



STATISTICS LITHUANIA

**STRATEGY
OF STATISTICS LITHUANIA
FOR 2013–2017**

VILNIUS 2013

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FOREWORD

The Strategy of Statistics Lithuania for 2013–2017 is aimed at development and improvement of reliable, timely and comparable statistical information and increasing its accessibility. Three main directions are set for this strategic period: to enhance the efficiency of the production of statistical information; to improve services provided to users; to sustain harmonious institutional environment.

Enhancing the efficiency of the production of statistical information, we will provide the residents participating in statistical surveys with the opportunity to submit data electronically and improve and speed up the process of preparing statistical information.

Taking into account the increasing need for statistics, statistical indicators reflecting the quality of life, business globalisation, sustainability of environment, macroeconomic stability, other economic and social phenomena will be prepared. The official statistics produced by Statistics Lithuania will be used for the assessment of the State Progress Strategy “Lithuania 2030” and for monitoring the implementation of initiatives under the Europe 2020 strategy.

During the strategic period, cooperation with respondents in various phases of preparation of statistical information will be strengthened. The opinion of respondents as a target user group will be analysed in order to provide more free of charge statistical information needed for business organisation.

Particular attention will be paid to the application of the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice in the official statistics of Lithuania. In order to ensure the reliability, accessibility and transparency of the official statistics of the country, cooperation with institutions managing the official statistics will be strengthened, methodologies used for the preparation of the official statistics will be improved, application of measures for improvement of the quality of statistics will be encouraged.

To improve the quality of services provided to users, the Official Statistics Portal will become the main source of the state statistics of the country for the society. It will substantially improve not only the accessibility of statistical information, preparation methods thereof, quality characteristics and other information, but it will also change the nature of dissemination of statistics, as it will allow to harmonize, analyse and visualise indicators of various statistical fields prepared by institutions managing the official statics.

Being aware that the expertise of employees, trust in the institution and active participation in its activities are between the greatest values of the institution, measures to sustain harmonious institutional environment are aimed at the improvement of the staff motivation system, better microclimate, development of environment-friendly culture and encouragement of responsible use of resources.

Modern statistics is characterised by the multipurpose use of different fields of statistics to assess the complicated economic and social processes. We hope that at the end of the strategic period the increased accessibility of the official statistics will expand the possibilities of its use and encourage the users to use the official statistics in order to accept and ground decisions important for the country.

Mission – to prepare and disseminate official statistics necessary for decision-making and stimulating public discussions on issues relevant to the country, to actively participate in the development of international statistics.

Strategic objective – to ensure the quality of statistical services and products, to increase their accessibility through the rational use of resources and without increasing the statistical response burden for respondents.

Direction. More efficient production of statistical information

Objective. To enhance the efficiency of statistical survey processes

As the significance of statistics increases, it is very important to provide users with reliable statistical information on time. One of the main goals of statistics is to reflect demographic, social, economic, environmental processes and phenomena as precisely as possible. The interviews of the users of statistical information show that the key quality characteristics of statistics are the timeliness, accuracy and reliability of statistical information. A wide use of statistical information raises the importance of statistics coherence; to this end the EU and internationally harmonised standards and methods are introduced.

Fast changes in the environment and growing demand for statistical information stimulate closer cooperation with the producers of official statistics both in the country and abroad. During the strategic period, the production of statistical information will be improved, international practice in this area will be analysed, and the reorganisation of the statistical production process, meeting up-to-date requirements, will be carried out.

Task. To speed statistical data collection

Measures

To increase the proportion of respondents (economic entities) filling in and submitting statistical questionnaires online, via the electronic statistical business data preparation and transfer system e-Statistics (*e. Statistika*)

To modernise population surveys through the use of electronic communication networks for statistical data collection



Results at the end of the strategic period

At least 16 per cent of respondents (economic entities) fill in and submit statistical questionnaires online, via the e-Statistics system

At least 6 per cent of the inhabitants surveyed submit statistical data electronically

