system, building her presentation on the CSB strategy 2014–2016 and results of the Eurostat peer review report on compliance of Latvia to the principles of the European Statistical Code of Practice, especially stressing Latvia's strong points, innovative ideas of the CSB staff and the methods introduced in data collection and dissemination, reflecting benefits that Latvia can give as an OECD member state. The presentation also provided more information on the new Statistics Law and the benefits related to it.

On 30 September 2015 the OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy provided a positive opinion on Latvia's accession to OECD within the framework of the written procedure.

The CSB experts within their competence actively participate in OECD activities, in OECD international meetings both making presentations and informing about achievements of the institution and the best practices in the particular area.

Other activities

As every year, on 9 May 2015 the traditional European Day activity took place in the CSB, **Madara Siliņa**, Senior Officer/ National Coordinator of the development of the European Year from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, informed the CSB staff about the current events of the Development Year. The CSB is also involved in the implementation of development cooperation activities: the CSB expert Mārtiņš Liberts told the colleagues about his experience in the Twinning project "Strengthening the capabilities of the Department of Statistics in Jordan".

In the conclusion of the seminar the CSB employees took part in a competition where they were invited to fill in a test on different questions.



European Day 9 May 2015

RESPONDENT SURVEY



RESPONDENT SURVEY



Communication with respondents is very important to the CSB, therefore in 2015 the first respondent satisfaction survey on support provided by statisticians and e-reporting system (*e-Pārskats*) was carried out. The survey was active for a month (in June), and 4.5 thousand regular CSB respondents were invited to fill in an on-line questionnaire consisting of 15 questions.

The questionnaire was completed by 1 152 respondents, and the response rate was 30% thus the survey results are representative of all respondents.

Communication with respondents mainly takes place by phone, which was reported by 72% of the respondents. In turn, statistical data are mostly submitted electronically (96% of cases). 14% of these respondents reported that the *e-Pārskats* system was very convenient for use, 37% said that it was convenient, 35% evaluated it as convenient enough, 11% as convenient to some extent, while 3% admitted that it was not convenient at all. 86% of the respondents were aware of information available for respondents on the CSB website ("My Reports", classifications, survey forms and instructions); 97% noted that it was easy to find their reports in the *e-Pārskats* system.

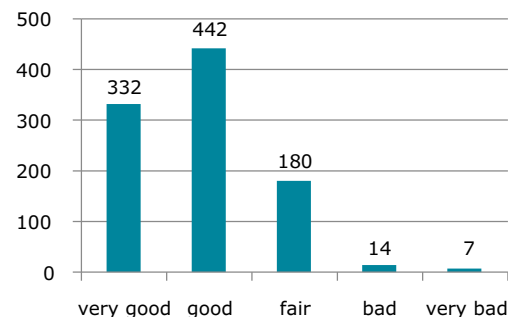
Respondents could also provide their own comments and suggestions for the improvement of the system. Feedbacks were analysed in order to make the system more convenient to use. For example, respondents suggested to improve validation errors and to furthermore extend the use of administrative data sources, etc.

The survey results show that respondents do not experience any problems in communication with CSB statisticians, and 95% of the respondents rated it as very good or good.

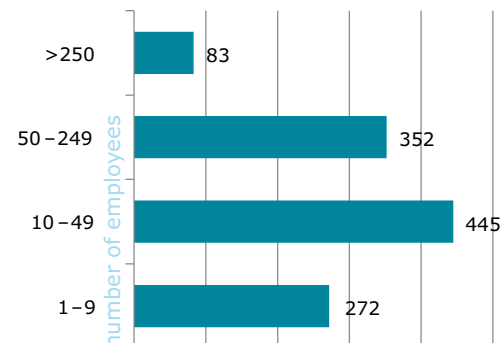
CSB experts send out letters reminding respondents to submit statistical reports in deadlines. The majority of respondents (63%) admitted that letters of reminder are a great help. To save resources, the CSB tends to use electronic means of communication more extensively, also for sending informative notices.

23 thousand e-mail letters asking to participate in CSB survey were sent in 2015, accounting for 84% of the total number of letters.

