



STATISTICAL
OFFICE
OF THE SLOVAK
REPUBLIC

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Statistical Office
of the SR **2017**



AGENDA
 **2030**

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Statistical Office
of the SR **2017**

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Introduction

„Over the year 2017, the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic continued to increase the production quality of accurate data recording social and economic life characteristics in the SR. The most important milestone of the year within this trend was the successful repeated audit confirming a compliance of the quality management system with requirements of the ISO 9001:2015 standard in the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic. I am glad that the highest appreciation Top Quality Manager of 2017 was granted to the quality manager in our Office.

Using the integrated election information system, we processed comprehensively results of the election to bodies of self-governing regions of the SR and also the additional elections to municipal self-government bodies during the year.

The year 2017 was characterized by increasing rate to prepare a completely new concept of 2021 Population and Housing Census. For the first time, this comprehensive census will be realized by a combination of administrative data sources and field survey, what supplements the existing model by processing of millions of data from different institutional sources.

Last year, we continued successfully in electronization of processes, what was reflected on administrative burden reducing and on more convenient dates relating to a coordination to submit selected statistical reports from reporting units. Over the year, we postponed dates of 11 statistical surveys, 56 surveys was available electronically in total.

In order to modernize and unify public databases of the Office, a significant progress was achieved by starting public database DATAcube., which integrated a content availability of statistical data with a possibility to product own outputs for users.,,



Alexander Ballek
President
of the Statistical Office of the SR

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alexander Ballek". The signature is stylized and cursive.

The milestones of 2017

NSS Coordination

Consistent and good functioning National Statistical System (NSS) producing official statistics in compliance with requirements of customers is a strategic priority of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic (SOSR). In order to coordinate more efficiently involved parties, the Office carried out a survey in partnership organizations during 2017. The result of which was a current condition analysis of the institutional environment, processes of statistical production and statistical outputs. The analysis allowed to identify NSS strong and weak points and to define potential improvements. NSS according to the Act on State Statistics No. 540/2001 Coll. on in wording of later rules is consisting, except the SOSR, of ministries and national authorities carried out the European Statistical Program or the Program of State Statistical Surveys.

New ISO 9001:2015 standard

In the field of developing the SOSR quality management system, we again concentrated on finishing the implementation of requirements of a new ISO 9001:2015 standard over 2017. A part of adjustments was also publishing a new SOSR quality Handbook presenting a basic document of the SOSR quality management system. The compliance of the quality management system with requirements of the ISO 9001:2015 standard was confirmed by the certification audit performed by the organization Bureau Veritas Slovakia in November 2017. The successful audit confirmed that the SOSR quality management system contributes to further quality improvements of products and services. An appreciation of the SOSR quality management system was proved by the highest award to the SOSR quality manager – Top quality manager of 2017.

Electronization of processes

The year 2017 was the second year of the effectiveness of the Act No. 540/2001 Coll. on State Statistics in wording of later rules, by which new rules of statistical report submission were introduced. Electronization of processes caused administrative burden decrease and harmonization of dates for submission of selected statistical reports with dates of VAT reports, or income tax reports. In 2017, it was possible to postpone dates of 11 statistical surveys (in 2016 the date was adjusted in 25 surveys). 56 surveys was available electronically in total, what represented 107 statistical forms. From almost 436 thousand of reports, which represented the total number, 86,44 % was submitted electronically.



Scanner data, new information source

In the field of methodology, the SOSR focused on a modernization of price statistics by using data on consumer prices of supermarket chains, the so-called scanner data, into their production. In connection with this, a new statistical survey on consumer prices called Transaction data on consumer prices was included to the Program of State Statistical Surveys in order to improve an accuracy and quality of calculations and outputs, to update statistical methods and to answer to trends in the European statistics. Intensive cooperation with the most significant supermarket chains also continued.

Contribution to 2030 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda approved by the UN and representatives of individual states in 2015 is considered by the Slovak government as an opportunity and tool to define national priorities in the SR development. The objective is to achieve a sustainable development in the economic, social and environmental area by the implementation of measures till 2030. Over 2017, the 2030 Agenda implementation continued by a creation of institutional framework integrating all components of the society in the SR. The SOSR received managing of the Expert Group for Indicators and Monitoring on the base of authorization from the Working Party on 2030 Agenda and National Investment Plan. The main mandate is elaboration of indicators to national priorities of the 2030 Agenda implementation and cooperation to monitor of a progress in achieving strategic aims.

Macroeconomic statistics

In 2017, besides others, the effort in the macroeconomic statistics was focused on compilation of annual accounts for 2016 and quarterly accounts (4th quarter of 2016 and the first three quarters of 2017), compilation of regional accounts for 2015 and 2016. All required data for the spring and autumn data notification within the Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP notification) were sent in regular dates. The Office also delivered data on gross national income (GNI) for purposes of the EU budget preparation in regular September's date. Over 2017, three control visits of Eurostat were carried out: to compilation of data on GNI, to EDP notification and to VAT report in order to verify used methods and the data.

Business statistics

In 2017, works on how to prepare the legislative framework FRIBS (Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics) integrating the production process of business statistics continued. The SOSR submitted a preliminary statement to the proposal of the European Commission Regulation on European Business Statistics changing and amending the Regulation (ES) No. 184/2005 on Community Statistics concerning balance of payment, international trade in services and foreign direct investment and repealing 10 legal acts of business statistics. The Office also participated actively in comments to a revision of rules of agricultural statistics after 2020 and works on the project of Farm Structural Census 2016 continued. In the field of environment statistics, three new environmental

accounts – environmental protection expenditure accounts (EPEA), environmental goods and services sector accounts (EGSS) and physical energy flows accounts (PEFA) were introduced to the production process.

Change in a traditional population census

In 2017, a fundamental priority of the SO SR's activities was the preparation for the 2021 Population and Housing Census (Census 2021) which will be a combination of data from administrative sources, registers and fieldwork. The new census aims to reduce administrative burden of the population and enhance the quality and efficiency of census data. The Statistical Office established an interdepartmental analytical team to ensure the use of data and metadata from registers and administrative sources for the 2021 Census. In December 2017, the Government of the Slovak Republic approved the legislative intention of the Law on the 2021 Population Census taking into account the conclusions of the working groups meetings and negotiations with other central and local government authorities, academic and scientific community and others.

Linking registers

In 2017, in the field of the Register of Legal Persons, Entrepreneurs and Public Authorities (RLE) an intensive communication took place with the data users of RLE (e.g. Social Insurance Institution, Financial Administration) but mainly with the liable persons, administrators of these source registers whose data should be provided until the end of October for the purposes of fulfilling the RLE. Based on the requirements of the key users,

some of its essential functions have been extended in the RLE's information system and a methodology of the fulfilment of individual items has been developed, for a more precise and detailed monitoring of changes which have taken place during the existence of subjects registered in the RLE. In 2016, the RLE has been declared as a reference register by an entry in the list of reference registers, managed by the Deputy Prime Minister's Office for Investment and Informatization of the SR.

United databases

In 2017, there was significant progress in the field of modernisation and unification of the Office's public databases. The integration of the Slovstat database into a uniform public database DATAcube. comprehensively addressed the uniform content availability of statistical data for customers with the ability to create their own outputs. The new web application DATAcube. brought uniform user interface and data access.

International activities

In the field of European affairs, the SOSR puts emphasis on its effective functioning within the European Statistical System, as well as on the active participation in the adoption of the European statistical legislation. In 2017, the Office's experts played an active role and within the EU, they attended important meetings and seminars of Eurostat, actively participated in 100 working groups and committees, 22 task force, 15 seminars and workshops, 7 courses of European statisticians (ESTP) and 6 events related to the implementation of grant projects. The Office submitted a tender for 13 new grant projects co-financed by the EU which were fo-

cused on the application of new statistical instruments and methods. In 2017, in total, 25 projects have been implemented together with those from the previous year. There was active cooperation and exchange of experiences in various fields with the Czech, Polish and Hungarian colleagues. Cooperation with the OECD and UN continued as well.

Election statistics

In 2017, the SOSR ensured the processing the results of the Elections to the bodies of self-governing regions of the Slovak Republic and the results of the new elections to municipal bodies (by-elections to the bodies of municipal/local and city councils), pursuant to the Act No. 180/2014 Coll. on Conditions of the Exercise of Voting Rights and on amendments to certain acts. Within the elections to the bodies of self-governing regions, held on 4 November 2017, the presidents of the self-governing regions were elected for the first time in a one-round election. On April 8, 2017 and October 14, 2017, new elections to municipal bodies were held (by-elections to the bodies of mu-

nicipal/local and city councils), altogether in 48 municipalities. In total, 24 new mayors and 34 new MPs were elected. The Integrated Election Information System has been used for the processing of results.

European Statistics Day

The SR commemorated the European Statistics Day also in 2017, on 20 October which helps to raise awareness of European citizens about the importance and values of statistics for the society. In November, the Office presented its most interesting products and services in the exhibition Bibliotheca/Pedagogica 2017 in Bratislava. The main aim of the presentation was to familiarize the general public with the Office's activities. A statistical quiz for primary school pupils was organized in cooperation with the Radio and Television of Slovakia and the TV programme the Dwarfs. A workshop called Challenges of official statistics in 2017 focused on the administrative data sources, register of legal persons and its use in the 2021 Population Census was intended for the partner central government authorities and academic community.

DATAcube. Dátové kocky
Data cubes

Help Slovensky

DATAcube.
Database DATAcube. contains multidimensional tables for indicators of economic and socio-economic development. All data are available free of charge Public License [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License \(CC - BY\)](#) more info is in [Conditions for use data the SO SR](#).

Data from various statistical fields are presented in the form of **multidimensional tables (cubes)** in monthly, quarterly or yearly time series and allow to create your own selections. At the end of the title of each table there is eight-digit code, which is the unique identifier. The outputs can be exported to file formats: PDF and XLS.

Working with a multidimensional table

Riadky: 0 SR + Oblasti + Kraje (nuts3) | Stĺpce: Rok [pr3115sr_rok] | Časové obdobie [pr3115sr_dim1] | Pohlavie [pr3115sr_dim1] | Kontext: VALUE_CHR [pr3115sr_data] | pracujúci [pr3115sr_ukaz] | Spolu [pr3115sr_dim3]

| | 2005 | | | 2006 | | | 2007 | | | 2008 | | | 2009 | | |
|----------------------------|---------|-------|---------|---------|-------|---------|---------|-------|---------|---------|-------|---------|---------|-------|--|
| | 1Q | 2Q | 3Q | 4Q | 1Q | 2Q | 3Q | 4Q | 1Q | 2Q | 3Q | 4Q | 1Q | 2Q | |
| | Muži | ženy | Spolu | Muži | ženy | Spolu | Muži | ženy | Spolu | Muži | ženy | Spolu | Muži | ženy | |
| Slovenská republika | 1 199,2 | 978,1 | 2 177,4 | 1 219,0 | 977,8 | 2 196,8 | 1 251,1 | 984,6 | 2 235,7 | 1 262,7 | 992,0 | 2 254,7 | 1 233,0 | 983,1 | |
| Bratislavský kraj (NUTS 2) | 163,6 | 148,2 | 311,7 | 164,3 | 146,9 | 311,2 | 165,3 | 147,9 | 313,3 | 166,8 | 150,8 | 317,7 | 165,0 | 148,5 | |

The Multidimensional Cube (Table) menu contains areas for Rows, Columns and Contexts, that contain dimensions. Individual dimensions can be easily captured (by clicking and

Identification of organization

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Title: | Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic | |
| Acronym: | SOSR | |
| Address of headquarter: | Miletičova 3, 824 67 Bratislava | |
| Contact: | telephone (operator) | +421 2 50236 211 |
| | internet | http://www.statistics.sk |

Management: The Statistical Office is a budgetary organization with its incomes and expenditures being a part of the state budget of the Slovak Republic

Main activities:

SOSR¹:

- a) develops and publishes the policy of national statistics,
- b) compiles the Programme of State Statistical Surveys in co-operation with ministries and state organizations,
- c) defines methodology of statistical surveys, collects and processes statistical data,
- d) defines methodology for maintenance of the system of national accounts and compiles national accounts,
- e) sets up, releases and keeps classifications, nomenclatures and registers in co-operation with the ministries and state authorities,
- f) defines the method of setting up the registers, assigns and issues identification numbers,
- g) elaborates analyses of selected characteristics of the social, economic and environmental development of the SR,
- h) co-operates with international bodies and organizations in introduction of standards and classifications in the field of statistics,
- i) publishes the results of statistical surveys for the SR and individual geographical and administrative units, regularly informs general public about social, economic and demographic development, provides statistical information and issues statistical publications,
- j) organizes and provides project and programme preparation of the statistical surveys processing and determines the method of collection and technologies of the statistical data processing for statistical surveys conducted by the Office,
- k) manages, regulates and oversees collection and statistical data processing at national level,
- l) provides methodological assistance to national statistics or to European statistics acquired by ministries, other central government authorities, state organizations, local self-government units and bodies governed by public law upon written request,

- m) obtains and collects external statistical information for purposes of comparison the situation and development of the SR economy with foreign countries and
- n) fulfils other tasks set by the act.

A specific task of the SOSR is the preparation and processing of election results to the National Council of the SR, municipal self-governments bodies², regional self-government bodies², preparation and processing of results from the presidential election of the SR², referendum², elections to the European Parliament² and the population and housing census³.

- ¹ Act No 540/2001 Coll. On State statistics in wording of later regulations
- ² Act No 180/2014 Coll. on conditions and exercise of the voting rights in wording of later regulations
- ³ Act No 263/2008 Coll. on the Population and Housing Census in 2011 amending the Act No 5/2004 on employment services and amendments of some acts in wording of later regulations



We continue to develop the QMS of the SOSR by implementing the ISO 9001:2015 standard

Last period, in the field of developing the SOSR **quality management system**, we focused on completing the implementation of requirements of a new ISO 9001:2015 standard to the system. The most emphasis was placed on implementation of requirements related to a leadership, on consolidation of the systematic approach to a risk consideration in relation to interested parts and to outputs of processes in the system, as well as on management of the external product and service providers. Related standard requirements were put into practice by implementing re-evaluated descriptions of processes, the risk management actions, such as risk analysis outputs, as well as by supporting the systematic approach to management of external providers.

Implementation of new standard requirements was included finally in a new issue of the SOSR Quality Handbook presenting a basic document of the SOSR quality management system.

