**STRATEGY OF
STATISTICS LITHUANIA FOR**

2008–2012

Statistics Lithuania

CONTENTS

This Strategy of Statistics Lithuania, covering the period of 2008–2012, is already the third one developed by Statistics Lithuania. This document is based on the comprehensive situational and resource analysis as well as the evaluation of the activities of Statistics Lithuania in accordance with criteria set in the European Foundation for Quality Management. In the process of development of this Strategy, much attention was paid to the opinion of employees of Statistics Lithuania regarding the areas for improvement and priority trends. This strategic five-year period, in contradistinction to previous periods, is harmonised with the planning cycle of the European Statistical System. Activity trends of Statistics Lithuania and the whole Strategy have been approved by the Senior Management Committee of Statistics Lithuania as well as the Statistical Council.

During the strategic period, we will focus our attention on the satisfaction of partner and customer needs, development of services provided and enhancement of organisation of activities. Making use of the best practice of other countries, we foresee to provide users of statistical information with all official statistics from a single source, i.e. following a single contact point principle. Aiming at more active and constructive communication with users as well as improvement of services provided, we will introduce the Customer Relationship Management system.

Work related to the quality management area will be continued. Striving for the adherence of performance of Statistics Lithuania to the requirements of the quality management system standard ISO 9001:2000 and meeting the dynamic needs of stakeholders, we are planning to carry out periodic revisions and update provisions of quality policy and implementation objectives.

We will observe and coordinate the implementation of provisions of the European Statistics Code of Practice at Statistics Lithuania and other institutions producing official statistics and try to ensure full compliance of the produced national and European statistics with the requirements of the said Code of Practice.

We will observe and evaluate the process of producing statistical information and will try to optimise individual stages of this process, as well as to shorten the preparation and submission time of statistical information to users.

Two censuses will be carried out during the strategic period: in 2010 – Agricultural Census, in 2011 – Population and Housing Census. Another very important task is to commence the preparation of information from all statistical domains on the basis of the new revision of the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (NACE Rev. 2).

Regional statistics will be supplemented with topical statistical indicators, reflecting social and economic development trends of Lithuanian regions in a better way.

Significant attention will be paid to the reduction of the response burden. It is planned to reduce the costs of time spent by respondents to produce the required statistical data and filling in reports by 25 per cent, on average, by the end of the strategic period. We hope that the achievement of this goal will be facilitated by a wider use of administrative data sources, application of mathematical methods in statistical surveys and further improvement of electronic statistical data collection. We plan to adapt ourselves to business accountancy systems and use data compiled in these systems for production of statistical indicators.

Aiming at duly preparations for the Lithuanian Presidency in the European Union, we will extend international co-operation and activities in the European Statistical System. In 2008–2010 Statistics Lithuania will represent Lithuanian statistics in the United Nations Statistical Commission. In 2008 the conference of Directors-General of the National Statistical Institutes (DGINS) will be held in Lithuania. We will continue our participation in technical assistance projects and transfer the accumulated best practices to national statistical institutes of other countries.

In 2009 the 90th anniversary of Statistics Lithuania will be commemorated. This event obliges us to review the history of Lithuanian statistics, to evaluate the path went through as well as the achieved progress and to inform the society thereof.

This publication is a condensed version of the Strategy of Statistics Lithuania for 2008–2012, approved on 25 October 2007; full text is available on the website of Statistics Lithuania at www.stat.gov.lt

Director General   Algirdas Šemeta

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Political factors

Political and economic decisions of our country and the European Union (hereinafter referred to as "the EU") predetermine new needs of official statistics and its development. Reliable statistical information on economic, social and environmental situation at the national and EU levels provides national and EU institutions and the society with statistical information necessary for decision-making and evaluation of progress. Official statistics serves the purposes of monitoring the implementation of the National Long-Term Development Strategy, the Lithuanian Economic Development Strategy until 2015, evaluation of implementation processes of the National Lisbon Strategy, reflection of sustainable development indicators, etc. The Communication of the European Commission and the national Programme of Better Regulation, which is currently under preparation, obliges the Department of Statistics to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as "Statistics Lithuania") to contribute to the implementation of these documents.

Statistics Lithuania, as a partner of the European Statistical System (hereinafter referred to as "the ESS"), participates in the implementation of Community statistical programmes and EU legal acts, related with the development of statistical areas. Activities in various statistical areas and organisation as well as management of official statistics are regulated by around 260 EU legal acts. In the Community Statistical Programme for 2008–2012, significant attention is given to statistical areas, reflecting priorities of Community policy: welfare, competitiveness, economic growth, solidarity, economic and social cohesion as well as sustainable development, security and further EU enlargement.

The implementation of the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice adopted by the Statistical Programme Committee on 24 February 2005 and approved by the Council of Ministers of Economy and Finance requires preparation of high quality and harmonised Community statistics and ensuring functioning of the ESS. Statistics Lithuania is responsible for the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice in Lithuania.

Economic factors

Comprehensive macroeconomic statistics is necessary for formulation and implementation of economic policy, drawing international comparisons of economic development. The European Economic and Monetary Union raise substantial requirements for monetary statistics, balance of payments and financial statistics, as well as statistical indicators of the euro area. Very pertinent is statistics of general government deficit and debt, statistics of own resources, estimates of non-official economy, which are reflected by indicators of national accounts. Comprehensive regional statistics, reflecting the economic development levels of all regions of the country, is expedient for regional development policy purposes. Market globalisation, development of information and knowledge society, the increasing role of services poses the task to observe and evaluate these phenomena statistically.

Structural indicators set in the Lisbon Strategy, adopted by the European Council in May 2000 and orientated mainly towards economic growth and employment, are periodically prepared and published.

Envisaging reflection of economic development during the past 15 years and thus striving to reflect structural changes in the economy, the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council was adopted in 2006, establishing the revised version of the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE Rev. 2). The changes were introduced due to the need to reflect the essential economic transformations, the necessity to reflect newly emerging economic activities, which arise due to the technological progress, as well as very important changes in other international classifications of economic activities. Statistics, which is relevant and comparable to the statistics of other countries, should contribute to better economic governance both at the Community and national levels. The introduction of this classification into statistics commenced in 2006 and should be completed in 2012 recalculating the indicators of national accounts.

Every year the EU legislation is augmenting, which consequently increases the response burden and the workload of employees of Statistics Lithuania; accordingly, the costs of preparation of statistical information are increasing.

Social factors

Social and economic development of Lithuania and its regions, free movement of persons and labour force within EU countries, implementation of labour market policy, social exclusion, the need to reflect the implementation of social measures and changes of living standards in more details set new requirements for social and demographic statistics. The necessity to observe statistically and evaluate demographic changes, migration flows (including undeclared migration), social and economic integration of migrants, to prepare asylum statistics, to provide statistical information on establishment of jobs, to develop and improve statistics on crimes and victims of crimes, to pay more attention to the preparation of statistics on discrimination arises.

Public interest in statistics and the increasing level of statistical literacy is characterised by the growing number of visitors of the website of Statistics Lithuania, abundance of requests and the need for statistical analytical surveys. The growing interest in statistics obliges employees of Statistics Lithuania to increase productivity of their work, to upgrade qualifications continuously, to implement measures developing statistical literacy of users.

Technological factors

Due to the rapid changes in the progress of information technologies, it is necessary to introduce new technologies, ensuring safety of the compiled and processed statistical data, and to provide conditions for the data exchange with different providers of statistical data, partners and users of statistical information. It is also expedient to search for technological solutions enabling as fast collection and processing of statistical data as possible, as well as timely provision of statistical information not only to domestic, but also to European users. Fast progress in information technologies presupposes not only observation of the market and introduction of new products, but also continuous upgrading of employees' qualifications. Focusing on advanced information technologies and telecommunications, projects aiming at the automation of processes of statistical data collection, preparation and dissemination were implemented at Statistics Lithuania. The results of these projects are the introduction of the Integrated Statistical Information System (ISIS), development of an electronic data collection system, provision of interviewers with laptop and handheld computers, modernisation of the system of dissemination of statistical information.

The progress of information technologies opens up possibilities to use them for meeting customer needs. The objective to ensure access to statistical information produced by all institutions managing official statistics obliges to introduce access to information based on a single contact point principle.