Communication with statisticians
(number of responses)



Number of respondents by size of enterprise



COMMUNICATION WITH THE SOCIETY



COMMUNICATION WITH THE SOCIETY



Statistics for Knowledge-Based Society

On 24 April, the CSB in cooperation with Eurostat organised a data user conference "Statistics for Knowledge-Based Society". Producers of statistics (Eurostat and CSB experts) and data users (economists, scientists, ministries, business and media representatives) shared their experiences of the use of statistics in decision-making and research. Aija Žīgure, President of the CSB, and Mariana Kotzeva, Deputy Director-General at Eurostat, opened the conference. Presentations were given by 16 experts; among them Anna Zdanoviča, Researcher at the Baltic International Centre for Economic Policy Studies (BICEPS), Agnese Rutkovska, Economist at the Bank of Latvia, Jānis Hermanis, Expert at the Employers' Confederation of Latvia, Inga Sprīņģe, Editor at the Baltic Centre for Investigative Journalism Re:Baltica.

For publicity purposes, the conference was streamed on-line on the CSB homepage, the Latvian public media news portal lsm.lv, on portals diena.lv and db.lv. On the day of the conference, the CSB Twitter account reached 22.3 thsd impressions. An article about the Eurostat data user conference was published in the newspaper Dienas Bizness.



CSB and Eurostat representatives
at the Statistics for Knowledge
Based Society conference

Job Shadow Day

In February 2015, the CSB organised a Job Shadow Day event offering 12 shadow vacancies – statistician, statistician-mathematician, computer graphics designer, geographic information systems specialist and public relations specialist; mathematician-statistician turned out to be the most popular. After the evaluation of applications, eight shadows were selected.

CSB Greetings to Cities

To promote public interest about statistics, from 29 May to 14 August the CSB organised an activity called "CSB Greetings on City Festivals". Press releases about six cities (Jelgava, Daugavpils, Valmiera, Ventspils, Jēkabpils and Riga) were published within the framework of this activity. The pilsēta24.lv portal, which republished press releases about Jelgava, Daugavpils, Ventspils and Riga was the regional media to ensure the greatest resonance.

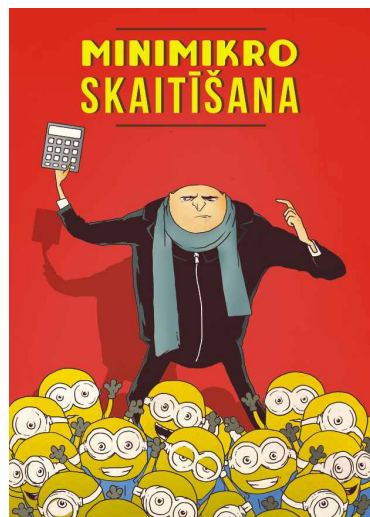
Microcensus Information Campaign

In August – September a microcensus information campaign was organised to inform respondents about the course of the microcensus, to encourage them to be active by filling out the questionnaire on the CSB website, as well as be responsive in face-to-face interviews with CSB interviewers.



Hosts and their shadows in 2016

Communication with the Society



On 2 September, a press conference was held in the EU House, where Aija Žigūre, President of the CSB, reported on the progress of the microcensus, and external experts – Juris Krūmiņš, Professor at the University of Latvia, and demographer Ilmārs Mežs, gave an insight into the demographic situation in Latvia and vision for the future.

Information on the course of the event was prepared for all counties and cities included in the microcensus, and it was supplemented with the data characterising each county.

Press releases on microcensus were the most popular press releases, reaching 124 publications. 30 articles about the microcensus were published in national printed media writing in Latvian, and 15 – in national printed media writing in Russian. In regional printed media 19 articles were published in Latvian, and 8 articles in Russian. In radio environment more information about the microcensus was given in Russian than in Latvian, with 27 and 13 mentions, respectively. Information about the microcensus was also provided in TV news broadcasts – "900 sekundes", "Rīta Panorāma", "Panorāma", "TOP 10", as well as in news programmes of LNT, LTV1, TV3, TV5, PBK TV channels.

World Statistics Day Video

In September 2015, CSB public relations specialists organised a campaign for the World Statistics Day, this year with a motto "Better Data, Better Lives". In cooperation with the World Statistics Day coordinators from Eurostat and the UN Statistics Division, visual materials for the campaign were translated in Latvian. Eurostat animation dedicated for the World Statistics Day was published in the CSB social networks and website.

