



EUROPEAN  
STATISTICAL  
SYSTEM

# PEER REVIEW REPORT

ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF  
PRACTICE AND FURTHER IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE  
NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

## LITHUANIA

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# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lithuania has a strong legal framework for official statistics underpinned by the Law on Official Statistics, which was revised in September 2020. It defines Statistics Lithuania as the leading statistical body in Lithuania. The National Statistical System in Lithuania comprises Statistics Lithuania, the Bank of Lithuania and 18 other bodies managing official statistics (other national authorities developing, producing and disseminating official statistics). The powers assigned to Statistics Lithuania by the Law on Official Statistics enable a strong coordination function in relation to these 18 bodies that also produce official statistics by law. The legal framework ensures the professional independence of Statistics Lithuania in the production and dissemination of official statistics. It provides transparency regarding the procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the Director-General of Statistics Lithuania, which is also supported by the Civil Service Law together with the Government Resolution issued for its execution, and the Regulations of Statistics Lithuania.

The flexible administration of Statistics Lithuania, as enabled by the State and Municipal Rules, facilitates efficiency in managing its resources and adapting the organisational structure to strategic activities and emerging needs.

The national statistical system is recognised by users as trustworthy regarding the development, production and dissemination of official statistics. Statistics Lithuania has high credibility amongst its users and is devoted to fulfilling their needs. This was publicly and promptly demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic, when Statistics Lithuania responded to society's needs by providing extensive information updated daily on the Official Statistics Portal. The way Statistics Lithuania managed the supply of information during the COVID-19 pandemic boosted the already high level of trust in official statistics in Lithuania, and in Statistics Lithuania as an institution.

Statistics Lithuania is highly committed to quality and is continuously developing a solid quality culture, which also extends to the bodies managing official statistics. Its approach to quality management remains a strength as there has been significant progress over recent years, with the ISO 9001:2015 re-certification of Statistics Lithuania's Quality Management System for the fifth time in 2019. The full alignment of statistical processes to the Generic Statistical Business Process Model, and the integration of the Generic Statistical Information Model standards into the statistical production process also constitute significant progress. High regard was given to the area of confidentiality and data protection through the ISO 27001 certification of Statistics Lithuania's Information Security Management System in 2019.

The modernisation of the Integrated Statistical Information System with a New Technology Base undertaken in the past few years is a strategic investment that has strengthened Statistics Lithuania's capacity to fulfil new needs for official statistics. It also puts Statistics Lithuania in an advantageous position with respect to Lithuania's public administration data management.

Under the new provisions of the Law on Official Statistics in 2020, Statistics Lithuania has become the owner and manager of the State Data Governance Information System. The peer review team is of the opinion that a stronger framework to support Statistics Lithuania's new mandate is critical to ensure continuous progress in the production of official statistics based on high quality standards.

The peer review team identified and highlighted several initiatives by Statistics Lithuania which are important from an innovation perspective. These relate to using experimental statistics, implementing new technologies, harmonising business processes and promoting data innovation within the national statistical system offered by the opportunities of the changing data ecosystem.

Generally, the peer review team considers that Statistics Lithuania demonstrates a high level of compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice (ES CoP), which is also applied across the national statistical system. However, two compliance-relevant and 23 improvement-related recommendations were identified and grouped under four major headings as listed below.

## Recommendations

### I. Assuring quality in a changing world for statistics

The national statistical system in Lithuania is built on a strong legal basis, which is also supported by a well-structured and carefully considered quality framework, comprising among others: the Official Statistics Work Programme, the Statistics Lithuania's Methodology Commission, the Official Statistics Portal, as well as standards and guidelines on the various aspects required for the production of official statistics. The peer review team believes, however, that quality assurance within the national statistical system can be further enhanced.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**1. Statistics Lithuania should facilitate the use of its standard tools for data processing for Other National Authorities; monitor compliance with standards and guidelines in the national statistical system with regard to metadata reports and dissemination; and develop quality assurance guidelines for administrative and other types of data from new sources for the national statistical system. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1bis.2 and 4.2)**

The conditions for producing statistics are rapidly changing, with reduced response rates and new possibilities provided by administrative data and other emerging data sources. Indeed, the peer review team sees the need for Statistics Lithuania to keep pace with this changing environment.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**2. Statistics Lithuania should further develop its expertise in estimating the quality of statistics based on administrative and other types of data, by developing partnerships internationally and with academia. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 8.7, 12.2 and 1bis.3)**

Statistics Lithuania relies heavily on measuring the sampling error for the computation of its general accuracy criteria. Other measurements were not evident, making it difficult for the peer review team to determine the extent of Statistics Lithuania's efforts to measure non-sampling errors and particularly to check for any systematic components that may exist.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**3. Statistics Lithuania should study and develop ways of measuring the systematic component in the various sources of error, with the aim of increasing the overall quality of statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 12.2)**

Statistics Lithuania advocates the use of the Single Integrated Metadata Structure for metadata and quality reports in the national statistical system. However, the quality of this information, including its accessibility and clarity, could be further strengthened.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**4. Statistics Lithuania should move forward on the improvement actions that followed the quality audit on metadata reports performed in 2020 and which were endorsed by the Statistical Council in**

**2021. Statistics Lithuania should update the templates for metadata and quality reports with the European Statistical System standard, SIMS 2.0, guidelines for which are in the European Statistical System handbook for quality and metadata reports, 2020 edition. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 15.6 and 15.5)**

Statistics Lithuania has issued guidelines in the form of a procedure for methodological documentation in the *Description of the procedure for preparing statistical survey methodology*. Accessibility to methodological documents could be improved.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**5. Statistics Lithuania should review the methodological documents from a wider user perspective, with the aim of facilitating their accessibility, also in English. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 15.6)**

## II. Strengthening dissemination and communication practices

Statistics Lithuania's dissemination and communication practices are generally appreciated by users from different categories with a variety of needs. Although there is a high level of credibility of statistics, there is a need to further facilitate and improve accessibility to official statistics, namely in the search capabilities and other functionalities of the Official Statistics Portal. A more user-friendly database in terms of functionality and integration of metadata is also needed.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**6. Statistics Lithuania should strengthen the possibilities for users to find data through all channels available for official statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 15.2)**

Further improvements are also possible to broaden Statistics Lithuania's dissemination practices. In some cases, this would involve developing more advanced methods and tools in georeferenced statistics. In other cases, this would involve the provision of more detailed statistics and possibilities for other breakdowns (for example, with respect to demographic aspects), using an open data approach.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**7. Statistics Lithuania should further improve its dissemination, including its provision of open data. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 15.2)**

Different user needs are better rendered through the most appropriate channels. The platforms and services provided by Statistics Lithuania for different users are highly appreciated, demonstrating Statistics Lithuania's strong commitment to analyse and fulfil user needs and expectations. Moreover, specialised users expressed a high level of appreciation for the provision of tailor-made statistics. However, there is still room for improvement regarding the use of the most appropriate channels.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**8. Statistics Lithuania should strengthen its efforts to target different categories of user groups by the most appropriate channels when disseminating official statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 11.1, 15.1 and 15.2)**

Statistics Lithuania aims for a better use of the available statistical products and services.

This would involve refining the already existing communication strategy to reach society at large more efficiently, with the aim of improving awareness of the value of the official statistics made available by Statistics Lithuania.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**9. Statistics Lithuania should diversify its communication towards different categories of users, to ensure better awareness and understanding of the value of official statistics, to inform about the availability of official statistics and to facilitate the use of the Official Statistics Portal. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 15.1 and 15.2)**

Ensuring equal access to statistical releases at the same time should always be aimed for. Any privileged early access to statistical information should be limited, well-justified, controlled and publicised. The peer review team was informed that Statistics Lithuania provides early access to certain statistical releases for the President and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania and their advisors, the Ministers of Finance, Economy and Innovation, and Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania, or other persons authorised by them, one day prior to the official release. This involves releases on gross domestic product (GDP), inflation and the unemployment rate, as well as other press releases on topical, social and economic phenomena. In exceptional cases, external experts and researchers/scientists also have the right to receive statistical information in advance of the publication date.

Considering the weak justification, the numerous possibilities for early access to statistical releases and the extended time period involved (i.e. one day compared to half an hour as at the time of the last peer review), the peer review team considers this to be a compliance-related issue.

To comply with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**10. Statistics Lithuania should make its pre-release practice compliant with the ES CoP by limiting the number of persons who are entitled to a pre-release with no granting of exceptions, publicising a suitable justification and reducing the extent of the pre-release time period, so that it is proportional to the justification. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicator 6.7)**

The same concern with respect to early access of statistical releases applies to the other national authorities reviewed, which should also follow proportionate pre-released embargo practices. Generally speaking, uniform guidelines in this respect should apply within the national statistical system and in accordance with the ES CoP.

To comply with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**11. The other national authorities reviewed should follow similar rules and procedures to Statistics Lithuania regarding the principle of equal access to statistical releases and publicise them on their websites in order to display uniform pre-release practices and guidelines within the national statistical system. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicator 6.7)**

Statistics Lithuania's good experience in applying communication strategies towards users is an advantage and an excellent basis for applying new approaches to other target groups. As this approach has already earned Statistics Lithuania credibility and trust amongst its stakeholders, similar communication practices should also target data providers, ensuring better awareness of respondents' roles and preventing doubts regarding the increasing response burden.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**12. Statistics Lithuania should develop a communication strategy targeting different categories of data providers, in order to strengthen its credibility in producing official statistics. In addition, Statistics Lithuania should further engage with data provider groups to secure a better understanding of the role they play and their importance to society as data providers. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 8.7 and 9.2)**

### III. Enhancing coordination and cooperation

ES CoP principle 1bis provides general guidelines for a role that has already been entrusted to national statistical institutes for some time. Statistics Lithuania is no exception in maintaining a strong coordination role, which is recognised by its partners within the national statistical system. Despite some useful tools to support this clear and well-established coordination role, some gaps and possible future risks became evident from the discussions. The risks are linked to the financial and other resources needed to fulfil the required tasks. Moreover, it was clear that the separation of statistical and administrative functions performed by the other national authorities is reflected in their legal framework. However, there is still room for improvement when it comes to clarifying this separation within current working procedures. This would ensure that the other national authorities reviewed are better aligned with the ES CoP when producing official statistics. The peer review team recommends that the other national authorities reviewed should make such clarifications and that Statistics Lithuania should monitor the remaining other national authorities in the national statistical system to ensure that the proper delineation between the different data uses has been made.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**13. For the sake of transparency and professional independence, the other national authorities reviewed should carefully delineate the different uses of their data in their work procedures, whether they are used for official statistics or for other purposes. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1.1 and 8.4)**

In order to address some of the gaps and possible risks of further developing official statistics in the national statistical system, the peer review team advises Statistics Lithuania to assess the financial and other resources needed for the other national authorities reviewed to fulfil their tasks.