MISSION

To prepare and provide society, business, the science and institutions with high quality statistical information, necessary for substantiated analysis of phenomena, decision-making as well as stimulating discussions on issues pertinent to the country, to participate actively in the development of international statistics.

OBJECTIVE

To develop services for users by providing comprehensive and detailed official statistics in the most appropriate form, following the single contact point principle, by rationally using the resources and without increasing the response burden.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND ADVANCEMENT OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING SYSTEM

1. POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND ADVANCEMENT OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING SYSTEM

Objective

To transform the strategic planning system into a unified planning system managed by means of information technologies, enabling inclusion of each employee into the implementation of strategic goals and objectives.

Planned actions

Management of strategic planning through IT

The introduction of the Business Management System, encompassing performance and resource planning, Customer Relationship Management, Human Resource Management and other sub-systems will allow computerising and managing the strategic planning process through IT means. This system will also allow familiarising employees at all levels with the implementation process of the Strategy. New forms and ways will be employed for the dissemination of strategic provisions. It is foreseen to introduce a system of balanced scorecard for the purposes of monitoring the implementation of the Strategy, which will allow managing risks of Strategy implementation on the basis of facts and concrete information as well as to substantiate the decision-making. By performing continuous evaluation of achieved results, risk factors and user needs, the purposefulness of revision and updating of the Strategy will be considered. For this purpose, the procedures of Strategy revision and updating will be improved.

Implementation of regular Strategy revision procedures

Striving for better satisfaction of needs and expectations of users of statistical information, it is planned to organise regular meetings with representatives of target user groups. Further improvements in working environment, internal communication are also foreseen; strong emphasis will be placed on the dialogue between the top management and employees of lower rank and employees of regional statistical offices (hereinafter referred to as "RSOs"), aiming to involve them in the implementation of strategic goals and improvement of performance. Quality policy and its goals will be reviewed and updated taking into consideration the changing needs of stakeholders.

Insurance of relevance and dissemination of quality policy

During the strategic period, ensuring the harmonisation of legal acts, strengthening of systematic monitoring of their implementation as well as regulation of statistical surveys and work by initiating EU, national or internal legal acts, new activities based on financial and human resources remain a significant task.

Establishment of provisions of the European Statistics Code of Practice in the Law on Statistics

A topical objective of the strategic period for the implementation of policy and Strategy of Statistics Lithuania is the adoption of the Law on Statistics (hereinafter referred to as "the Law"), which is harmonised with the European Statistics Code of Practice. Main definitions are specified in the Law and additional liabilities for official statistical offices are foreseen, as they will not have the right to collect data from respondents if such data can be obtained from other providers of official statistics or administrative sources. The Law will consolidate more cases when statistical data and statistical information, from which direct or indirect identification of the respondent is possible, are not considered to be confidential. The Law provides for the possibility of confidential statistical data and confidential statistical information exchange between official statistics offices, and the use of depersonalised data for statistical analytical and R&D purposes by scientists and researches. The Law contains a provision on accessibility of statistical information, i.e. statistical information prepared within the

framework of the Official Statistics Work Programme should be published on the websites of the institutions which prepared such information and be accessible to all users of official statistics simultaneously.

Statistics Lithuania will continue vigorous participation in the ESS activities (Statistical Programme Committee (SPC), Committee on Monetary, Financial and Balance of Payments Statistics (CMFB) as well as other committees) and the EU Council Working Group on Statistics meetings, where strategic ESS issues are discussed. From 2008 Statistics Lithuania will represent Lithuanian statistics in the United Nations Statistical Commission for a four-year period. With the aim to strengthen the image of Lithuanian statistics in Europe, in 2008 the conference of Directors-General of the National Statistical Institutes (DGINS) will be held in Lithuania, during which strategic issues pertinent to statistics and related to ESS development as well as quality improvement of European statistics will be discussed. In 2010 it is foreseen to organise the International Marketing and Output Databases conference in Vilnius with participation of representatives of national statistical institutes (hereinafter referred to as "NSIs") from various countries and international organisations. On July 1, 2013 Lithuania will take over the presidency of the European Union. During this strategic period, Statistics Lithuania will be prepared to provide conditions for proper execution of this task and ensure meeting the needs of statistical information supply.

When developing the ESS policy and Strategy, it is very important to ensure the quality, continuity and consistency of position papers presented by the Republic of Lithuania regarding new EU regulations in the field of statistics. This is preconditioned by an active participation in the ESS decision-making process, encouragement of Lithuanian representatives to voice the position of the Republic of Lithuania at the meetings of EU institutions and forums and exchange opinions with other EU Member States. It is planned to strive for more active participation of employees of lower rank from Statistics Lithuania, including the regional level, in the process of drafting statistical legislation and various discussions on decision-making.

Participation in ESS policy formation

During the strategic period (2009), Statistics Lithuania will celebrate the 90th anniversary of establishment of Lithuanian statistics. This event obligates to have a fresh look at the history of Lithuanian statistics, to evaluate the path went through and progresses achieved and inform the society thereof.

Expected results

» Personal annual action plans of employees are realistically correlated with implementation of strategic objectives and tasks.

» Information technologies are adjusted for management of strategic planning.

» The system of balanced scorecard methodology is introduced for monitoring of implementation of strategic provisions.

» Procedures ensuring revision and updating of the Strategy as well as risk management are developed.

» Enduring compliance of the quality management system of Statistics Lithuania with the requirements of the ISO 9001:2000 standard is ensured.

» Statistics Lithuania ready to chair the EU Council Working Group on Statistics.

2. PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Objective

To create a system of career planning, to improve training and motivation systems, encouraging pro-activeness, responsibility, flexibility, loyalty of employees and allowing the development of versatile capacities as well as transfer of good practice.

Planned actions

Planning of individual career

It is foreseen to introduce individual career planning – to compile individual career plans for each employee, highlighting the new skills or knowledge an employee has to acquire, and areas of activity the employee is to become proficient. Motivation measures are also foreseen in the plans (increase of earnings and bonuses, possibility to get a promotion), which will be applied if an employee fulfils the set targets. Performance of employees will be evaluated on the basis of the set targets and results of their achievement. Career plans will also assist employees to understand the principles of earnings formation better and to analyse financial perspectives themselves. A part of individual career planning – motivation – will provide employees with the opportunity to persistently and purposefully pursue their career, which in turn should increase the loyalty of employees to the institution.

Further improvements in the training system are planned – training plans should correlate with strategic goals of Statistics Lithuania and personal career plans of employees to the maximum extent and provide the employees with the possibility to achieve objectives foreseen in these plans. Measures to evaluate effectiveness of personnel training will be elaborated and applied for the evaluation of the effectiveness of training.

Training of experts for passing on statistical knowledge

It is planned to finalise the reform of the training system before 2009, to put more emphasis on dissemination of knowledge conveyed by the specialists of Statistics Lithuania. Such in-house training should account for about 50 per cent of all training delivered (currently outside training delivered by external training providers and experts is prevailing). This would help employees to acquire specific knowledge expedient for their work, practical abilities and skills, develop general understanding of the statistical system and facilitate changeability of employees by ensuring continuity of activities, even distribution of workload and prevention of risks due to turnover of employees.

Development of expert assistance provision to NSIs of other countries and statistical literacy of statistical information users necessitates the need to nurture experts – increase the number of employees able to deliver lectures, hold seminars for employees and users, and to provide expert assistance to NSIs of other countries in different fields of statistics or improvement of statistical systems.

Encouragement of employees' ideas

It is foreseen to involve employees of all levels into the enhancement of performance of Statistics Lithuania – to provide conditions for employees to actively submit proposals regarding improvement of activities and apply motivation measures to the authors of feasible proposals. With the establishment of the bank of ideas, the employees will be provided with conditions to propose ideas on the issues of the improvement of organisation of statistics, and having foreseen the procedures of the implementation of proposals, alongside the procedure of stimulation of employees for the ideas raised will be elaborated.

Staff opinion surveys, possibility to submit proposals on the improvement of performance, publicity of achievements will assist employees to realise the importance of their input into activities of Statistics Lithuania, to participate more actively and show initiative.