Works on action programmes realized in the last year of the implementation of the **Development Strategy of the SOSR until 2017** and a consideration of their continuation in the following strategic period were one of the key activity of the system development.

Experiences from implementation and development of the SOSR quality management system were used in an active working in the steering committee of the implementation project **the ESS Vision 2020** – project Vision_QUAL focused on a development of the common framework of the ESS quality by an integration of TQM (Total quality management) requirements into this framework.

The compliance of the quality management system with the requirements of the ISO 9001:2008 standard was examined by the **certification audit** performed by the organization Bureau Veritas Slovakia, spol. s.r.o. in November 2017. The successful audit reaffirmed that the SOSR quality management system creates good conditions for another





quality improvement of product and services provided to customers and for the Office development to higher efficiency.

An appreciation of the SOSR quality management system, except of the mentioned certificate, was proved by the highest award to the SOSR quality manager – Top quality manager of 2017 in the public administration sector, which is granted by the Slovak Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing based on the recommendations of a special commission.

The **Information System for Monitoring Working Time (ISMWT)** was used for managerial purposes, its outputs combined with data of the wage and accounting system enabled to monitor and subsequently to allocate more efficiently costs incurred

for individual statistical projects. Based on the defined key performance indicator production costs, a responsibility of managers for used resources was achieved in order to use them more efficiently.

The SOSR participated also in activities related to **resources at the level of the European Statistical System (ESS)**. It participated actively in the Eurostat Resource Directors' Group and was involved in creating the common methodology relating to a cost definition to products of the European Statistical Program. In 2017, the first round of this cost definition to selected products of ESP was done. The target of this initiative was to obtain information on costs spent on ESP individual products in order to use more efficiently resources in the European statistics' production.

What was produced the last year in the field of methodology

In the field of methodology, activities connected with a price statistics' modernization continued in involving data on consumer prices of supermarket chains, the so-called **scanner data**, into their production. In connection with this, a new survey on consumer prices called *Transaction data of consumer prices* was included in the Program of State Statistical Surveys in order to improve an accuracy and quality of calculations and outputs, to update statistical methods and to answer to trends in the European statistics. Activities dealt by the project team last year related mainly to a mutual connection of the internal classifications of supermarket chains and statistical classifications, a data analysis as well as to testing their processing and to a cooperation on how to plan a functional specification of the software solution.

A cooperation and an intensive communication with the most important **supermarket chains** also continued. The whole process was in compliance with the Eurostat recommendations and the relevant European legislation.

In the field of **seasonal time series analysis**, the SOSR activities relating to a membership in the Seasonal Adjustment User Group were going on. This working group is a supporting and supervising body to the Seasonal Adjustment Centre of Excellence for seasonal analysis and adjustment of time

series, and also to developers of the program JDemetra+ (the official program for seasonal analysis recommended by Eurostat). Testing the newest version of the Program JDemetra+, basic functions of the program and also increasing the functions of the software graphical landmark continued last year. Documentation checking, comments and adjustments to the new version and discussions on how the topic seasonal time series analysis put near to a public continued as well.

The SOSR as a coordinator of the National Statistical System realized trainings on **statistical disclosure control** for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR and for the Ministry of Education of the SR. Other activities, such as a preparation of micro data files to the scientific purposes for researchers, providing a methodological assistance to the students dealing with confidential statistical data in the safe centre of the Office and an active participation in the Eurostat Expert Group on Statistical Disclosure Control, related to statistical disclosure control. Furthermore, the program of confidential statistical data protection in the tourism statistics aimed at a considerable increase of the released monthly data volume was prepared by the Department of Statistical Survey Methods in cooperation with the Department of the Methodology and Synthesis of Business Statistics.

Attention was also paid to a deeper analysis of the topic **calibration of weights** of statistical surveys and to development of a sophisticated calibration tool, which should be published in 2018.

The SOSR representatives took part in a working meeting with the President of the Czech Statistical Office in order to deal with a selection of respondents in social statistics.

In connection to the grant project implementation aimed at a **calculation of the variation coefficients** of annual and year-on-year estimates in the Labour Force Sample Survey, the calculation program of these coefficients, usage of which increases needs of this survey and can be used in a wider range, was developed.

Regarding the **internal requirements of departments**, sizes of sample files were created in social statistics and sample files were prepared in all surveys in households including the *Adult Education Survey* conducted every

5 years. The Methodological Department participated in processing of the *EU-SILC* survey, the *Survey on continuing professional preparation* and the *Adult Education Survey* mostly within a production of the imputation algorithms, data weighting and calculation of the variation coefficients (quality indicators). Excepting standard processing of sample surveys, activities of business statistics were aimed at a further harmonization of statistical outputs from individual surveys in enterprises and at a cooperation on processing the agricultural *Farm Census* conducted regularly every 5 years. Some innovated actions were introduced, for example in the annual surveys, where data of many administrative sources were used in their processing and also the calibration of weights was applied.

The Methodological Department contributes significantly to an improvement of the SOSR employees' professional knowledge by conducting **education activities** or by direct professional consultations to dif-



ferent methodological questions. In 2017, some internal trainings for SOSR employees were realized under its administration. Trainings focused on drafts and processing of sample surveys were also carried out. The offer of trainings was extended by two trainings aimed at a usage of the SAS analytical tool in statistical production. There is a permanent high interest to participate in both trainings.



2017 was the second year of the effectiveness of the Act No 326/2014 amending the Act No 540/2001 Coll. on State Statistics in wording of later rules and by which new submission guidelines of statistical forms were initiated. Electronization of processes caused an administrative burden decrease and made possible to harmonize submission dates of some statistical reports with

submission dates of VAT reports to VAT, or to the income tax. In 2016, it was possible to postpone the submission dates of reports in case of 25 statistical surveys and in 2017, the submission date was postponed in case of another 11 statistical surveys. The number of submitted **statistical surveys electronically** in 2017 confirmed that reporting units accepted successfully a new submission form of statistical reports and are intensively using a methodological support via employees of the individual workplaces of the SOSR, which contacts are displayed directly on electronic form. In 2017, 56 surveys were available electronically, which represented 107 statistical forms. 376 744, i.e. 86,44 % were submitted electronically from the total number of submitted reports, which comprised 435 839.

Last year, the SOSR continued to pay attention to an active communication with data providers via electronic data collection. In order to **improve the communication with reporting units**, the SOSR prepared a directed feedback provided in selected statistical fields via so called visual statistics – infographics. In order to improve the quality of its activity in this field, it has prepared and will conduct and evaluate a user survey of satisfaction with the electronic data collection and with the communication with employees of the Office in 2018.

In 2017, concerning administrative data sources, the SOSR extended a cooperation with the ministries and state bodies producing **administrative data sources (ADS)** and continued to implement the Concept of ADS usage. Its aim is to intensify a usage of existing

data and information sources in order to decrease response burden of statistical surveys, to increase the quality of national statistics and to reduce costs. In 2017, obtained ADS allowed to improve the quality of outputs of the national statistics, supported upgrading the statistical register of organizations and preparing the following Housing and Population Census in 2021.

In 2017, development of statistical **classifications and codes** focused on providing of their compliance with legally binding acts of the European Union, international norms and international standards continued. This aim was realized via providing a methodological assistance to reporting units in order to correctly interpret and use statistical classifications and codes in the process of statistical surveys.

In the field of statistical **registers**, activities were concentrated on a development and quality improvement of the statistical register of organizations and the register of enterprise groups as basic registers for an implementation of the European methodology of enterprise profiling and for production of statistics on globalization.

Relating to development of registers, another global and national enterprises were specified in cooperation with other EU Member States in compliance with definitions proposed within the drafted regulation of the European Parliament and the Council on Business Statistics. To increase the quality of registers, we continued to pay attention on a completeness and quality of administrative sources used to identify activities of units

registered in the statistical register of organizations. The systematic usage of functions for collective updating of statistical registers developed and conducted in the integrated statistical information system ISIS REGIS had a significant impact on the quality of registers.

Cooperating with Eurostat, works continued to develop the register of multinational enterprise groups managed by Eurostat in the system of EuroGroups Register (EGR). Their outcome is the final EGR 2015 population, which was completed and made accessible by Eurostat for statistical purposes in the first months of 2017.

Participating in the project *Steps towards implementing the definition of statistical units for business statistics and profiling in the framework of the ESS.VIP ESBRS project* resulted in creating additional profiles of 10 multinational enterprise groups with a decision-making centre in the Slovak Republic and 30 profiles of groups represented by the Slovak units though with a decision-making centre outside the Slovak Republic. Another equally important result of the project is a possibility to influence existing developed European methodology of the enterprise profiling in order to take national requirements to production of business statistics into consideration.

In 2017, in the field of the Register of Legal Entities and Entrepreneurs (RLE) administration, there was an intensive communication with users of RLE data (for example the Social Insurance, Financial Administration) and also with liable persons, the administrators

of those source registers whose data should be provided by the end of October 2017 in order to meet the demands of the RLE.

Based on requirements of key users, some of its basic functions were extended in the RLE information system and a methodology on how to fulfil individual items in order to monitor more exactly changes occurred during the existence of subjects registered in the RLE.

A cooperation with administrators of source registers continued in the field of identification of subjects and quality control of the data registered in relevant source registers before these data migration to the RLE via a generic register. During the whole year,

based on requirements of liable persons, codes were adjusted for purposes of the registration of subjects in the RLE.

In the transition period, which the administrators of source registers used on a technical and subject preparation connecting with mandatory data provision to the RLE, a generation of the organization identification number was realized fully by the IS of the RLE and the generic register functions.

In order to fully cover the data on subjects registered in the RLE, codes of the main economic activity and codes of the sectoral classification by ESA 2010 were sent on a daily basis from the statistical register of organizations.

Cost-optimal database production in NSS and ESS

A fundamental legislative document for the cost-optimal database production was the **Programme of State Statistical Surveys for 2015-2017** (hereinafter referred to as “PSSS”), which is harmonized with the **European Statistical Programme for 2013-2017** in terms of statistical data obtaining.

The state statistical surveys of the SOSR, ministries and national authorities and the administrative data sources used for statistical purposes are specified in three annexes.

Besides the SOSR, the activities in the programmes were fulfilled by ministries and national authorities comprising together the **National Statistical System (NSS)**. In 2017, a change occurred in the list of NSS authorities. Based on negotiations between the SOSR representatives and the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic relating to an improvement of the European statistics’ production in the field of combined electricity and heat production and remote control heating and cooling, a close cooperation was required. The SOSR included the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic to the list of authorities comprising the NSS and to the list of other national authorities contributing to the development, production and dissemination of the European statistics after evaluating the impacts of this cooperation. At 28th March 2017, the SOSR

asked the General Director of Eurostat for displaying the additional national authorities on its website: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/european-statistical-system/overview>.

In 2017, **the list of authorities comprising the NSS** included 14 institutions:

- Statistical Office of the SR
- Ministry of Transport and Construction of the SR
- Ministry of Culture of the SR
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR
- Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR
- Ministry of Education, Research, Science and Sport of the SR
- Ministry of Interior of the SR
- Ministry of Health of the SR
- Ministry of Environment of the SR
- Ministry of Economy of the SR
- Government Office of the SR
- Administration of State Material Reserves of the SR
- Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communications and Postal Services
- Institute of Informatics and Statistics

In 2017, the **list of institutions managed and published by Eurostat** included, besides the SOSR, other national authorities responsible for the development, production and dissemination of the European statistics in the SR:

- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR – National Forest Centre
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR – Central Controlling and Testing Institute of Agriculture
- Ministry of Education, Research, Science and Sport of the SR – Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information
- Ministry of Interior of the SR – Migration Office
- Ministry of Interior of the SR – Bureau of Border and Alien Police of the Presidium of the Police Force
- Ministry of Environment of the SR – Slovak Environment Agency,
- Ministry of Environment of the SR – Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute
- Ministry of Economy of the SR – Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency

- Administration of State Material Reserves of the SR
- Institute of Informatics and Statistics

The year 2017 was the last year in programming period defined for 2015 and 2017. In 2017, the SOSR prepared and issued a **new PSSS on three-year period - 2018 to 2020 by the Decree No 250/2017 in the Collection of Acts** in compliance with the Act on State Statistics and in cooperation with ministries and national authorities. All valid annual state statistical surveys and all valid surveys with multi-annual periodicity, which shall be conducted in 2018 to 2020, were included to PSSS. The SOSR included a new state statistical survey TDSC 2-52 *Transaction data of consumer prices*, which will officially start from 2019, to the Annex No 1 of PSSS. The aim is to improve statistical production by usage of new data sources and new data collection methods and processing in the field of price statistics. Ministries included 4 new surveys to the Annex No 2 of PSSS. The Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic started two new surveys A (MZ SR) 19-01 *Annual report on activity of rescue health service* and



C (MZ SR) 5-01 *Annual report on activity of algeziology*. Reporting units will be freed from a duty to submit A (MZ SR) 1-01 *Annual statistical report on ambulance activity*. The Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic added two new surveys Kult (MK SR) 20-01 *Annual report on multimedia industry* and Kult (MK SR) 21-01 *Annual report on specialized designer activities*. The statistical survey objective is to obtain information on the Slovak multimedia works and their creation, distribution information and information on specialized designer activities in the Slovak Republic.

The public, which could send proposals or comments to a subject of the document in a phase of the legislative regulation preparation, was also engaged to the law-making process. The public was informed on preparing the decree proposal, by which PSSS is issued on 2018 to 2020, via a provisional information displayed on the legal and information portal Slov-Lex. Two consultations required by business subjects were held in the form of working meetings.

In order to strengthen the development, production and dissemination of the national statistics and the NSS partnership, a position, tasks and composition of **the Statistical Council** (further only “Council”) changed. The revised standing order and the Council statute took into effect 1st September 2017. The Council will firstly deal with the PSSS, the NSS coordination and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It will comment professionally on a direction of national statistics, statistical product portfolio, significant programs and other fields of statistics.

In 2016, the SR Government started an implementation process of **the 2030 Agenda** for Sustainable Development in the Slovak Republic and also continued intensively in 2017.



The SOSR was also involved in this process in order to take a leadership of the Expert Group on Indicators and Monitoring with an authorisation from the Working Group on the 2030 Agenda and National Investment Plan. The main mandate of the Expert Group is to prepare indicators to national priorities of the 2030 Agenda implementation and to cooperate in monitoring of these indicators.