This assessment should include an analysis of the possible impact and risks to the production and dissemination of European statistics. Consideration should be given to the present and foreseeable changes in the institutional environment of Statistics Lithuania and the Lithuanian statistical system as a whole, including all other national authorities. The results of such an analysis should, after submission to the Statistical Council for consideration, be turned over to the attention of the relevant authorities.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**14. Statistics Lithuania, together with the other national authorities reviewed should undertake a detailed assessment of the possible inadequacy of resources (financial, human, technological and infrastructural) in the Lithuanian statistical system. This exercise should include assessing the adequacy of the remuneration package needed to attract and retain adequate competencies. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 3.1, 1bis.1 and 2.4)**

Cooperation with other, mainly private, data providers has already commenced and the first usage of scanner data was presented during the discussions with the peer review team. At the time of the peer review, the initiatives looked quite promising. However, the peer review team urges Statistics Lithuania, in its cooperation efforts with other mainly private data providers, to uphold key statistical procedures and dissemination practices according to the ES CoP principles in order to strengthen the credibility and trust that Statistics Lithuania has already earned amongst its stakeholders.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**15. Statistics Lithuania should draw from its valuable experience with the other national authorities to ensure that statistical confidentiality and data protection standards are met in the foreseen cooperation with private data holders. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 8.7, 9.5 and 2.4)**

#### IV. Preparing Lithuania's Statistical System for the future

A stronger framework to support Statistics Lithuania's new mandate is critical to ensure the sustainability of recent progress. Statistics Lithuania was assigned new responsibilities in 2020, resulting in a new 'dual' mandate – to remain a trusted producer of official statistics and to become a data service provider supporting evidence-based public policies. The latter is based on the development of the new State Data Governance Information System, which builds on comprehensive public sector data collection and integration capabilities and has the potential to enable a modern platform for delivering more timely and granular official statistics. This transition has huge potential for improvements, but also entails risks with respect to its reputation as an independent and trusted provider of official statistics that need to be managed.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**16. Statistics Lithuania should liaise with the relevant authorities to propose a legal framework for its extended role to ensure full compliance with the principles of the ES CoP and to preserve its position in the national statistical system in upholding trust in official statistics. Furthermore, Statistics Lithuania should make arrangements to clearly separate its 'dual' role as a producer of official statistics on the one hand and a provider of data services for the government on the other. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1.1. and 1bis.1).**

With a view to ensuring that the new mandate for Statistics Lithuania is fully supported by stakeholders and users, it is critical to involve them in an open discussion around the benefits for society at large of Statistics Lithuania's new functions as a service provider, while continuing to reinforce the trust in Statistics Lithuania as an independent provider of official statistics.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**17. Statistics Lithuania should engage with key public and private sector stakeholders to ensure an open discussion around its new mandate, harnessing consensus and sustained buy-in on their part. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1.1)**

Supporting the modernisation of the production platform is another priority for the future. Statistics Lithuania has invested in the innovation of statistical production by developing standard-based harmonised processes across domains. The modernisation plan is rightly ambitious and will have benefits for users. However, the transition from the legacy production system to the new environment entails risks that need to be managed.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**18. Statistics Lithuania should devise a risk management plan, with specific actions to manage the transition to the new production system. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 7.1 and 5.5).**

Furthermore, data protection and confidentiality are critical features that need to be ensured in the development of a modern technical platform to support statistical production.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:



**19. Statistics Lithuania should continue to invest in the development of a secure data infrastructure and secure operation services, taking into account data protection and confidentiality concerns. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 5.5)**

Process automation can be supported by the new statistical production platform based on the above secure data infrastructure. The use of standards and reusable technical and methodological service components will need to be extended to ensure the harmonised implementation of the platform across statistical domains.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**20. Building on the process-mapping results and the use of statistical standards (for example, the Generic Statistical Information Model), Statistics Lithuania should further develop a set of reusable and generic building blocks to support the automation of the production system. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 10.4)**

The above innovative actions can create the technical enablers to develop faster and new statistical information, facilitate the further expansion of the current portfolio of experimental statistical products and support the use of innovative methods and data sources to respond to user needs.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**21. Statistics Lithuania should continue to invest in the development and dissemination of 'experimental' statistical products to accelerate the delivery of innovative statistical information. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 7.7 and 11.1)**

Ensuring the adequacy of Statistics Lithuania's capabilities is essential to deliver on the expectations for the future. While in recent years Statistics Lithuania has demonstrated the ability to build up human resources and technical and financial capacity in line with its extended task portfolio, further efforts are vital to sustain the change management programme.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**22. Statistics Lithuania should assess the current and future capability gaps and should devise a comprehensive plan to address them, identifying key partners. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 3.1)**

Based on the above plan, the financial sustainability of Statistics Lithuania's operations should also be assessed to ensure that adequate funding is available to invest in technical and methodological developments in line with strategic ambitions and to ensure the operations over the medium term.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**23. Statistics Lithuania should review the financing model in place to ensure that it is adequately providing resources to operate in the modernised statistical production platform over the medium term. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 3.1)**

Innovation results can also be used beyond Statistics Lithuania to benefit the whole national statistical system. To facilitate the reuse of innovative solutions, it will be important to design and develop reusable statistical and technical services and tools that can be more easily adopted by the national statistical system in the production of official statistics.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**24. Statistics Lithuania should further develop reusable solutions and services and support their adoption in the national statistical system. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1bis.1)**

Building stronger partnerships to support official statistics is critical for the implementation of the ambitious forward-looking transformation agenda, which requires capabilities over the medium term for the successful implementation of Statistics Lithuania's strategic plans.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**25. Statistics Lithuania needs to identify strategic partners and the appropriate engagement modalities. This should lead to the development and implementation of a strategic partnership action plan, with specific measures tailored to key stakeholders such as academia, holders of private data and the media. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1bis.3 and 15.6)**

In the spirit of continuous improvement integral to the European Statistical System (ESS), Statistics Lithuania will interpret the recommendations, formulated in this report, into improvement actions for implementation within the national statistical system (NSS).

## 2. INTRODUCTION

It is recognised that quality is one of the European Statistical System's (ESS) comparative advantages in a world experiencing a growing trend of instant information and new challenges, driven by exceptional circumstances or the continuous need for faster but quality-assured data. The European Statistics Code of Practice (ES CoP) is the cornerstone of the ESS common quality framework, and the ESS statistical authorities have committed themselves to adhere to it.

In this context, it is crucial for the ESS to be equipped with a review mechanism, the peer reviews, supporting with credible evidence this self-commitment to adhere to the ES CoP. The objective of this review mechanism is to enhance the integrity, professional independence and accountability of the ESS statistical authorities. The first round of peer reviews was carried out in 2006-2008, followed by a second round in 2013-2015.

In 2017, the ES CoP was reviewed and extended and now encompasses 16 principles. This revised version of the ES CoP triggered a third round of peer reviews, being carried out in the Member States of the European Union and of the European Free Trade Association, and Eurostat from 2021 to mid-2023. This round of peer reviews aims at improving the quality and trust in European statistics by assessing the compliance of the ESS with the principles of the revised ES CoP. The peer reviews cover the ESS statistical authorities (Eurostat, the National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) and selected Other National Authorities (ONAs)) developing, producing and disseminating European statistics. The peer reviews will be followed by a period of annual monitoring of the implementation of the improvement actions developed by the NSIs to address the recommendations laid down in the peer review reports.

The third round of peer reviews has the following two objectives:

- To review the compliance/alignment of the ESS with the ES CoP, in order to demonstrate to the ESS and to external stakeholders that the ESS is a system based on the principles of the ES CoP;
- To help NSIs, ONAs and Eurostat in their further improvement and development by indicating future-oriented recommendations; at the same time they should stimulate government authorities to support the implementation of these recommendations.

Each peer review is conducted by a team of four statistical experts (both from inside and outside the ESS). The peer review has four phases: completion of the Self-Assessment Questionnaires (SAQs) by a country; analysis of these SAQs by the peer review team; a country visit by the peer review team; and the preparation of the final report and ensuing recommendations by the peer review team. These recommendations are of two types:

- Compliance related (ensuring compliance/alignment with the ES CoP);
- Improvement related (less critical/technical supporting improvements).

A combination of an audit-like and a peer review approach is used when assessing the national statistical systems (NSS) in the countries to benefit from the positive aspects of both approaches. The audit-like approach requires the provision of documents as evidence, the ownership of the recommendations by the peer review expert team, and the right for the NSIs to express diverging views on the recommendations and to formulate the corresponding improvement actions. Whereas the peer

review approach allows for common agreement within the ESS on the methodology, the objectives, scope and implementation arrangements, the focus on improvements and a peer learning process.

Although all principles of the ES CoP will be reviewed for all countries through the SAQ, the peer review experts are free to customise the country visit to concentrate on those principles where more clarification/explanation is needed. However, certain principles such as those concerning professional independence and coordination and cooperation, as well as principles including elements of modernisation, will be assessed during the peer review visit for every member of the ESS.

In addition to the common principles to be addressed for every member of the ESS, the peer review team also placed emphasis on the principles of Adequacy of resources, Impartiality and objectivity, Appropriate statistical procedures, Non-excessive burden on respondents and Accessibility and clarity.

Adequacy of resources (ES CoP, Principle 3) was identified as an important principle because the recruitment of personnel with new qualifications is a challenge due to competition with the private sector. Impartiality and Objectivity (ES CoP, Principle 6) was given special emphasis due to the pre-release practices in Lithuania. Appropriate statistical procedures (ES CoP, Principle 8) and Non-excessive burden on respondents (ES CoP, Principle 9) were given more attention in the peer review with regard to access to administrative and privately held data due the recent developments in Statistics Lithuania and its new strategy for the future. Accessibility and clarity (ES CoP, Principle 15) was reviewed in more detail to further analyse and recommend improvements in the communication and accessibility of official statistics.

Also, although the reports should not be used to compare one country to another, much effort has been made to ensure the harmonisation of the reports and the ensuing recommendations across the countries so that all countries are treated equitably.

The peer review of Eurostat was conducted by the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB).

### **3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM**

#### **Legislation**

The main legal act regulating official statistics in Lithuania is the Law on Official Statistics<sup>1</sup>. It lays down a procedure for organising official statistics, the rights and functions of the bodies managing official statistics, the rights and duties of respondents and users of official statistics, a procedure for providing, using and protecting statistical data and statistical information, as well as liability for infringements of this Law.

The National Statistical System (NSS) in Lithuania comprises Statistics Lithuania, the Bank of Lithuania and 18 other bodies managing official statistics (other national authorities developing, producing and disseminating official statistics (ONAs)) that carry out statistical work provided in the Official Statistics Work Programme.

About 80% of the statistical activities carried out by Statistics Lithuania are devoted to implementing the European statistical programme. The remainder is carried out by eight institutions as follows: the Environmental Protection Agency; the Institute of Hygiene; the Migration Department under the Ministry of the Interior; the State Enterprise Agricultural Information and Rural Business Centre; the State Border Guard Service under the Ministry of the Interior; the State Labour Inspectorate under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour; the State Forest Survey Service under the Ministry of Environment; and the Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Law on Official Statistics defines Statistics Lithuania as the leading statistical body in Lithuania. According to this Law, Statistics Lithuania is involved in the formation of state policy in the area of official statistical governance assigned to the Minister of Finance, and for implementing it and coordinating the production of official statistics in accordance with the provisions of Part I of the Official Statistics Work Programme. The Law also stipulates the key tasks and duties of the ONAs producing official statistics and gives Statistics Lithuania right of access to administrative data and privately held data if they are needed for implementing the Official Statistics Work Programme.

The Law on Official Statistics was last amended in September 2020. Under the new legal provisions, Statistics Lithuania has become the owner and manager of the State Data Governance Information System, which covers the entire data management cycle and ensures data accessibility for state needs.

#### **The Statistical Council**

The Law on Official Statistics establishes the Statistical Council as an advisory body to Statistics Lithuania. The Council deliberates on key issues relating to the Official Statistics Work Programme, such as Statistics Lithuania's strategy, the organisation and methodology of statistics and the use of administrative data sources. The Council is chaired by the Director-General of Statistics Lithuania and consists of 21 members, representing state and municipal institutions as well as agencies managing statistics, universities, public organisations, business associations and the media.

#### **Mission and strategy of Statistics Lithuania**

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<sup>1</sup> No. I-270, 12 October 1993; as last amended on 29 September 2020 – No XIII-3306.

Statistics Lithuania's mission is to prepare and disseminate the official statistics necessary for decision-making, to inform the public about issues relevant to the country and to create and develop the State Data Governance Information System.

The main trends of Statistics Lithuania's activity are laid down in its five-year strategy. This currently covers the period 2018–2022 and is aimed at developing official statistics based on user needs, efficient processes and a sustainable institutional environment and culture. Statistics Lithuania's strategy is deployed via the rolling three-year Strategic Action Plan and its annual activity plans. The Strategic Action Plan is drafted in accordance with the Government Resolution establishing strategic planning methodology in the Republic of Lithuania, which is compulsory for all state authorities, managing state budget. The Strategic Action Plan links the mission, strategic objectives and tasks delegated to the institution with the programmes performed and budget allocated. Monitoring the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan is supported by assessment of evaluation criteria, which allows an impartial assessment of the progress made towards implementing the strategic objectives.

### **Organisational structure of Statistics Lithuania**

According to the Government Resolution, Statistics Lithuania's administrative structure is approved by the Director-General. It comprises 27 divisions, of which 21 perform functions relating to statistics production. The Director-General supervises these divisions either directly or through Deputy Director-Generals. These Deputy Directors are directly subordinated and accountable to the Director-General of Statistics Lithuania, who determines their activities and competencies.

Statistics Lithuania's headquarters are located in Vilnius, and one division (Data Preparation) has three workplaces, which are located in Vilnius, Kaunas and Šiauliai.

### **Appointment procedures for the head of the NSI**

The general procedure for the recruitment and appointment of the Director-General of Statistics Lithuania, as a civil servant, is laid down in the Law on the Civil Service (Article 10.2(14)) along with the Government Resolution issued for its execution. The professional requirements for the Director-General of Statistics Lithuania are laid down in the Law on Official Statistics (Article 6.2). A person with at least a Master's degree or an equivalent higher education qualification who has at least five years' experience in the statistics field, five years of managerial work and three years of work in public administration may be appointed to the post of Director-General of Statistics Lithuania. No state or municipal institution or agency, political party, or other persons may influence the implementation of the powers of the Director-General of Statistics Lithuania, as stated in the Law on Official Statistics. The procedures for the recruitment and appointment of the Director-General are based on professional criteria only. As a civil servant, the dismissal procedures are laid down in the Law on the Civil Service and relate to the expiration of the term, excluding reasons compromising professional and scientific independence.