Task. To increase the reliability of statistical data

Measures

To ensure the clarity and coherence of statistical questionnaires



Results at the end of the strategic period

All statistical questionnaires tested

To revise statistical data editing rules/algorithms used in data entry programs



All statistical survey primary data editing rules revised

Task. To improve statistical data processing methods

Measures

To improve existing and to introduce new statistical data editing and imputation methods using standard IT tools



Results at the end of the strategic period

Standard editing procedures revised, improved and, if feasible, applied in at least 70 per cent of statistical surveys

To get ready for the uniform management of data obtained from administrative sources



A description of procedures for the uniform management and use of administrative data for statistical purposes prepared; administrative data managed according to uniform rules

Task. To use the results of the monitoring of statistical survey processes in order to better manage those processes

Measure

To assess the process of each statistical survey once during the strategic period



Results at the end of the strategic period

An analysis and assessment of all statistical survey processes carried out

Objective. To develop and improve statistical areas

The objective of the producers of official statistics is to provide quality statistical information enabling the observation and analysis of social, demographic, economic, environmental and other changes, formation and implementation of various policies, assessment of the efficiency thereof. Decision-making requires versatile statistics meeting respective quality requirements. Statistics have to satisfy the needs of various user groups. Following the requirements currently imposed on statistics, the relevance, clarity and coherence of statistical information will be pursued. Statistical information, its production methods and quality characteristics will be easier accessible to users.

Measures

Results at the end of the strategic period

To revise population-related statistical indicators based on the results of the 2011 Population and Housing Census of the Republic of Lithuania



All population-related statistical indicators and their time series revised by the end of 2013

Due to the change in the base year from 2005 to 2010, to revise macroeconomic, business and agricultural statistical indicators (indices) showing the trend changes



The time series of macroeconomic, business and agricultural statistical indices revised by the end of 2014

To establish a revision procedure in line with the ESS revision policy



Revisions performed in line with the established revision procedure

To supplement the Statistical Business Register with data from the Subregister of Enterprise Groups



The Statistical Business Register supplemented with data on the membership in the enterprise group

Task. To develop and improve social and demographic statistics

For the purpose of developing population statistics in the strategic period, users will be provided with more comprehensive statistical information on the quality of life, poverty, demographic trends, labour market, education, health, physical activity, international mobility of students, and other social issues.

Detailed statistical information on changes in the population structure, aging of the population, international migration processes will be produced.

Employment, income and living conditions and other social statistics surveys will be updated, and their contents, structure, data collection methods will be reviewed; the compilation of sport accounts will be launched.

By 2015, Statistics Lithuania, based on the data from the 2010 population censuses of the countries of the world, will be produced statistics on the number of Lithuanians abroad.

Measures

Results at the end of the strategic period

To prepare and publish quality-of-life-related indicators	⇒	At least 70 per cent of Eurostat-recommended statistical indicators for measuring the quality of life published
To prepare and publish the results of the 2011 Population and Housing Census of the Republic of Lithuania	⇒	The final results of the 2011 Population and Housing Census of the Republic of Lithuania published in 2013; users afforded an opportunity to use the aggregated Census database
To prepare statistical information on the number of Lithuanians abroad	⇒	Statistical information on Lithuanians abroad released in 2015
To develop international student mobility statistics	⇒	Statistical indicators of international student mobility produced and published
To compile sport accounts	⇒	Sport accounts compiled

Measures

Results at the end of the strategic period

Task. To develop and improve social and demographic statistics

To supplement crime statistics with new statistical indicators comparable across the European countries



New statistical indicators of crime prepared and published

To implement the International Standard Classification of Education ISCED 2011 in social statistics



From 2014, educational and other social statistics produced using the International Standard Classification of Education ISCED 2011

To supplement health statistics with the statistical indicators of the health status, lifestyle of, use of health care services by the population



The results of the European statistical health survey published in 2015

To introduce the updated health accounts system methodology and to compile health accounts



From 2016, statistical indicators of health care expenditure and finance produced in line with the 2011 health accounts system methodology

To carry out preparatory work for the compilation of culture satellite accounts



The analysis of existing data sources performed, additional data sources found, a description of procedures for the compilation of culture satellite accounts prepared

Task. To develop and improve macroeconomic statistics

Reinforced economic management requires high quality macroeconomic statistics. During the strategic period, particular attention will be paid to ensuring the quality of general government finance statistics, monitoring gross national income, own resources and growing international trade in services flows. The new harmonised macroeconomic statistics standards introduced will enable the use of such statistics for various purposes, production of the indicators required for the analysis and assessment of macroeconomic stability and imbalance.