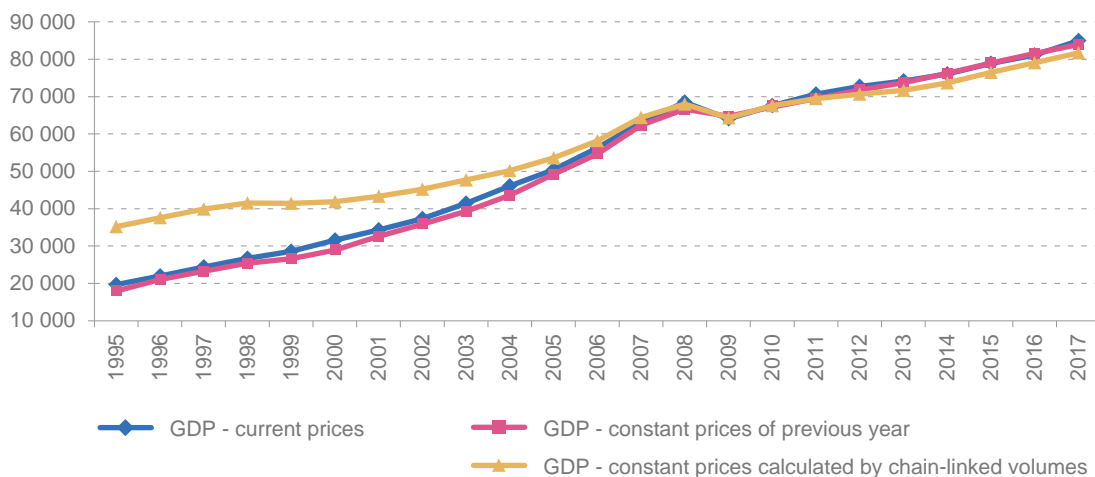
Macroeconomic statistics

National accounts comprise a compatible framework for systematic and detailed description of the economy where all levels of the economic process (production, creation and division of pensions and their usage, accumulation and financial transactions) are recorded. In conditions of the Slovak Republic, national accounts are compiled according to the ESA 2010 methodology, which is

an established abbreviation for the European System of National and Regional Accounts. Development of the national accounts system is in compliance with new European Union regulations and directives as one of the main objectives of the macroeconomic statistics. External Trade Statistics provide important input data in order to construct the key macro-economic aggregates.

Current actual data on GDP development in time series 1995 – 2017

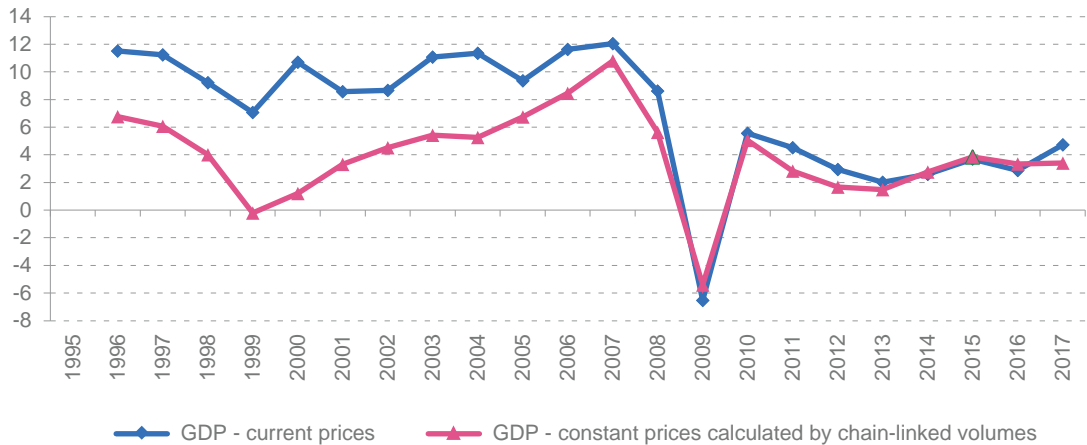
GDP in million EUR



Poznámka:

- ESA 2010 methodology
- constant prices calculated by chain-linked volumes with reference year 2010
- year 2017 is a quarterly estimate (quarters in total per a year)
- state to 7.3.2018

Increases of GDP year-on-year development in %



Poznámka:

- ESA 2010 methodology
- CPPY - corresponding period of previous year
- constant prices calculated by chain-linked volumes with reference year 2010
- year 2017 is a quarterly estimate (quarters in total per a year)
- state to 7.3.2018

Within standard works in **national accounts**, based on the statistical reporting information, administrative data sources and additional information as well, the annual national and sector accounts for 2016, regional data for 2015 and 2016 and input-output tables (IOT) for 2014 were compiled and sent fully according to the transmission programme in compliance with the Eurostat requirements. The standard autumn revision of data for the years 2015 and 2014 was conducted and released in compliance with the revision policy available at the website of the SOSR. Data on flash estimate of gross domestic product (GDP) and employment were compiled within 45 days once the reference

quarter ended and were delivered to Eurostat and were also accessible to our domestic users. More detailed data on quarterly national accounts are compiled and regularly released at the website of the SOSR within 65 days once the reference quarter ended. Data on quarterly national accounts were seasonally adjusted by a standard method in compliance with the European Union legislation. Press conference relating to quarterly data of national accounts and discussion with professional public were always organized on the release date to specify some aspects of the macroeconomic development. Within the spring and autumn data notification of the *Excessive Deficit Procedure* (EDP

notification), data in notification tables including the EDP questionnaire and other required information provided standardly to Eurostat for quality evaluation of the SR fiscal data were sent in regular dates. EU Member States are required to provide data on VAT (3. own source) and data on gross national income (4. own source) for the preparation of the EU budget. Data on VAT are provided by the Ministry of Finance of the SR, while the Section of Macroeconomic Statistics is usually preparing input materials in the form of data on compensation for small companies exempted from VAT and data on weighted average VAT rate (WAR). In regular September's date, data on gross national income (GNI) and also a description of changes and amendments of methodological procedures to compilation of GDP/GNI were sent to Eurostat. Based on GNI data and the key laid down by the European regulation, each Member State's contribution to the EU budget is calculated.

Data on administrative purposes (EDP, GNI, VAT) provided to the Commission are checked by regular visits of Eurostat in order to verify used methods and compiled data. In 2017, visits of Eurostat to all of the three topics took place in Slovakia. The mission to the *VAT report* was finished without reservations in the SOSR to December 2017, action points realizing currently with different deadlines followed from the missions to EDP and GNI.

Excepting the tasks directly associated with routine works by individual statistical topics, employees of the National Accounts Section continued to implement the grant project GP 06-16 *Implementation of ESA 2010*

Methodology. Three tasks are realized in this project: description upgrade of the annual sector accounts compilation by the ESA 2010 methodology, elimination of derogations in the context of implementing the transmission program to compile quarterly and annual national accounts and implementation of methods of quality verification of the national accounts. Interim reports on task fulfilment required by the grant project agreement were prepared and sent to Eurostat in deadlines set.

Within a cooperation with the Department of Price Statistics, works on activities of the grant project GP 09-14 *Provision of basic information on purchasing power parities* finished and works on the another project (GP 07-16) relating to this topic started.

Over 2017, several working meetings were organized with colleagues from the Czech Statistical Office. The meetings were aimed at exchange of experiences concerning the ESA 2010 methodology and relations with a balance of payment. Besides the scheduled tasks, if possible, employees of the National Accounts Section dealt with current issues within inter-ministry working groups.

Much of our work related to a completion of different questionnaires for international organizations (CMFB, Eurostat, ILO, OECD, UNECE, others) as well as to a preparation of documents for economic analyses of ministries and national institutions (IFP, MF SR, NBS, ME SR and others).

Data on **external trade** statistics and its updates, as well as indices of import and export prices were provided monthly and according

to deadlines set in 2017. The Office also prepared a publishing of seasonally adjusted data on external trade statistics and as well aggregated data in geographical and commodity classification, which will be

tics (FRIBS) encompassing the external trade statistics as well implements planned modernising of the Intrastat system from legislative point of view and introduces exchange of microdata on intra-EU exports among the EU Member States including ID partner in the Member State of intra-EU imports. The regulation will also allow more freely to use different data sources in compiling intra-EU imports' statistics. The proposed measures should result in an overall reduction of response burden of reporting units of the Intrastat system while maintaining data quality. In relation to a preparation of implementing regulations, changes in coding of Trade Categories and in rules for specific moves and goods and many stimulating proposals were submitted to Eurostat.

In 2017, the guide specified for the reporting units of the Intrastat system was updated and reporting units participated in 3 seminars in different towns attended by 55 persons over the year. Besides the basic information on the Intrastat system, participants extended knowledge on the latest legislative changes and got also answers to specific questions concerning data reporting. The Consulting Unit of the Intrastat system realized weekly 126 calls and e-mails on average to provide individual consultations to reporting units. Collected data were intensively verified in the same way by the staff of the Regional Office in Trnava all year long. Finally, it should also be noted information and data provision made on request, whether directly by customers, departments etc. or through the Information Service and the employees are trying their best to meet the customers' needs.

released in 2018. The external trade data according to business characteristics were delivered to Eurostat before regular date and in required quality, thus Eurostat could release it at once.

We participated actively in discussions on prepared changes in compilation of external trade statistics. The proposal of the Regulation on European Business Statis-



Business statistics

In **business short-term statistics**, activities were mostly focused on how to ensure processing and dissemination of outputs to national users in compliance with the requirements and a timetable of the *First Release Calendar* and the *Edition Program* and data transmission to Eurostat by means of the eDAMIS web portal. We also concentrated on a preparation of time series of key indicators describing a short-term development of the individual sectors in connection with the implementation of a new base period of 2015 and on a technical form change of data transmission to Eurostat in SDMX-ML form. In 2017, works regarding the calculation of *Index of Services Production* in the Eurostat grant project were finalized. A regular updating of metadata files via ESS – Metadata Handler was provided standardly in compliance with the requirements and in deadline set by Eurostat. Metadata reports on short-term statistics' indicators of the Slovak Republic were evaluated as the best among the member and accession countries and Eurostat recommended them to the other member countries as a model example. Evaluating the total compatibility with the Regulation on Short-term Statistics, the SOSR is constantly included in the first category of member countries with the highest compatibility level.

In **structural business statistics**, required outputs of annual structural business statistics, which were necessary to define weight

structures of short-term business statistics, were transmitted to Eurostat. Standard files of the final indicators for reference period of 2015 and preliminary data for 2016 on a population of the sector of nonfinancial and financial corporations were provided to Eurostat and to national users. The SOSR realized a time and content demanding validation of output files with high quality level, it was reflected in shortening the deadlines of data release at the Eurostat website, as well as in the yearly compatibility evaluation by including the Slovak Republic in the group of the member countries with 100 % compatibility level with the Regulation on Structural Statistics.

In statistics of **domestic and non-domestic foreign affiliates**, statistical outputs for reference year 2015 were compiled and transmitted to Eurostat in required quality and in deadline set. Structured quality reports for reference year 2014 were elaborated in all required fields.

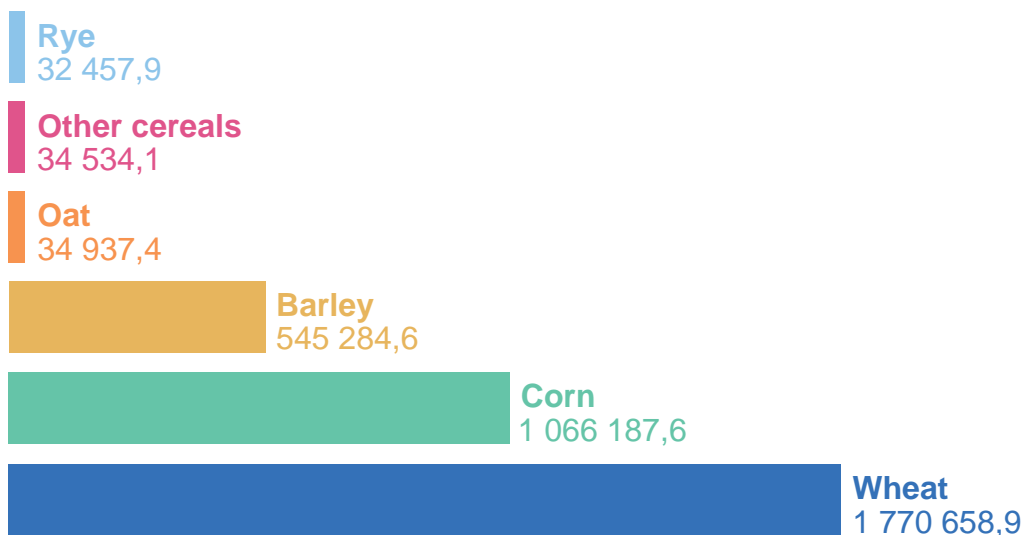
In statistics of **industry**, regarding its decisive share in the gross domestic product production in the SR economy, works aimed at a data analysis of statistical surveys conducted in short-term and long-term periodicity in the calendar year 2017 continued. The required statistical outputs to Eurostat and the specific requirements in terms of a structure of outputs defined from national and also international institutions were processed.

In the end of the year, works were mostly focused on finalization of a new list of 2018 PRODSLOV products. Preparatory works started in the Eurostat project, aim of which is to improve data consistency and integration in business statistics in terms of production and statistics on output between statistics of industry and external trade statistics with goods.

In the field of **agricultural statistics**, works on the Farm Structure Survey 2016 project continued. It mostly related to collection, processing of data obtained from reporting units and validation at different levels. Registered legal and natural persons as well as non-registered natural persons-in households fulfilling the threshold values set in the farm definition conducted the survey. In October 2017, the structural survey re-

sults were sent to Eurostat together with the National Methodological Report. Coincident with the structural survey implementation, legislative process and discussion to a new proposal of the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council Regulation on Integrated Farm Statistics, which will replace current legislative rules of the structural surveys from 2020, continued at the level of EU. Representatives of agricultural statistics actively participated in the proposal preparation by comments. Works on regular annual compilation and releasing of harvest estimate of selected crops were carried out. To compile the *Economic Agricultural Account of the SR*, which is a satellite account of the National Accounts, an active cooperation regarding the provision and processing of data necessary for its compilation continued together with the

Production of cereals in Slovakia for 2017 in tonnes



National Agricultural and Food Centre - the Research Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics. Final results of the account for 2016 were published in September 2017.