## **Statistical Programmes**

The Official Statistics Work Programme is an annual planning document regulated by the Law on Official Statistics and Statistics Lithuania's Regulations. It is defined as an annual list of the statistical surveys to be conducted by the bodies managing official statistics in Lithuania. Part I includes the statistical surveys conducted by Statistics Lithuania and the ONAs, while Part II includes the statistical surveys conducted by the Bank of Lithuania. The compilation of Part I of the Official Statistics Work Programme is coordinated by Statistics Lithuania and Part II is prepared by the Bank of Lithuania.

Part I indicates the title, objective, periodicity and mandatory nature of a statistical survey, the legal basis for a statistical survey, sources of statistical data, timing and mode of publication of statistical information, the body managing official statistics which is responsible for the conduct of a statistical survey, the funds required to conduct a statistical survey and other necessary information concerning statistical surveys.

The whole process of preparing Part I of the Official Statistics Work Programme and the report on its implementation is based on the close collaboration with other bodies managing official statistics.

## **Resources**

According to a Government resolution in 2021, the maximum number of employees that Statistics Lithuania can have is 566. The number of employees at present is approximately 480.

The peer review team was informed that the financial, personnel, IT and other resources are adequate for the current duties. Financing has also been increased to secure the development of the new State Data Governance Information System. However, the recruitment of personnel with new qualifications can face challenges because of competition with the private sector.

## **Coordination of the national statistical system**

The main coordination role is defined in the Law on Official statistics (Article 6) and in the Description of the procedure for the coordination of the statistical activities of official statistics managing institutions. The coordination role of Statistics Lithuania covers the following areas:

- Preparation of the Official Statistics Work Programme Part I and monitoring its implementation.
- Preparation of methodological documents and statistical questionnaires.
- Dissemination of statistical information and meta information via the Official Statistics Portal.
- Data transmission to Eurostat.
- Participation in the EU legislative process and international cooperation.
- Implementation of the ES CoP in ONAs.
- Establishment of cross-institutional working groups for the coordination of statistical works in different statistical areas.
- Organisation of workshops, knowledge sharing.

In addition, procedures for the coordination of statistical activities performed by ONAs are established by the following orders of the Director-General of Statistics Lithuania:

- Official statistics production and dissemination guidelines.
- Description of the procedure for the preparation of statistical work (survey) methodology or description.

- Description of the procedure for the preparation of statistical questionnaires.

In order to clearly define cooperation and coordination issues in the NSS, agreements on the organisation, quality assurance and dissemination of official statistics have also been signed between Statistics Lithuania and all the ONAs.

Statistics Lithuania's coordination role is strengthened by cross-institutional working groups, usually established on the initiative of and led by Statistics Lithuania. Conditions for implementing the ES CoP in the NSS are improved by the cross-institutional working group on implementing the ES CoP. This group is chaired by the chief advisor of the Director-General of Statistics Lithuania and consists of representatives from Statistics Lithuania and the ONAs, with the Bank of Lithuania participating as an observer. Regular seminars dealing with different methodological and quality issues, other consultations and methodological support are also provided to ONAs by Statistics Lithuania.

### **ONAs involved in the peer review**

Three ONAs were selected for the peer review process: The Environmental Protection Agency, the Institute of Hygiene and the State Enterprise Agricultural Information and Rural Business Centre.

The Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for producing environmental indicators such as waste generation and management as well as water resource use. These are very important areas for monitoring implementation of the Green-Deal strategy.

The Institute of Hygiene is the main institution producing health statistics in Lithuania (including certain chronic disease and morbidity statistics, health care resources, occupational diseases and causes of death statistics). Health statistics have been extremely relevant during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The State Enterprise Agricultural Information and Rural Business Centre is responsible for producing statistics on agricultural product purchases, sales and processing, organic farming, fish and fishing product production and trade. It is the main institution preparing and monitoring agricultural prices in Lithuania.

### **Data access**

The Law on Official Statistics gives Statistics Lithuania the right of access to administrative data and privately held data if they are needed for implementing the Official Statistics Work Programme.

### **Dissemination of official statistics**

All statistical information produced according to the Official Statistics Work Programme is free of charge and available on the Official Statistics Portal, which provides society at large with user-friendly access to official statistics, expanding the possibilities for analysis and presenting statistical indicators. Official statistics are made available to all users at the same time (at 9 a.m.) on the officially announced date, indicated in the Official Statistics Portal Calendar/Advance Release Calendar, approved annually by order of the Director-General of Statistics Lithuania and published in advance.

Access to statistical information is available through different means, namely press releases, publications, digital publications, database of indicators, predefined tables, infographics and dashboards. Statistics are accompanied by supporting metadata as well as other information on methods and quality, in accordance with European and international criteria.



## 4. PROGRESS/ADVANCEMENT IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS

### Professional independence and legal mandate

The NSS, and Statistics Lithuania in particular, is currently facing a major challenge with the new role and function entrusted to Statistics Lithuania (as the owner and manager of the State Governance Information System) by the Lithuanian government in 2020. The assignment of this new role was motivated by the professional independence of Statistics Lithuania referred to in ES CoP Principle 1, acknowledgment of its efficient statistical production platform and its recognition as a trustworthy organisation.

Under the new provisions of the Law on Official Statistics, Statistics Lithuania has become the owner and manager of the State Data Governance Information System, which covers the entire data management cycle and ensures data accessibility for state needs. It will also allow efficient exchange between institutions and the sharing of data with the business and scientific communities, thus creating a common good. The new role provides an opportunity for Statistics Lithuania to strengthen the NSS's cooperation with holders of private data. If carefully and correctly managed, it could potentially further raise the reputation and credibility of official statistics in Lithuania.

The powers assigned to Statistics Lithuania by the Law on Official Statistics also enable a **strong coordination function** in relation to other entities who produce official statistics by law. There has been significant progress regarding this function, namely by providing ONAs with stronger methodological support and guidance, and recommendations that mirror the approaches applied by Statistics Lithuania.

The trust granted to Statistics Lithuania, headed by new top management since 2019, is also a result of its performance over previous years. A strong commitment to quality and high values for official statistics are evident in Statistics Lithuania's production and dissemination of official statistics, strategic projects and in its relationships with stakeholders at large.

### Modernisation of the Integrated Statistical Information System with new technological capabilities

The project on Modernisation of the Integrated Statistical Information System ensures an efficient process for producing statistical information in accordance with European and international recommendations and standards and has improved the quality of statistical information since 2020. Specifically, the information system has allowed Statistics Lithuania to conduct the population and housing census 2021 for the first time exclusively based on administrative data. It has devised a suitable plan for implementing an office-wide information system allowing statistical information objects to be described and stored in a centralised repository according to the Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM). Furthermore, it has implemented a business process mapping solution based on the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) to support the adoption of more automated statistical production. Fully aligning the statistical processes to GSBPM and integrating GSIM standards into the statistical production process has proven to be an efficient choice with respect to Statistics Lithuania's overall quality management approach.

Statistics Lithuania's IT architecture is broadly described in the Regulations of the State Data Governance Information System and detailed in the system specifications. During the past few years, this has also been strengthened by new technological capabilities which have allowed statistical production processes to be automated and have enabled Statistics Lithuania's role of data

management in public administration. This development is aligned with Statistics Lithuania's IT strategy and general strategy for 2018-2022.

To better follow and enhance this area, Statistics Lithuania's IT management committee was established in 2019.

### **An organisation highly committed to quality and data protection**

Statistics Lithuania has also been able to maintain and develop a solid quality culture function with a very positive effect for ONAs by means of its coordination role. This was already identified as a strength in the last peer review, but it is worth mentioning that there has also been significant progress over recent years. The adequate organisational structures were further enhanced by adopting frameworks and procedures, for example by centralising many statistical processes with the Methodology and Quality Division and setting up the procedure for quality assessment of administrative data sources. Continuous improvements, namely through regular process and product assessments, are regularly carried out using a variety of means. The ISO 9001:2015 re-certification of Statistics Lithuania's Quality Management System (QMS) for the fifth time in 2019 is proof of its very high commitment to quality and has contributed to Statistics Lithuania's compliance with systematic quality management (ES CoP, Principle 4).

The area of confidentiality and data protection has posed more challenges to statistical offices since the introduction of the GDPR. As such, Statistics Lithuania has taken these issues very seriously by seeking certification for its Information Security Management System according to the ISO 27001 standard.

### **Dissemination practices**

There has also been significant progress since the last peer review on the dissemination of official statistics, namely in **improvements of the Official Statistics Portal** which is an overall tool used to disseminate official statistics by the NSS. In this respect, the usability and accessibility of the Official Statistics Portal have been enhanced by measures taken in response to the previous peer review recommendations.

Further enhancements have also been made to usability by regular monitoring of official statistics through the calculation of the **Official Statistics Usability Index**. This tool is used to assess the extent to which official statistics are used in society and identify ways to further improve statistics dissemination.

Engagement with users of statistical information has also been improved, including the strengthening of services provided to the media and other categories of users to support access to and usage of statistical information.

Another development involved the **remote access system to anonymise microdata for researchers**.

**The daily updated information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic** was made available on the Official Statistics Portal. The innovative dashboard made use of new data availability tools and improved users' abilities to analyse and act upon the latest developments, boosting the Lithuanian people's trust in Statistics Lithuania and official statistics.

## 5. COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE AND FUTURE ORIENTATION

### 5.1 STRENGTHS OF THE NSI AND THE PARTICIPATING ONAs IN RELATION TO THEIR COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE

#### **Strong commitment to communicating with users and meeting their needs**

The NSS in Lithuania is recognised by users as very trustworthy in the development, production and dissemination of official statistics. Statistics Lithuania, in its leadership and coordinating roles, is clearly a highly respected institution within the NSS and Lithuanian society at large. This contributes to high trust among users in official statistics, many of which also comprise European statistics. The high level of trust was very evident and emphasised by different user groups during the peer review visit. This is clearly both a strength and a valued asset for the future. (ES CoP, Principles 1 and 11, Indicator 11.2)

Statistics Lithuania is also devoted to fulfilling, and in fact even exceeding, user needs, given their commitment to quality within the ISO 2001:2015 certification process. Their commitment to this goal is apparent from their openness and eagerness to continuously improve in all areas of their operations. This was publicly and clearly demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic when it responded to user needs in a timely, agile and creative way, by developing an interactive COVID-19 dashboard with daily updates of information from new data sources and with detailed geographical breakdowns. Users witnessed the fact that this innovative dashboard, requiring highly technical expertise, was of world-class quality. It was a success that enabled Statistics Lithuania to coordinate and present statistics to Lithuanian society in an informative and user-friendly fashion. The dashboard also provided many possibilities for analyses. In fact, this initiative further boosted the already high level of trust in statistics in Lithuania and in Statistics Lithuania as an institution. (ES CoP, Principles 4 and 11, Indicator 11.1)

Statistics Lithuania is committed to reaching many user groups in innovative ways. Its collaboration with researchers was very evident in its work to conduct the Census 2021 exclusively based on administrative sources, where Statistics Lithuania was very responsive to the needs of the scientific community who see it as a competent and cooperative partner. (ES CoP, Principle 11, Indicator 11.2, and Principle 15, Indicators 15.1 and 15.2)

Furthermore, the media gives a very positive view of Statistics Lithuania's presentation of statistics in the Official Statistics Portal, where all official statistics can be found. It was quite evident that journalists frequently also take advantage of associated services and the clear information provided in the Official Statistics Portal regarding contact information – whether it directs them to Statistics Lithuania or to an ONA. The peer review team applaud Statistics Lithuania for its accomplishments in this area. (ES CoP, Principle 15, Indicators 15.1 and 15.2)

Another interesting practice for journalists are the occasional business breakfasts set up with Statistics Lithuania when different relevant topics are presented and discussed. The peer review team regarded this practice as quite innovative. The initiative to install a studio room to create videos on topical issues for journalists and the public was another example of very good practice which demonstrates Statistics Lithuania's will to reach users in new ways. (ES CoP, Principles 11 and 15, Indicator 15.2)

Statistics Lithuania also demonstrates strengths in the initiatives it takes with other user groups, such as the measures taken in response to the 2014 peer review recommendation, namely on training users to be able to utilise Statistics Lithuania's products and services to their full potential. Among other things, a systematic training programme has been set up for users, including sessions to highlight relevant issues such as statistical literacy aspects, different applications in the Official Statistics Portal

or using regional statistics. Statistics Lithuania does not regard the measures taken as one-off efforts but rather sees them as part of a programme that should be continuously improved and adapted to emerging needs. This is a clear strength of the organisation and a product of staff engagement. (ES CoP, Principles 11 and 15, Indicators 15.6 and 15.7)