A significant aspect is to ensure rotation of employees – to develop measures encouraging employees to endeavour career not only in their, but also in other divisions. Rotation will help to develop a wider circle of employees who have an understanding of the statistical system.

It is planned to table a proposal to the Civil Service Department under the Ministry of the Interior regarding the compulsory staff opinion survey in all state institutions using unified criteria. This would enable to identify problem areas in the general government sector, to identify the best practice examples and draw comparisons between institutions.

It is planned to start analysis of reasons of staff turnover – it is foreseen to prepare a questionnaire for resigning employees. Analysis of answers will help to identify causes of resignation and encourage preventive actions.

Measures highlighting progressive accomplishments of employees and their activeness will be developed and used for publicity of employees' achievements. It is planned to employ non-financial forms of encouragement. It will help to increase motivation and loyalty of employees.

Expected results

» Individual career planning implemented.

» No less than half of all training is delivered by the specialists of Statistics Lithuania.

» The Human Resource Management module is introduced into the Business Management System and correlated with other modules of the system.

» The bank of ideas established.

» Employee satisfaction increased by no less than 3 per cent at the end of the strategic period.

RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

3. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

3.1. Advancement of financial resources management

Objective

To achieve that financial resources of Statistics Lithuania are managed following the principles of reliable financial management.

Planned actions

Introduction of the Enterprise Resource Planning system

To this end, it is planned to introduce an enterprise resource planning system, which will enable to manage the financial accounting of Statistics Lithuania and regional statistical offices in the unified information system. This will improve control of costs, planning of financial resources, monitoring of their use, as well as to compile project accountancy, enabling comparisons of financial and work time costs of analogous works and services, and substantiate the pricing on the principle of actually incurred expenditure.

Performing accounting on the accruals principle

It is also planned to switch from the accounting based on cash principles to the accounting based on the accruals principle; therefore, financial accounting will adhere to International Public Sector Accounting Standards. Aiming at more effective use of resources, it is planned to commence the introduction of validity and necessity of works (cost-benefit) analysis during the strategic period.

For the monitoring purposes of effectiveness of institutional performance, the change in labour productivity will be calculated.

Expected results

» Budget planning is related to actual costs of work time allocated for surveys and works of the preceding years.

» The information Business Management System is introduced; processes of planning and monitoring of performance and resources are fully computerised.

» Cost-benefit analysis of all new statistical surveys is performed.

» Labour productivity of main processes (preparation of statistical information and customer service management) annually increases by no less than 2 per cent.

3.2. Management and development of information and communication technology (ICT)

Objective

To interconnect information systems of Statistics Lithuania into a flexible and safe information infrastructure, providing conditions for better management and more rational use of processes and resources.

Planned actions

Aiming at implementation of this goal, the main objectives of this strategic period are the introduction of an Integrated Statistical Information System (ISIS), use of ICT potential for improvement of public services and strengthening the relations with users of statistical information and respondents.

With further introduction of ISIS, it is foreseen to completely interconnect partial processes of statistical information development: collection of statistical data, processing and dissemination of statistical information. Data flows between these processes will be fully automated. With gradual transfer of all statistical survey data into the consolidated ISIS databases, newly introduced application systems will be integrated into these databases.

With the aim of shortening the preparation time of statistical information, it is foreseen to develop the system of electronic data collection, provide respondents with the conditions to submit data in more diverse forms and ways.

It is planned to develop means enabling respondents not only to transfer statistical data by using electronic forms, but also to prepare such data faster and at lower costs. Implementing the generally accepted market standards of data exchange, it is foreseen to adapt to the business accounting systems used by respondents and to use the accountancy data contained therein for the development of statistical indicators. Developing the system of submission of electronic statistical reports, it is planned to adapt electronic reports to the needs of specific respondent groups.

Improving the quality of public services provided and access to them, it is planned to switch from standard products to the decisions, adapted for individual users. Measures, providing conditions for customers, using public services provided on the Internet, to adapt packages of services according to their needs, will be introduced.

It is foreseen to use the ICT potential for strengthening partnership with other institutions managing official statistics. By taking over the best practice of ESS and international organisations, it is planned to harmonise our information systems with those of partners and provide conditions for users of statistical information to receive statistical information following the single contact point principle.

For strengthening public administration capacity of Statistics Lithuania, it is foreseen to introduce ICT means, enabling more transparent and effective performance of public administration functions. It is planned to strive for Statistics Lithuania to become a "paperless office", where employees have all conditions to get necessary information in digital form. It is planned to introduce electronic communication and work flow management means, to create an internal portal, integrating all systems on the basis of the World Wide Web technologies.

Planning and management of ICT resources at Statistics Lithuania will be based on the

Automation of data interchange between statistical information preparation sub-processes

Adjustment of ICT solutions to business accountancy systems of respondents

Introduction of a single contact point principle

Transition to "paperless office"

requirements of ISO 9001:2000 and ISO/IEC 27002 standards for information security and quality management systems. The introduced ICT means should be user-friendly both for the provision of public services and for user-level preparation and receiving statistical information. Following the principle "Modern software or technological solutions – lower requirements for specific ICT knowledge", it is foreseen to enable less experienced specialists to perform complicated information system administration operations.

Introduction of ICT means to manage the performance process

It is planned to introduce control mechanisms managed through ICT means for management and monitoring of all performance processes and available resources of Statistics Lithuania, providing conditions for compilation of information received from control mechanisms in special data storages. The developed measures will allow analysing this information for various decision-making purposes. Conditions, ensuring information environment for introduction, development and functioning of the business management system, will be provided.

Registered and managed ISIS problems and amendments will allow wider and more effective use and development of the introduced ICT means and available resources.

Expected results

» All processes of preparation of statistical information are interconnected in ISIS and managed by ICT means.

» Electronic forms of all statistical reports for business are introduced.

» Individual solutions are applied to certain user groups of statistical information (including researchers).

» Access based on the single contact point principle is established.

» Online access to electronic public services is ensured by no less than 99 per cent.

» Official documents are developed, managed, registered and stored in the electronic environment.

» Electronic signature is introduced and used.

STRENGTHENING
RELATIONS WITH
RESPONDENTS

4. STRENGTHENING RELATIONS WITH RESPONDENTS

Objective

To strengthen co-operation with respondents, to observe their statistical response burden, to continuously search for and introduce new forms of reducing the statistical response burden.

Planned actions

Strengthening feedback with respondents

With the aim of improving the feedback with respondents, it is foreseen to develop and periodically provide more statistical information about the position of enterprises in a certain field of economic activity, as well as summarised results of operation or any other statistical information. By maintaining a close dialogue with respondents, it is planned to ensure participation of respondents in discussing issues related to statistical reports, early notification of respondents about the new legal acts imposing duties upon them to provide statistical data as well as about statistical surveys and their usefulness. It is planned to prepare a section on the policy of reduction of the statistical burden on the website of Statistics Lithuania and announce all measures of the reduction of the statistical response burden under implementation as well as their outcomes, at the same time providing the respondents with the possibility to express their opinion.

Evaluation and reduction of the response burden

Taking over the best practice of NSIs of other countries, it is planned to employ more widely the principle of rotation for selecting enterprises for surveys, to coordinate samples of different statistical surveys and enhance application of mathematical methods in statistics.

It is planned to give more attention to the promotion of the electronic data transfer system and to analyse the causes why respondents do not use this system as well as to analyse measures of possible improvement of the system and establish a more respondent-friendly environment.

When analysing user needs, requirements of legal acts and specifying statistical priorities, further simplification of statistical forms by eliminating no-longer-relevant indicators is envisaged; attempts will be made to use the available data of statistical surveys and administrative sources as effectively as possible. Coordinated samples of statistical surveys will enable more even distribution of the statistical response burden, and the introduction of pilot testing of all statistical questionnaires will allow checking whether enterprises are not obliged to supply the same statistical data for different statistical surveys, statistical indicators are formulated in a clear way, and guidelines for filling in questionnaires are elaborated in an explicit manner.

