Peer reviewers' recommendations and statistics Lithuania's improvement actions in response to the recommendations

Peer reviewer's recommendations and improvement actions in response to the recommendations

Improve dissemination and communication with users

1. *Statistics Lithuania should enhance the usability and accessibility of the Official Statistics Portal (and its Database of Indicators) for both occasional and expert users, by implementing improvements to its content, design, functionality and performance (European Statistics Code of Practice, Principle 15).*

Current situation: At the beginning of 2013, Statistics Lithuania launched the Official Statistics Portal, a multifunctional statistical information system. The ultimate goal is that all statistics produced on the basis of the Official Statistical Work Programme, regardless of the institution, would be included in the Portal. The Official Statistics Portal offers users many opportunities: accessing sets of indicators and predefined tables, forming and saving one's own data tables which are automatically updated when the information is updated in the database, creating one's own information release calendar, subscribing to statistical news about a certain subject, etc. The analysis tool in the Database of Indicators enables comparison of indicators from different statistical domains, formation of charts and maps, calculation of various statistics, exporting tables to other formats, and subscribing to updates. Apart from current statistics, users are able to access historical indicators of interwar (1918–1939) and Soviet Lithuania, with detailed information and metadata on the historical indicator of interest. Public use files from different statistical surveys are also available. The Geographic Information System (GIS), part of the Official Statistics Portal, comprises three applications: a part of the data analysis tool in the Database of Indicators, enabling the presentation of statistical indicators on maps by administrative territory; an interactive atlas, enabling spatial and temporal analysis of data and a detailed statistics application, currently containing indicators from population and agricultural censuses at a more detailed territorial level. On the Portal, a range of statistical literacy tools for different user groups is available. If users face difficulties using the Portal, they may use contact numbers on the main page of the Database of Indicators, weekly training courses are offered, and links to videos on how to use the Database of Indicators are provided.

Improvement action 1.1: Adaptation of the Official Statistics Portal to mobile devices

To make a study of possibilities to adapt the Official Statistics Portal to mobile devices.

Timeline: II quarter 2015

Improvement action 1.2: Mobile application to represent the main statistical indicators

To create a mobile application in order to represent the main statistical indicators.

Timeline: IV quarter 2015

Improvement action 1.3: Specialised section for regional statistics

To create a special section for regional statistics on the Official Statistics Portal.
Timeline: II quarter 2015
Improvement action 1.4: New services improvement action plan for every year. To update and complement the services improvement action plan with new actions, such as the creation of a Database of Indicators wizard, optimization of the database interface (main window, dimensions, indicator tree), improvement of the homepage design, optimization of the search function, development of database functionality (possibility to visualize, derivative indicators), introduction of Web services for external users, development of GIS.
Timeline: The actions planned should be started at 2016 and implemented by 12/2017
2. *Statistics Lithuania should allow users to assess timeliness by keeping track, on the website, of any changes made to the initial release calendar (European Statistics Code of Practice, Principle 15).*
Current situation: Statistics Lithuania annually prepares an Official Statistics Calendar, which covers all statistics prepared according to the Official Statistical Work Programme. The calendar is approved by order of the Director General and is published in advance on the Official Statistics Portal. It covers the publication of statistical indicators in the Database of Indicators, news releases and publications. The Calendar comprises the names of indicators, their release dates and scope, also the dates of release of indicators at the regional level. The publication of statistical information in any form is directly related to the Calendar and it is impossible to publish statistical information on other time than indicated in the Calendar; otherwise, the Calendar has to be changed. The release time is changed only in exceptional cases, and users are informed about it at least 3 days before the publication.
Improvement action 2: New functionality: Finding changes in the Official Statistics Calendar To improve the functionality of the Official Statistics Calendar on the Official Statistics Portal (it will allow finding any changes in the Calendar).
Timeline: IV quarter 2015
3. Statistics Lithuania should give access on its website to all statistical releases whatever are their dates of publication (European Statistics Code of Practice, Principle 15).
Current situation: According to the current functionality of the Official Statistics Calendar on the Official Statistics Portal, statistical news releases of the current and previous year are available on the Official Statistics Portal.
Improvement action 3.1: New functionality: Access through the Official Statistics Calendar to statistical news releases older than 2 years (related to Improvement Action 2)

To change the functionality of the Official Statistics Calendar in order to allow users to access statistical news releases of longer than a 2-year period from 2013 (when the Official Statistics Portal was launched).