### **Solid Quality Management System and Process Orientation**

Statistics Lithuania's approach to quality management is referred to in several chapters in this report. Indeed, the peer review team regards this approach as a strength, taking note of the further enhancements made since 2007, to sustain and nurture a strong top management commitment. Statistics Lithuania's pursuance and systematic implementation of the quality standards in the ISO 9000 series and respective certifications empowers the organisation. Indeed, its capacity to process management and work on continuous improvements focused on quality assurance is further strengthened. From risk management, auditing and self-assessment practices, user focus and requirements, to active dialogue with users and other stakeholders, Statistics Lithuania's QMS is fully aligned with ES CoP, Principle 4 and has been suitably strengthened to date. This consistent approach has also been extended to Statistics Lithuania's relationship with the ONAs, where the team also found a solid quality culture. The Environmental Protection Agency implemented the ISO 9001 QMS standard and in 2021 decided to implement LEAN. The State Enterprise Agricultural Information and Rural Business Centre is also certified according to the ISO 9001 QMS standard. (ES CoP, Principle 4)

### **A flexible administration that facilitates efficiency**

Statistics Lithuania has been granted a flexible system of resources and staff reallocation, according to State and Municipal Rules. The organisational structure is approved and can be changed by the Director-General of Statistics Lithuania, providing enough flexibility for better decision-making and proper resource allocation according to budget restrictions. (ES CoP, Principle 3)

Junior staff/new employees can rotate between departments to learn about the organisation and different domains and relate to different colleagues. A training course that includes quality in statistics and a mentorship approach is in place. (ES CoP, Principle 7, Indicator 7.6)

A successful career planning system was created as an improvement action from the previous peer review with the aim of facilitating staff advancement to become middle managers. Candidates who are specialists in one area can now work in other domains within the organisation and there is a programme in place to develop their management skills. (ES CoP, Principle 7, Indicator 7.6)

In order to act more promptly and efficiently on non-coherence issues regarding the business statistics which feed into the National Accounts, the peer review team learned that a new Division has recently been created for this purpose. This is noted as a strength to address a common problem that many NSIs face regarding an important quality aspect in the National Accounts. (ES CoP, Principles 3 and 14)

## **A strong coordination role**

Statistics Lithuania embodies a very strong and well-defined coordination role, entrusted by the Law on Official Statistics, followed by Statistics Lithuania's procedure for coordinating statistical activities in ONAs. The latter document sets out the specific procedures for ONAs concerning the production, development and dissemination of official statistics and the functions of the structural units of Statistics Lithuania in coordinating these activities. (ES CoP, Principle 1bis)

The Official Statistics Programme constitutes a powerful coordination tool to avoid official statistics overlapping in the Official Statistics Portal, where Statistics Lithuania and ONAs disseminate official statistics to the public. Both Statistics Lithuania and ONAs have a high commitment to punctuality following the release calendar managed by Statistics Lithuania. (ES CoP, Principle 1bis)

Within the governance of this coordination role, the team also identified the good practice of the Methodological Commission, which is an internal body of Statistics Lithuania consisting of methodological experts. The Methodological Commission provides a supportive service to ONAs, but also exercises governance as the ONAs' methodologies require approval. This ensures sound methodology throughout the NSS as well as enabling an overview of all Statistics Lithuania's statistics. (ES CoP, Principle 1bis, Indicator 1bis.2)

The peer review exercise provided a good opportunity to enhance Statistics Lithuania's relationships with ONAs and to confirm their compliance with the ES CoP. Training courses were provided to ONAs for filling in the self-assessment questionnaire for the peer review. (ES CoP, Principle 1bis)

## **Innovative practices**

The peer review team identified several innovative practices implemented by Statistics Lithuania which could provide scope for inspiration for other NSSs in Europe. The team would therefore like to highlight the following initiatives:

- Using experimental statistics to introduce new methods and innovative statistical products to respond to emerging user needs. This practice is complemented by a broad engagement with users to collect feedback with the aim of further enhancing the maturity of experimental statistics and supporting their transition to established production. (ES CoP, Principles 2 and 11)
- Using new technologies, including a secure cloud platform and advanced data analytics methods, to support statistical production automation and promote quality enhancement. This builds on partnerships with the scientific community and the private sector, to provide modern infrastructural and digital solutions (ES CoP, Principle 8).
- Investing in the harmonisation of business processes based on statistical standards to support interoperability facilitating the reuse of generic solutions for production processes and supporting the harmonisation of practices in the statistical system (ES CoP, Principle 7).
- Developing the strategic positioning of Statistics Lithuania and the NSS in the new data ecosystem. This is based on the strategic assessment of the new opportunities for Statistics Lithuania and the NSS offered by the changing data market to promote data innovation and timely response to user needs. Considering carefully, in this context, the benefits and risks with a view to expanding the scope of statistical products building on the capabilities and strengths of the statistical system (ES CoP, Principle 6).

## 5.2 ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5.2.1 Assuring quality in a changing world for statistics

#### Raising quality assurance across the National Statistical System

Statistics Lithuania has a strong quality culture, which is clearly apparent throughout the whole organisation. This extends beyond Statistics Lithuania, underpinning its coordination of the NSS and was already noted as a strength in the last peer review. After five years, it is evident that the critical supporting organisational structures, adopted frameworks and procedures remain in place and that several of these have been updated and/or enhanced. Furthermore, all staff are involved in supporting and implementing continuous improvements emerging from regular assessments of statistical processes and products. Statistics Lithuania's Quality Management System was recertified for the fifth time in 2019 according to ISO 9001:2015, confirming the institution's strong commitment to quality and compliance with the ES CoP, with respect to Principle 4.

Statistics Lithuania's commitment to quality is evident in its production of statistics. It ensures that processes are carried out effectively and quality assured, and that the statistics are disseminated in a modern, transparent fashion. It has an obvious user focus throughout the whole statistical production process, from listening to users about their needs through to disseminating statistics.

Part of Statistics Lithuania's commitment to quality manifests itself in the development and use of standardised tools for producing and disseminating statistics. However, the peer review team learned that although Statistics Lithuania offers these tools to ONAs, they cannot be used due to technical obstacles. The NSS would benefit from measures to facilitate the broader use of these tools for the sake of quality and efficiency.

Statistics Lithuania demonstrates its statistical leadership in its coordination role by managing the annual compilation of the Official Statistics Work Programme, by its Methodology Commission, the Official Statistics Portal, and the provision of standards and guidelines for different aspects of the production of official statistics, such as metadata reports. The peer review team learned that Statistics Lithuania has established agreements with ONAs to ensure adherence to these standards and guidelines. Despite this good practice of bilateral agreements, the peer review team advises periodic monitoring of the ONAs to ensure they comply with the standards and guidelines, as Statistics Lithuania has the legal mandate to do so. This would strengthen quality assurance in the NSS.

Statistics Lithuania is presently developing guidelines for measuring quality in administrative and other types of data from new sources, the outcome of which would benefit the whole NSS. The peer review team would therefore encourage Statistics Lithuania to share these guidelines and any accompanying implementation tool with the NSS as soon as possible.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R1. Statistics Lithuania should facilitate the use of its standard tools for data processing for Other National Authorities; monitor compliance with standards and guidelines in the national statistical system with regard to metadata reports and dissemination; and develop quality assurance guidelines for administrative and other types of data from new sources for the national statistical system. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1bis.2 and 4.2)**

## Developing additional measurements of accuracy in statistics

New possibilities are emerging with administrative data and other data sources, which present challenges for measuring or assessing quality. Indeed, the peer review team sees the need for Statistics Lithuania to keep pace with methodological developments in this changing environment and even strengthen quality in the future. To succeed in this, the peer review team encourages Statistics Lithuania to liaise with external partners to ensure a scientific approach.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R2. Statistics Lithuania should further develop its expertise in estimating the quality of statistics based on administrative and other types of data, by developing partnerships internationally and with academia. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 8.7, 12.2 and 1bis.3)**

The conditions for producing statistics are rapidly changing, with falling response rates leading to a diminishing scope for direct data collection from sample surveys. At present, Statistics Lithuania relies heavily on measuring the sampling error for the computation of its general accuracy criteria. Other measurements were not evident, making it difficult for the peer review team to determine the extent of Statistics Lithuania's efforts to measure non-sampling errors and particularly to check for any systematic components that may exist.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R3. Statistics Lithuania should study and develop ways of measuring the systematic component in the various sources of error, with the aim of increasing the overall quality of statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 12.2)**

## Clarifying information on quality and methodology

Statistics Lithuania advocates the use of the Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS) for metadata and quality reports in the NSS, which the peer review team supports. However, judging by the results of Statistics Lithuania's quality audit on metadata reports performed in 2020, the quality of the information provided in this report, including its accessibility and clarity, can be strengthened. Several measures were suggested and put forward to the Statistical Council at the beginning of 2021, which were endorsed. The peer review team would strongly encourage the completion of this work and recommend it as high priority. The team also considers that another important strengthening measure would be to implement the new SIMS 2.0 template along with the accompanying European Statistical System handbook for quality and metadata reports, 2020 edition.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R4. Statistics Lithuania should move forward on the improvement actions that followed the quality audit on metadata reports performed in 2020 and which were endorsed by the Statistical Council in 2021. Statistics Lithuania should update the templates for metadata and quality reports with the European Statistical System standard, SIMS 2.0, guidelines for which are in the European Statistical System handbook for quality and metadata reports, 2020 edition. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 15.6 and 15.5)**

Statistics Lithuania has issued guidelines for methodological documentation in the *Description of the procedure for preparing statistical survey methodology*, which is viewed as a key component of the quality framework and its management. From the peer review team's perspective, however, accessibility to methodological documents could be improved. In several metadata reports access to

further methodological documentation was limited to general EU methodology only, albeit because there may not have been any methodological documents available in English. Ideally, from an international point of view, it would be better for the methodological documentation to be in English. However, if this is not possible, it would still be informative to know whether this documentation exists, even if only available in Lithuanian.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R5. Statistics Lithuania should review the methodological documents from a wider user perspective, with the aim of facilitating their accessibility, also in English. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 15.6)**

## 5.2.2 Strengthening dissemination and communication practices

### Facilitating the accessibility to official statistics

Statistics Lithuania's dissemination and communication practices are generally appreciated by different categories of users who represent a variety of needs. The credibility of statistics is recognised to be high.

Over the last five years, Statistics Lithuania has put much effort into improving the Official Statistics Portal to enhance the usability and accessibility of the official statistics produced by the NSS and to ensure that they are clearly communicated. Social media channels have been used as one means to effectively reach users.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, society at large expressed high appreciation of the professionalism and efficiency of Statistics Lithuania in coordinating and disseminating the daily updated data via the Official Statistics Portal to support the national health security measures.

Nevertheless, there is room for further improvements in accessing official statistics, according to the users and the peer review team.

Such improvements would involve the search capabilities and other functionalities of the Official Statistics Portal, and a more user-friendly database in terms of functionality and integration of metadata.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R6. Statistics Lithuania should strengthen the possibilities for users to find data through all channels available for official statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 15.2)**

Further improvements are possible in order to broaden Statistics Lithuania's dissemination practices, and in some cases, this would involve developing more advanced methods and tools in georeferenced statistics. In other cases, this would involve the provision of more detailed statistics and possibilities for other breakdowns (for example, with respect to demographic aspects), using an open data approach.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R7. Statistics Lithuania should further improve its dissemination, including its provision of open data. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 15.2)**



Different user needs are better rendered through the most appropriate channels. The platforms and services provided by Statistics Lithuania for different users are highly appreciated, demonstrating Statistics Lithuania's strong commitment to analyse and fulfil user needs and expectations. Moreover, specialised users, expressed a high level of appreciation for the provision of tailor-made statistics. However, there is still room for improvement regarding the use of the most appropriate channels.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R8. Statistics Lithuania should strengthen its efforts to target different categories of user groups by the most appropriate channels when disseminating official statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 11.1, 15.1 and 15.2)**

Statistics Lithuania aims for a better use of the available statistical products and services. This would involve refining the already existing communication strategy to reach society at large more efficiently, with the aim of improving awareness of the value of the official statistics made available by Statistics Lithuania.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R9. Statistics Lithuania should diversify its communication towards different categories of users, to ensure better awareness and understanding of the value of official statistics, to inform about the availability of official statistics and to facilitate the use of the Official Statistics Portal. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 15.1 and 15.2)**

#### **Ensuring equal access to statistical releases**

Ensuring equal access to statistical releases at the same time is crucial and supported by the ES CoP with respect to impartiality. Any privileged early access to statistical information should be limited, well-justified, controlled and publicised.