Wider use of administrative data

Wider use of administrative data is foreseen both in business and social statistics. It is planned to evaluate the possibilities of using administrative data of the Residents' Register, the Register of Real Estate, the State Social Insurance Fund Board (hereinafter referred to as "Sodra"), and other administrative data for the total Population and Housing Census to be held in 2011 for the purposes of development of indicators on population, employment, households and families, housing, etc. Due to the increasing reluctance of part of the residents to participate in statistical surveys and especially to provide information on the received income, it is planned to make a wider use of the data for the statistical Survey

on Income and Living Conditions from such administrative sources as Sodra, the State Tax Inspectorate, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, which will fully replace data of statistical surveys on officially recorded income from paid employment, social transfers (pensions, benefits), taxes paid and social insurance contributions.

Quarterly indexes of labour costs and indicators of the Structure of Earnings Survey in individual enterprises will be evaluated using the Sodra data.

It is also planned to make a wider use of the following administrative sources for the preparation of agricultural statistics: data on the declaration of agricultural crops from the National Paying Agency under the Ministry of Agriculture as well as data of the state enterprise Agricultural Information and Rural Business Centre.

Aiming at reduction of the statistical response burden for the institutions and organisations from the public administration sector, it is planned to carry out a feasibility study on the use of the financial accounting database of the Ministry of Finance for the preparation of information on investment in tangible fixed assets.

The commencement of evaluation of the benefit of the statistical information already prepared and planned for preparation (user needs) and costs incurred by respondents and institutions managing official statistics will allow identification of the expediency of works and rationality of costs.

Expected results

- » No less than five meetings with respondents are held each year, during which the respondents are informed about new developments in statistics, new legal acts and statistical surveys; discussions on these issues are initiated.
- » Procedures of co-ordination of business statistical survey samples are improved – small enterprises (0-4 employees and income not exceeding LTL 0.5 million) participate in no more than three statistical surveys.
- » Samples of population surveys are optimised and coordinated.
- » A 25 per cent annual enterprise rotation is applied in business statistical surveys.
- » No less than 40 per cent of all statistical indicators are prepared on the basis of administrative data.
- » The statistical response burden is reduced, on average, by 25 per cent.
- » Testing results of statistical questionnaires are successfully used for improvement and simplification of reports.
- » No less than 50 per cent of business statistics respondents provide data electronically.
- » Results of monitoring the statistical response burden are published on the website of Statistics Lithuania.

DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS WITH PARTNERS

5. DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS WITH PARTNERS

5.1. Development of relations with institutions managing official statistics, scientific institutions and public organisations

Objective

To strengthen the coordinating role of Statistics Lithuania in preparation and dissemination of official statistical information as well as implementation of the relevant provisions of the European Statistics Code of Practice by other institutions managing official statistics.

Planned actions

Co-ordination of implementation of the provisions of the Code of Practice

Aiming at strengthening of the role of Statistics Lithuania as an institution coordinating the national official statistics, it is foreseen to pay significant attention to the quality evaluation of methodologies of statistical surveys performed by other institutions. To this end, a relevant procedure will be worked out, modi operandi elaborated, and regulations of the Methodological Commission of Statistics Lithuania amended.

In the field of developing and strengthening co-operation with other institutions managing official statistics as well as the Bank of Lithuania, it is planned to invite representatives of the said institutions to the meetings of the Senior Management Committee of Statistics Lithuania regularly for discussion of issues related to the development and advancement of relevant statistical domains, to the meetings of the Methodological and Terminology Commissions for discussion of methodologies of various statistical surveys and inventory as well as adjustment of statistical terminology. It is also planned to organise specialised training for representatives of institutions managing official statistics.

It is intended to identify areas of comparability between other institutions and statistical offices of other countries, to elaborate the system of indicators and draw inter-institutional comparisons.

Strengthening relations with public and other organisations

Co-operation with the Lithuanian Economic Association, the Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists and the Lithuanian Business Employers' Confederation, the Association of Lithuanian Trade Enterprises, the Lithuanian Farmers' Union, trade unions and other public organisations will be further strengthened as well as their needs for statistical information analysed. Searching for new forms of co-operation, it is also planned to implement joint, mutually beneficial projects, to organise conferences, discussions and other forums, to prepare joint publications and reviews, to deliver presentations on statistical topicalities during events organised by these organisations.

It is provisioned to collaborate with the scientific community in preparation of methodologies, for analysis and evaluation of statistical information as well as development and drafting of analytical presentations.

To this end, it is foreseen to strengthen co-operation with the members of the Lithuanian Union of Statisticians and members of the Statistical Council to Statistics Lithuania.

Expected results

» Relevant provisions of the European Statistics Code of Practice are implemented in institutions managing official statistics.

» Methodologies of statistical surveys of institutions managing official statistics are discussed and harmonised at the Methodological Commission of Statistics Lithuania.

» Joint publications are developed and statistical projects implemented with other institutions managing official statistics.

» When feasible, indicators of evaluation of the performance of and progress achieved by Statistics Lithuania are compared with indicators of other institutions or NSIs of other countries.

5.2. Strengthening international co-operation

Objective

To develop international co-operation by taking over not only the best practice of other countries, but also transferring own practice to NSIs of the EU and other countries, and to participate in technical assistance projects.

Planned actions

As a continuation and development of co-operation with NSIs of other countries and international organisations, it is planned not only to exchange, to take over and to use the best practice, but also to disseminate the achievements of Lithuanian statistics.

It is planned to organise bilateral meetings, to continue annual meetings of the Statistical Monitoring Committee of the Baltic States, serving as a forum for discussing results of activities, the development of national statistical systems, strategic issues, the implemented innovations, and possibilities for further co-operation.

It is foreseen to systematise the information on the best practice examples of Statistics Lithuania and other countries, to prepare the information on specialists of Statistics Lithuania capable to transfer their experience in a competent way.

Currently ESS Centres of Excellence (ESSnet) are established; the main objective of such centres is to organise the work of the ESS more effectively in development or improvement of methodologies on general issues of organisation and development of statistics. It is planned to analyse in which areas specialists of Statistics Lithuania could share experience with the whole ESS.

It is planned to actively participate in technical assistance projects, to strengthen relations with EU candidate countries, potential candidate countries, Mediterranean countries, and taking into consideration the priorities of development co-operation of the Republic of

Exchanging best practice with other ESS members

Provision of expert assistance to other countries

Lithuania, to provide expert assistance to Eastern Europe (Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine), South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia) countries and Turkey by presenting the best practice of Lithuanian statistics on issues of organisation of statistics as well as issues of development of statistical domains. To that end, it is foreseen to collaborate with other EU Member States and submit applications for participation in technical assistance projects, to analyse the information about the announced projects on the Internet.

A very important task is to convene a group of qualified and competent experts, able to participate in projects and prepare as well as to present materials to potential beneficiaries. It is foreseen to develop recommendations for experts participating in technical assistance projects.

Expected results

» At least one technical assistance project is implemented each year; 3-5 specialists provide expert assistance to other NSIs.

» The best practice of Statistics Lithuania is transferred to NSIs of other countries and is acknowledged within the ESS.

» The information on the best practice of Statistics Lithuania as well as other countries is systematised and continuously updated.

CUSTOMER RELATIONS
MANAGEMENT

6.1. Introduction of the CRM system

Objective

To develop the system for evaluation of individual user needs and adjust it for the development of individual services.

Planned actions

Implementation of the CRM system

Envisaging improvements in user contacts quality and insurance of systematic maintenance of long-term and mutually beneficial relations with current and perspective users, a Customer Relations Management (CRM) system will be introduced. Facilities, offered by the system, will aid in identification of user needs, raising user education, stimulation of interest in statistics and development of a user motivation system, insurance of effective handling of user requests, due identification of delays and timely elimination of difficulties. The system will lead to better understanding and grouping of users of statistical information. This will result in more specialised user satisfaction surveys and, having analysed the needs, in offering the most topical services and products for each user group. While registering all requests, it is foreseen to monitor, analyse and shorten the preparation time of replies to free requests.

Gradual transition to satisfaction of user individual needs

The long-term work experience accumulated by employees of Statistics Lithuania, who communicate with users by means of various media, will lead to adequate preparation and timely transfer to new working conditions. It is envisaged that all available information on users, currently stored in separate local databases, is linked and in a uniform format loaded into the CRM system with adequate and timely updating of the information. The system will make an impact on the work with users, thus working mentality and style of all employees of Statistics Lithuania must be altered. This will enable to ensure efficiency and suitability of the system to store, standardize and analyse information on users, aiming at improvement of their satisfaction with products and services rendered by Statistics Lithuania as well as at automation of feedback with users. Comprehensiveness of data stored and functioning of the system will directly depend on employees' understanding and their responsibility; thus, much attention will be paid to training of employees in the headquarters of Statistics Lithuania and RSOs.