The sector statistics of **construction, housing, trade and services** focused on processing of statistical outputs according to requirements of Eurostat, international organizations and requirements defined by the national users. Increased attention was also paid to updating and improving the quality of released metadata, as well as to statistical data displaying at the SOSR's website and in information system databases. Activities aimed at improving the database and processing of the statistical information on started, unfinished and finished dwellings required by a wide spectrum of users continued.

In **transport, information and communication statistics**, except providing data from statistical surveys required for database creation, works were also focused on preparation of a new survey in inland water passenger transport. Outputs in accordance with the requirements of the EU regulations and requirements of national users were provided. Similarly as in the previous years, we participated in the common survey on information and communication technologies in enterprises organized by Eurostat and we sent defined outputs in required quality and deadlines set.

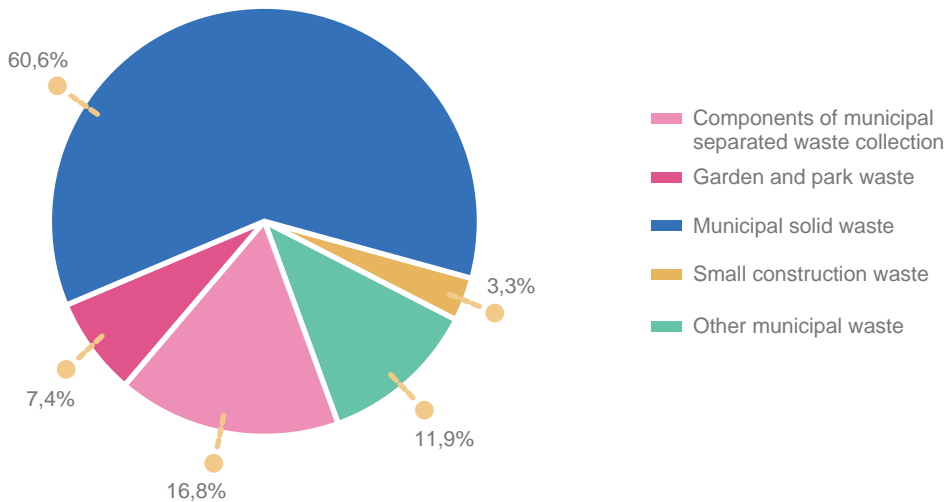
In the field of statistics of **science, technology and innovations**, works on further development of the survey on research and development and harmonization in compliance

with the revised international methodology of the Frascati Manual 2015 were carried out. We actively attended negotiations and commenting of draft versions in order to be a part in preparations for the Eurostat guidelines relating to the 10 selected fields for a united approach to the Manual implementation in the EU countries. In 2017, the first data collection of new indicators was conducted, the quality report of research and development statistics in individual sectors of research and development was prepared, and the data transmission in relevant questionnaires was done for the first time in new SDMX form. The field of innovations prepared and realized the survey within the harmonized survey of the EU Member States (Community Innovation Survey – CIS 2016). We participated in a current preparation phase of the model form specified for the EU Member States on the next CIS 2018 and in a revision of the Oslo Manual as well.

In **energy statistics**, besides standard implementation of requirements on outputs and data transmission to Eurostat databases, International Energy Agency and the UN Statistical Division according to the EU regulations, the first compulsory data submission on the Physical Energy Flow Account (PEFA) and also the first part of data on electricity and natural gas prices by a new methodology were conducted. Another activities were focused on providing new compulsory data on fuels and energy consumption in households.

In 2017, statistics of **environment** successfully finished an implementation of the action programme, which is aimed at an introduction

Municipal waste composition in the SR in 2016



of the three new compulsory environmental accounts- the Environmental Protection Expenditure Accounts (EPEA), the Environmental Goods and Services Sector Accounts (EGSS) and the Physical Energy Flow Accounts (PEFA). We early accomplished reporting duty followed from the EU Regulation on Environmental Economic Accounts. The publication *Environmental Accounts – Account of material flows* was issued. In 2017, the sample statistical survey on fuel consumption in households was realized in order to obtain information on heating in family houses being important for an estimation of air pollutant emissions. The statistical survey results will be used in the project aimed at increasing the quality of the Air Emission Account of the Slovak Republic, which SHMI cooperating with

the SOSR is dealt with. Works on an implementation of changes resulting from the Act on Waste continued and a new module focused on obtaining data on collection methods and fees for municipal waste from households was included to the statistical report on municipal waste from a village in 2017.

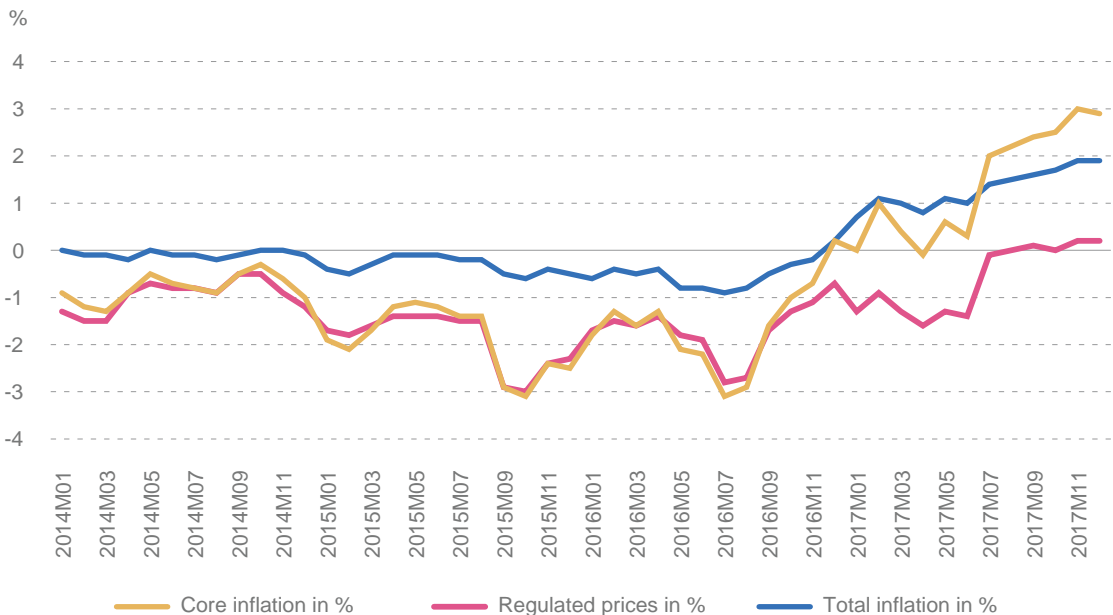
The field of **tourism statistics** was focused on releasing standard statistical outputs for external users, as well as processing a huge range of non-standard outputs on tourism development in accommodation facilities, organized tourism, domestic and external tourism. Compilation of tourism satellite accounts tables supplemented by the reference year 2015, which were released in shortened deadline, was carried out.

Price statistics was mostly aimed at a transition of the survey of the production price statistics on a new base period *on average of 2015 = 100*. The revision of weight schemes was realized in surveys of agricultural prices, construction prices and prices of market services, a base for this revision was the structure of these sectors in 2015. Time series in the survey on price indices of industrial producers to a new base period and the survey methodology of prices in agricultural land and in prices of agricultural land rental were prepared as well. Consumer price statistics paid attention to preparing usage of new accessible data sources, such as data from supermarket chains and data accessible on Internet. These data were used as a supplementary data source in order to create the consumer basket on 2018. The survey

methodology of commercial real estate prices including a calculation of the first experimental indices was prepared. In 2017, price statistics' data dissemination was added by price indices of dwelling real estates and by price indices of selected market services.

In **business and consumer surveys** being a part of the international project *Business and Consumer Surveys* organized by the European Commission, attention was paid to improving the input and also output data quality in 2017. It related mostly to ensuring the quality database required for a calculation of the sector composite confidence indicators in industry, construction, retail trade, services and consumers, of which the synthetic composite Economic Sentiment Indicator was subsequently constructed.

Inflation rate





Indicators describing an expected short-term development of the relevant area in the economic environment are a base for realization of the future development short-term prognoses of the basic macroeconomic indicators including realization of quarterly flash estimates of the gross domestic product for users at national and also international level.

The **cooperation with the international organizations** was aimed at active participation in a preparation of the draft opinion to the proposal of the European Parliament and of the Council on European Business Statistics, which is amending the Regulation (ES) No 184/2005 and ten legal acts are resolved in the field of business statistics. The Regulation was submitted to interdepart-

mental comment procedure and the SOSR expressed its opinion to the proposal and clause of influences to the Estonian Presidency. In November 2017, two working meetings with colleagues from the Czech Statistical Office were held at the SOSR in Bratislava. The first bilateral working meeting to trade, catering and accommodation statistics was focused on exchange of experiences in the field of implementing Eurostat requirements, on re-calculation of time series to a new base period, on problems of Internet trade and publishing data at national level in terms of level of details and also other activities relating to data processing and publishing. The topic of the second meeting was discussing the future requirements of the draft regulation on the European Business Statistics.

Demography and social statistics

In 2017, in the field of **population statistics**, involving demographic statistics, population censuses, statistics of social protection, culture and criminality statistics, the system of data processing, analysis and modern data dissemination further developed.

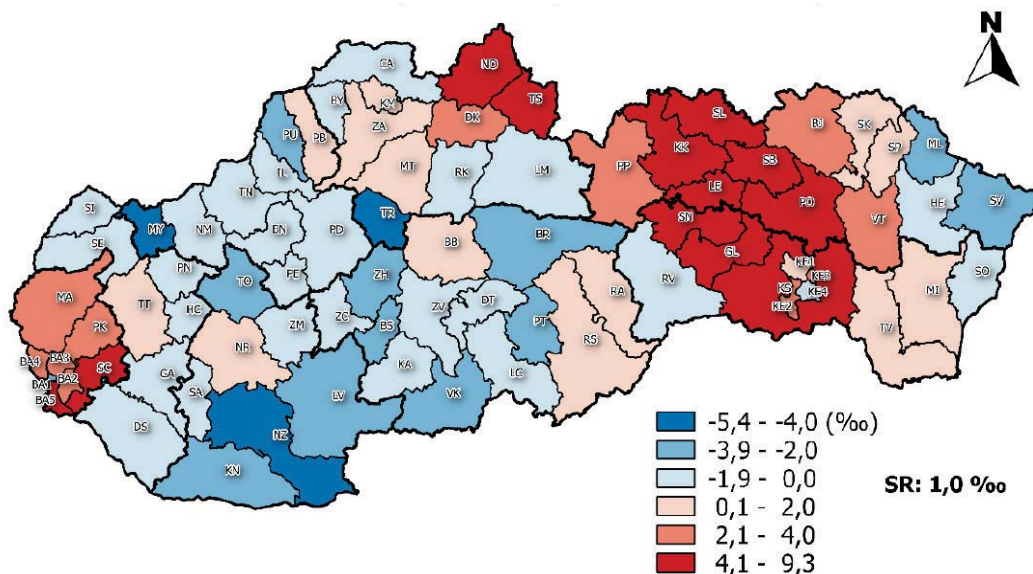
In the context of current trends in the use of administrative data sources and registers, the options of data harmonisation from the administrative sources and registers with the demographic statistics data were examined.

The demographic development of the population in 2016 was the main topic of the press conference of the SOSR held in June 2017.

The population development was documented also by publishing of books issued as part of the series *We in Numbers: Population Change 2016, International Migration 2016*. In the edition of analytical series *Statistics in Contexts*, the *Main Trends of Population Development in the SR in 2016* and the *Social Protection in the SR* were issued as the standard analytical publishing outputs.

Population increases

Crude rate of natural increase in the SR districts, 2016





Within the project the *2021 Population and Housing Census* (Census 2021), the Steering Committee of the SOSR approved at its meeting on June 28, 2017 that the Census 2021 will be based on the concept of the integrated census. Complex analyses of registers and administrative data sources were conducted for the census purposes. With regard to potential uses in the statistical processing of the 2021 Census results and as an instrument of control and coherence, analyses of the Register of natural persons, Central Registry of the insured persons of public health insurance, Information System of the Social Insurance Institution, Information System of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR and Information System of the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family were performed. Given the difficulty of the whole preparation process of the 2021 Census, especially the use of data from the registers and

administrative sources, an interdepartmental analytical committee has been established for ensuring the proper use of data and metadata from the registers and administrative data sources for the 2021 Census. This team aims to coordinate activities in data and metadata preparation for their most effective use in the 2021 Census. The first meeting was held on June 26, 2017, involving all the nominated members (representatives from the Ministry of Interior of the SR, Health Care Surveillance Authority, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR, Social Insurance Company, The Geodesy, Cartography, and Cadastre of the SR, Directorate General of the Judiciary Guards and Prison Wardens Corps, Data Protection Office of the SR, SOSR).

In the production of the legislative initiative of the Act on the 2021 Population and Housing Census conclusions of the meetings of the Working Groups of the SOSR and negotiations with other central government and regional authorities, academic and scientific communities and other organisations were taken into account. The Government approved the legislative initiative at its 82nd meeting (Government Decree No 587/2017), at the same time imposing the President of the SOSR an obligation to submit a draft Act on the 2021 Population and Housing Census by June 30, 2018, at the latest.

Statistics on labour cost compiled information on the average nominal and real monthly wage on a quarterly basis for the calculation of the successive indicators in the social field. Quarterly labour cost indices measuring the development of direct and indirect labour costs of employers for hours worked were

submitted into the system of statistics on wages and labour cost of the EU. An indirect method of seasonal adjustment of the above-mentioned indices was introduced which in comparison with the previous direct method ensures more harmonised values of labour cost components. Detailed annual data on the level and structure of wages by education, age groups and employment were processed. Data on gender pay gap, share of employees in wage zones, median wage and the average monthly net wage were also released. The regional earnings survey according to workplaces in districts was also compiled. Information on the monthly and annual wages was supplemented by detailed data on further expenses of organisations related to labour force recruitment.