Measures

Results at the end of the strategic period

To revise national accounts indicators in line with the ESA 2010



Revised national accounts indicators prepared and published on time, in line with the requirements of the European Statistical System (ESS) 2010 data provision programme

Measures

Results at the end of the strategic period

Task. To develop and improve macroeconomic statistics

To prepare and publish owner-occupied housing price indices



Owner-occupied housing price indices compiled

To develop average price statistics on observed product groups



Average prices published according to at least 80 homogenous products

To prepare statistical data in pursuance of the requirements of the sixth edition of the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual



Statistical data prepared in line with the requirements of sixth edition of the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual

To expand international trade in services statistics



International trade in services statistics supplemented with statistical information by enterprise economic activity

To set quality requirements for general government finance statistics and their production process



Quality requirements for general government finance statistics and their production process established; descriptions of procedure for the production of such statistics drawn up

To rearrange the foreign trade statistics production process



Work within the framework of the implementation plan of the modernised Intrastat system for the year 2017 accomplished

Task. To develop and improve business statistics

In the strategic period, users will be provided with detailed business statistics required for the assessment of the development of the national economy, observation of short-term and structural business changes, reflection of business demography and globalisation.

Close attention will be devoted to the integrity and coherence of business statistics, which will enable a wider use of business statistics, thus avoiding the increase in the burden for respondents. Preparations will be made for the implementation of new EU legislation on integrated and modernised business statistics, based on the Statistical Business Register meeting the EU requirements.

Measures

Results at the end of the strategic period

Task. To develop and improve business statistics

To supplement business statistics with indicators reflecting globalisation processes



Business statistics supplemented with indicators reflecting globalisation processes

To prepare and provide more detailed annual business statistics



Annual financial indicators by legal form of an enterprise at national version of NACE Rev. 2 3-digit level prepared and published

To supplement tax statistics with administrative data on accrued taxes



Tax statistics supplemented

To assess the coherence between short-term and structural business statistics indicators



The difference between the values of short-term and structural business statistics indicators at national version of NACE Rev. 2 section level – not larger than 15 per cent

To supplement energy statistics with data on renewable energy sources



Energy statistics supplemented with data on renewable energy sources

Task. To develop and improve agricultural and environmental statistics

In order to assess the structural changes taking place in the country's agriculture, current agricultural statistics will be supplemented with data from a farm structure survey to be conducted in 2013. The production of topical statistical information on the use of plant protection products in agriculture will be launched; the market of such products will be assessed. The rearranged and updated Statistical Farm Register will be adjusted for the formation of statistical survey samples, farm rotation and grouping.

The main task of environmental statistics is to develop the system of environmental economic accounts, enabling the monitoring of the economic impact on the environment. Using various data sources, pilot environmental economic accounts (air emission, environmental tax, material flow, environmental expenditure, environmental goods and services, energy flow accounts) will be compiled.

Measures

Results at the end of the strategic period

To prepare and publish statistical information on changes in the farm structure and specialisation



The results of the 2013 farm structure survey published in 2015

To start the production of statistical information on the use of plant protection products in agriculture



Pesticide use statistics by plant species and the amount of active substances in plant protection products published in 2015

To rearrange the Statistical Farm Register by supplementing it with agricultural census and other statistical survey data



The Statistical Farm Register supplemented with data from at least 4 statistical surveys

To improve and develop the system of environmental economic accounts



Modules of at least 6 environmental economic accounts compiled and published

Objective. To strengthen relationship with respondents

The priority objective of Statistics Lithuania is the monitoring and control of the statistical reporting burden. The implementation thereof is forwarded by the constant expansion of the use of administrative data sources, the testing of statistical questionnaires involving respondents and the consequent simplification thereof, the application of mathematical methods in statistical surveys, and the improvement in electronic statistical data collection. The purpose of those measures is to satisfy growing statistical user needs without increasing the burden on respondents.