This practice is generally communicated to the public by means of a pre-announced calendar available on the Official Statistics Portal and linked to the Official Statistics Programme. The practice involves releasing official statistics to all users at the same time (at 9 a.m.) on the Official Statistics Portal. Additionally, as Statistics Lithuania states in its Dissemination Policy, 'all users shall have equal rights to receive statistical information and metadata at the same time. Any privileged early access to statistical information shall be limited, controlled and transparent'.

The peer review team was informed that Statistics Lithuania provides early access to statistical releases for the President and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania, their advisors, the Ministers of Finance, Economy and Innovation, and Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania, or other persons authorised by them, on gross domestic product (GDP), inflation and the unemployment rate, as well as other press releases on topical, social and economic phenomena, one day prior to the official release. In exceptional cases, external experts and researchers/scientists also have the right to receive the statistical information in advance of the publication date.

The specific persons provided with such data sign an obligation not to disclose the statistical information prior to its official release time. This pre-release of information is subject to limitations and control. Although users are officially notified about this procedure on the Statistics Lithuania website, under 'Quality in statistics', the information is not available on the Official Statistics Portal.

The reason given on Statistics Lithuania's website for the pre-release is for selected functions and people to familiarise themselves with the statistical information in order to prepare to comment on it.

But in no circumstances are they allowed to communicate such information or enable third parties to access it.

Considering the fragility of the justification, the numerous possibilities for early access to statistical releases and the extended time period provided (i.e. one day compared to half an hour, as at the time of the last peer review), the team considers this to be a compliance-related issue.

To comply with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R10. Statistics Lithuania should make its pre-release practice compliant with the ES CoP by limiting the number of persons who are entitled to a pre-release with no granting of exceptions, publicising a suitable justification and reducing the extent of the pre-release time period, so that it is proportional to the justification. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicator 6.7)**

The same concern with respect to early access of statistical releases applies to the ONAs reviewed, which should also follow proportionate pre-release embargo practices. Generally speaking, uniform guidelines in this respect should apply within the NSS and in accordance with the ES CoP.

To comply with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R11. The other national authorities reviewed should follow similar rules and procedures to Statistics Lithuania regarding the principle of equal access to statistical releases and publicise them on their websites in order to display uniform pre-release practices and guidelines within the national statistical system. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicator 6.7)**

### **Improving communication with respondents and data providers**

The increasing importance of data providers in the current changing institutional environment of Statistics Lithuania, coupled with the fact that respondents felt the response burden to be rather high, led the peer review team to conclude that more emphasis should be put on developing activities to ensure that respondents have a better awareness of their role in contributing to official statistics. Communication practices should therefore strategically target different categories of data providers.

Statistics Lithuania's good experience in applying communication strategies towards users is an advantage and an excellent basis for applying new approaches to this target group. Such an approach should also aim to strengthen the credibility and trust that Statistics Lithuania has already earned amongst its stakeholders at large.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R12. Statistics Lithuania should develop a communication strategy targeting different categories of data providers, in order to strengthen its credibility in producing official statistics. In addition, Statistics Lithuania should further engage with data provider groups to secure a better understanding of the role they play and their importance to society as data providers. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 8.7 and 9.2)**

## 5.2.3 Enhancing coordination and cooperation

### Coordinating activities in the National Statistical System

ES CoP principle 1bis provides general guidelines for a coordination role already entrusted to NSIs for some time. Statistics Lithuania is no exception in maintaining a strong coordination role, which is also recognised by its partners within the NSS. The Law on Official Statistics clearly defines the coordination of official statistics production by Statistics Lithuania in the NSS. Laws and regulations give sufficient power to Statistics Lithuania to establish mechanisms for coordination.

Statistics Lithuania also has useful tools to support the coordination role. Through the involvement of the selected ONAs it became evident that a clear and well-established coordination role is in place. This was also evident from the self-assessments and other documentation. The annual Official Statistics Work Programme lays down the basis for the statistics provided. The whole process of preparing Part I of the Official Statistics Work Programme and the report on its implementation is based on close collaboration with the ONAs. This constitutes a valuable coordination tool giving an overview of all the statistics to be produced in the NSS, mitigating the risk of overlapping statistics produced by different ONAs.

Statistical information and the respective metadata information from 16 of the 18 ONAs are already published on the common Official Statistics Portal. This follows the Official statistics production and dissemination guidelines and the bilateral agreements on Cooperation in the Provision of Statistical Information to the Official Statistics Portal, signed with Statistics Lithuania.

There are also other modes of promoting coordination, for example various domain-specific working groups in the NSS (such as the ES CoP implementation group), methodological and other guidelines, and training.

However, some gaps and possible future risks became evident from the discussions held. The peer review team considers that Statistics Lithuania should assess how well various guidelines and other requirements are actually followed by the ONAs reviewed. The greatest risks are linked to the financial and other resources needed for ONAs to fulfil their tasks.

Moreover, it was clear that the separation of the statistical and administrative functions performed by the ONAs reviewed is reflected in their legal framework. However, there is still room for improvement when it comes to clarifying this separation at the level of current working procedures. This would ensure that the ONAs reviewed are better aligned with the ES CoP when producing official statistics.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R13. For the sake of transparency and professional independence, the other national authorities reviewed should carefully delineate the different uses of their data in their work procedures, whether they are used for official statistics or for other purposes. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1.1 and 8.4)**

In order to address some of the gaps and possible risks of further developing official statistics at NSS level, the peer review team advises Statistics Lithuania to assess the financial and other resources needed for ONAs to fulfil their tasks.

This assessment should also include an analysis of the possible impact and risks to the production and dissemination of European statistics. Consideration should be given to the present and foreseeable changes in the institutional environment of Statistics Lithuania and the Lithuanian NSS as a whole. The

results of such an analysis should, after submission to the Statistical Council for consideration, be turned over to the attention of the relevant authorities.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R14. Statistics Lithuania, together with the other national authorities reviewed, should undertake a detailed assessment of the possible inadequacy of resources (financial, human, technological and infrastructural) in the Lithuanian statistical system. This exercise should include assessing the adequacy of the remuneration package needed to attract and retain adequate competencies. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 3.1, 1bis.1 and 2.4)**

#### **Cooperating with other data providers**

Cooperation with other, mainly private, data providers has already commenced and the first usage of scanner data was presented during the discussions with the peer review team. The recent achievement of the COVID-19 reporting system on the Official Statistics Portal also shows innovative development. At the time of the peer review, the initiatives looked quite promising, and the expert team could verify the positive attitude of various stakeholders towards these developments. The team therefore urges Statistics Lithuania, in its cooperation efforts with other mainly private data providers, to uphold key statistical procedures and dissemination practices according to the ES CoP principles.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R15. Statistics Lithuania should draw from its valuable experience with the other national authorities in order to ensure that statistical confidentiality and data protection standards are met in the foreseen cooperation with private data holders. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 8.7, 9.5 and 2.4)**

### **5.2.4 Preparing Lithuania's Statistical System for the future**

A stronger framework to support Statistics Lithuania's evolving role in the changing data ecosystem is important to ensure that quality principles comprise the planned modernisation of statistical production processes. This change is needed to better respond to increasing user needs. To fully harness the potential of new data sources, the statistical production process should also be modernised with the help of new technologies and strong partnerships with the data ecosystem stakeholders. This transition has huge potential for improving the quality of official statistics, but it also entails risks that need to be managed. Capacity must be supported and engagement with partners should be boosted. This will ensure that the change management process is successful and sustainable.

#### **Strengthening the framework to support Statistics Lithuania's new mandate**

Statistics Lithuania has been given new tasks and roles by the government over the last two years, and has accelerated towards a new 'dual' mandate, for example, during the COVID-19 pandemic. The new mandate entails continuing as a trusted producer of official statistics as well as becoming a data service provider to support evidence-based government policies.

The new State Data Governance Information System, building on comprehensive public sector data collection and integration capabilities, has the potential to enable a modern platform for delivering more timely and granular official statistics in response to user needs. The system will use a multi-source approach and harness the power of new technologies for statistical production, such as Artificial Intelligence. At the same time, the new 'dual' mandate entails risks for Statistics Lithuania's reputation

as an independent and trusted provider of official statistics, unless it is underpinned by a strong legal, operational and technical framework.

The new legal basis of the NSS (and Statistics Lithuania) entrusts Statistics Lithuania with a high hierarchical standing in the state management structure. As a government body in the Republic of Lithuania, it is involved in shaping state policy on official statistical governance assigned to the Minister of Finance, implementing it and coordinating the production of official statistics in accordance with the provisions of Part 1 of the Official Statistics Work Programme. The legal framework also ensures the professional independence of Statistics Lithuania in producing and disseminating official statistics. It also provides transparency regarding the appointment and dismissal procedures of the Director-General of Statistics Lithuania, supported by the Law of Civil Service along with the Government Resolution issued for its execution, as well as the Regulations of Statistics Lithuania.

The powers assigned to Statistics Lithuania by the Law on Official Statistics entail a strong coordination role in relation to other entities that produce official statistics by law. The implementation of this role over the past years demonstrates a strong commitment to quality which is acknowledged by the stakeholders. This is an extremely important asset for any statistical organisation.

In addition, the consensus and understanding by stakeholders of Statistics Lithuania's new 'dual' role is critical for maintaining trust. Engaging with key public and private sector stakeholders is also critical for generating awareness and ensuring an open discussion around Statistics Lithuania's new mandate.

Given this changing environment, and in order to continue to deliver high quality statistics, the legal framework for the extended role of Statistics Lithuania should be reviewed to provide a sound legal basis for this role. This framework should ensure compliance with the principles of the ES CoP and further strengthen Statistics Lithuania's role in the NSS with a view to continuously reinforcing trust.

Furthermore, the organisational arrangements for implementing the legal framework should enable a functional separation of the roles of producer of official statistics and provider of services for the government. This will assure users that statistical confidentiality and impartiality are being protected, while the power of the multi-source data integration platform is fully exploited to provide better statistics.

In light of these challenges, it is important for Statistics Lithuania to consider actions that would ensure sustained and enhanced compliance with the ES CoP in this changing landscape.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R16. Statistics Lithuania should liaise with the relevant authorities to propose a legal framework for its extended role to ensure full compliance with the principles of the ES CoP and to preserve its position in the national statistical system in upholding trust in official statistics. Furthermore, Statistics Lithuania should make arrangements to clearly separate its 'dual' role as a producer of official statistics on the one hand and a provider of data services for the government on the other. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1.1. and 1bis.1)**

With a view to ensuring that the new mandate for Statistics Lithuania is fully supported by stakeholders and users, it is critical to involve them in an open discussion around the benefits for society at large of Statistics Lithuania's new functions as a service provider and to continue to reinforce the trust in Statistics Lithuania as an independent provider of official statistics.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R17. Statistics Lithuania should engage with key public and private sector stakeholders to ensure an open discussion around its new mandate, harnessing consensus and sustained buy-in on their part. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1.1)**

### **Supporting the modernisation of the production platform**

Over time, Statistics Lithuania has invested in the modernisation of its statistical production by developing standard-based harmonised processes across statistical domains. This activity has been underpinned by investment in process mapping, metadata-based process automation and standard methods supported by generic digital solutions. Statistics Lithuania has also invested in the development and dissemination of experimental statistical products, which could be accelerated by the new production platform and the use of multi-source integrated data. These developments represent an important basis for the planned future initiatives.

This modernisation process is expected to deliver the implementation of a new standardised and automated production environment to harness multi-source data, which will thus enhance the quality of statistical information. The modernisation plan is rightly ambitious and its expected benefits for users are evident and well understood.

However, the transition from the current production system to the new environment entails risks. The plan for such a quick transition to the new production platform in 2023 should be carefully assessed against the risks to business continuity. It would also be useful to develop a comprehensive risk management plan to ensure that the continuity of statistical dissemination is not endangered. Specific actions are needed to address these issues. The work on process standardisation, which has advanced recently, will over time allow the reuse of generic IT tools to promote automation of the statistical production process. At the same time, the development of a secure data processing platform is important for trust in official statistics.