Labour statistics ensured and provided quarterly and annual information on employment, unemployment and economic inactivity from the Labour Force Sample Survey in households (LFSS). In the 2. quarter, the ad hoc survey of the LFS on entrepreneurship was conducted whose results will contribute to better information on the progress towards the fulfilment of the EU 2020 objectives in the field of entrepreneurship promotion with the purpose to increase the employment rate. The SR has also been involved in the project aimed at the preparation and testing of the ad hoc survey of the LFS on transition to retirement which will be a part of the planned system of 8-year modules of the LFS. The aim of the other project was the improvement of the accuracy reviewing of the LFS results by means of the design and testing of methodology and program solutions for the calculation of variability of annual estimations and net annual changes of employment and

unemployment rates. The SOSR actively participated on the activities of Eurostat Working Group on designing the prepared 8-year modules of the LFS. In labour statistics, the availability of structural information, mainly on the number of employees, hours worked and job vacancies were provided.

In **education statistics**, results from two international surveys for 2016- AES (Adult Education Survey) and on further professional preparation of the CVTS (Continuing Vocational Training Survey) were processed. The activities were carried out in terms of the current EU legislation and according to Eurostat recommendations. After validation by Eurostat, the outcomes were included in the database of internationally comparable data within the EU and publications with analytical and tabulated parts were processed.

Family accounts statistics collects data on income, expenditure, consumption and the composition of private households in the SR. In 2017, a survey on income and household composition in the SR in the 1st quarter was conducted. By means of the available external information, prognoses and qualified estimations of selected indicators, data estimation for 2016 was carried out by microdata simulation of the 2015 survey. The results were published at the websites of the SOSR in the electronic publication *Incomes, Expenditures and Consumption of Private Households of the SR for 2016*.

From 2005, the SOSR regularly conducts the sample **Survey on Income and Living Conditions of Households**, which is the main data source providing an overall picture on poverty, social exclusion and living conditions. In 2017, microdata and indicators from

the EU SILC 2016 and the anonymised microdata were provided to external users for scientific and research purposes, based on standard and ad hoc requirements. Data were presented in two publications, the *EU SILC 2016 – Survey on Income and Living Conditions of Households in the SR* and the *EU SILC 2016 – Indicators of Poverty and Social Exclusion*.

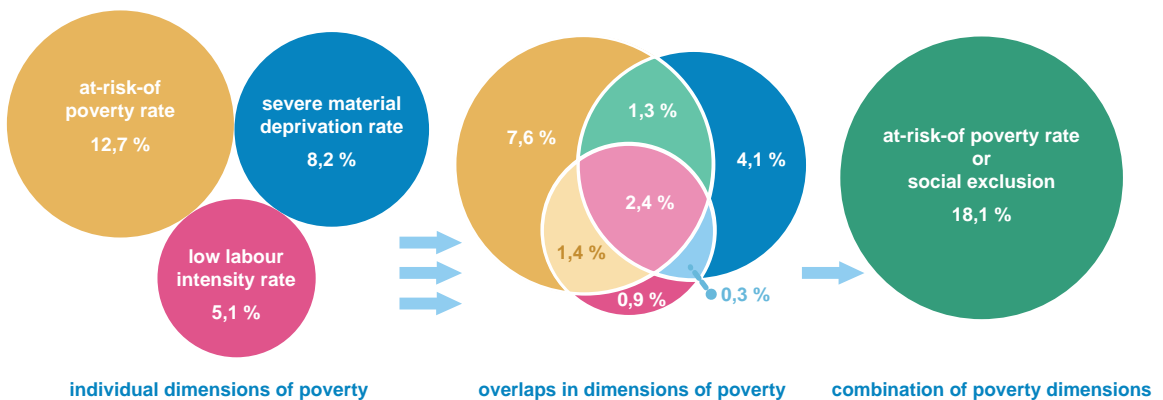
Recently, a strong emphasis has been put on the production and analysis of the main indicator of poverty and social exclusion for the strategy EU 2020 for the SR, formed by the combination of three partial indicators: the at-risk-of-poverty rate, severe material deprivation rate and low work intensity rate. According to the EU SILC 2016 results released last year, 18,1% of the Slovak population were at risk of poverty or social exclusion.

With regard to the introduction of special ad hoc modules to sample surveys in households based on new requirements, a new

grant project *Preparation for the Revision of EU SILC-testing of ad hoc rolling modules in the EU SILC 2017* has been implemented. The aim of this project was to prepare and carry out a testing of additional variables focused on the topic *Health (2 priority)* and *Labour*, as required by the regulation for ad hoc modules within the EU SILC 2017. Currently, the grant project has been finalised and it is expected to be finished by the end of March 2018.

Survey on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Usage in households and individuals for the 1st quarter of 2017 was conducted pursuant to the Commission Regulation (EC) No 2016/2015 in all EU Member States according to the uniform questionnaire prepared by Eurostat. The survey was conducted in April – May 2017, in 4 680 randomly selected households in the territory of the Slovak Republic. At household level, the equipment of households with

18,1 % - Indicator of poverty or social exclusion (EU SILC 2016 - SR)



information-communication technologies was surveyed. Among individuals, the information was obtained on the computer use and Internet activities. Within Internet use, more detailed data were surveyed on e-commerce, as well as order and purchase of goods and services through the Internet and e-government use for private purposes. Furthermore, respondents were also surveyed in terms of knowledge and use of information-communication technologies. In 2017, an increased attention was paid to the use of specialised websites and mobile applications through which goods or services within “sharing economy” are provided. The ICT survey results were published by the SOSR at its website, as an online publication *Survey on Information and Communication Technology Usage in Households 2017*.



In 2017, in the field of **food consumption statistics**, data on consumption of certain types of food for the year 2016 were derived based on the balance sheet method. These data are freely available for users in the SOSR's database in a comparable time series since 1990. Data on food consumption for

the year 2016 were also included in the publication *Food Consumption in the SR*, issued annually by the SOSR which also assesses the development of food consumption in the SR and compared with the EU Member States as well. Data on food consumption are regular part of the situational outlook reports of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR, evaluating the market development in the SR for individual food commodities.

In 2017, the SOSR successfully completed the grant project *Preparatory works for the revision of the Harmonised European Time-Use Surveys (TUS) for the year 2020*, by means of which the Office became involved in resolving the task of Eurostat related to the next wave of the time survey in 2020.

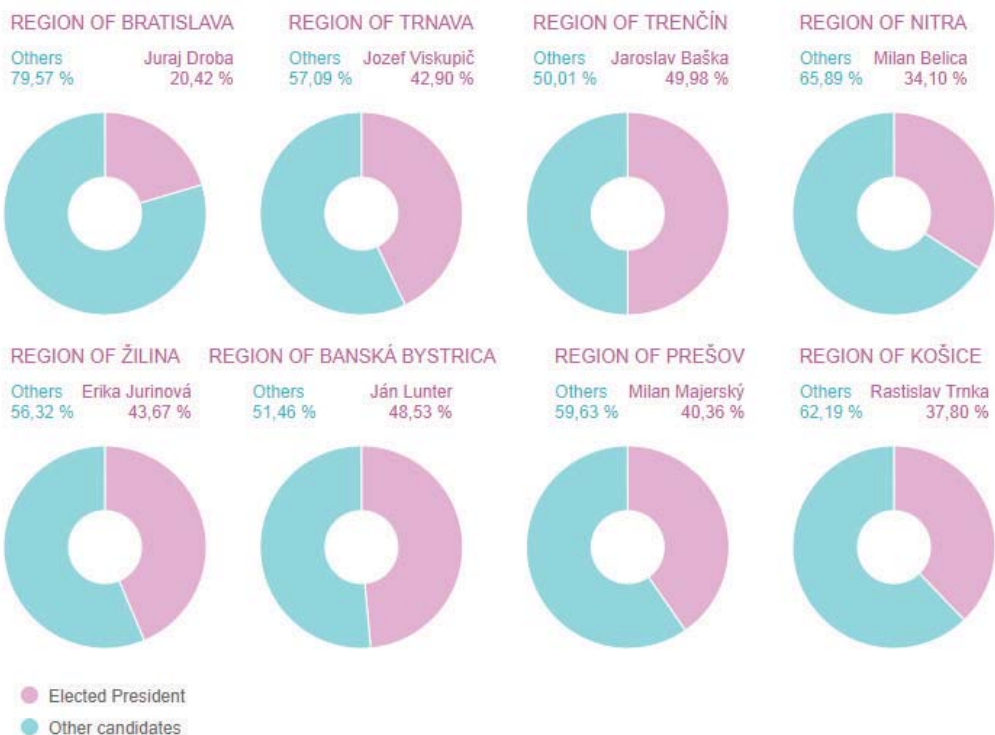
The SOSR collects, processes and provides data in terms of **health expenditure** for the SR according to the methodology of the *System of Health Accounts (SHA)* since 2005 (the reference year 2003 and further). In March 2015, the Commission Regulation (EC) No 2015/359 of 4 March 2015 entered into force, implementing the Regulation (EC) No 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council regarding statistics on expenditure of health care and its financing. According to this regulation, the SOSR in 2017, provided data for the reference year 2015, within the accounting framework of the SHA 2011 methodology. The processed data for 2015 were submitted to Eurostat, OECD and WHO within a joint questionnaire. The data published serve as a comparison of health expenditure not only within the European Union but also in the OECD and WHO countries. Data are also released at the website of the SOSR.

Election statistics

In 2017, the SOSR ensured at the Division of elections statistics, processing the results of the Elections to the bodies of self-governing regions of the Slovak Republic and the results of the new elections to municipal bodies (by-elections to the bodies of municipal/local and city councils).

On November 4, 2017, the Elections to the bodies of self-governing regions were held in accordance with the Decision of the Chairman of the National Council of the SR No 166/2017 Coll. of June 23, 2017. The SOSR ensured processing of results, according to the Act on Conditions of the Exercise of Voting

VALID VOTES CAST FOR ELECTED PRESIDENTS IN REGIONS



Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Rights and on amendments to certain laws No 180/2014 Coll. In the results processing, the Office cooperated with the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.

The SOSR has been preparing the processing of election results during the entire 2017. Specialised summary units of the district and self-governing electoral commissions and the State Commission for Elections and the Control of Financing of Political Parties, were established to ensure the processing. The preparation included three tests verifying the organizational-technical and the personal preparedness of the specialised summary units.

The final results of the Elections to the self-governing regions were processed by specialised summary units of the district election commissions on the basis of local election commissions' minutes. From the recorded minutes of the local election commissions, the minutes of the district election commissions were processed by summarization and approved by the commissions. Based on the minutes of district election commissions, the minutes of the election districts of self-governing regions were processed and subse-

quently approved. **The presidents of the self-governing regions were elected for the first time in a one-round election.**

On April 8, 2017 and October 14, 2017, new elections to municipal bodies were held (by-elections to the bodies of municipal/local and city councils), on the basis of the statement of the Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic. The new elections were held altogether in 48 municipalities, in both dates. In total, 24 new mayors and 34 new MPs were elected.

In 2017, the **Integrated Election Information System** was used for the processing of results of the new elections to municipalities and to the bodies of self-governing regions. It was used not only by the members of specialised summary units of electoral commissions but also by districts which have shown interest in the electronic processing of election results.

Employees of the SOSR's regional offices, played a significant role in the fulfilment of the tasks at the Division of election statistics, as the members of specialised summary units of the districts election commissions.



Cooperation with the Institute of Informatics and Statistics

The Institute of Informatics and Statistics (INFOSTAT), as a research and development centre in the field of official statistics, annually cooperates with the Statistical Office of the SR in resolving the research and development tasks in the sphere of official statistics. The cooperation is conducted on the basis of contract concluded between the two institutions, for the year in question, in accordance with the Government Decree of the SR. The content of the contract is taking into account the priority statistical activities of the Office and the actual needs, resulting from the customer requirements.

In 2017, the INFOSTAT resolved 28 research and development tasks consisting of 77 partial outputs focused mainly on the following:

- **methodological solutions** – compilation of the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) for the year 2015; programming solutions for energy statistics;
- **updating and development** – of the Blaise software for the tourism modules and changes into the processing of price statistics with monthly and quarterly periodicity;
- **calculations and constructions** – processing of monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual population movement and population balance at the end of the

reference period from data of the Source Database of the Integrated Statistical Information System (SD ISIS);

- **analyses, studies, prognosis, surveys** – cooperation on the balance of IOT for 2014 and 2015 in the SNA-NT system, analysis and prognosis of the development of business cycle in the Slovak economy in 2017; compilation of tables of tourism satellite account for the year 2015;
- **analytical outputs** – mortality tables, population balances, balance of population and the educational structure of the SR population.

Within the cooperation with the INFOSTAT, particularly the **activities of the Demographic Research Centre (DRC)** should be mentioned, which in 2017, resolved or participated in 7 tasks in total, assigned by the Statistical Office of the SR, under the contract, resulting in analytical and methodological materials.

The studies were as follows:

- Assessment of quality and the definition of quality indicators in the integration of data sources focused on the 2021 Population and Housing Census
- Assessment of quality of administrative data sources in the conditions of Slovak statistics

- Construction of analytical indicators for selected demographic processes
- Cross-sectional and cohort tables of demographic family-related and life events
- Cohort mortality tables in the context of modernisation of demographic statistics and demographic methodology
- Data processing of children born abroad to mothers permanently resident in the SR for 2016 and revision of selected indicators and fertility models
- Estimation of the educational structure of the Slovak population by gender and age units as of 31 December 2016

The cooperation with the SOSR, activities of the INFOSTAT and the DRC in 2017 is documented in detail in the annual report of the Institute for the year 2017 at the websites www.infostat.sk and www.infostat.sk/vdc.

We serve customers

In terms of customer service provision, the SOSR continued in fulfilling the action programmes set out in the strategic objectives of the Office. It carried out activities in accordance with the approved *Marketing Plan of the SOSR for the year 2017* by means of which it aimed to efficiently satisfy the demands of its customers.