Timeline: IV quarter 2015

Improvement action 3.2: Possibility to access news releases of the pre-2013 period

To create a special archive of statistical news releases of the pre-2013 period.

Timeline: IV quarter 2016

4. Statistics Lithuania should increase the English content on its website and on the Official Statistics Portal (European Statistics Code of Practice, Principle 15).

Current situation: The main contents of the website and the Official Statistics Portal are available in English and kept updated. The main statistical news releases (32 titles out of 84) are translated into English; the summaries of the rest of statistical news releases are available.

Improvement action 4.1: Wider range of news releases in English.

To increase the number of statistical news releases in English by 5 per cent every year.

Timeline: IV quarter 2017

Improvement action 4.2: More metadata descriptions in English

To prepare and publish all metadata descriptions (with integrated quality indicators) in English.

Timeline: IV quarter 2015

5. Statistics Lithuania should widely promote its products and services and train users in using them to their full potential (European Statistics Code of Practice, Principle 15).

Current situation: Statistics Lithuania carries out many actions to promote its products and services. For example, the Director General is regularly invited to participate in annual meetings of professional organizations or municipalities. The window of Statistics Lithuania's office, located on the main avenue of Vilnius, displays the latest publications, QR codes with the main services. Statistics Lithuania's specialists constantly participate in various events at schools of higher education, conferences, meetings with the business community, members of the Lithuanian Statistical Society, etc., presenting products and services of Statistics Lithuania. All new products and services are promoted on the Internet using banners, news releases. Once a year, Statistics Lithuania organizes a contest for users ("Statistics in pictures" or similar). The working group on the improvement of services of Statistics Lithuania, established by order of the Director General, makes proposals for the improvement of the image and awareness of

Statistics Lithuania and promotes its products and services. Every year, a number of statistical literacy tools for users is implemented; trainings how to use the Official Statistics Portal are conducted.

Particular attention is paid to strengthening relations with respondents and reduction of the response burden.

In 2012, Statistics Lithuania introduced an electronic data collection system *e-Statistics (e.Statistika)* for legal entities. This system has a range of features: respondents have an opportunity to submit statistical forms both offline and online; questionnaires are prefilled with data from administrative registers; respondents are reminded when forms need to be completed and are notified of what forms they will have to complete over the coming year; respondents can use a comparison tool – to see how they rank in the relevant economic activity or enterprise size, at the regional or national level; in some cases, respondents can automatically import data from their business management systems. The system is promoted by presenting its features during meetings with respondents, sending quarterly invitation letters, disseminating leaflets. About 82% of legal entities now submit their reports electronically.

At the beginning of 2015, Statistics Lithuania has launched an electronic data collection system for population (household) data, a part of *e-Statistics (e.Statistika)*, providing a possibility for the Lithuanian society to complete and submit statistical questionnaires via the Internet. The system allows describing statistical survey metadata; compiling templates for statistical questionnaires; managing the attribution of the area to a certain interviewer; selecting the frame from the Population Register or uploading the one formed outside the system; sending information letters on participation in the survey to respondents; automatically attributing respondents to a certain interviewer, etc.

Improvement action 5.1: Products and services promotion action plan

To prepare Statistics Lithuania's products and services promotion action plan (different actions will be implemented: meetings with different user groups; training for users, advertisements published in the main statistical publications, posters, leaflets).

Timeline: The plan should be implemented during I–IV quarters 2015

Improvement action 5.2: Wider promotion of products and services in the Internet

To create banners of the Official Statistics Portal (or links to the Official Statistics Portal) and to propose to place them on the websites of other national institutions producing official statistics.

Timeline: III quarter 2015

Improvement action 5.3: Video guide about the electronic data collection system *e-Statistics*

To create and publish a video guide about *e-Statistics* for respondents: enterprises and the population**.**

Timeline: IV quarter 2016

Improvement action 5.4: New services improvement action plan for every year (related to Improvement Action 1.4.)

To update and complement the services improvement action plan with new actions, such as creation of special promotion packages to advertise

special applications of the Official Statistics Portal, other new products and services (mobile applications, regional data section, archive of pre-2013 news releases, etc.), presentations on various events, trainings for municipalities and other users.

Timeline: The actions planned should be implemented by 12/2017: creation of special promotion packages to advertise special applications of the Official Statistics Portal: promotion packages for mobile applications – II Quarter/2016; regional data section, archive of pre-2013 news releases – III Quarter/2016; other events should be organized on the regular basis, not less than 35 events per year.