Having identified and named target user groups, measures and forms for raising statistical literacy of users meeting their requests will be developed, ways to spread information about products and services of their interest will be offered, provision of individual public services will be alleviated and interest in statistics will be formed as well as stimulation to use statistics will be persisted.

Expected results

» The CRM system introduced and operational.

» Replies to user requests prepared in 3 working days on average.

» The consumer satisfaction index increased by 10 percentage points.

6.2. Enhancement of availability of statistical information

Objective

To achieve that users can access all official statistics on the basis of a single contact point principle and to systematically shorten statistical information preparation and release time.

Planned actions

In order to offer users all statistical information available, a portal is planned to enable access to statistical information produced not only by Statistics Lithuania, but also by other institutions managing official statistics. The Internet access speed will be increased leading users to quick and handy access to statistical information.

Creation of a portal for official statistics

Plans are made to publish information of all statistical surveys in the Database of Indicators. Statistical indicators in other related datasets will be released and updated simultaneously. Further on the principle will be implemented that means, by which users access public services, are habitual and comfortable for all user groups. Volumes of statistical information published in pre-defined tables will be expanded and longer time series will be offered; structural, sustainable development, competitiveness and key indicators of other EU countries will be released. The structure of prepared publications will be standardised supplementing them with analytical reports. Printed media will remain only for annual thematic and representative publications. Development of projects and joint publications involving other institutions will offer users the possibility to obtain versatile statistical information.

Shortening the time of preparation and release of information

More statistical information on counties and municipalities will be released on the websites of RSOs. Information at the regional level prepared by Statistics Lithuania and other institutions managing official statistics will be integrated into the Database of Indicators. Regional statistical data will be submitted taking into consideration changes in the country's territorial-administrative units.

Expansion of the Database of Indicators, application of DB-based Internet solutions

Co-operation with libraries of other countries will be strengthened; activities related with improvement of confidence in statistics will be further persisted.

The growing user confidence in statistics, solid contacts with users will enable to more flexibly react and satisfy individual needs of certain target user groups.

Expected results

- » The portal of official statistical information is created.
- » The public is informed about all results of activities included into the Official Statistics Work Programme (in terms of Press releases).
- » Monthly statistical information is, on average, released no later than 20 days following the reporting period (according to the Advance Press release calendar).
- » Quarterly statistical information is, on average, released no later than 55 days following the reporting period (according to the Advance Press release calendar).

- » Annual statistical information in the Database of Indicators is, on average, released no later than 195 days following the reporting period.
- » The spread of statistical information amounts to 5000 media coverage cases per year.
- » The Database of Indicators is expanded to 950 datasets.

6.3. Development of possibilities to use primary data for research purposes

Objective

Through securing confidentiality to provide conditions for scientists and researchers to use primary data of statistical surveys for statistical analysis and scientific purposes in Statistics Lithuania and by means of remote access.

Planned actions

Improvement of conditions for primary data use for scientific research purposes

Following the analysis of scientific research institutions' needs for primary statistical data, it is envisaged to submit more prepared primary data. When introducing the remote access facility, it is planned to form conditions to access the said data at convenient time not only inside the premises of Statistics Lithuania but also in remote workplaces.

Plans are made to develop a database of primary depersonalised data, in which data of all statistical surveys are stored. The developed physical, mechanical, electronic and procedural protection measures will enable scientists and researchers to use data of certain statistical surveys as well as link data from different statistical surveys. To achieve this, data depersonalisation programmes will be resorted to more widely.

Expected results

- » A depersonalised primary statistical database is developed.
- » The order for using primary statistical data is set and formalised.
- » Conditions are established to safely use primary statistical data in the premises of Statistics Lithuania and by means of remote access.

6.4. Cultivation of users' statistical literacy

Objective

To systematically expand the circle of statistically literate users, to cultivate the new generation of users of statistics, capable of understanding and application of statistics.

Planned actions

User satisfaction surveys will be continued and advanced, meetings with and trainings for different user groups will enable to get familiar with their needs and stimulate interest in statistics as well as to identify gaps in "statistical literacy" and work out measures for their elimination. Statistical information, which is useful and handy in individual activities, will be submitted to users.

A special website for young users of statistics will be created envisaging visible measures for learning statistics and familiarisation with the world of statistics, concurrently raising statistical literacy of the young generation.

The public at large will be constantly informed about novelties in statistics as well as changes performed in the system of Lithuanian statistics. Plans are drafted to stimulate the population not only to actively participate in statistical surveys, but also to use statistical information, i.e. to cultivate a potential user of statistics.

Media representatives will be trained in using statistics and in basing the news on the most objective source when estimating economic and social phenomena of the country.

In contacts with public administration institutions, the importance of Statistics Lithuania will be emphasised and the use of statistical information in decision-making will be stimulated.

Statistical dissemination and promotion corners in RSOs will be advanced. It is planned to train employees of public libraries at municipalities as well as those of educational establishments to use information released on the website of Statistics Lithuania.

Identification and elimination of statistical literacy gaps

Development of a specialised website for schools

Training of the public to understand statistics

Expected results

» Structured and consistent cultivation of statistical literacy for pupils of secondary schools and students of tertiary education establishments.

» Cultivation of statistical literacy for other target user groups, implementation of new cultivation forms and joint projects, involving the Ministry of Education and Science, Education departments in municipalities as well as business organisations.

» Computerised places for dissemination and promotion of statistical information are established in all RSOs.

» Experts of Statistics Lithuania, through emphasis of benefits and importance of statistics, are capable of acquainting users with processes of statistical production, dissemination and promotion.

» Each year no less than five statistical literacy raising measures are carried out.

» The average number of website visitors per day reaches 6000.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE STATISTICAL INFORMATION PREPARATION PROCESS AND DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICAL AREAS

Objective

To continuously improve statistical information quality parameters by optimising the sub-processes of its preparation.

Planned actions

Monitoring and improvement of the quality of the statistical information preparation process

The main task is the monitoring of certain stages of the statistical information preparation process – sub-processes – in order to identify the stages where the reserves of time costs are possible. It is also planned to monitor other processes, including the ancillary ones, which are directly linked with the preparation of statistical information; monitoring will be oriented both towards the quality of products – statistical information and services – and the optimisation of processes. The system of quantitative measures is an integral part of the monitoring; therefore, considerable attention will be paid to the development of the system of measures. Regular monitoring and measuring of the quality of certain statistical information preparation processes will allow a better assessment of the current situation and achieved progress, performing comparisons, disseminating best practices. It is also planned to carry out a regular self-assessment of the managers of all statistical surveys, to identify the current state of affairs and improvable areas.

Self-assessment of survey managers

In Statistics Lithuania, research activities will be developed in order to create an adequate methodological background for reflecting the national economy and globalisation processes. It is planned to participate in the implementation of the European Plan for Research in Official Statistics (EPROS).

By applying up-to-date IT measures, it is planned to optimise the sub-process of statistical data collection: interviewers carrying out statistical surveys of the population will use notebooks. This measure is expected to improve data quality and noticeably reduce the time consumed by the processes of statistical data collection and preparation and provision to users of respective statistical information.

The statistical response burden for respondents is conditioned by the complexity of statistical questionnaires and applied sampling plans. It is planned to test all (both new and existing) statistical questionnaires, to develop and implement software for adjusting the sampling plans of certain surveys.

Whereas the quality of statistical information is determined by primary statistical data, particular attention will be paid to their analysis using the methods of mathematical statistics.

Implementation of EVRK Rev. 2 in all statistical areas

An important task for the strategic period – implementation of the national version (EVRK Rev. 2) of the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (NACE Rev. 2) in all statistical areas, recalculation of the time series of statistical indicators. Finalisation of the implementation of EVRK Rev. 2 is foreseen in 2012.

Expected results

» The system of quantitative measures, allowing the monitoring of the statistical information preparation process, is introduced and developed.

» New methods of statistical micro and macro data editing are implemented.