Within the product portfolio for 2017, the SOSR ensured the **provision of data sets for domestic and international customers** based on the requirements of individual institutions. During the year, in total, 533 products were provided to national and international organizations in the form of pre-defined tables, data sets and various questionnaires. From the domestic customers, it concerned, above all, the legislative and executive authorities of state administration, mainly the National Bank of Slovakia (40% of products), the Ministry of Finance of the SR, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR, the Ministry of Economy of the SR and the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the SR. In total, 236 data sets in different periodicity were provided to national organizations. The obtained statistical information was used in analyses of the social and economic development of the society and for its governance and decision-making processes. The provision of products for international

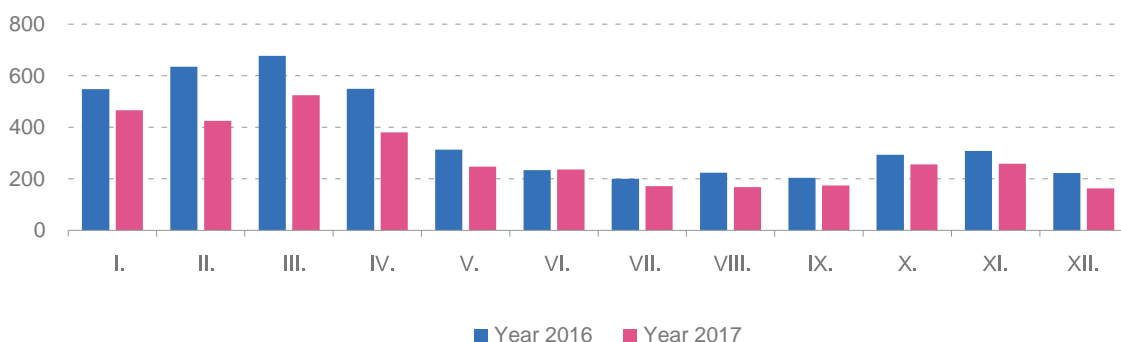
and inter-governmental organizations concerned predominantly Eurostat (81%). Other data consumers were the United Nations, the Organisation for International Cooperation and Development, the International Energy Agency, the International Transport Forum and the Food and Agriculture Organization. In total, 297 products were provided to the international organizations, during the year 2017.

Marketing activities were aimed at **knowledge expansion of our customers** in the field of statistics and on **revealing their expectations**. Professional units at the Central Office and in the Regional Offices of the SOSR, organized workshops, presentations, discussions and lectures with debates. These events were attended particularly by students and teachers of secondary schools and universities, representatives of the central bodies of state administration, local self-governments and financial institutions. During the year, in total, 53 events were organized by the Office with participation of more than 2400 existing or potential users of statistics. Customers were presented with the structure and content of the Office's internet portal, databases, the range of statistical products and services, forms of their dissemination as well as the possibilities and restrictions of the use of statistical information. Customers obtained information on the organization of statistical surveys and on the methodologies in the processing of statistical data.

The SOSR joined the celebrations of the **European Statistics Day**. On this occasion, a website was established with the Office's activities, at its Internet portal. The main activity was the presentation in the exhibition *Bibliotheca/Pedagogica 2017*, in Bratislava, at the Incheba exhibition centre in November 2017. The event was designed to raise awareness of the official statistics and the work of the SOSR among the general public. The visitors could familiarize themselves with the Office's products and services and also applying in practice the data search in online databases. Selected publications from various statistical fields and promotional materials have been available to them. A historic edition of publications and yearbooks was also part of the exhibition. An accompanying event was a statistical quiz for primary school pupils, organized in cooperation with the Radio and Television of Slovakia, involving the well-known characters of the TV programme the Dwarfs. Children have become acquainted with the fundamentals of statistics. Regional Offices supported the European Statistics Day by accompanying events for selected user groups, mainly students, in order to raise their awareness and statistical literacy.

During the year, the SOSR satisfied 3472 requests for statistical information from various thematic areas by means of the **information provision departments**. At the Central Office of the SO SR, 2241 requests were met, of which 85% were from domestic and 15% from foreign customers. The most requests were from students and representatives of the business community, associations, syndicates and trade unions (equally by 22%). The share of requests from international and foreign organisations constituted 16% and of state and local government 14%. There were fewer requests from the customers of financial institutions. According to thematic areas, the highest interest was recorded for the information in the field of demography and social statistics (36%). A considerable interest was shown also for sectoral statistics, mainly by students and the business sector. Almost one quarter of all demands was constituted by non-standard requests requiring processing by the competent departments of the Office. The majority of them were from the field of demography and social statistics and sectoral statistics. The demanding requirements included also the requests for anonymised microdata for scientific purposes

Monthly development of satisfied requests Central Office and Regions





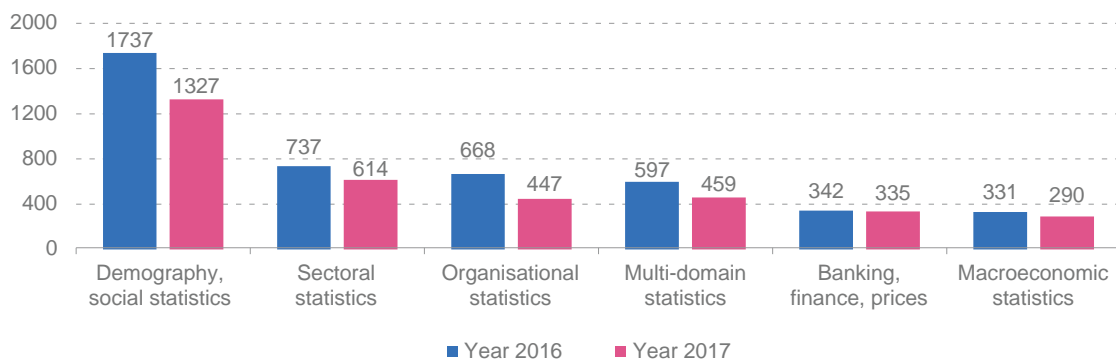
(during the year, 16 contracts were concluded for their provision). In total, 1231 requests for statistical information were met by the Regional Offices of the SOSR for statistical information, the majority of them for the local self-governments and public administration (34%) and for students (29 %). The requesters were predominantly interested in demography and social statistics data.

The customer services section involves also the assistance to users when seeking information from the field of European statistics and the navigation at the Eurostat's website. The Office realised the activities in this field on the basis of gentlemen's agreement with Eurostat by means of the European Statistical Data Support Centre, established at the Central Office of the SO SR, within the international network of the **European Statistical Data Support (ESDS)**.

The **Library** of the SOSR was available for customers and its services were used by 209 readers (Office's employees and external visitors), during 2017. 161 borrowings were registered. The Library stocks were increased by 510 new volumes, of which 429 were new publications of the Office. The Library ordered and registered 5 titles of newspapers and 23 journals, which were assigned to the Office's divisions. EUR 9000 were spent on the purchase of specialised literature and on the subscription of newspapers and journals.

The publication activity of the Office was ensured in accordance with the **Catalogue of Publications 2017** which is available at the Internet portal. During the year, 77 publications were issued, in total. 5 titles were published beyond the Catalogue. Among the crucial publications belonged: *Statistical Yearbook of the SR 2017*, *Regional Statistical Yearbook of Slovakia 2016*, *50th anniversary edition of the Statistical Yearbook of Bratislava, the capital of the SR* and sectoral yearbooks. In compliance with the strategic intentions, an increased attention was paid to value added products, for example: *Slovak Republic in Figures 2017*, *Statistics in Contexts-Main Trends of population development of the SR in 2016*, *Gender Equality 2017*, *Slovakia in the EU 2017*, *Border regions of Košický kraj- Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén Megye in Figures*, *Social Protection in the SR in 2015 (ESSPROS)*, *AES 2016-Adult Education in the SR*, *CVTS 2015-Continuing Vocational Training Survey in the SR* and *Environmental Accounts-Material Flow Accounts 2016*. Furthermore, 13 types of information and promotional newsletters were released from different statistical fields. All publications were available at the Office's website.

Number of satisfied requests by themes Central Office and Regions



During the year, the Office regularly updated and extended the content of information at the **Internet** portal. 260 new publications were added to the Catalogue of Publications and currently it contains more than 2310 electronic publications for downloading. The sites with statistical themes were supplemented with the application *Glossary of terms*, containing professional terminology. Within data visualization, the Eurostat's interactive websites *You in the EU* and the *Life of Women and Men in Europe-a statistical portrait* have been made publicly available. During the preparation for the 2017 elections to the bodies of self-governing regions, an interactive web presentation of the elections was provided.

The lay and the professional public actively used the information at the Office's Internet portal which in 2017 was visited by 1 210 761 statistical users realizing 6 521 699 data extraction. They were the most interested in the Register of Organisations, electronic data collection, statistics by individual fields, databases, classifications and samples of statistical forms.

In 2017, there was significant progress in the field of consolidation and modernisation of the **uniform public database, the DATAcube..** A new web application enabling uniform user interface and uniform data access was made accessible to the users. The innovated database concept facilitates searching, new tree menu navigation, short URL references and metadata access to the datacubes. Data tables from the SLOVSTAT database (500 tables) were migrated into the new database. The integration of databases comprehensively solved the uniform content availability of statistical data for customers with the consistent and comparable data and metadata with the possibility of creating own outputs. The uniform public DATAcube. database contains 1168 datacubes and the STATdat. database contains 484 dynamic reports. During the year, the DATAcube. was visited by 47 611 customers (by 38% more than in 2016). The users realized 549 876 datacube displays and were interested mainly in the indicators from the field of population and migration, labour market, organizational statistics, national accounts, agriculture and sectoral statistics. The STAT-

dat. database was visited by 333 620 users (by 96% more than in 2016) and they realized 971 210 data extractions. The highest interest was recorded for the indicators of consumer prices, population and migration, labour, labour costs, national accounts and industry.

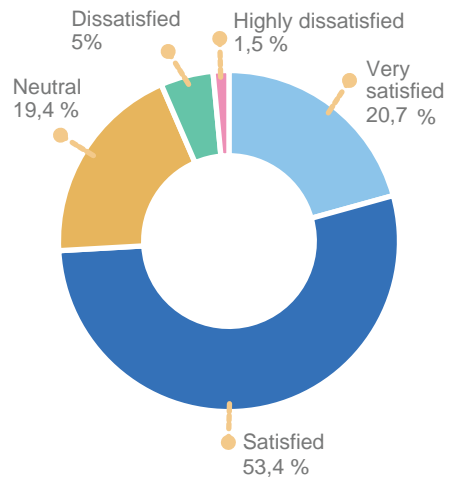
During the year, on the basis of the action plan of the *Open Government Initiative*, the SOSR added 18 new datasets for the field of the elections (historical data) to the **open data portal** (<http://data.gov.sk/>). The SOSR released 624 datasets, in total. It took into account in their selection the importance, social demand and the interest of the public for the most requested data. By the end of the year, in total, 1356 datasets were released by 63 organizations at the open data portal. 46% were from the SOSR thus it remains the notable leader in the field of open statistical data and metadata approach.

In accordance with the Strategy of the SOSR until 2017, the Office aims to systematically increase the value of the institution for the interested parties and its recognition at national and international level. The Office monitors the fulfilment of this goal by means of the indicator of **credibility of the Statistical Office of the SR**. In 2017, the Office by means of an independent external organization conducted a credibility survey at the sample of 1006 inhabitants of the SR for people who are at least 18 years old. According to the results of the satisfaction survey, 56% of respondents were satisfied with the SO SR.

The Office receives customer feedback by means of the **satisfaction survey of users with the products and services of the SOSR**, conducted every 2 years via online questionnaire. In 2017, the fifth survey in a row was carried

out whose aim was to poll the opinion of customers on various types of products and services provided by the SOSR and ascertain the satisfaction of customers. Based on the survey results, the average overall satisfaction rate reached 71,7 points which corresponds to the satisfaction of respondents in the previous surveys. According to the 39 evaluated criteria (of products and services), the greatest advantages of the Office are the level of service provision by the employees, their responsiveness and willingness, expertise, level of information and consulting services. From the statistical fields, demography, elections and referendum, labour market and prices, were the best rated. Lower satisfaction was recorded in the availability of the searched information, logical breakdown and the orientation of users at the websites. The obtained information and the respondents' comments provided insights that will be taken into account in the creation and dissemination of the Office's products and service provision.

Satisfaction with the products and services of the SR in 2017



We publish the Journal Slovak Statistics and Demography

The scientific Journal Slovak Statistics and Demography has undergone significant changes that positively affected the image formation of this modern periodical. The Office continued in the activities aimed at the positive perception of the journal by the public and at the strengthening its market position, also in 2017.

The periodicity of the Slovak Statistics and Demography remained unchanged, four numbers of the journal published in 2017 provided an overview of the current statistical and demographic themes. There was a continuing tradition of the journal's monothematic issue which presented the methodologies of various statistical methods and procedures in order to underline the wide range of mathematic and statistical methods used in statistics as a scientific discipline. A special issue of the journal draw attention to the diverse use of statistical methods and emphasized the growing social importance of statistics.

A special attention is paid to the promotion of the scientific peer-reviewed Journal Slovak Statistics and Demography. The Editorial Board reports the content of each issue to the increased field of potential contributors, promoting interest in the publishing of the regular and new authors as well. The print version of the journal continues to be available to the



readers, as well as the increasingly popular electronic version of the periodical, released at the website www.statistics.sk.

All recent initiatives of the journal's Editorial Board aim at the incorporation of the Slovak Statistics and Demography into the international citation databases.

International activities

In 2017, in the field of European affairs, the SOSR placed emphasis on its efficient functioning within the **European Statistical System**, as well as on the active participation in the process of the adoption of the **EU legislative acts**. The Office followed to the maximum extent the knowledge, experience and mechanisms of the cooperation gained during the performance of the Presidency of the SR in the Council of the EU, during the second half of 2016. The SOSR actively participated in debates at the meetings of the Council Working Party on Statistics, throughout the whole year.

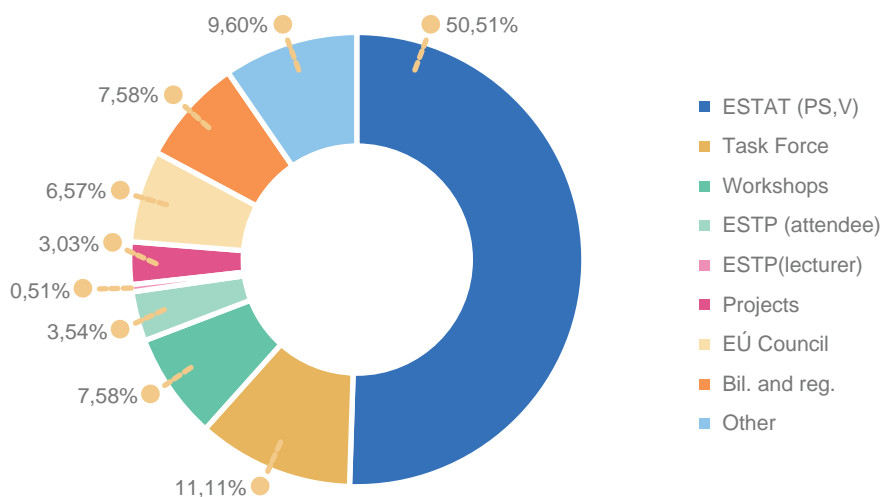
Given the professional focus of the Office, including also the personal data processing, the issue of the impact of the application of the *Regulation on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on free movement of such data (the so-called GDPR)* which will enter into force in May 2018, has been raised in various statistical fields. The regulation, inter alia, addresses also the processing of personal data for statistical purposes. In 2017, discussions on this topic have been going on not only at national level but also at the level of the Commission and Council working groups. Due to the potential problems with the application of the regulation in the application practice, discussions and analysis of the impacts on the Office's statistical systems and on the final version of sectoral statistical legal acts will be among the top priorities also in the coming years.

Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council adopted in October 2017, prolonging the *European statistical programme to 2018-2020*, provides framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics and setting out the main areas and the objectives of the actions planned for the period corresponding to the period of multiannual financial framework.

In the approval process at the EU level, attention was paid mainly to two framework regulations, presented by the Commission within the programme of regulatory suitability and the effectiveness of the REFIT. *Integrated Regulation for European statistics relating to persons and households, based on data at individual level collected from samples*, is the first framework regulation in the field of statistics, presented within this initiative. In addition to the legislation of technical statistical issues, it should introduce a new model of legal architecture of statistic framework regulations.

The Office actively participated also in negotiations on the *Integrated Regulation on Farm statistics* which should guarantee comparability and consistency of agricultural data, in a long-term perspective, mainly in relation to the Census of Agriculture planned for 2020. The new regulation should contribute to the assessment and simplification of agricultural data collection according to the principles of common agricultural policy of the EU.

Percentage share of different types of events targeted in the foreign business trips



At expert level, there were on-going works on the preparation of the Framework *Regulation Integrating Business Statistics (FRIBS)* whose aim is the integration of the entire production process of business statistics and the implementation of the new data collection system on business statistics, as well as on trade in goods within the EU. Following the submission of the draft to the European Parliament and the Council in March 2017 leading to the adoption of the regulation at EU level, within the inter-governmental review process, the Office confirmed the position on a draft regulation and received negotiation mandate at the Council Working Party on Statistics.

The Office was active also in the field of international relations, mainly within the European Statistical System (ESS).

In 2017, the Office's employees attended 184 **foreign business trips**, representing 241 individual travels while some travels included participation in various events. The travels were realized mainly to the seat of Eurostat in Luxembourg.

Within the ESS, the Office's employees participated in 100 meetings of the working groups and committees, 22 smaller working groups (so-called task force), 15 seminars and workshops, 7 courses within the European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP) and 6 events related to the implementation of grant projects. Meetings of working groups and committees focused on the proper implementation of European legislation and the task force on the development of new methodology and legislation. The Office's managers

attended the meetings of director groups in respective statistical fields. The President of the Office represented the national statistical system in four meetings of the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC), conference of the leaders of the national statistical institutions (DGINS) and at the strategic meeting of leaders of the national statistical offices of EU countries and Eurostat devoted the ESS strategy after 2020. The employees of the Office participated in 13 meetings of the Council Working Party on *Statistics*, thus contributing to the European legislation approval process in the field of statistics.

Outside the ESS, the Office's employees took part in 19 events organized by international organizations, mainly the OECD and the UN. In terms of bilateral and regional cooperation, 15 representatives travelled to the neighbouring countries.

On the occasion of appointment to the Office, a business trip of the President of the SOSR was realized to the **Czech Statistical Office (CZSO)**. During the negotiations, representatives of both Offices evaluated the existing cooperation while it was concluded that its various forms are mutually beneficial and both sides have further cooperation plans. The reciprocal visit of the management of the CZSO took place in Bratislava, in September 2017. During the year, several joint working meetings were organized with the CZSO, focused on the exchange of experiences in various areas of expertise.

In 2017, the Office applied for 13 new **grant projects** co-founded by the EU focused at the introduction of new statistical tools and methods. During the year, in total, 25 projects have been implemented together with those from the previous year.



Human resources

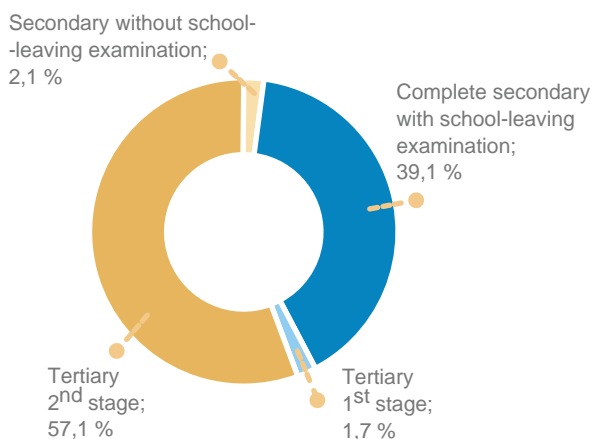
In 2017, **810,3 employees** (the average registered recalculated number) were employed in the SO SR, of whom 304,7 employees at the Office's Central and 505,6 at the Regional Offices of the SOSR (including the Section of Industrial Data Collection and Processing and Field Surveys in Banská Bystrica). In the national budget, in the chapter concerning the SO SR, the number of posts was curtailed to 832, while in the Central Office, 7 posts were designed for the fulfilment of special tasks in the field the 2021 Population and Housing Census (2021 Census).

78,0 % women and **22,0 % men** worked at the Office. Out of 124 managers, there were 71,0 % women and 29,0 % men.

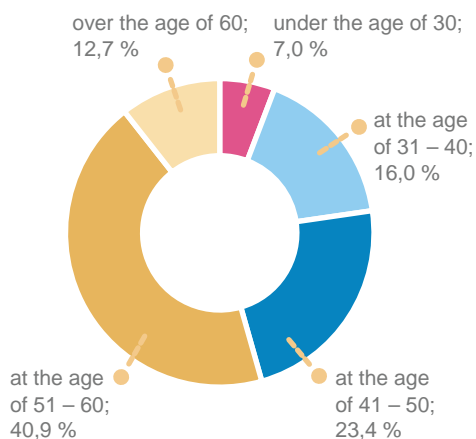
In 2017, the available budget of the SOSR was **EUR 9 925 238 for salary appropriations** (in the amount are also included salary appropriations intended for the 2021 Census and elections to higher territorial units). For the period January – December 2017, the expenditure was EUR 9 903 540, hence the limit for the obligatory indicator for wages, salaries, pays, and others personal surcharge was complied, in 2017 has been respected.

On 31 December 2017, **education and age structure** of the Office's staff was as follows:

Educational structure



Age structure





The *Educational Plan of Employees of the SOSR for 2017* was approved as the basic document for the **education of the Office's employees**. The range of educational activities has been continuously complemented by further educational requirements, promptly submitted by the respective organizational units.

The priorities in the sphere of **professional education** were the activities related to the development of employee skills for the processing of statistical data and for the use of information systems for the processing of the results of the 2017 Elections to the bodies of self-governing regions. Within further training, the employees of the SOSR attended activities relating to legislation in the field of wages, taxes, social and health security, accounting, public procurement, human resource management, controlling, audit etc.

The Office's staff participated in 38 **foreign** educational activities (international workshops, courses, seminars and conferences of educational character) where beyond competence development they had the opportunity to share knowledge and expertise on the national and European statistical system with other participants. Professional courses organized within the programme *European Statistical Training Programme* were beneficial for the Office's experts in their professional advancement.

The **language training** was provided through seven semi-intensive English group courses.

During the last year, 822 educational activities were realized for 4 643 participants in total. In 2017, EUR 46 672 were used by the Office for educational purposes.

Information systems and information and communication technologies

In the context of accomplishing the goals of the *National Concept of Informatization of Public Administration* (NKIVS), the **electronic collection of statistical data** has been realized for the second consecutive year by the SO SR which also increased the return and quality of data also due to pre-filling of data and the checks implemented in the electronic forms. The SOSR also provides its electronic services on its own portal by means of the *Central Portal of Public Administration* (CPPA).

In order to reduce the administrative burden of reporting units (RU), the SOSR extends the range of the **used administrative sources** which replace the data originally obtained from the RU or complete the statistical data collected from the RU. The Office also started preparing the data collection from the administrative systems of the RU (accounting systems, wage systems etc.) by which the statistical reports will partly or completely be filled.

In 2017, the core registers of the liable persons were integrated with the **Register of Legal Entities, Entrepreneurs and Public Authorities** (RLE), pursuant to the Act No 272/2015 Coll. on RLE. In this context, the liable persons were provided assistance in the form of information provision by phone or e-mail, organisation of work meetings and trainings to the user interface of the Generic register as one of the forms of data transmission into the RLE.

Another type of data transmission is the direct connection of the information system of the liable person to the RLE via web services.

RPO as a reference register provides other public authorities the possibility to receive data in an automated manner, free of charge. Data from the register are publicly available and free of charge through the portal of the SOSR for information purposes.

In 2017, the SOSR prepared the extension of the RLE functionalities, in the context of the preparations of the amendment of the Act No 297/2008 Coll. on prevention of legalization of proceeds of criminal activity and terrorist financing and on amendment of certain acts.

Following the Call for applications for non-refundable financial aid (thereinafter “NRFA”), the SOSR applied for the NRFA on September 29, 2017. On 20th November 2017, the Office concluded a contract for granting of the NRFA for the project **The reform of the processing of statistical data in public administration** within the operational programme Efficient public administration and it undertook the necessary steps leading to the call for tenders for the subject matter of the contract.

The project of the reform and processing of statistical data shall address the requests of Eurostat for the establishment of the national

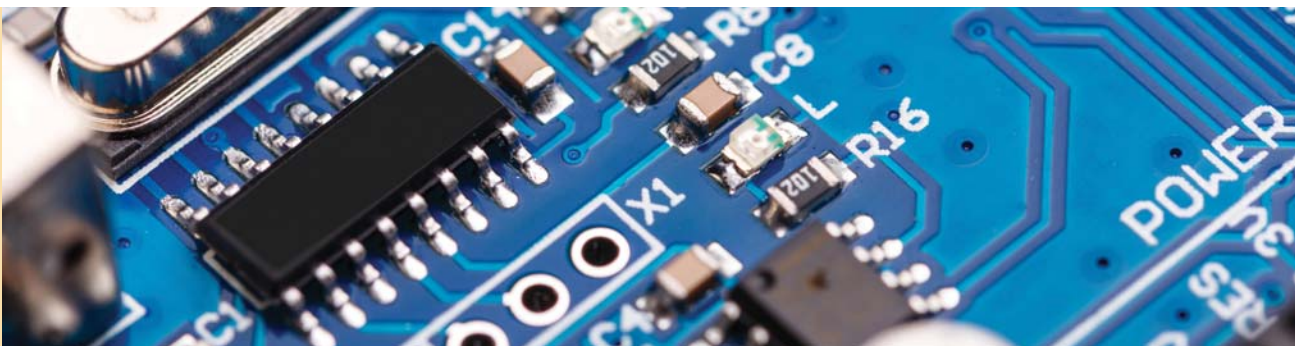
methodology, its subsequent uniformization towards the liable persons of the statistical surveys enabling streamlining of the collection process and processing of statistical data of all liable persons as well as the protection and security of the collected and processed data. The project outputs will represent a uniform and harmonised methodology, applicable by all liable persons of the National Statistical System.

In 2017, the SOSR began implementing the project **Merging statistics and geospatial information in MS-Support policy-making by the use of spatial information** by ensuring its technological part. It is a project organized by Eurostat, concerning the integration of statistical and spatial information. The project will continue even in 2018 and its outcome will be the disclosure of map outputs for the internal users of the SOSR resulting in the expansion of the Office's publications by cartographic outputs.

In the context of the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 **on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free**

movement of such data (GDPR), the SOSR carried out an analysis of the current situation of ensuring the protection of the existing personal data.

In 2017, the **modernisation of the Oracle Database environment** was finalized, thereby fulfilling the objectives of the SOSR towards the creation of the highly accessible database platform of the operation of critical information systems. The rapidly changing and accumulating threats facing the information systems accessible via internet require continual improvement and modernization of the IT security systems from the provider like the SO SR. In 2017, the SOSR modernized its primary firewalls and implemented cluster solutions of the next-generation firewalls- Next Generation Firewall- NGFW. Next year, the SOSR plans to implement the Web Application Firewalls (WAF) that identify and protect websites and web applications from hackers using vulnerable applications or protocols for data theft or changing the appearance of the organization's websites. Increasing IT security has constantly been initiated and supported also by the European Commission and Eurostat.

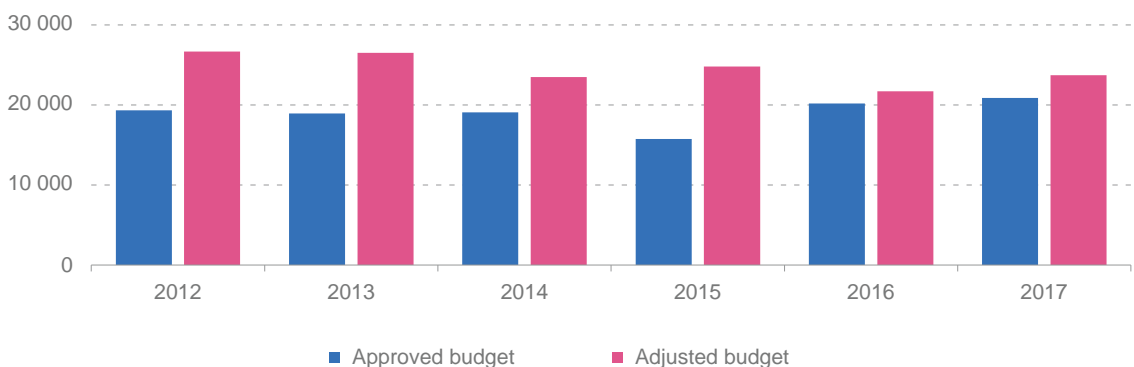


Financial results

Pursuant to the Act No 357/2016 Coll. on the state budget, **expenditures** in the amount of EUR 20 885 261 were approved for the chapter the Statistical Office of the SR. During 2017, the budget of the Office was adjusted by 18 budgetary measures of the Ministry of Finance of the SR to EUR 23 711 037,61. The budget adjustment covered mainly exceeding the capital expenditure by funds from the previous years (EUR 1 142 877), funds for strengthening security, high availability and the necessary increase of data capacities due to the legislative change in the two rounds to one round election of presidents of higher territorial units (EUR 158 986) and for the project documentation which will be included in the application for the NRFA (EUR 100 Thous.), exceeding the limit of current expenditures

for the surveys relating to the production and implementation of the Tourism Satellite Account (EUR 302 076), for the valorisation of personal expenses (EUR 554 457), for ensuring funding for sending of passwords and access codes to new statistical units by registered mail with return receipt (EUR 254 952), for financing the one-off programme change of the IEIS (EUR 111 200) and an increase of the current expenditure limit due to the lack of budget means for the Office's regular activity (EUR 530 Thous.). Other adjustments were related to the commitment for the current expenditures limit (EUR 122 753,04) and capital expenditures (EUR 99 786,35) for the benefit of the chapter of the Ministry of Finance of the SR in terms of the Oracle License and Service Agreement, commitment of capital expen-

Budget of expenditure of the SO SR in the years 2012-2017 in thous. EUR - Comparison between approved and adjusted budget



ditures with their possible use in the next financial year (EUR 122 392) and earmarking of incomes and expenditure due to a gap in the implementation of incomes expenditures (EUR 30 490).