6. Statistics Lithuania should use search engines optimisation techniques to enhance the visibility of its website and Official Statistics Portal (European Statistics Code of Practice, Principle 15).

Current situation: The search for information from the Official Statistics Portal and Statistics Lithuania's website using search engines is not efficient enough. More often, the old statistical database or other information related to statistics appears in the search results.

Improvement action 6.1: Proposals how to enhance the visibility of the website and Official Statistics Portal

To make an analysis on how to improve the Official Statistics Portal and Statistics Lithuania's website search results and to prepare proposals.

Timeline: IV quarter 2016

Improvement action 6.2: New services improvement action plan for every year

To update and complement the services improvement action plan with new actions from 2015 annually according to proposals (see Improvement Action 6.1).

Timeline: The actions planned should be annually implemented until 12/2017

7. Statistics Lithuania should promote and widely publicise its use of social networks to disseminate statistical information (European Statistics Code of Practice, Principle 15).

Current situation: Social media, such as Twitter, Facebook and the WordPress blog, are used by Statistics Lithuania to provide statistical information to the society, to reach additional user groups and to promote statistical information. The content is usually lighter than on the Official Statistics Portal, aiming at presenting statistical information in a more entertaining way. The main points of dissemination of statistical information in social networks are described in the Dissemination Rules and, in greater detail, in the Publication Manual, prepared by Statistics Lithuania.

Improvement action 7.1: **Hyperlinks to a certain news release in the Official Statistics Portal in Twitter messages**

To provide hyperlinks to officially disseminated statistical information in the social media (Twitter, Facebook), to use hashtags in the text.

Timeline: I–IV quarter 2015

Improvement action 7.2: **New services improvement action plan for every year** (related to improvement actions 1.4, 4.1 and 5.4)

To update and complement the services improvement action plan with new actions from 2015 annually (to increase the number of English twits by 5 per cent every year, to create profiles of Statistics Lithuania and Official Statistics Portal in Wikipedia).

Timeline: The actions planned should be annually implemented until 12/2017

8. Statistics Lithuania should develop an English language version of their Twitter account with links to the statistical releases (European Statistics Code of Practice, Principle 15).

Current situation: Statistics Lithuania has started publishing messages in English on its Twitter account and is going to publish the main statistical information from statistical news releases and other news in the future.

Improvement action 8: More Twitter messages in English

To tweet messages in English about the main statistical indicators published in statistical news releases: CPI, HICP, trade, industry (monthly), GDP, tourism, earnings, accommodation services, building construction, employment and unemployment (quarterly), population, living conditions, information technologies (annual), etc.

Timeline: Starting from I quarter 2015

9. Statistics Lithuania should further develop and promote their remote access system to anonymised microdata for research purposes (European Statistics Code of Practice, Principle 15).

Current situation: Remote access to microdata was created and introduced at the end of 2014. Remote access allows researchers to access microdata and carry out data processing via secure Internet connection. Microdata remain physically at Statistics Lithuania. Microdata become visible for the user on the computer screen, and the results of processing after confidentiality checks are sent in an aggregated form by email to the researcher for further processing. Currently, the rules for microdata provision are being reviewed and revised as regards organizational, legal and pricing aspects.

Improvement action 9.1: **Update of the rules for microdata provision for research purposes**

To update the rules for microdata provision for research purposes in line with Commission Regulation (EU) No 557/2013 on access to confidential data for scientific purposes and the new implementation guidelines related to organizational, legal and pricing aspects.

Timeline: II quarter 2015

Improvement action 9.2: Promotion action plan for remote access to microdata

To prepare a promotion action plan for remote access to microdata (e.g. to send letters to the research community, to organize meetings and trainings).
Timeline: II quarter 2015
Improvement action 9.3: Instructions on how to access microdata for research purposes   To prepare instructions on how to access microdata for research purposes.
Timeline: 12/2015
Strengthen quality management to gain efficiency
10. Statistics Lithuania should standardise the methodology, editing rules and algorithms for data editing and imputation (European Statistics Code of Practice, principles 7 and 10).
Current situation: The Methodology and Quality Division of Statistics Lithuania provides general rules for editing and imputation. The analysis of edits and imputations done at the data entry stage is centralised and used to assess the quality of data collection. Editing and imputation techniques at the data entry and micro-editing stage follow standard methodological rules. The analysis of effects of editing and imputations on the accuracy of statistical results is performed separately for each survey by the team carrying out the survey. Recently, the Methodology and Quality Division has established a working group to collect the various methods of editing and imputation used in various divisions of Statistics Lithuania and to propose standardised methods that could be applied to various surveys and administrative data.
Improvement action 10.1: Common methodological description for data editing and imputation   To prepare and approve a common methodological description for data editing and imputation at Statistics Lithuania.
Timeline: IV quarter 2015
Improvement action 10.2: **Revision of statistical data editing rules/algorithms used in data entry programs**   To revise statistical data editing rules/algorithms used in data entry programs.
Timeline: 12/2017