» Methods, allowing checking divergent values of time series, are implemented; the continuity of time series in business statistics is analysed.

» Continuous analysis of the stages of the statistical information preparation process, allowing the optimisation of time costs of statistical surveys, is performed.

» The quality of statistical surveys and statistical information is checked at least once in 5 years.

» Regular self-assessment of survey managers, allowing the identification of improvable areas, is performed.

» Statistical questionnaires are tested.

» The revised version of the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (EVRK Rev. 2) is implemented.

» Quality descriptions of all statistical indicators provided to users are prepared and published.

7.1. Social and demographic statistics

Objective

To extend social and demographic statistics by including indicators better reflecting the country's social and demographic situation and development trends.

Planned actions

Having regulated social and demographic statistical areas by the EU legislation in the strategic period, a unified legally-based system of data collection and management of the EU Member States will be created, which will ensure high quality of statistical information conforming to the European standards of social and demographic statistics. Communication with the users of social and demographic information will be further developed. Administrative data sources will be used more widely.

Demographic statistics. Taking into consideration the possibility to expeditiously obtain data from the central database of the Residents' Register, it is foreseen to estimate and publish the preliminary annual data on the population 2 months earlier (in November of the current year).

International migration statistics. Since 2008, international migration statistics will be produced following the EU legislation; therefore, the quality of migration statistics will improve, statistical information will be comparable between the EU Member States and will allow a more comprehensive statistical analysis of migration processes. It is planned to con-

Execution of comprehensive statistical analysis of migration processes

tinue statistical surveys (on undeclared migration, on the situation of migrants and their offspring in the labour market), allowing a more precise estimation of migration flows and the structure of migrants. Comprehensive statistical analytical information on migrants, economic and social migration processes will be prepared. It is planned to integrate undeclared migration statistics into demographic statistics.

Total Population and Housing Census carried out in 2011

It is planned to carry out pilot surveys on the use of administrative sources and statistical survey data for the preparation of population census indicators. Following the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on population and housing censuses, it is planned to get ready for carrying out the total Population and Housing Census in 2011.

It is planned to participate in common Eurostat activities for the preparation of the methodology for discrimination statistics. In the course of analysing direct and indirect discrimination (on the grounds of age, disability, race or ethnicity, religion or belief, etc.), administrative and statistical survey data will be used.

Preparation of statistics on finance of all educational levels

Education statistics. Having implemented the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on lifelong learning statistics, formal and non-formal education statistics will be developed. In the course of developing education finance statistics, it is planned to analyse the sources of financing of pre-school education institutions and general schools, to prepare a methodology conforming to the European statistical requirements, to carry out statistical surveys. Education finance statistics will allow estimating the public, foreign and private investment in education.

The work on the harmonisation of the methodology for cultural statistics at the EU level will be continued in order to statistically assess all areas related – directly or not – to culture; among them – business.

Supplementation of labour market statistics with regional data

In order to improve the quality of statistical information on employment, it is planned to improve the Labour Force Survey. For complementing the data of interviews, the Sodra data on the wages of employed persons will be used. The move to the computerised interviews of the population will allow reducing the time of the preparation and publication of statistical information and improving the quality of employment indicators. Taking into consideration the requirements of the EU legislation, statistical information on employed persons by kind of economic activity (EVRK Rev. 2) will be prepared since 2008. It is planned to continue the work related with the monitoring of the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy – publication of quarterly statistical information on changes in the employment rate (specifically that of persons aged 55-64; women; other population groups). Since 2011, a revised classification of occupations will be implemented in labour force surveys; it will be prepared for the estimation and publication of information on the seasonally adjusted monthly unemployment rate at the national level. Following the EU legislation, it is also planned to carry out additional surveys (ad hoc modules) on relevant labour market-related issues in addition to the Labour Force Survey.

By applying mathematical methods in statistics on earnings and labour costs, it is planned to use administrative data for obtaining results at the regional level more widely. It is planned to start the calculation of quarterly indicators of earnings at the municipal level. It is planned to expand the coverage of the Labour Costs and Structure of Earnings surveys by involving individual enterprises. Statistics on differences in earnings between men and women will be developed. Following the EU regulation, it is planned to implement EVRK Rev. 2 in statistics on earnings and labour costs by 2010. Time series of labour cost indices will be recalculated from 2000 to 2008. It is planned to implement the revised classification of occupations in the 2011 Labour Force Survey.

Preparation of long-term poverty statistics

Living standard statistics. It is planned to statistically assess the indebtedness and financial exclusion of households in 2008. For complementing the data of interviews, data of Sodra and the State Tax Inspectorate on the income of and taxes paid by residents will be used. Based on the data on the group of respondents selected for the Survey on Income and Living

Conditions, it is planned to calculate and analyse the persistent poverty and other longitudinal indicators, develop the methodology for the Survey on Income and Living Conditions in order to achieve maximum comparability of information between the EU Member States.

Taking into consideration the updated methodological Eurostat recommendations, national needs and financial possibilities, it is expected to start the preparatory work for the Harmonised European Time Use Survey during the strategic period.

The Household Budget Survey will remain the main source of information on household consumption expenditure and structure thereof (the survey methodology was revised in order to reduce the statistical response burden).

In the field of social protection statistics, it is planned to reduce the time of the preparation and submission to users of final statistical data on social protection expenditure and receipts and pension beneficiaries by 2 months. In 2008, a pilot data collection on net social protection benefits will be carried out in all EU Member States, and, in case of positive results thereof, these data will be prepared continuously since 2010.

Implementation of the System of Health Accounts

In the field of public health statistics, it is foreseen to implement the methodology of the System of Health Accounts. For the complementation of administrative data on population health, preparatory work for the survey on the social integration of disabled people and health interview survey based on a unified Eurostat methodology will be carried out. The results of these surveys will facilitate the statistical evaluation of the health status of the population and its determinants, as well as allow assessing the use and availability of health care services.

Preparation of statistics on victims

Statistics on crime and criminal justice, prepared based on the data from administrative sources, will be complemented by the data of the Victimisation Survey. Concerning these issues, scientists and other institutions' specialists working in the respective areas will be consulted.

Expected results

» The country's population forecast is released 2 months earlier than in 2007.

» Comprehensive, qualitative international migration statistics, comparable between the EU Member States, is prepared; surveys on undeclared migration, situation of migrants and their offspring in the labour market, whose results will allow preparing analytical statistical information on migrants, economic and social consequences of migration processes, are carried out.

» The total Population and Housing Census is carried out in 2011; the main results of the census are released at the end of 2012.

» The time of the preparation and submission to users of final statistical data on social protection receipts and expenditure and pension beneficiaries is reduced by 2 months.

» The results of the Labour Force Survey are released 5 days earlier than in 2007; Sodra data are used for complementing information on the earnings of employees.

» Information on the seasonally adjusted monthly unemployment rate at the national level is calculated and published.

» The main demographic and social statistical indicators at the EU level are harmonised in all household surveys, which will allow integrating the statistical information of different surveys and performing a more comprehensive complex analysis of living conditions, situation in the labour market and living standard of certain population groups.

» Production of discrimination statistics started.

» Comprehensive education finance and formal and non-formal education statistics, covering all educational levels, is prepared and developed.

» The harmonised cultural statistics methodology, allowing the estimation of the influence of the cultural sector on the national economy and social development and comparison of statistical information on culture with that of other EU Member States, is applied.

» Statistics on earnings and labour costs in the whole economy is expanded by involving individual enterprises.

» The methodology of the System of Health Accounts is introduced.

» Comparable crime statistics is prepared; administrative data on crime and criminal justice are complemented with the results of the Victimisation Survey.

» Long-term poverty indicators are calculated and analysed based on the data of the statistical Survey on Income and Living Conditions.

» Household survey modules, allowing the preparation of statistical information on the relevant phenomena of and changes in the social life of the population at the national and regional levels, are implemented.

7.2. Business statistics

Objective

To develop business statistics in order to reflect economic globalisation, entrepreneurial spirit and competitiveness of enterprises; to prepare more comprehensive information on business.