In order to enhance the visibility of the CSB, opinion leaders of different areas were invited to share their vision of the role of data in their lives and in the society as a whole. Dana Reizniece-Ozola, Minister of Economy, Mihails Hazans and Vjačeslavs Kaščejevs, Professors at the University of Latvia, Inga Sprīģe, journalist, Dainis Kreilis, geographic information systems specialist, Jānis Palkavnieks, Spokesman of Social Network draugiem.lv, and Edavārdi, Latvian rap performer, encouraged people to use data more extensively in making small and big decisions. Video opinions were distributed in social networks on the CSB homepage.

Video opinions of Edavārdi, Mihails Hazans and Dainis Kreilis turned out to be the most popular in Youtube. Also the tweets of Professor Hazans (4 381 impressions) and Latvian rap artist Edavārdi (3 955 impressions) got the



Newspaper Diena and internet portal LSM.lv published cartoons about the microcensus

Communication with the Society

largest number of impressions.

Open Doors Day in Public Administration

In September the State Chancellery organised the Open Doors Day event, and around 50 school students attended the CSB. The seminar focused on topics such as "Is It Easy to Be Young", "Life After School – Studies or a Leap into the Labour Market" and "Riga in Figures". Participants of the Open Day events not only were guided where to find data, but also learned how to turn data into interactive infographics.

Press Releases

In 2015 the CSB published 210 press releases. Press releases on the microcensus reached the greatest mass media publicity (124 publications), followed by press releases on the number of population (80 publications), wages and salaries (64 publications). In response to the public discussion about the Russia's ban on canned fish imports from Latvia, the CSB prepared a press release on foreign trade of canned fish. The press release was quoted in 23 media, reaching 3.91 mln audience.

Altogether the media mentioned the Central Statistical Bureau 7 042 times in 2015. 5.4 thsd times the CSB was mentioned in publications in Latvian, 1.6 thsd times – in Russian. CSB data are most frequently mentioned in demographic context.

Top themes:

- demography 13%
- employment 12.3%
- inflation 11.2%
- foreign trade 11.2%
- GDP 7.6%

CSB data have been mentioned most often in news portals db.lv (305 times), tvnet.lv (278) and bnn.lv (233) delfi.lv (188) lsm.lv (178).

In 2015 the CSB was mentioned 154 times by the media in Kurzeme, 114 times in Latgale, 87 times in Vidzeme, and 72 times in Zemgale. The CSB reached

CSB mentions in 2015

On-line media	3 045
News agencies	1 584
Radio	832
National newspapers	640
Regional newspapers	497
TV	365
Magazines	79

Communication with the Society

the largest audience in Latgale (2.22 mln), Kurzeme (2.04 mln), only then followed by Vidzeme (1.07 mln) and Zemgale (1.02 mln).

Communication in Social Networks

To reach a wider audience, on 20 October 2015 (World Statistics Day) the CSB opened a Facebook site www.facebook.com/csplatvija 530 tweets were published in 2015 – 75 more than in 2014. 120 of the tweets are replies or comments to other tweets (in 2014 – 87 replies), which means that the number of questions asked in Twitter is increasing.

In 2015 tweets of @csp_Latvija have been viewed 781.1 thsd times, which is about twice as many as in 2014 (361.0 views); it is mainly related to the growing number of followers. Altogether there were 902 retweets (in 2014 – 922) and 534 likes (in 2014 – 353).

Information requests

In 2015, PR specialists received 210 requests for information from Latvian and foreign media, and Twitter users, which is 39 requests more than in 2014. CSB data or comments were most often requested by the following media: LTV (19 times), Latvijas Avīze (17), Latvijas Radio (15), Diena (13), Dienas Bizness (13), LNT (12), RE:Baltica (9), Neatkarīgā Rīta Avīze (5), TV3 (5), Bauskas Dzīve (4) and LETA (4).

In 2015, the CSB answered 1 172 information requests; 27 data users applied for regular custom made datasets.

Since 2004 the CSB has been working as the Eurostat Data User Support Centre in Latvia. In 2015 the Eurostat Data Support Centre replied to 226 questions about the European statistics.