Supporting the modernisation of the production platform is a key priority for the future and it has to be based on a sustainable change management approach.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R18. Statistics Lithuania should devise a risk management plan, with specific actions to manage the transition to the new production system. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 7.1 and 5.5)**

Furthermore, data protection and confidentiality are critical features that need to be ensured in the development of a modern technical platform to support statistical production.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R19. Statistics Lithuania should continue to invest in the development of a secure data infrastructure and secure operation services, taking into account data protection and confidentiality concerns. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 5.5)**

Process automation can be supported by the new statistical production platform based on the above secure data infrastructure. The use of standards and reusable technical and methodological service components will need to be extended to ensure the harmonised implementation of this platform across statistical domains.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R20. Building on the process-mapping results and the use of statistical standards (for example, the Generic Statistical Information Model), Statistics Lithuania should further develop a set of reusable and generic building blocks to support the automation of the production system. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 10.4)**

The above innovative actions can create the technical enablers to develop faster and new statistical information, facilitate the further expansion of the current portfolio of experimental statistical products and support the use of innovative methods and data sources to respond to user needs.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R21. Statistics Lithuania should continue to invest in the development and dissemination of ‘experimental’ statistical products to accelerate the delivery of innovative statistical information. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 7.7 and 11.1)**

### **Ensuring the adequacy of Statistics Lithuania’s capabilities**

While Statistics Lithuania has demonstrated its ability to build human resources and technical and financial capacity at a scale consistent with its extended task portfolio, further efforts are needed to ensure the sustainability of the change management programme.

Although funding for Statistics Lithuania’s innovation programme has been secured, it has not been sufficient to ensure the recruitment of skilled staff to meet new statistical challenges. This has led and will continue to result in an insufficient staff mix. The non-competitive wages for data experts in the government sector, in comparison with the private sector, are a significant threat to recruitment, retention and continuity of the expertise needed.

Statistics Lithuania’s future plans for statistical modernisation and its new role requires not only resources which are adequate in terms of volumes, but also a shift in the composition of human and financial resources. New skills and competencies need to be continuously attracted and retained; adequate funding should cover not only capital expenditures (for example, projects) but also the management of operations. Finally, technical capabilities need to be further developed and maintained, taking into account the evolution of the IT market (for example, the increasing reliance on cloud-based ‘software as a service’ solutions). These capabilities should also be used in the statistical system at large.

Ensuring the adequacy of Statistics Lithuania’s capabilities is essential to deliver on the expectations for the future and further efforts are vital to sustain the change management programme.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R22. Statistics Lithuania should assess the current and future capability gaps and should devise a comprehensive plan to address them, identifying key partners. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 3.1)**

Based on the above plan, the financial sustainability of Statistics Lithuania’s operations should also be assessed to ensure that adequate funding is available to invest in technical and methodological developments in line with strategic ambitions and to ensure the operations over the medium term.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R23. Statistics Lithuania should review the financing model in place to ensure that it is adequately providing resources to operate in the modernised statistical production platform over the medium term. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 3.1)**

Innovation results can also be used beyond Statistics Lithuania to benefit the whole national statistical system. To facilitate the reuse of innovative solutions it will be important to design and develop reusable statistical and technical services and tools that can be more easily adopted by the national statistical system in the production of official statistics.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R24. Statistics Lithuania should further develop reusable solutions and services and support their adoption in the national statistical system. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1bis.1)**

### **Building stronger partnerships to support official statistics**

Innovation is a complex challenge in general, and particularly with regard to the changing data ecosystem. In the case of Lithuania, this complexity is compounded by the ambitious forward-looking transformation agenda.

In order to succeed, Statistics Lithuania will need to engage strongly with stakeholders and build solid partnerships with providers of privately held data, public sector organisations, academia and the public at large. This requires a combined approach, which should build on an overarching assessment of the key stakeholders and specific engagement initiatives with key partners.

Building stronger partnerships to support official statistics is critical for the implementation of the ambitious forward-looking transformation agenda, which requires capabilities over the medium term for the successful implementation of Statistics Lithuania's strategic plans. Actions are needed to sustain these efforts.

To improve beyond compliance with the ES CoP, the peer review team recommends:

**R25. Statistics Lithuania needs to identify strategic partners and the appropriate engagement modalities. This should lead to the development and implementation of a strategic partnership action plan, with specific measures tailored to key stakeholders such as academia, holders of private data and the media. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1bis.3 and 15.6)**



**5.3 VIEWS OF THE NSI, AS THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR OF THE NSS AND THE PEER REVIEW, ON THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS WHERE THEY DIVERGE FROM PEER REVIEW EXPERTS' ASSESSMENT**

None

## ANNEX A – AGENDA OF THE VISIT

Timing	Topic	Participants
<b>Day 1 – 15 November 2021</b>		
09:30 – 10:15	Preparatory Meeting between the peer review team and the National Coordination desk	<u>The peer review expert team:</u> All  <u>Statistics Lithuania:</u> National coordinator team.
10:15 – 10:30	Welcome and introduction of the programme, adopting the agenda and organisational matters	<u>The peer review expert team:</u> All  <u>Statistics Lithuania:</u> Director-General First Deputy Director-General Deputy Director-General Chief Advisor for Innovation Acting Chief Advisor for Process Management, National coordination team Acting Head of Performance and Finance Management Division Head of IT Division Head of Statistics Dissemination and Communication Division Head of State Data Governance Information System Division Acting Advisor of Performance and Finance Management Division Head of European Affairs and International Cooperation Division Group Leader of Data Technology Development Group Acting Head of Methodology and Quality Division Head of Human Resource and Documents Management Division Advisor of IT Division Head of Legal Division Advisor of European Affairs and International Cooperation Division, National coordinator
10:30 – 11:30	Presentation of the National Statistical System	<u>The peer review expert team:</u> All  <u>Statistics Lithuania:</u> Presentation by Director-General First Deputy Director-General Deputy Director-General Chief Advisor for Innovation Acting Chief Advisor for Process Management Head of State Data Governance Information System Division Head of European Affairs and International Cooperation Division
11:30 – 11:45	Coffee break	
11:45 – 13:15	Coordination and cooperation	<u>The peer review expert team:</u> All

	(ES CoP principle 1bis)	<u>Statistics Lithuania:</u> Presentation by Advisor of European Affairs and International Cooperation Division, National coordinator Head of Statistics Dissemination and Communication Division Acting Advisor of Performance and Finance Management Division Acting Head of Methodology and Quality Division Acting Chief Advisor for Process Management, National Coordination Team
13:15 – 14:15	Lunch	
14:15 – 15:45	Professional independence and the Law on Official Statistics and related legislation  (ES CoP principles 1, 2, 5 and 6)	<u>The peer review expert team:</u> All  <u>Statistics Lithuania:</u> First Deputy Director-General Deputy Director-General Head of Statistics Dissemination and Communication Division Head of Legal Division National coordination team
15:45 – 16:00	Coffee break	
16:00 – 17:30	Programming, planning and resources  (ES CoP principles 1, 3, 9 and 10)	<u>The peer review expert team:</u> All  <u>Statistics Lithuania:</u> First Deputy Director-General Acting Head of Performance and Finance Management Division Head of IT Division Acting Advisor of Performance and Finance Management Division Head of Human resource and Documents Management Division. National coordination team
17:30 – 18:30	Peer review expert team discussion	

Timing	Topic	Participants
<b>Day 2 – 16 November</b>		
09:30 – 11:15	Quality Management System (organisational structure, tools, monitoring)  (ES CoP principles 4 and 11 to 15)	<u>The peer review expert team:</u> All  <u>Statistics Lithuania:</u> Presentation by Acting Chief Advisor for Process Management First Deputy Director-General Deputy Director-General Head of Statistics Dissemination and Communication Division Acting Head of Methodology and Quality Division Chief specialist of Statistics Dissemination and Communication Division
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee break	
11:30 – 13:00	Dissemination and confidentiality  (ES CoP principles 5, 6 and 15)	<u>The peer review expert team:</u> All  <u>Statistics Lithuania:</u> Presentation by Advisor of IT Division Deputy Director-General Chief Advisor for Innovation Head of IT Division Head of Statistics Dissemination and Communication Division Acting Head of Methodology and Quality Division National coordination team
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 15:00	Methodology, data collection, data processing and administrative data (ES CoP principles 2, 7 and 8)	<u>The peer review expert team:</u> All  <u>Statistics Lithuania:</u> Deputy Director-General Chief Advisor for Innovation Head of IT Division Advisor of Methodology and Quality Division Acting Advisor of Methodology and Quality Division Group Leader of Data Technology Development Group Acting Head of Methodology and Quality Division. National coordination team
15:00 – 16:15	Progress and plans for the future	<u>The peer review expert team:</u> All  <u>Statistics Lithuania:</u> Presentation by Chief Advisor for Innovation Group Leader of Data Technology Development Group Director-General First Deputy Director-General Deputy Director-General

		Acting Chief Advisor for Process Management Head of State Data Governance Information System Division.
16:15 – 16:30	Coffee break	
16:30 – 17:45	Meeting with junior staff <u>only</u>  (staff with 2-5 years' experience in the NSI)	<u>The peer review expert team:</u> All  <u>Statistics Lithuania:</u> Specialist of International Trade and Foreign Investment Statistics Division Chief specialist of Data Technology Development Group Senior specialist of Population Statistics Division Chief specialist of Methodology and Quality Division Specialist of International Trade and Foreign Investment Statistics Division Chief specialist of Short-Term Business Statistics Division Chief specialist of Business Statistics Harmonisation Division Chief specialist of Agricultural, Environmental and Energy Statistics Division Chief specialist of Statistics Dissemination and Communication Division.
17:45 – 18:45	Peer review expert team discussion	

Timing	Topic	Participants
<b>Day 3 – 17 November</b>		
08:30 – 08:45	Note to Statistics Lithuania National Coordinator	<p><u>The peer review expert team:</u> All</p> <p><u>Statistics Lithuania:</u> National coordination team</p>
08:45 – 09:00	Welcome and introduction of organisational matters for 3 ONAs	<p><u>The peer review expert team:</u> All</p> <p><u>3 ONAs:</u>  1<sup>st</sup> ONA: State Enterprise Agricultural Information and Rural Business Centre:  Head of Market Information and Economical Analysis Division.  2<sup>nd</sup> ONA: Institute of Hygiene:  Head of Health Statistics department  Head of the Deaths and Causes Monitoring Unit  Specialist in the management of the State Register of Occupational Diseases of the Registers Division.  3<sup>rd</sup> ONA: Environmental Protection Agency:  Head of the Water Status Assessment Division  Chief specialist of the Water Status Assessment Division  Head of Waste Licensing Division  Chief specialist of the Waste Licensing Division  Advisor of the European Union and International Relations Division, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania</p> <p><u>Statistics Lithuania:</u> National coordination team</p>
09:00 – 10:30	Meeting with 1 <sup>st</sup> Other National Authority (ONA) producing European statistics – State Enterprise Agricultural Information and Rural Business Centre	<p><u>The peer review expert team:</u> All</p> <p><u>State Enterprise Agricultural Information and Rural Business Centre:</u>  Head of Market Information and Economical Analysis Division.</p> <p><u>Statistics Lithuania:</u> National coordination team</p>
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break	
10:45 – 12:15	Meeting with 2 <sup>nd</sup> other national authority (ONA) producing European statistics – Institute of Hygiene	<p><u>The peer review expert team:</u> All</p> <p><u>Institute of Hygiene:</u> Head of Health Statistics department</p>

		Head of the Deaths and Causes Monitoring Unit Specialist in the management of the State Register of Occupational Diseases of the Registers Division.  <u>Statistics Lithuania:</u> National coordination team
12:15 – 13:15	Lunch	
13:15 – 14:45	Meeting with 3 <sup>rd</sup> Other National Authority (ONA) producing European statistics – Environmental Protection Agency	<u>The peer review expert team:</u> All  <u>Environmental Protection Agency:</u> Head of the Water Status Assessment Division Chief specialist of the Water Status Assessment Division Head of Waste Licensing Division Chief specialist of the Waste Licensing Division Advisor of the European Union and International Relations Division, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania  <u>Statistics Lithuania:</u> National coordination team
14:45 – 15:30	Coffee break (plus PR team meeting)	
15:30 – 16:15	General closing session with all the Other National Authorities (ONA) producing European statistics that are taking part in the peer review visit.	<u>The peer review expert team:</u> All  <u>3 ONAs:</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> ONA: State Enterprise Agricultural Information and Rural Business Centre: Head of Market Information and Economical Analysis Division. 2 <sup>nd</sup> ONA: Institute of Hygiene: Head of Health Statistics Department. 3 <sup>rd</sup> ONA: Environmental Protection Agency: Head of the Water Status Assessment Division Advisor of the European Union and International Relations Division, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania.  <u>Statistics Lithuania:</u> National coordination team
16:15 – 17:15	Peer review expert team discussion	

Timing	Topic	Participants
<b>Day 4 – 18 November</b>		
08:30 – 09:45	Meeting with the Statistical Council	<u>The peer review expert team:</u> All <u>Statistical Council:</u>