Planned actions

Execution of Agricultural Census in 2010

Agricultural statistics. It is planned to carry out the Agricultural Census in 2010. In order to assess the development of agricultural and related environmental policy, agricultural production methods will be additionally surveyed in the course of the census. It is planed, on the basis of the census data and following the requirements of the new regulation on business registers, to actualise and harmonise the Statistical Business Register. In 2010, together with the Agricultural Census, it is planned to carry out a statistical survey of farms producing agricultural products for own consumption.

In co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture, statistical information on ecological production, use of fertilisers and pesticides in agriculture will be prepared and published. Routine agricultural statistical surveys will be carried out following the revised EU legislation. In

co-operation with the Lithuanian Institute of Agrarian Economics, it is planned to revise the results of the Economic Accounts for Agriculture. It is planned to carry out quarterly and annual calculations of price indices of agricultural products and acquired tangible fixed assets, applying constant weights of 2005; to calculate the income of land user families and to compare it with the income of other social groups.

The main task of environmental statistics is the implementation of the requirements for statistical data on waste prevention and recycling, sustainable use of natural resources and pesticides. It is planned to continue the preparation of main statistical data on environment; to prepare more information on pesticides and waste; to compile pilot environmental and economic accounts. It is also planned to improve the methods used in statistical surveys on environmental expenditure, waste generation in agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishery.

In transport statistics, it is planned to create a comprehensive system of statistical information on transport, including information on freight and passenger flows, traffic, infrastructure, modes and means of conveyance, short-term statistics of transport enterprises and sustainable development indicators. It is planned to improve the quality of transport statistics and prepare quality descriptions of transport indicators. After the adoption of the new EU regulation on the nomenclature of goods for transport statistics (NST/2000), the said nomenclature will be implemented in statistical surveys on freight traffic. It is also planned to further develop EU regional rail (NUTS 2) and road (NUTS 3) transport statistics.

It is planned to continue the work related to the classification of the main economic activity indicator in the Statistical Business Register by EVRK Rev. 1.1 and EVRK Rev. 2 (double coding of economic entities' activities). It is planned to develop the European Statistical Register of Multinational Enterprise Groups (Eurogroups Register) and integrate it into statistical processes. This will cover the activities of Lithuanian enterprises abroad and the activities of foreign enterprises in Lithuania. Taking into consideration the requirements of the new EU regulation for foreign affiliates' statistics, a statistical unit "Enterprise groups" will be further developed. The regulation foresees the transfer of individual data on international enterprise groups to Eurostat and feedback to the Member States. For the purpose of the improvement of the register's data quality and comparability, it is planned to implement projects coordinated by Eurostat. Participation in the projects will insure uniform understanding of the methodology, improvement of the methods of register administration and data comparability.

For the preparation of structural business statistics, administrative data (of the State Tax Inspectorate, State Enterprise Centre of Registers, Sodra) are widely used; therefore, it is vital to improve co-operation with these institutions and ensure timely receipt of qualitative data. In order to shorten the terms of the provision of statistical information, measures for the publication of provisional data will be implemented. Due to data confidentiality-related limitations, aggregated structure of business statistics are published. It is planned to perform an analysis of confidential data and to apply the confidentiality reduction methods used in practical statistics, as well as to implement the automatic routine for identifying secondary confidentiality. It is planned to publish more comprehensive statistical information by kind of economic activity in the Database of Indicators. Since 2008, it is planned to implement EVRK Rev. 2 in structural business statistics. In order to ensure the continuity of the time series of statistical data, data of the previous years will be recalculated.

In foreign affiliates' statistics, it is planed to ensure systematic accumulation of statistical data and preparation of statistical information on the activities of foreign-controlled enterprises.

In order to provide more comprehensive information on business tendencies, it is planned to prepare such information at a more detailed level – by kind of activity and enterprise size groups. Such statistical information would be useful for the respondents themselves. It is planned to prepare a programme for the provision of survey results to the enterprises participating in a survey and to provide them with statistical information on business tendencies.

In short-term business statistics, great attention will be paid to the implementation of EVRK Rev. 2 and the system of indices of service production, as well as to the preparation of indica-

Supplementation of the statistical unit "Enterprise group" with data from the Eurogroups register

Preparation of structural business statistics at the 4-digit EVRK level

Supplementation of enterprise statistics with information on the activities of foreign affiliates

tors conforming to quality requirements. Since 2008, statistical indicators at the respective period's prices will be prepared based on both versions of EVRK, and results will be recalculated at constant prices (of the year 2000). It is planned to recalculate time series for the years 1998–2009 (base year – 2005).

In industrial commodity statistics, it is planned to simplify the list of commodities.

The rapidly increasing influence of the financial sector on the national economy and the appearing new types of financial institutions condition the development of financial service statistics. It is planned to prepare and to provide to users statistical information on all enterprises of the financial sector, thereby revealing the new phenomena in this sector. Since 2008, EVRK Rev. 2 will be implemented.

Since 2008, it is planned to implement EVRK Rev. 2 in investment in tangible fixed assets, since 2010 – in direct investment statistics. It is planned to reduce the time of the preparation and publication of quarterly and annual statistical information on investment in tangible fixed assets and direct investment by 3 days.

In science, technology and innovation statistics, considerable attention will be paid to the improvement of statistical methods, concepts and definitions. The globalisation of research and development (R&D) and related human resources are important for the economic development; therefore, it is important to collect statistical R&D data taking into consideration the balance of payments, foreign affiliates and international enterprise statistics. The assessment of R&D globalisation will be developed. It is planned to use forecasting methods for the preparation of some indicators (research, personnel costs).

It is planned to periodically prepare statistics on careers of doctorate holders. Since 2009, it is planned to implement EVRK Rev. 2 and, in order to ensure the continuity of time series, to recalculate the main indicators for the years 2002–2008. It is planned to reduce the time of the preparation of an annual publication by 5 days.

For the 2008 and 2010 surveys on innovation, it is planned to implement the Oslo Manual 2005; users will be provided with more comprehensive and qualitative statistical information.

Supplementation
of information
society statistics
with information on
investment in ICT

In information society statistics, in order to better assess sustainable development and influence on the information society, it is planned to prepare statistical data on investment in information technology and its application as well as influence on the results of enterprise's activities and society. In order to obtain a set of comprehensive, relevant data on the ICT sector and electronic communications conforming to the National Accounts, it is planned to estimate the demand and to prepare proposals concerning the amendment of the EU regulation on information society statistics. Since 2009, it is planned to implement EVRK Rev. 2 and to recalculate the time series of the main indicators for the years 2002–2008.

In tourism statistics, Tourism Satellite Accounts will be implemented and developed; output and value added created by and the number of persons employed in the tourism sector will be estimated; sustainable development indicators will be estimated; regional statistics on rural tourism will be produced.

In energy statistics, it is planned to reduce the time of the preparation of annual energy statistics by 5 days; to finalise the preparation of and to publish the methodologies for the preparation of these statistics and quality reports.

Also planned is the further development of enterprise bankruptcy statistics; users will be provided with more comprehensive information on the insolvency of enterprises, using the already existing statistical data. It is planned to reduce the time of the preparation of statistical information on charity by delegating the function of primary data processing to the State Tax Inspectorate, which collects primary statistical reports.

It is planned to develop small and medium business statistics using the data of the Survey on Business Conditions of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and other statistical surveys (including international ones).

Expected results

- » Business statistics indicators are prepared based on EVRK Rev. 2.
- » Annual information is prepared, on average, 5 days earlier than in 2007.
- » A 5 per cent increase in the timely submission of quarterly and annual statistical reports.
- » Methodologies of all surveys and quality reports of the indicators of business statistics are prepared and published on the website.
- » More comprehensive statistical information on business tendencies – by kind of economic activity (industry – at the EVRK subsection, services – section, trade and construction – 3-digit level) and enterprise size groups – is prepared; the results of business tendency surveys are provided to the interviewed enterprises.
- » Statistical information on the structure of business by kind of economic activity at the 4-digit level is published in the Database of Indicators.
- » Systematic accumulation of data, preparation and provision to users of information on foreign affiliates is ensured.
- » Forecasting methods are used for the preparation of some R&D indicators (research, personnel costs).
- » The Community Innovation Survey is carried out following the Oslo Manual 2005.
- » Data on organic farming production, use of pesticides and fertilisers in agriculture are published.
- » The Eurogroups Register is used for the preparation of statistics on the respective enterprise groups.
- » The updated nomenclature of goods for transport statistics (NST/2000) is applied in statistical surveys on freight traffic.
- » Statistics on careers of doctorate holders is prepared regularly.
- » Tourism Satellite Accounts are compiled; sustainable development indicators of tourism are developed.
- » Statistical information on investment in ICT and application of ICT in business is prepared.
- » The Agricultural Census is carried out in 2010; census results are published.