In the strategic period, efforts will be made to ensure that one enterprise, on average per year, spends no more than 10 hours on the preparation of statistical data and filling in of statistical questionnaires. In the process of planning new statistical surveys, assiduous attention will be paid to the assessment of and reason behind the statistical reporting burden.

Cooperation with respondents at various statistical information production stages will be improved; the provision of free statistical information to motivate them to participate in statistical surveys will be enhanced.

Task. To strengthen cooperation with respondents

Measures

To survey the opinions of respondents as a target user group



Respondents' opinion surveys carried out on an annual basis

To provide statistical information for respondents taking into consideration their needs



Respondents provided with required statistical information

Results at the end of the strategic period

Task. To monitor the statistical reporting burden and to implement measures for the reduction therein

Measures

To fill in the electronic statistical questionnaire of the survey on the business structure of non-financial enterprises with administrative data



At least 10 per cent of statistical indicators in one electronic statistical questionnaire filled in with administrative data

To expand the use of administrative data for the production of labour statistics



Information on individual enterprises in the remuneration and labour costs statistical surveys produced using administrative data

To harmonise statistical survey samples to ensure that, during a year, small enterprises participate in no more than 3 statistical surveys



No more than 3 statistical surveys per small enterprise a year

Objective. To strengthen the coordination of institutions managing official statistics

Statistics Lithuania implements common State policy in the areas of statistical methodology and production, aims to ensure the reliability and quality of all official statistics produced across the country. Strengthening the coordinating role of Statistics Lithuania, cooperation between institutions managing official statistics – sharing experience, exchanging information about projects under implementation, the actualities of Lithuanian, EU and international statistics – will be encouraged in the strategic period.

Moreover, efforts will also be made to ensure the soundness and coherence of methodologies used by the institutions managing official statistics, wider use of statistical information quality improvement measures.

Task. To strengthen cooperation with institutions managing official statistics

Measures

To sign cooperation agreements with national institutions managing official statistics



Results at the end of the strategic period

Agreements signed

Task. To coordinate the implementation of statistical information quality improvement measures in institutions managing official statistics

Measures

To initiate joint deliberations on the methodologies of statistical surveys carried out by institutions managing official statistics



Results at the end of the strategic period

Joint deliberations on methodologies organised

To organise statistical training, seminars for the representatives of institutions managing official statistics



At least one training organised a year

To initiate the self-assessment of statistical information production processes taking place in institutions managing official statistics



Statistical information production processes assessed in at least 5 statistical surveys

Direction. Higher quality services to users

Objective. To enhance the accessibility of statistical information

The Official Statistics Portal, put into operation in 2013, will significantly improve the accessibility of official statistics and become the main source of statistics for users. Statistical information dissemination tools will be developed and improved using geographical information system (GIS) tools for the visualisation of statistical information.

<i>Task. To expand the dissemination of official statistics through the Official Statistics Portal</i>	<i>Measures</i>	<i>Results at the end of the strategic period</i>
	To enhance the accessibility of statistical information produced under the Work Programme of Official Statistics on the Official Statistics Portal	⇒ Statistical information produced by all institutions managing official European statistics available on the Official Statistics Portal
	To prepare and publish public statistical data files	⇒ Public data files of at least 6 statistical surveys published
	To increase the amount of detailed and relevant statistical information provided for users	⇒ The number of values of statistical indicators published on the Official Statistics Portal annually increases at least by 10 per cent

Objective. To develop relationship with users

One of the main objectives of Statistics Lithuania in the strategic period is to develop the statistical literacy of users, in particular of the youth, their perception of that statistical information is an important tool for learning and understanding about economic and social realities and making proper decisions. In pursuance of this objective, cooperation with the users of statistical information in the regions, the media, State and municipal authorities and agencies, school seniors and educational institutions will be developed, teaching aids allowing one to adjust statistics for individual needs will be created.