		<p>Head of Strategic Programmes Division, Ministry of Education, Science and Sports Director of Data and Statistics Department, National Bank of Lithuania</p> <p>Professor, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Vilnius University Associate Professor, Institute of Applied Mathematics, Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics, Vilnius University</p> <p><u>Statistics Lithuania:</u> First Deputy Director-General. National coordination team</p>
09:45 – 11:15	Meeting with main data providers	<p><u>The peer review expert team:</u> All</p> <p><u>Main data providers:</u> Chief Specialist of Information Processing and Statistics Division, Department of Informatics and Communication under the Ministry of Interior Affairs Director of the Department for the Affairs of Disabled under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour Member of the Presidium of the Lithuanian Employers' Confederation, President of the Lithuanian Association of Employment Companies Communication and Project Manager, Lithuanian Trade Association Chief Specialist of I Division, Selection and Audit Support Department, State Tax Inspectorate</p> <p><u>Statistics Lithuania:</u> First Deputy Director-General Deputy Director-General Head of Economic Entities Register Division Acting Head of Methodology and Quality Division Chief specialist of Economic Entities Register Division Advisor of IT Division. National coordination team</p>
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee break	
11:30 – 12:15	Meeting with providers of new data sources	<p><u>The peer review expert team:</u> All</p>



		<p><u>Providers of new data sources:</u>  Head of Process and Quality Management Department, Maxima LT  Head of Process Management, Maxima LT</p> <p><u>Statistics Lithuania:</u>  First Deputy Director-General  Head of Price Statistics Division  Group Leader of Data Technology Development Group.  National coordination team</p>
12:15 – 13:15	Meeting with main users – Media	<p><u>The peer review expert team:</u>  All</p> <p><u>Media:</u>  Business Journalist, Portal Irt.lt  Business Editor, Portal 15min.lt</p> <p><u>Statistics Lithuania:</u>  Head of Statistics Dissemination and Communication Division  Advisor of Statistics Dissemination and Communication Division  National coordination team</p>
13:15 – 14:15	Lunch	
14:15 – 15:15	Meeting with main users – Ministries and other public/private institutions (including the Central Bank as a user)	<p><u>The peer review expert team:</u>  All</p> <p><u>Ministries and other public/private institutions:</u>  Deputy Director of the Drug, Tobacco and Alcohol Control Department  Advisor of Electronic Health and Information Resources Division of the Ministry of Health  Director of HNIT-BALTIC  Head of External Statistics, Department of Statistics, Economic and Financial Stability Services, National Bank of Lithuania  Chief Marketing Officer, HNIT Baltic  Chief specialist of the Monitoring and Analysis Division, Drug, Tobacco and Alcohol Control Department  Advisor of the Prime Minister for Open Data, Digital Transformation and Public Procurement</p>

		<p><u>Statistics Lithuania:</u>  Head of Statistics Dissemination and Communication Division  National coordination team</p>
15:15 – 16:15	Meeting with main users – business associations and federations and trade unions, as well as representatives of a committee of users – if any	<p><u>The peer review expert team:</u>  All</p> <p><u>Main users:</u>  Director of Transport Innovation Association  Head of Research and Analysis, Enterprise Lithuania (Versli Lietuva)  Head of Technical Support Team, Government Strategic Analysis Center strata.gov.lt</p> <p><u>Statistics Lithuania:</u>  Head of Statistics Dissemination and Communication Division  Head of Economic Entities Register Division  National coordination team</p>
16:15 – 16:30	Coffee break	
16:30 – 17:30	Meeting with main users – Scientific community	<p><u>The peer review expert team:</u>  All</p> <p><u>Scientific community:</u>  Head of the Department of Mathematical Statistics, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (VILNIUS TECH)  Research Scientist, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research  Chair of VMU Senate, Head of Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Vytautas Magnus University  Head of Data Science, Euromonitor International</p> <p><u>Statistics Lithuania:</u>  Head of Statistics Dissemination and Communication Division.  National coordination team</p>
17:30 – 18:30	Peer review expert team discussion	

Timing	Topic	Participants
<b>Day 5 – 19 November 2021</b>		
09:30 – 13:15	Peer review expert team discussion.	
11:15 – 11:45	Clarifications, remaining or additional issues and focus areas, during the PR meeting.	<u>The peer review expert team:</u> All  <u>Statistics Lithuania:</u> National coordination team
13:15 – 14:15	Lunch	
14:15 – 16:15	Meeting with the senior management of the NSI: conclusions and recommendations	<u>The peer review expert team:</u> All  <u>Statistics Lithuania:</u> Director-General First Deputy Director-General Deputy Director-General Chief Advisor for Innovation Acting Chief Advisor for Process Management, National coordination team Acting Head of Performance and Finance Management Division Head of IT Division Head of Statistics Dissemination and Communication Division Head of State Data Governance Information System Division Acting Advisor of Performance and Finance Management Division Head of European Affairs and International Cooperation Division Group Leader of Data Technology Development Group Acting Head of Methodology and Quality Division Head of Human Resource and Documents Management Division Advisor of IT Division Head of Legal Division Advisor of European Affairs and International Cooperation Division, National coordinator. ONAs: 1 <sup>st</sup> ONA: State Enterprise Agricultural Information and Rural Business Centre: Head of Market Information and Economical Analysis Division.

		2 <sup>nd</sup> ONA: Institute of Hygiene: Head of Health Statistics Department. 3 <sup>rd</sup> ONA: Environmental Protection Agency: Head of the Water Status Assessment Division.
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# ANNEX B – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

## STATISTICS LITHUANIA

### Director-General

#### First Deputy Director-General

The Deputy Director-General is responsible for coordinating the production, development and dissemination of macroeconomic and business statistics. On behalf of the Director-General of Statistics Lithuania, the First Deputy Director-General represents Statistics Lithuania in international and national official meetings and events, and leads or participates in EU and Lithuanian inter-institutional and internal working groups, committees, etc. according to his/her competence.

#### Deputy Director-General

The Deputy Director-General is responsible for coordinating the production, development and dissemination of population, social, sectorial, agricultural and circular economy statistics, and data collection for household surveys also ensuring the methodological validity, quality and coherence of statistical domains, coordinating analysis of user needs, setting priorities and ensuring their implementation. The Deputy Director coordinates the standardisation and optimisation of the statistical production process, the implementation of advanced methods, implementation of European and international standards and good practices. The Deputy Director coordinates work related to estimating the quality of administrative data and organises the work of the Data Confidentiality Working Group. On behalf of the Director-General, the Deputy represents Statistics Lithuania in international and national official meetings and events, and leads or participates in EU and Lithuanian inter-institutional and internal working groups, committees, etc. according to his/her competence.

#### Acting Chief Advisor of the Director-General for Process Management, National coordination team

The Advisor is responsible for organising and coordinating the maintenance, improvement and integration of the quality management system with the information security management system and performs the functions of quality representative for the management. The Advisor organises and coordinates work related to quality process management, identifies the processes and relationships between them, assigns responsibilities for these processes, measures and analyses process quality indicators, implements improvement actions, identifies and manages risks, identifies non-conformities and implements corrective actions. Coordinates the implementation of the requirements of the European Statistics Code of Practice in other institutions producing official statistics. On behalf of the Director-General, the Advisor represents Statistics Lithuania in international and national official meetings and events, leads or participates in EU and Lithuanian inter-institutional and internal working groups, committees, etc. according to his/her competence.

#### Chief Advisor of the Director-General for Innovation

The Chief Advisor for Innovation inspires and initiates the implementation of ideas related to the improvement of activities and products; mobilises the internal and external resources of the organisation required for the implementation of innovations; anticipates potential areas for change or innovation; enables processes and/or procedures for the implementation of innovations; plans, coordinates and, where necessary, controls actions or projects for the implementation of innovations in various areas of activity or production. The advisor also analyses innovation opportunities, risks, strengths and weaknesses; makes proposals for strategic goals, objectives and measures in the field of product innovations; performs innovation management activities within the department; organises

various types of idea generation events; examines the possibilities of implementing ideas; presents ideas and related information to the Director-General of Statistics Lithuania.

On behalf of the Director-General, the Chief Advisor represents Statistics Lithuania in international and national official meetings and events, leads or participates in EU and Lithuanian inter-institutional and internal working groups, committees, etc. according to his/her competence.

### **Data Technology Development Group**

The Group is responsible for the overall analysis of the possibilities of using alternative data sources, new methods and technologies for the compilation of official statistics. The main tasks of the Group are: improving and implementing current methodologies of statistical surveys, development of experimental statistics and analysis of alternative or new data sources for official statistics; the analysis and implementation of good practices, methods, techniques and technologies developed by other countries and Eurostat; cooperation with the private sector to access privately held data; cooperation with the scientific community for the development of new methodologies related to data integration; analysis and implementation of small area estimation methods in the statistical production process.

#### **Group Leader of the Data Technology Development Group**

The Head represents the institution, where necessary, in relations with other institutions, organisations and natural persons. The Head organises the work of the division and ensures its efficiency, and sees to the creation of a favourable microclimate, improvements in employees' working conditions and their qualifications, and the selection and education of specialists.

The Head manages the processing of information relevant to the performance of the activities of the division or, if necessary, processes such information. The Head coordinates the work related to the analysis of topics where alternative or new data sources could be applied for the compilation of official statistics. The Head coordinates the development and implementation of new methods, techniques and technologies for the compilation of official and experimental statistics.

#### **Chief specialist of the Data Technology Development Group (junior)**

### **Economic Entities Register Division**

The Economic Entities Register Division is responsible for the management and development of the Statistical Business Register (SBR) and the provision of sampling frames according to the requirements of European legal acts. The division prepares statistical information about economic entities and business demography, provides statistical data to the official statistics portal, Eurostat and EGR. The division also provides methodological and practical consultations to the users of the SBR, organises the distribution of the statistical response burden on respondents as evenly as possible, informs businesses about their participation in statistical surveys, estimates the amount of the statistical response burden and publishes the corresponding information on SL's webpage and in the e.statistika system.

#### **Head of the Economic Entities Register Division**

The Head of the Economic Entities Register Division is responsible for ensuring the functionalities of the SBR and for preparing and submitting statistical data to the official statistics portal, Eurostat and EGR. The Head of the division is also responsible for statistical response burden control, measuring the response burden in time, communicating with respondents concerning their participation in statistical surveys and communicating with other governmental institutions concerning control of the administrative burden in general.

#### **Chief specialist of the Economic Entities Register Division**

### **European Affairs and International Cooperation Division**

### **The Head of the European Affairs and International Cooperation Division**

The position aims at the effective organisation and coordination of Statistics Lithuania's international cooperation and its development, analyses of statistics-related developments in the ESS and beyond, ensuring transposition of EU legal acts into national law, representation of the country and Statistics Lithuania staff in the EU decision-making process, and coordination of best practices with the EU and the international community.

In this respect, the Head organises and coordinates the preparation of the respective positions, presentations, documents and information about the activities and achievements of Statistics Lithuania, coordinates exchanges of best practice, organises the drafting of bilateral agreements and protocols of intent with other NSIs, and monitors technical assistance to third parties. The Head supervises visits of SL staff abroad and foreign colleagues to SL, and is responsible for the preparation of positions, participation and representation of the institution at the ESS, CWPS, OECD, ISI, UNSC and other international meetings and conferences.

### **Advisor of the European Affairs and International Cooperation Division, National coordinator**

The Advisor assists the Head of European Affairs and International Division in his/her role as coordinator of EU and International cooperation issues in the National Statistical System. The Advisor is responsible for evaluating EU positions, other documents provided to Eurostat, the European Commission's Council Working Party on Statistics and international organisations, and for the preparation of conclusions and submission to the management. The Advisor also helps with the organisation of high-level international events according to his/her competence. The Advisor ensures the performance of the assigned functions related to the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice at Statistics Lithuania and other bodies managing official statistics, and participates in the ESS Peer Review process. The Advisor represents the institution in relations with institutions and organisations of foreign states or, if necessary, coordinates the representation of the institution in such relations. The Advisor also manages the development of the United Nations Sustainable Development Indicators and coordination within the National Statistical System.

### **Human Resource and Documents Management Division**

#### **Head of Human Resource and Documents Management Division**

The Head of the Division develops and improves the human resources policy, creates and implements the employee needs and resources, seeks and selects employees. The employee in this position is responsible for the development/creation of remuneration and motivation systems, evaluation of employees' activities, promotion and development, as well as implementation of training programmes, organisation of work in the field of human resources and document management in Statistics Lithuania.

At the request of the Head/Manager of the institution/Statistics Lithuania, he/she shall represent the institution/Statistics Lithuania in relations with other institutions, organisations and natural persons, and participate in the working groups, commission meetings, meetings and conferences of Eurostat and Lithuania's state bodies for matters falling within the competence of the Division.

### **Information Technology Division**

The Information Technology Division oversees the IT infrastructure and information system with all of the subsystems needed to empower the statistical process with all accompanying subprocesses. The Division devises the IT strategy and is responsible for future software development. The Division also ensures the security of the information system.