7.3. Macroeconomic statistics

Objective

To prepare additional indicators of macroeconomic statistics, required for the complex monitoring of the economic development, macroeconomic forecasts, justification of decisions concerning the national and EU economic policy and administration in the context of globalisation of the world economy as well as their dissemination taking into consideration changing user needs.

Planned actions

Assessment of the productivity of the national economy by analysing the influencing factors

Macroeconomic statistics develops in the environment of the growing national economy and intensifying globalisation processes. It has to reflect economic relations, which in their turn become increasingly complex. Also important and complex is the task of the strategic period in the national accounts and price statistics – revision of time series in the course of the implementation of EVRK Rev. 2. For the recalculation of time series, a study will be carried out; back casting methods will be selected and approved. The productivity of the national economy will be assessed taking into consideration the influence of the factors impacting it.

National accounts. The global methodological revision of the System of National Accounts (1993 SNA Rev. 1) will acquire a legal basis in the European System of Accounts. Active participation in the preparation of a European legal act on the implementation of the new international standards in the field of the national accounts will be continued.

For the purpose of the improvement of the quality of the prepared indicators of the national accounts, considerable attention will be paid to insuring their compatibility. It covers both the consistency of GDP estimates with business statistics and relating the estimations of GNP with balance of payments statistics and harmonising general government deficit and debt statistics with the data of accounting of public institutions. In the said fields, it is planned to develop and legitimise the procedures for the inter-institutional data interchange.

Development of GDP and GNP methodologies and quality reports

Econometric models applied for the calculation of flash estimates of GDP will be developed, and up-to-date statistical methods will be used. It is planned to include significant parameters (95 per cent reliability) in the models; given the lack of such parameters, to search for regressors. It is also planned to ensure the stability of the models in the course of the year. It is planned to strengthen the activity of the inter-institutional expert group on the national accounts in order to achieve better compatibility of macroeconomic statistics indicators.

In order to achieve better accessibility of macroeconomic statistics to users, it is planned to publish methodological analytical material, adjusted for certain user groups. It is planned to prepare and provide to national users quality reports of GDP and GNP sources and estimation methods. In order to provide the national accounts data to users faster and in a user-friendly form, all data provided to Eurostat will be published in the Database of Indicators or on the website of Statistics Lithuania. It is also planned to submit analytical information and methodological explanations for each key area of the national accounts.

Balance of payments statistics. In the environment of the free movement of capital and services, it becomes increasingly difficult to collect information on the country's economic relations with other countries. For the reflection of these processes, it is planned to develop statistical surveys, in the course of which data required for the compilation of the balance of payments and international investment position are collected. It is planned to implement the requirements of the new versions of the Balance of Payments Manual and the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services, which will allow better reflection of changing country's economic relations with other countries and ensure the comparability of indicators.

After Lithuania's accession to the euro area, in compliance with the requirements of the European Central Bank, more comprehensive information required for the compilation of the balance of payments and international investment position, as well as for satisfying the economic and monetary policy needs, will be prepared.

Price statistics. The increasing demand of national and international organisations for different reliable indicators for measuring inflation in the country and in the EU requires further development of the system of price indices. This area of price statistics is an important measure for the assessment of the country's readiness for the introduction of euro. The development of the system of price indices will allow detailed and diverse reflection of price changes in different fields of economic activity and improvement of the system of deflators used for the calculation of value indicators and rates of change of the real GDP volume. It is planned to further develop price statistics by carrying out a study on the possibility to compile the housing price index and, calculating this index, to cover all housing acquisition-related expenditure (on land, repairs, insurance, etc.).

In the course of implementing the new requirements for the Harmonised Consumer Price Index (HCPI), involving representatives of science, the standards of harmonisation of the quality of goods and services will be implemented, which will ensure comparability of prices and HCPI compiled based on these prices between the EU Member States.

The increasing importance of the service market poses new requirements for the preparation of service production price indices and provision of users with the information required for the analysis of short-term price development in the service sector.

Foreign trade statistics. It is planned to carry out a study on the implementation of the single-flow system in Intrastat and other possibilities for the simplification of the Intrastat system, and, in case of positive results of the study, to simplify the Intrastat system. It is also planned to further implement the new methods ensuring the accuracy of statistical data; to improve the quality of statistical information.

Supplementation of price statistics with service production and housing price indices

Reduction of the Intrastat burden on respondents

Expected results

» Econometric models are applied for the calculation of flash estimates of GDP, which will cover only significant parameters (95 per cent reliability).

» Quality descriptions of GDP and GNP sources, estimation methods are prepared and published; statistical data on the national accounts provided to Eurostat are published on the website.

» Methodological explanations of each key area of the national accounts are published.

» In the course of the preparation of statistical information required for the compilation of the balance of payments, the requirements of the new versions of the Balance of Payments Manual and the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services are followed.

» The system of price indices, allowing the reflection of service price changes and their application for the calculation of changes of the real volume of value indicators, is developed.

» The housing price index, covering all housing acquisition and other related expenditure, is calculated.

» Time series of the national accounts and price indices are revised according to EVRK Rev. 2.

» The Intrastat system is simplified.

7.4. Regional statistics

Objective

To expand the system of statistical indicators, reflecting a realistic situation of regions and their social as well as economic disparities.

Planned actions

Using regression estimates for production of regional statistics

Aiming at implementation of the goal formulated for the regional statistics, the main trend of the strategic period is the expansion of the regional data system by statistical indicators relevant to society and other users, reflecting the development tendencies of Lithuanian regions, their similarities and differences. To that end, a closer co-operation among state and local self-governance as well as other institutions managing official statistics is expedient.

It is envisaged to prepare statistical information by counties and municipalities, and not by means of increasing samples of statistical surveys, but by making a wider use of administrative data sources and applying various mathematical methods, especially releasing provisional statistical information at the regional level. The use of mathematical methods (estimation of small areas, calculation of regression estimates) will allow shortening the preparation time of regional statistics, while the use of administrative data sources will improve the quality of regional statistical information.

Production of more information on Lithuanian regions

Aiming to realistically reflect the economic situation of Lithuanian regions, possibilities to prepare and publish statistical information by local units will be expanded.

In order to thoroughly describe Lithuanian regions, it is foreseen to prepare and release statistical analytical materials about Lithuanian counties and municipalities. In 2008, it is planned to issue a publication on economic and social review The Portrait of the Regions of Lithuania, in 2012 – a publication Results of the Total Agricultural Census 2010 by Counties and Municipalities. During the strategic period, it is also planned to issue a publication on products manufactured in different regions of Lithuania.

With the aim to make macroeconomic statistics at the regional level more accessible and understandable to users, it is planned to prepare and publish the description of sources and calculation methods of regional GDP.

In order to identify needs of users of regional statistics, it is planned to carry out surveys of different user groups every year, while opinions of visitors and users on the produced regional statistics and its demand will be stored and analysed at RSOs.

Expected results

» Annual regional statistical information prepared, on average, 5 days earlier than in 2007.

» More comparable statistical information about the regions of Lithuania is prepared by local units.

» Mathematical methods, administrative data sources and means of geographic information systems are used for the preparation of regional statistics.

» Quality reports of sources and calculation methods of regional GDP are prepared and published.

» The Database of Indicators is supplemented with new annual statistical information:

by counties – about the turnover of wholesale trade enterprises, organic farming, state and higher education sectors' expenditure on R&D as well as number of staff, further education of graduates from general upper secondary schools.

by municipalities – about employment and unemployment rates, number of persons entitled to state pensions, number of children in pre-school establishments, general and special social services, income of population, charity and support provided or received by economic entities.

» Quarterly statistical information on the number of employees and earnings is released by municipalities.

» Statistical information on changes of living standards, social inequality, employment and unemployment rates in Vilnius, Kaunas, Panevėžys, Klaipėda and Šiauliai cities is prepared.