Twitter followers

07.08.2012.	937
01.01.2013.	1 264
21.12.2013.	2 244
16.12.2014.	3 019
31.12.2015.	3 774

PERSONNEL

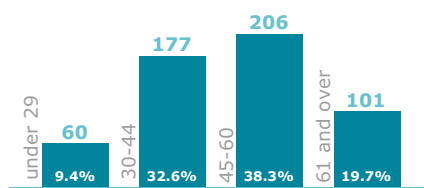




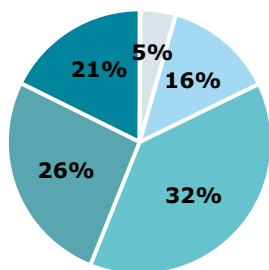
PERSONNEL

CSB human resources management values are knowledge, cooperation, openness, rule of law and responsibility. One of the CSB core values is well-educated, professional, honest, reliable personnel with excellent communication skills and commitment to quality. CSB staff is motivated, result-oriented, with the necessary competencies, skills and knowledge, and able to introduce innovative solutions.

Personnel, by age group



Time worked for the CSB



- less than 1 year
- 1 to 5 years
- 5 to 10 years
- 10 to 20 years
- more than 20 years

Human Resources

At the end of 2015, there were 556 posts in the CSB system, of which 269 (48%) were civil servants, and 287 (52%) – employees. During the reporting period nine freelancers were employed.

CSB interviewers and price registrars work in Kuldīga, Preiļi, Valmiera and other counties of Latvia (21% of the employees).

76.4% of the CSB employees have higher education; 42% have Master's Degree. There are four doctors of science working in the institution. 23% of the employees have secondary vocational or secondary education. The majority of employees (253 or 61%) have higher education in economics and IT related fields, of which 19% – in statistics, 48% – in economics/finances, 22% – in management sciences/business administration, 12% – in IT, and 39% of the employees – in other fields (legal science, mathematics, sociology, etc.).

During the last three years, staff turnover has been around 9% (in 2015 – 9%, in 2014 – 10%, in 2013 – 9%). Last year, 41 employees terminated employment, and it is 10 employees fewer than in 2014.

Last year 55 competitions were organised to 64 civil servant and employee posts, and as a result 17 employees were appointed to a position of a civil servant; three successful applicants started civil service in the CSB in January 2016. Employment contracts were signed with 14 employees. Not all vacant civil servant and employee posts resulted in an appointment of an employee – 16 ended without a result. In ten cases applicants did not have the necessary skills or knowledge; in six – there were no candidates. The most challenging task was to find employees for interviewer posts and specialists in the field of IT and macroeconomic statistics.

To ensure good governance and further training of personnel, in 2015 a number of employees changed their positions: one was transferred to an executive position, three employees were appointed as civil servants, and one civil servant changed departments.

Personnel

Due to staff turnover the CSB loses resources invested in further training of staff; if a highly qualified employee terminates employment, the new employee needs time to acquire the necessary skills. Main reasons behind termination of employment are the uncompetitive wages in the public sector, change of activity or place of residence, as well as rotation within public administration service. It is difficult to reduce unwanted staff turnover, since not always career growth and regular wage increase can be ensured as a response to the employee's contribution. The small wages are the reason for leaving most often reported by young people. The most common challenges faced by the CSB include lack of qualified candidates and competition with the private sector, where wages and salaries tend to be larger.

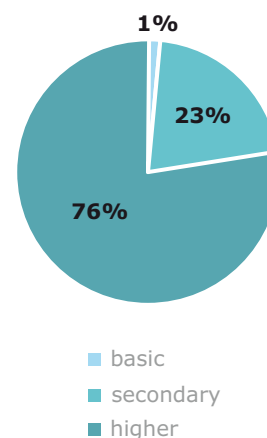
Last year, the Minister of Economy approved the CSB operating strategy 2014 – 2016. It aims at drawing up a CSB personnel strategy with a systematic approach to HR management, focusing on changes and challenges at institutional level, as well as within the framework of the ESS. The CSB plans to improve the current system of governance, based on uniform HR management processes. The Bureau has introduced a motivating system for selection, evaluation, development and remuneration of employees that promotes professionalism and execution of functions of the institution.