Improvement action 10.3: Revision of statistical data editing and imputation methods used in statistical surveys

To revise statistical data editing and imputation methods used in statistical surveys.

Timeline: 12/2017

11. Statistics Lithuania should develop a standard environment for questionnaire testing (European Statistics Code of Practice, Indicator 8.2).

Current situation: Statistics Lithuania tests both new and previously approved questionnaires, according to the Description of Procedures for Testing Statistical Questionnaires, approved by order of the Director General of Statistics Lithuania, and taking into account the aspects that can have an impact on the quality of data, the response burden, or the work of interviewers. The testing of new questionnaires may be performed by internal specialists, interviewers or respondents. Survey managers are responsible for the decisions on the testing method, taking into account the nature of the statistical survey. New questionnaires and the comments of respondents, the results of testing, and the estimation of the burden on respondents, are provided for deliberation to the Methodology Commission of Statistics Lithuania.

The testing of previously approved questionnaires is performed according to an annual plan by an internal working group on questionnaire testing, consisting of Statistics Lithuania's specialists, established by order of the Director General of Statistics Lithuania. Questionnaires are tested to explore their clarity, consistency and usability, and to assess whether the number of variables being collected can be reduced.

Improvement action 11: Standard methodological description for questionnaire revision and testing

To prepare a standard methodological description for questionnaire revision and testing.

Timeline: 12/2015

12. Statistics Lithuania should further develop its quality management system by considering the alignment, where practicable, of its internal organisation to the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (European Statistics Code of Practice, Principle 4).

Current situation: In 2007, Statistics Lithuania introduced a quality management system based on the ISO 9001, and was awarded with a certificate of conformity with the requirements of this standard. According to the ISO 9001 requirements, processes, and the interactions between them, have been defined. Processes, activities, responsibilities, sequences and links, and associated documentation, are shown on or linked to the process map which is aligned to the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM).

Improvement action 12.1: Feasibility study on the alignment of internal organisation to GSBPM

To conduct a feasibility study on the alignment of internal organisation to GSBPM.

Timeline: IV quarter 2016

Improvement action 12.2: Alignment of internal organisation to GSBPM

To implement, where practicable, the elements of GSBPM, respectively adapting the organizational structure of Statistics Lithuania, according to the feasibility study results (see Improvement Action 12.1).

Timeline: IV quarter 2018

13. Statistics Lithuania should implement electronic data collection for households (European Statistics Code of Practice, principles 9, 10, 12, and 13).

Current situation: Statistical data from legal entities are collected using the electronic data collection system *e-Statistics (e.Statistika)*. This system has a range of features: questionnaires are prefilled with data from administrative registers; respondents are reminded when forms need to be completed and are notified of what forms they will have to complete over the coming year; respondents can use a comparison tool – to see how they rank in the relevant economic activity or enterprise size, at regional or national level; in some cases, respondents can automatically import data from their business management systems.

At the beginning of 2015, Statistics Lithuania has launched an electronic data collection system for population (household) data, providing a possibility to the Lithuanian society to complete and submit statistical questionnaires via the Internet. The system allows describing statistical survey metadata; compiling templates for statistical questionnaires; managing the attribution of the area to a certain interviewer; selecting the frame from the Population Register or uploading the one formed outside the system; sending information letters on participation in the survey to respondents; automatically attributing respondents to a certain interviewer, etc.

Improvement action 13: Electronic data collection system for population (households) surveys

To finish the implementation of the electronic data collection system for population (households) surveys.

Timeline: IV quarter 2017

14. Statistics Lithuania should provide a central point for the receipt of all administrative data (European Statistics Code of Practice, principles 4, 8, and 10).

Current situation: According to the existing Rules for the Use of Administrative Data Sources at Statistics Lithuania, approved by order of the Director General of Statistics Lithuania, the control and editing of the administrative data received are performed by the statistical division of Statistics Lithuania which is the main user of administrative data. If the data are used by several statistical divisions of Statistics Lithuania, the main user provides them with the data which have already been edited.