#### **Head of the Information Technology Division**

The Head is responsible for managing and fine-tuning the division's processes and ensuring that all functions assigned to the division are fulfilled. He/she is responsible for preparing the IT strategy and

is in constant communication with management and other divisions to ensure that IT can support any needs that may arise.

#### **Advisor of the Information Technology Division**

The Advisor of the Information Technology Division is in charge of ensuring appropriate data protection measures for Statistics Lithuania.

He/she participates in the development of the department's information security measures, cyber security policy and strategic plans, and organises and coordinates the implementation of policy statements. The Advisor coordinates the implementation of electronic information security measures, cyber security requirements and strategic and current plans, analyses the state of technological processes and prepares the necessary documentation implementing the information security policy. He/she analyses and identifies the needs for the development of technical and organisational measures for electronic information security and cyber security, provides conclusions and proposals on ways to improve electronic information security and cyber security. He/she performs the functions of supervisor of the Information Security Management System in Statistics Lithuania.

#### **Legal Division**

The main functions of the Legal Division are: 1) to represent Statistics Lithuania in Court litigation procedures and to prepare documents for the Courts, 2) to prepare litigation cases regarding administrative offences for breaches of the duty to provide statistical data, 3) to consult on legal questions and questions of public procurement, 4) to prepare conclusions on legal questions, 5) to draw up agreements and to evaluate agreements drawn up by other divisions or institutions (except data providing and data receiving agreements), 6) to prepare legal acts (including laws, governmental resolutions and orders of the Director-General) and other legal documents, 7) to provide legal expertise for the above-mentioned draft legal acts and documents drawn up by other divisions or institutions.

The Legal Division is also responsible for questions on corruption prevention and on the adjustment of state and private interests. The Legal Division also evaluates projects of statistical questionnaires and projects of the Official Statistics Programme according to the competence of the Division.

#### **Head of the Legal Division**

The Head of the Legal Division is responsible for the organisation and coordination of the above-mentioned tasks of the Legal Division and also directly executes them. The Head of the Legal Division is also solely responsible for the coordination and supervision of Statistics Lithuania's public procurements and prepares internal orders for Statistics Lithuania's public procurement.

#### **Methodology and Quality Division**

The Division is responsible for the process of production statistical information starting from user needs to the compilation and analysis of statistical information. The main tasks according to the Quality management system are as follows: coordinating the statistical process; monitoring quality indicators of the statistical process, administrative sources and statistical information, initiating improvement actions and participating in their implementation; analysing and forecasting key macroeconomic and social indicators, analysing their trends and relations; consultations to other divisions of the department on the application of mathematical methods and statistical issues; collecting, preparing and managing national classifications/national versions of international classifications; coordinating the process of developing and updating statistical survey methodologies; monitoring validation, editing and recording the application of statistics in statistical surveys, the development of these methods in the world, and analysing their application in the department.

#### **Acting Head of the Methodology and Quality Division**



The Head represents the institution, where necessary, in relations with other institutions, organisations and natural persons. The Head organises the work of the division and ensures its efficiency, sees to the creation of a favourable microclimate, improvements in employees' working conditions and their qualification, and the selection and education of specialists.

The Head manages the processing of information relevant to the performance of the activities of the division or, if necessary, processes such information. The Head coordinates the work of evaluating the preliminary estimates of the country's main macroeconomic indicators and the implementation of the compatibility of samples, classifications and statistical indicators in Statistics Lithuania. The Head coordinates the monitoring of the statistical process, administrative sources and quality indicators of statistical information. He/she coordinates the implementation of modern methods and standards in statistical surveys, metadata standardisation works and the development of methodologies in the department and provides methodological assistance to other institutions producing official statistics. He/she also coordinates the preparation and updating of metadata descriptions.

#### **Advisor of the Methodology and Quality Division**

The Advisor of the Methodology and Quality Division is responsible for updating, adapting and implementing statistical classifications. The Advisor consults with and provides methodological assistance to specialists and management institutions of all levels on the issues of the application of classifications in the Central Classification Database (CCDB), represents Statistics Lithuania's position on classifications and cooperates with the managers of classifications published by the CCDB in other state institutions. The Advisor is also responsible for developing and updating metadata report templates and recommendations, and coordinating the preparation of metadata reports. He/she follows the development of standards, analyses and assists in their implementation in the preparation of statistical information, and coordinates the implementation of statistical surveys in Integrated Data Storage.

#### **Acting Advisor of the Methodology and Quality Division**

The Advisor is responsible for coordinating and maintaining the statistical surveys and administrative data quality, estimating quality indicators, and the introduction and application of new methods and validation rules. He/she analyses and provides suggestions on the compatibility of statistical indicators.

#### **Chief specialist of the Methodology and Quality Division (junior)**

### **Performance and Finance Management Division**

The Performance and Finance Management Division is responsible for organising the department's strategic planning process, preparing strategic medium-term documents and monitoring their implementation. He/she organises the planning and monitoring of the department's annual activities, coordinates the planning of the official statistics of ONAs and coordinates the standardisation of the ONAs' statistical questionnaires. He/she ensures the organisation of the discussion and evaluation of the department's activities and the organization of management meetings, meetings of the Advisory Commission of the Director-General and the activities of the Statistical Council. He/she is responsible for organizing SL's budget planning process, submitting the request for financial resources to the Ministry of Finance and monitoring the use of financial resources.

#### **Acting Head of the Performance and Finance Management Division**

The Head is responsible for preparing and submitting demand-based state budget appropriations to the Ministry of Finance, collecting, systematising and analysing information on the use of appropriations according to the implemented measures and economic classification articles, organising the preparation of budget and extra-budgetary expenditure estimates and controlling their execution. He/she is responsible for the ex-ante control of economic operations and coordinates the

submission of documents supporting economic operations to the National Centre for General Functions (executes an accounting function).

#### **Acting Advisor of the Performance and Finance Management Division**

The Acting Advisor prepares the medium-term activity strategies and coordinates the preparation of long-term strategies and annual activity plans. He/she monitors activity planning procedures and their regulation, updates documentation, organises the collection of information on the achieved performance results, initiates their discussion in the meetings of the Advisory Commission of the Director-General or in other meetings. He/she coordinates the planning of the ONAs' statistical surveys and the preparation, discussion and coordination of the draft Part I of the Official Statistical Programme and monitors its implementation. He/she prepares the annual report on the implementation of Part I of the Official Statistical Programme and organises the coordination of the annual and medium-term European Statistical Programmes.

#### **Price Statistics Division**

The Price Statistics Division is responsible for organising and maintaining price statistics. It develops and expands the price index system and average price statistics; develops new sources of price data; compiles consumer and short-term price indices for monitoring inflationary processes and macroeconomic forecasts. It also prepares and provides the national and EU administrations with statistical and analytical information on price developments for the purpose of informing economic policy and management decisions and analysing short-term price developments. The division seeks to ensure the reliability and publicity of price statistics, and to develop the legal, methodological and organisational framework for conducting price surveys and producing price statistics. The Price Statistics Division participates in the Eurostat-OECD PPP Programme and ensures the implementation of the requirements and standards set out in EU legislation in the field of price statistics.

The Price Statistics Division organises and conducts surveys in the field of price statistics: Consumer Goods and Services Prices; the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices; the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices at Constant Tax Rates; House Prices; Owner-occupied House Prices; prices of industrial production sold by producers; prices of exported and imported goods; services producer prices; prices of construction input items; natural gas, electricity and oil prices. In the framework of the Eurostat-OECD PPP Programme, the Division is responsible for the prices of consumer goods and services, machinery and equipment, construction projects and for surveys to determine the coefficients for the adjustment of rental prices for the salaries and pensions of civil servants in the EU and other international organisations. The Price Statistics Division develops methodologies for statistical surveys, organises training sessions for price collectors, prepares information notices on price developments and carries out projects in the field of Eurostat price statistics.

#### **Head of the Price Statistics Division**

The Head is responsible for the planning and management of the work related to consumer prices, house prices, owner-occupied house prices and short-term price indices, natural gas, electricity and oil prices as well as the management of Eurostat's projects on implementing the actions needed for the preparation and provision of basic information for the calculation of PPPs in the framework of grant agreements with Eurostat. The Head is also responsible for the implementation of the new EU requirements, analytical, methodological and statistical information preparation, communication works, preparation material and participation in various international and internal meetings, analysis of the ways to reduce the burden on respondents, implementation of new data sources and budget planning on the price statistics area.

#### **State Data Governance Information System Division**

##### **Head of the State Data Governance Information System Division**

Management of a team of programmers and data analysts. The team's main responsibilities are: development of the state data operating system (based on Palantir Foundry), management of data ingestion and data analysis processes in the new system, implementation of data analysis process of statistical survey automation, large data analysis methods for data analysis processes, new data analysis development of tools and dashboards, preparation of data for re-use, opening, dissemination, etc. The department's analysts and programmers are conducting statistical surveys, based on operation data, on the COVID-19 pandemic and illegal immigration.

### **Statistics Dissemination and Communication Division**

Functions of the Dissemination and Communication division:

Planning and organising external and internal communication, dealing with public relations and image building;

Preparing and disseminating statistical information and information on the department for the public, the media, the scientific community, state and municipal institutions, international organisations and other user groups; organising and coordinating the preparation and dissemination of statistical publications, providing information according to individual requests. Maintaining the Official Statistics Portal, the Department's website(s), the content of social network profiles, supervising their operation. Organising user opinion and other user surveys. Monitoring the dissemination of statistical information and information on the activities of the department in the media, preparing and disseminating disinformation in the media. The Division carries out statistical literacy activities in the field of statistics, organises and/or coordinates services, products and project publicity campaigns, and organises the editing of the Department's official documents, publications and Official Statistics products, translation from/to English, ensuring that the official information corresponds to the State Languages Law, and administers the electronic Statistical Terms vocabulary.

#### **Head of the Statistics Dissemination and Communication Division**

The Head of the Dissemination and Communication Division must ensure that the functions of the division are performed. He/she ensures the smooth running of the division and represents the institution in relations with other institutions, organisations and persons.

#### **Advisor of the Statistics Dissemination and Communication Division**

The Advisor assists the Head of the Dissemination and Communication Division in his/her role as the communicator of Official Statistics. The Advisor organises, coordinates and controls public relations in order to create a strong brand for Statistics Lithuania and public opinion about the institution, and organises meetings, conferences and other events related to public relations and statistical literacy. He/she is responsible for monitoring the dissemination of statistical information and information on the activities of the department in the media, and prepares and disseminates answers and explanations due to the fake news in the media.

#### **Chief specialist of the Statistics Dissemination and Communication Division (junior)**

The Chief specialist of the Statistics Dissemination and Communication Division is one of the main coordinators of statistical dissemination to Statistics Lithuania's social media profiles. His/her main tasks focus on statistical literacy and the implementation and coordination of European projects regarding the Lithuanian educational sector, such as the European Statistical Competition (ESC). Tackling misinformation and fake news is one of the primary tasks as an administrator of Statistics Lithuania's social media channels. This role requires the specialist to be able to create multimedia projects – videos, infographics on statistics, statistical literacy and campaigns against misinformation. As of this year, a new role has been assigned to this position – the management and coordination of User Satisfaction Surveys.

## **Data Protection Division**

Head of the Data Protection Division

### **Junior staff**

Chief specialist of the Agricultural, Environmental and Energy Statistics Division (junior)

Chief specialist of the Business Statistics Harmonisation Division (junior)

Specialist of the International Trade and Foreign Investment Statistics Division (junior)

Specialist of the International Trade and Foreign Investment Statistics Division (junior)

Senior specialist of the Population Statistics Division (junior)

Chief specialist of the Short-Term Business Statistics Division (junior)

### **OTHERS**

### **Statistical Council**

Head of the Strategic Programmes Division, Ministry of Education, Science and Sports

National Bank of Lithuania

Vilnius University

### **State Enterprise Agricultural Information and Rural Business Centre**

Head of the Market Information and Economical Analysis Division, State Enterprise  
Agricultural Information and Rural Business Centre

### **Institute of Hygiene**

Head of the Health Statistics Department, Institute of Hygiene

Head of the Deaths and Causes Monitoring Unit, Institute of Hygiene

Specialist in the management of the State Register of Occupational Diseases of the Registers  
Division, Institute of Hygiene

### **Environmental Protection Agency**

Head of the Water Status Assessment Division, Environmental Protection Agency

Chief specialist of the Water Status Assessment Division, Environmental Protection Agency

Head of the Waste Licensing Division, Environmental Protection Agency

Chief specialist of the Waste Licensing Division, Environmental Protection Agency

Advisor of the European Union and International Relations Division, Ministry of the  
Environment of the Republic of Lithuania