<i>Task. To enhance the society's interest in official statistics</i>	<i>Measures</i>	<i>Results at the end of the strategic period</i>
	To implement measures aimed at strengthening relationships with the users of statistical information in the regions	The average quarterly number of quotations of published statistical information in the regional media – at least 200
	To implement statistical literacy tools for users	At least 30 statistical literacy tools implemented a year
	To create specialised sections for user groups on the Official Statistics Portal	At least 3 specialised sections created on the Official Statistics Portal
	To disseminate information via social networks	The average annual number of information posts in social networks – at least 200
	To assess the opinions of the users of statistical information	At least 3 user groups interviewed every year

Direction. Enhancement of the institutional environment

Objective. To improve the institutional environment

In order to achieve sustainable institutional environment, it is important to take into account employees, their needs; therefore, human resource management will be improved. It is planned to improve staff motivation, performance appraisal, career planning. Employees will be encouraged to more actively participate, within their competence, in the organisation of the activity of Statistics Lithuania and the decision-making process. More attention will be devoted to the creation of a favourable microclimate.

Aiming to be a socially responsible and environment-friendly institution, staff awareness of environmental protection issues will be raised, economical and efficient use of resources will be encouraged.

Task. To improve staff motivation and competence appraisal

Measure

To improve procedures for staff appraisal and motivation and ensure the implementation thereof



Results at the end of the strategic period

The staff turnover ratio at Statistics Lithuania – not higher than 10 per cent

Task. To nurture socially responsible communication and cooperation

Measures

To organise the meetings of newcomers with the top management of Statistics Lithuania



Results at the end of the strategic period

The meetings of newcomers with the top management organised at least once a year

To develop informal communication



At least 5 informal and social events organised

Task. To foster a culture of environment-friendly and responsible use of resources

Measures

To monitor the use of resources



Resource use reports compiled on a quarterly basis

To encourage the sorting of waste at the workplace



Sorting the waste generated at the workplace facilitated

To carry on official interinstitutional correspondence by email



At least 75 per cent of official letters addressed to other institutions sent by email

To encourage the submission of statistical reports electronically



At least 87 per cent of statistical reports submitted via the e-Statistics (*e. statistika*) system

To inform the staff about the importance of the preservation of the environment



At least 2 environment-related notes published in the intranet a month

Objective. To take over and spread best practice

Best practices of other countries are of particular importance in improving the institution's performance; therefore, we will more intensively develop international cooperation, actively participate in the EU, other countries' and international organisation's projects and actions, improve relationship with the members of the European Statistical System (ESS).

Getting ready for Lithuania's presidency of the EU Council, presidency-related activities will be organised and coordinated. Consulting and exchanging experience with other countries, we will attempt to ensure smooth presidency in the Council Statistics Working Group.

The specialists of Statistics Lithuania will continue work in technical assistance projects initiated by the European Commission, advising colleagues from other countries and sharing best practice, thus helping to implement the EU requirements in the field of statistics.

Task. To take over and spread best practice in the country and abroad

Measures

Results at the end of the strategic period

To participate in the ESS activity when deciding on strategic issues



Participation in at least 2 support groups coordinating the ESS activity and developing strategies for the implementation thereof

To submit applications for technical assistance projects



Participation in at least 5 technical assistance projects

To preside at and represent the EU Council



Presidency-related actions implemented

Objective. To improve the institution's image

In order to maintain the image of an open institution, the dissemination of information about the institution and its services in new forms – in social networks, a blog, via statistical literacy tools – will be developed.

Task. To strengthen the institution's visibility with the society

Measures

To create and administer the Official Statistics Blog



Results at the end of the strategic period

At least two posts, on average, published a month

To initiate and implement joint projects with other public authorities and non-governmental organisations



At least 2 projects implemented

Objective. To join the OECD bodies

Task. To participate in statistical reviews and activities of the OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy and its bodies

Measures

To participate in statistical reviews organised by the OECD



Results at the end of the strategic period

Preparation for Lithuania's accession to the OECD accomplished

To participate in the actions organised by the OECD



Participation in 3–5 actions on an annual basis

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FOR 2013–2017

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