Improvement action 14.1 Update of the rules for administrative data access and management

To update the rules for administrative data access and management.

Timeline: 09/2015

Improvement action 14.2: Set up of a single contact point for the centralized management of administrative data

To set up a single contact point for the centralized management of administrative data.

Timeline: 01/2016

Improvement action 14.3: Set up of central points for centralized editing and validation of administrative data

To set up central points for centralized editing and validation of administrative data used by more than one statistical division.

Timeline: 12/2018

15. Statistics Lithuania should further develop training on quality management, quality assurance and quality reporting for other producers of official statistics in the national statistical system, and in particular for their new staff (European Statistics Code of Practice, Principle 4).

22. Where appropriate, Statistics Lithuania should invite relevant staff of other authorities producing statistics to attend the internal methodological courses and workshops that it organises (European Statistics Code of Practice, Principle 7, Coordination).

Current situation: Trainings/seminars on quality issues have been regularly conducted by Statistics Lithuania's specialists for other national producers of official statistics for many years. This activity is foreseen not only in the 5-year Strategy of Statistics Lithuania but also included in the annual working plans of the institution. E.g., in 2012–2014, trainings/seminars on the monitoring of quality indicators and preparation of descriptions of statistical survey (work) methodologies; analysis of statistical indicators using Microsoft Office Excel and application of sampling methods in statistical surveys; editing and imputation of statistical data, assessment of the statistical response burden and statistical metadata (quality reporting) were held.

Improvement action 15/22: Plan of seminars and workshops for knowledge exchange between other national producers of official statistics

To elaborate a plan of seminars and workshops for knowledge exchange between other national producers of official statistics every year, starting from 2016.

Timeline: Yearly from 2016. The plan for 2016 will be approved by order of the Director General of Statistics Lithuania in IV quarter 2015.

16. Statistics Lithuania should promote the practice of systematic quality audits by other statistical authorities, and foster the participation of external reviewers in the auditing process (European Statistics Code of Practice, Principle 4).

Current situation: Statistics Lithuania has been auditing statistical surveys for many years. This work is performed by the team of internal specialists. The aspects assessed in an audit include management and planning, methodology, staff qualification and competence, the application of IT tools, the dissemination of the resultant statistical information, and user relations. Audits are followed by detailed recommendations for the improvement of the quality of the activities reviewed and monitoring of their implementation.

Improvement action 16: Update of the procedure for statistical survey audits

To renew the procedure for statistical survey audits, involving staff from other national producers of official statistics in the evaluation teams performing the audit exercises.

Timeline: 12/2015

Upgrade the human resources policy and internal organisation

17. Statistics Lithuania should establish a policy to promote the internal mobility of its staff, in particular its young staff (European Statistics Code of Practice, principles 7, 8, and 10).

Current situation: Statistics Lithuania has introduced many measures for the promotion of staff mobility; staff training and knowledge-gaining. First of all, the Staff Rotation System has been introduced (renewed in September 2014). According to the procedures, approved by order of the Director General of Statistics Lithuania, every staff member who is willing to move to another division can register in the Rotation Database and apply for open positions. Also, a Personal Training Programme is in place. Staff members willing to gain experience in another area have a possibility to request and attend specific training in this domain. Moreover, the procedure for the Career Planning System of civil servants has been implemented. All civil servants who have a potential to become middle managers are included in the Career Fund Pool and participate in special trainings, meetings with the top management and working groups. Thus, the young staff are always motivated to get into this Pool, and for those who are already there – to pursue their career at Statistics Lithuania, in most cases in another division. The Pool is reviewed every year, and every young staff member, if s/he shows potential, can enter the list. Thus, replacements of the middle management positions are ensured. Currently, at least 19 staff members under 40 years old (the youngest is 28 years old) hold middle management positions – in most cases, not in the same division they were originally employed.

Improvement action 17: Improvement of the career planning system

To improve the procedures of the career planning system of civil servants, giving priority to career at Statistics Lithuania to the staff who have experience in different positions or domains.

Timeline: IV quarter 2016

18. Statistics Lithuania should further develop training in English for its staff, in particular for young staff (European Statistics Code of Practice, principles 7, 8, and 15).