Structural Optimisation

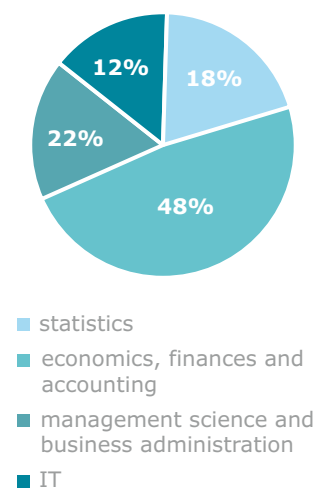
Seven departments are involved in the provision of statistics: Price Statistics Department, Agricultural and Environment Statistics Department, Macroeconomic Statistics Department, Social Statistics Department, Statistical Methodology and Quality Department, Business Statistics Department and Information, Publishing and Printing Department; collection of statistical data from respondents is ensured by the Statistical Data processing Department and three Data Collection and Processing Centres in Kuldīga, Preiļi and Valmiera. To ensure centralised support in issues related to planning, quality, classification, standardisation and mathematical methodology, the Statistical Methodology and Organisation Division and Mathematical Support Division were reorganised, forming the Statistical Methodology and Quality Department, which started its work on 1 January 2015.

Three departments (Legal and Corporate Services Department, Information Technologies Department, Strategic Planning and Resources Management Department), the independent divisions – EU Affairs Coordination Division, Technical Operation and Maintenance Section, as well as the President's Office are involved in the provision of support functions.

Level of education



Sectors of higher education



Personnel

Towards a Paperless Office

To facilitate the control and decision making procedures, the CSB top management, directors and heads of units may now use the data on the the working time spent, costs of products and processes etc. available in the Balanced Strategy Information Systems (BSIS). By developing the BSIS, the planning block has been updated, thus enabling efficient performance monitoring at product level.

Electronic movement of documents related to receipt of fixed assets and inventory, internal relocation and write-off, as well as to the issued invoices, allows to save time.

Electronic circulation of documents is now also available for individual human resources record-keeping processes, which, in turn, helps saving paper. As of 1 January 2015, leaves and other paid days-off, as well as applications to different trainings are handled electronically. An electronic database of job descriptions has been set up, and as of April 1 coordination, signing and registration of job descriptions is done electronically.

Professional Development and Training

Employees are offered a number of different training opportunities to develop their professional competence and performance. CSB employees attended ten European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP) courses abroad. More than 350 employees were involved in external training, and more than 600 — in internal training.

Internal training and informative events were held by the leading experts of different fields. Regular internal training helps ensure effective work with data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination; there were also workshops intended for the new employees, price registrars, interviewers, project managers. In cooperation with the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau, the CSB organised a seminar for the new employees on conflict of interest and ethical issues. In informative workshops ESTP participants shared their knowledge on a number of topics and the latest trends in statistics with other CSB employees.

CSB staff members 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 107 staff members took



Personnel

part in 232 meetings (including 72 — Eurostat working party meetings, 22 — Eurostat task force meetings, 7 — Eurostat committee meetings).

Knowledge and skills of CSB experts are highly valued also at international level. CSB specialists held training courses in Statistics Jordan, Statistics Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ukrainian State Statistics Service; shared experience with their Lithuanian, Estonian colleagues, as well as with representatives of statistical institutes of the Balkan countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia).



CSB Certificate of Recognition for valuable contribution to the development of the statistical system of Latvia and promotion of international visibility of the institution was awarded to:

Inga Kunstvere –
Director, Price Statistics Department

Mārtiņš Liberts –
Deputy Head, Mathematical Support Division

Inga Oksentjuka –
Head, Large Enterprises' Data Collection and Processing Section

Gundega Kuzmina –
Deputy Director, Information, Publishing and Printing Department

Andra Lazdiņa –
Senior Officer, Environment and Energy Statistics Section

Jolanta Minkevica –
Director, Statistical Methodology and Quality Department

Kārlis Smudzis –
Senior Officer, Living Standard's Statistics Section

Melita Vītola –
Head, Interviewer's Coordination Section

Andra Jansone –
Head, Household Survey Preparation and Supervision Section

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2015



FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2015

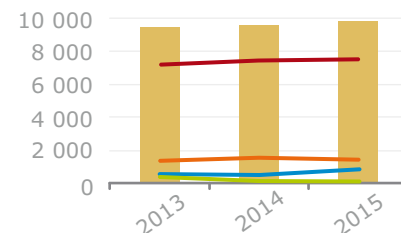


1. Subsidy from general revenue, total (euro)	9 556 311
of wich:	
■ Programme "Provision of Statistical Information"	8 829 921
■ Programme "Implementation of Community Initiative Projects and Activities"	639 807
■ Programme "Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2015"	85 603
■ Programme "Other Projects and Activities of European Union Instruments"	980
2. Ieņēmumi no maksas pakalpojumiem un citi pašu ieņēmumi	124 611
<i>Total revenue</i>	9 680 922

Execution of Central Statistical Bureau budget in 2015 (euro)

1. Current expenditure	8 970 804
of which:	
1.1. wages and salaries	5 719 233
1.2. compulsory social security contributions	1 791 183
1.3. business trip expenses	233 954
1.4. payments for services, purchased materials	1 226 434
of which:	
■ payments for postal, telephone and other communication services	147 703
■ expenditure on public utilities	160 612
■ expenditure on purchase of goods and inventories	194 676
2. Maintenance expenditure transfers	19 425

CSB budget execution,
thsd. euro



- total CSB budget
- maintenance expenditure transfers
- wages and salaries
- capital expenditure
- goods and services

Financial Statement 2015

3. Capital expenditure 810 995

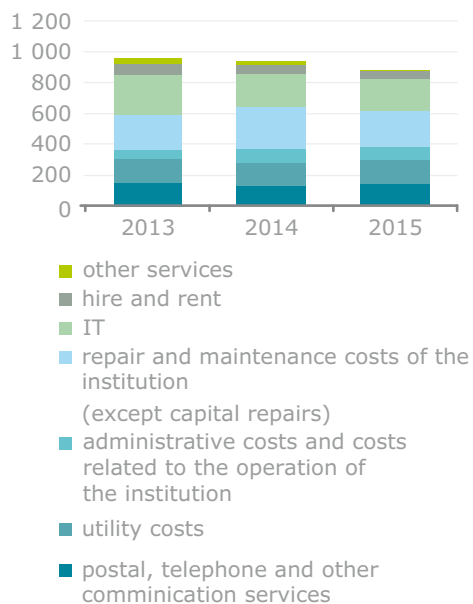
of which:

■ intangible assets	251 219
■ hardware, communication and other office equipment	387 687
■ other fixed assets not classified above	98 314
■ capital repairs and reconstruction	73 775

Total expenditure

9 801 224

Service costs,
thsd. euro



ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT YEAR





KEY PRIORITIES 2015

In 2016 the CSB will make a strong commitment to the goals and objectives set out in the operational strategy, as well as in the personnel strategy. The CSB employees will keep enhancing their professional skills and provide data users with the required information. They will also work on systemic improvements to the work processes and technological solutions for data processing in line with the principles of good governance established in the institution.

With the entry into force of the new **Statistics Law** on 1 January 2016, the CSB will implement the new provisions of the Law, in particular by strengthening its role as the main coordinating body in production of official statistics.

The CSB will work on implementing Vision 2020 initiatives, undertake grant projects and introduce OECD recommendations, consistent with the ESS general developments and development tasks defined in the CSB strategy.

Working in the dynamic ESS environment, the CSB will maintain active international cooperation and develop new collaboration instruments which will contribute to sustainability of the resources invested. The CSB will also take part in production of statistics for the needs of the new EU initiatives.

The CSB will promote development of the statistical system through active participation in the Council of Europe and Eurostat task forces, committees, as well as in the process of elaboration of EU legislation.

Activities planned:

- the **Statistical Council** will start its work;
- for the first time, the CSB will draw up the **Official Statistics Programme** for a period of three years (2017–2019) to provide data users with information on availability of official statistics;
- develop the **Code of Practice for Official Statistics**, in order to set quality requirements compliant with the European Statistics Code of Practice;
- prepare description for the project for **statistics portal**, and submit an application for the ERDF funding;
- create CSB **administrative data quality assessment system** to ensure that the administrative data used for production of statistics are evaluated and documented systematically;



Key priorities 2015

- draw up an informative report for the Cabinet on the **use of administrative data**, problems faced by the CSB and proposed solutions thereto;
- develop **social statistics data warehouse**;
- prepare an informative report for the Cabinet on the progress of organisation of **Population and Housing Census 2021**;
- process and analyse **microcensus** data to improve the methodology for estimating the number of population of Latvia and its administrative territories;
- continue work on reduction of **administrative burden**: create and develop administrative data processing and analysis system for social, business, agriculture and price statistics;
- in the innovation statistics domain, set up data production and storage for the **Latvian Smart Specialisation Strategies**;
- take part in the ESS **VISION 2020** innovate production and dissemination of statistics.

CENTRAL STATISTICAL BUREAU OF LATVIA

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