Current situation: In 2010–2013, during the staff training project financed by the EU structural funds, around 200 staff members underwent training in English and French languages. Besides, all the staff members who attend ESS working groups, ESTP trainings and other similar activities have sufficient English language skills; young staff is gradually integrated into participation in these working groups or similar events. Currently, Statistics Lithuania has provided a possibility for more than 30 people to voluntarily learn English after working hours in the premises of Statistics Lithuania.

Improvement action 18: Creation of conditions and facilities for self-learning of English

To create conditions and facilities for self-learning of English in the premises of Statistics Lithuania.

Timeline: 12/2015

19. Statistics Lithuania should continue monitoring the workload and productivity of the data preparation divisions, in order to free potentially available resources for other activities and possibly reduce the number of such divisions (European Statistics Code of Practice, Principle 10).

Current situation: Statistics Lithuania has five divisions in charge of data preparation, located in Kaunas, Klaipėda, Panevėžys, Šiauliai, and Vilnius. Their tasks include the collection and primary editing of data from legal entities, preparation of primary databases for further processing, consulting respondents on data provision, and contact with non-respondents. Statistics Lithuania monitors, on a quarterly basis, the work results of these divisions as well as performs, on an annual basis, the analysis of their work efficiency and intensity. As a result, in 2013, the number of data preparation divisions' staff was reduced (by 7 positions), transferring these positions for the performance of other functions in the headquarters of Statistics Lithuania.

Improvement action 19: Performance of workload and productivity analysis of data preparation divisions

To perform an exhaustive workload and productivity analysis of data preparation divisions.

Timeline: 12/2015

Strengthen coordination with other producers of official statistics

20. Statistics Lithuania should strengthen its coordination role so that all official statistics are published via the Official Statistics Portal, according to a common release calendar, accompanied by standard metadata and quality reports (Coordination).

Current situation: At the beginning of 2013, Statistics Lithuania launched the Official Statistics Portal, a multifunctional statistical information system. The ultimate goal is that all statistics produced on the basis of the Official Statistical Work Programme, regardless of the institution, would be included in the Portal. Statistics Lithuania has signed 14 agreements on the organization, quality assurance and dissemination of official statistics with other institutions and coordinates the process of their integration into the Portal.

Improvement action 20: Integration of the release of statistical information prepared by other national producers of official statistics into

the Official Statistics Portal

To integrate the release of statistical information, accompanied by standard metadata and quality reports, prepared by other national producers of official statistics into the Official Statistics Portal.

The foreseen number of other national producers of official statistics which will provide their statistical information to be published on the Official Statistics Portal themselves according to a common Official Statistics Calendar: in 2015 – 3; in 2016 – 2; in 2017 – 3.

Timeline: ONAs will be included in the Official Statistical Portal at the following rhythm: 3 in 2015, 2 in 2016 and 3 in 2017

21. Statistics Lithuania should implement extranet technology in order to strengthen links and enhance knowledge sharing, communication, collaboration and coordination throughout the national statistical system (Coordination).

Current situation: There are various fora for sharing knowledge within the Lithuanian Statistical System. Technical knowledge and good practice are exchanged during meetings of the Statistical Council, the Lithuanian Statistical Society, various cross-institutional working groups, as well as conferences, seminars and projects. Statistics Lithuania, in accordance with the established procedures and within its competence, informs other producers of official statistics concerned about relevant draft EU legal acts, important methodological and development issues deliberated by Eurostat's working groups and provide them with the copies of such documents. Much information on topical issues is also published on the website of Statistics Lithuania.

Improvement action 21: Creation of an IT-based platform for information sharing and communication

To create an IT-based platform for information sharing and communication with other national producers of official statistics.

Timeline: 12/2016

23. Statistics Lithuania should examine, with the appropriate authorities, the best ways to facilitate occasional staff exchange with other producers of official statistics (European Statistics Code of Practice, Principle 7, Coordination).

Current situation: According to the Law on Civil Service of the Republic of Lithuania, a civil servant may be transferred to another post in the same or another state or municipal institution or agency only in specific cases, e.g. only upon the civil servant's request; in case of vacancy in the civil service post; when the post is of the same or lower category; a civil servant meets special requirements set out in the job description. However, the transfer can only be permanent, without a guarantee that the position in the previous employment is preserved. We would like to stress that the Law on Civil Service does not allow staff exchanges among governmental institutions, including producers of official statistics. The implementation of this recommendation goes beyond the mandate of Statistics Lithuania.

Improvement action: Statistics Lithuania has a divergent view on this recommendation and therefore no improvement action is foreseen.

Timeline: N. A.