For the year 2017, the indicator for a **binding** revenue **limit** –in the amount of EUR 120 000 was approved for the SO SR. The budgetary measure of the Ministry of Finance of the SR decreased the limit of revenues to EUR 89 510. The revenues de facto reached EUR 1 245 458, of which non-tax revenues constituted EUR 102 757 and extra-budgetary from foreign grants, in the amount of EUR 1 142 701, provided by the European Commission with the aim of implementing new statistical surveys. A binding indicator - non-tax revenues – was exceeded compared with the adjusted the budget by EUR 13 247.

The adjusted budget of expenditures amounted to EUR 23 711 037,61 was drawn actually in the amount of EUR 24 831 098. The real **drawing** of expenditures includes budget expenditures in the amount of EUR 23 688 397 i.e. to 99,9 % and extra-budgetary expenditures in the amount of EUR 1 142 701, of which the chapter was authorised to exceed the limit of expenditures, pursuant to the Article 23 of the Act on the Budget Rules.

The adjusted budget for salaries and wages (EUR 9 925 238) was actually drawn in the amount of EUR 10 512 651, including the budgetary sources of EUR 9 903 540 (of which EUR 478 423 for the elections to higher territorial units (thereinafter “HTU” and EUR 109 873 for the 2021 Population and Housing Census (2021 Census) and extra-budgetary resources in the amount of EUR 609 111.

Budget for the insurance payments and for the insurance contribution covered by an employer was in the amount of EUR 3 967 301, of which EUR 208 484 from the budget for the Elections to the HTU, EUR 37 839 from the budget for the 2021 Census and EUR 265 295 were used from the extra-budgetary resources.

In total, EUR 7 827 478 were used for goods and services, of which EUR 341 127 from the funds for the Elections to the HTU, EUR 114 419 from the funds for the 2021 Census, EUR 4 163 874 from the funds allocated for the information technologies financed from the state budget and EUR 268 295 were used from extra-budgetary resources. EUR 2 939 763 were spent on ordinary activities of the SOSR, mainly on the statistical surveys, travel costs, costs related to the processing of statistical information, contribution to the social fund and catering of employees. A substantial share was represented by expenditures on energies and communication, object security and operation of motor vehicles and maintenance of operating machines, equipment and buildings.

Current transfers were drawn in the amount of EUR 1 084 136 of which EUR 959 184 were assigned to the subsidised organisation - INFOS-TAT. Other transfers were used on severance grant, severance pay and sickness benefits.

Capital expenditures were drawn in the amount of EUR 1 439 532 of which EUR 1 364 138 were for information technology financed from the state budget. Resources for supporting activities in the amount of EUR 75 394 were used for the purchase of passenger cars and operating machines and equipment.

Special types of expenditures

Elections to Higher Territorial Units

In total, EUR 1 028 035 were spent on the Elections to Higher Territorial Units. Expenditures incurred mainly for the overtime payments, remunerations and related insurance contributions of employees involved in the processing of result of the Elections to Higher Territorial Units. Expenditures on goods and services were spent on material provision of expert summary units, telecommunication services, technical assistance services, general material and on agreement for the performance of work.


2021 Population and Housing Census

Funds in the amount of EUR 262 131 were spent mainly on wages and related contributions to the insurances of employees temporarily employed for the tasks related to

the preparation of the 2021 Census, strategy development and promotion of the 2021 Census and feasibility studies of the 2021 Census exclusively on the basis of electronic data collection.

Information technologies financed from the state budget-SOSR

Funds in the amount of EUR 5 528 012 were spent from the state budget on information technologies, including goods and services in the amount of EUR 4 163 874 and capital expenditure in the amount of EUR 1 364 138. Expenditure were drawn for the sustainability assurance of the outputs of the projects the Electronic services and the Register and Identifier of Legal Entities and Entrepreneurs, ensuring information technologies for the processing of election results to HTU and for the preparation of the 2021 Census, as well as ensuring of information technologies for internal governance systems, ancillary infrastructure and specialised systems.



CENSUS 2021 DATA
WILL BE COLLECTED
ELECTRONICALLY



STATISTICAL
OFFICE
OF THE SLOVAK
REPUBLIC

POPULATION
AND HOUSING
CENSUS
2021



Priorities 2018

The SOSR's priority concerning the implementation of the integrated **Quality Management System** will be the obtaining of the certificate in terms of the ISO 9001:2015 standard for the next three-year period until 2021, carried out by an internationally accredited certification body. Within the system development, another significant priority will be the development of the new Development Strategy of the SOSR for the next strategic period with the goals and action programmes reflecting the results and analyses of the external environment (including the development in the *European Statistical System*) and the internal environment ensuring further development of the SOSR. At international level, the priority will be an active participation in the activities of the 2020 Vision Steering Committee for horizontal project, focused on the extension of the common quality framework of the ESS to coincide with the development of the quality management system.

In the field of **methodology**, intensive efforts will be continued on the project Scanner Data, mainly in the field of testing their processing for price statistics. During 2018, quality reports for the users of statistical outputs in a uniform European metadata structure will gradually be released at the website of the SOSR. The publication of the new calibration tool Calif 4.0 is planned by the Office. Unlike its predecessor, it will operate in a modern

web interface such as Shiny web application (programmed in the R language). It will be run on an easy order and will be user-friendly even for those employees lacking IT skills. The Office plans to introduce the new version of Calif at the conference QUALITY 2018 in Krakow and, possibly, on other conferences, it shall present it to Austrian and Czech colleagues and via of Eurostat extend and implement it in other statistical offices as well.

In the field of **classifications and code lists**, ensuring their compliance with the legally binding acts of the European Union, international norms and standards remains a priority. In case of code lists created for the registration of subjects in the Register of Legal Entities and Entrepreneurs (RLE), the main aim will be their full harmonization with the applicable national legislation and standards.

In the field of statistical **registers** and statistical units, focus will be on the ensuring of methodological and substantive requirements for the statistical registers, resulting from the proposal of the new Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European business statistics. In terms of the RLE, the main goal will be the integration of all the remaining source registers into the RLE, as it is laid down by the Article 12 of the Act No 272/2015 Coll. on the Register of Legal Entities, Entrepreneurs and Governmental Bodies, as amended.

An annual priority in the **database** production of the SOSR is the review of requirements of the *Programme of State Statistical Surveys* in order to carry out important and necessary surveys and comply with the principle of economy. A special attention will be placed on ensuring of data for the purpose of monitoring the goals of the Agenda 2030. In the long term, increasing the efficiency and decreasing cost-effectiveness of the production of database and the respondents' administrative burden should be achieved by progressive integration of data from other data sources to the production of the Office's database. The aim is that data from internal statistical surveys are combined, complemented or replaced with data from external statistical surveys, administrative sources, accounting systems of enterprises or private-sector data sources.

In the field of **macroeconomic statistics**, activities in 2018 will be focused on the task fulfilments resulting from the conclusions of the Eurostat missions on the EDP and GNI and completing the activities of the of the grant project GP 06-16 on the implementation of the ESA 2010 methodology. Attention will be paid to the preparation of documents for the second mission of Eurostat in the second half of 2018 and to a subsequent fulfilment of the action points resulting from its conclusions, preparation of the development of the GDP flash estimates in the short term, as well as to the expanded publishing of external trade statistics in a uniform public database DATAcube. The SOSR will also cooperate in the preparation of the implemented and delegated acts on the Framework Regulation Integrating the European Business Statistics (FRIBS), concerning external trade statistics.

Among the Office's important tasks in the field of **business statistics**, will continue to be the preparation of coordinated positions of the SOSR on the proposal for the FRIBS Regulation, negotiated in the Council and on the proposed implementing and delegated acts to the regulation within Eurostat working groups. During the year, work will continue regarding updating of metadata reports for 2017 in short-term statistics and the production



of quality reports for structural statistics and foreign affiliates statistics in the ESS-Metadata Handler environment. In structural business statistics, brand-new metadata files will be created through the ESS-Metadata Handler. In view of the ongoing revision of legislative rules on business statistics after 2020, the commenting on the draft legislation will continue.

Specifically, it is the regulation on the integrated farm statistics, covering microdata collection at farm level and it will be based on the modular approach with the main variables, modules and satellites and an omnibus regulation on statistics of agricultural input and output. In tourism statistics, the focus will be on the updating of the *Register of accommodation establishments* based on the results of statistical survey from the *Questionnaire for the updating of the Register of tourist accommodation establishments*. In environmental statistics, special focus will be put on data quality enhancement for the three new environmental accounts (EPEA, EGSS, PEFA). In 2018, in science, technology and innovations statistics, activities will be focused on the implementation of changes resulting from the revised Frascati manual. From the survey on innovations, compulsory outputs will be processed, transmitted to Eurostat and after the publishing of results, the quality report on innovation statistics will subsequently be provided. In energy statistics, continued attention will be paid to the implementation of the new requirements on annual surveys resulting from changes of the regulation. The first mandatory data submission on prices of fuel and energy consumption in households according to their type of use as well as the first data submission of electricity and gas prices by components, will be realized in accordance with the new methodology. The most important task of price statistics will be the continued implementation of data obtained from retail chains into the production of consumer prices. The methodology development of price collection of commercial property and the calculation of the experimental indicators of commercial property will also continue.

The priorities of sample surveys in **social statistics**, which are based on data on individuals and households, will include mainly the conduct of the follow-up survey on reconciliation of work and family life in the 2.half of 2018 and commenting of the proposal of the *Framework Regulation on Integrated European Social Statistics* (IESS). Activities that are particularly important include the preparation of the EU legislation, regarding the forthcoming implementation of this framework regulation and also the activities supported by Eurostat grants for the modernisation of fields covered by it. In this context, the preparation of the revision of EU SILC-testing of rolling modules in EU SILC and modernisation of the harmonised European Time Use Surveys (TUS) should be mentioned.

As for the 2021 Population and Housing Census preparation, in 2018, activities will be targeted mainly at tasks aimed at harmonisation of data of **demographic statistics** and data from the administrative sources and registers, drafting the Law on the 2021 Census, implementation of activities from the *National Action Plan to the 2021 Population and Housing Census* as well as the territorial planning of the 2021 Census and setting the basis for fieldwork.

The priority of **election statistics** will be the processing of election results to the bodies of self-governing regions of the Slovak Republic. The elections will be held in accordance with the Act No 180/2014 Coll. on Conditions of the Exercise of Voting Rights and on amendments to certain laws. During the year 2018, the SOSR will start to prepare the processing of election result, schedules, the project of result

processing, guidance note, electoral materials and processing of the candidate lists of the individual political subjects, for the needs of the State Commission for Elections and Control of Financing of Political Parties.

In the field of **provision and dissemination of statistical information**, the Office will focus on the meeting of the marketing objectives in order to identify its customer needs more efficiently and satisfy their increasing demands in relation to the complexity and quality of products and services. The main focus will be on the processing and provision of data files for the national and international institutions, as well as on arranging activities aimed at communication with the users of statistics. Within external communication, the Office will organize meetings with the key customers aiming to expand their knowledge on the possible uses of statistical products and services and identify their needs. The Office will intensify communication with selected customer groups through presentations, scientific lectures and seminars. Several activities will be conducted in connection with the celebrations of the *European Statistics Day*. The main effort will be to present to the public the mission of official statistics, products and services and thus improving statistical literacy. The Office's portal will continue to play a crucial role in the dissemination of statistical information. In terms of the release of statistical information through the Internet portal, the SOSR will focus on further development of the uniform public database DATAcube., consolidation and expansion of the database complying with the customer requirements and increasing the user comfort when dealing with data. In the process

of dissemination, the Office will flexibly react to the new release trends, by implementing data visualization tools in order to present statistical data comprehensively and innovatively. Visualisation tools will also be used in the Office's publication activities. In the area of open data access, the SOSR will ensure the release of new datasets, improving the quality of data and metadata pursuant to the Public administration information system (PAIS). When selecting new datasets, the importance and public interest in the data requested shall be taken into account.

In the field of **international activities**, the priorities in 2018 remain the active participation in the adoption of the European statistical legislation within the Council and supporting active participation in international conferences within the ESS and other international forums. The organisational activities will be intensified for the preparation of conference of the leaders of national statistical institutions which will be held at the beginning of October 2019, in Bratislava. Within the cooperation in V4 countries, cooperation is expected to be launched as well as the exchange of experiences in the agreed statistical fields.

In the field of **human resources** management, in limited financial sources and personal capacities, the motivation of employees to perform tasks to the best of their ability and the satisfaction of their wage claims above the national average, will continue to be a challenge. In hard conditions, the Office will make its best for the stabilisation of effective, key and committed employees. Ensuring staffing for the conduct of specific tasks

of the 2021 Census and the elections to the municipal bodies will be an important priority. In 2018, the purpose of education forming employee competences and skills will be the continuous and effective development of the knowledge and skills of managers and other employees so that they can perform the Office's tasks in a professional, flexible and objective manner. A special challenge will be the high quality staff training for the processing of results of the elections to the bodies of self-governing regions. In the field of vocational statistical education, the education system of employees will continue to be streamlined which was established according to individual plans of competency education of civil servants, containing first-time implemented outputs of the new competency matrices of employees.

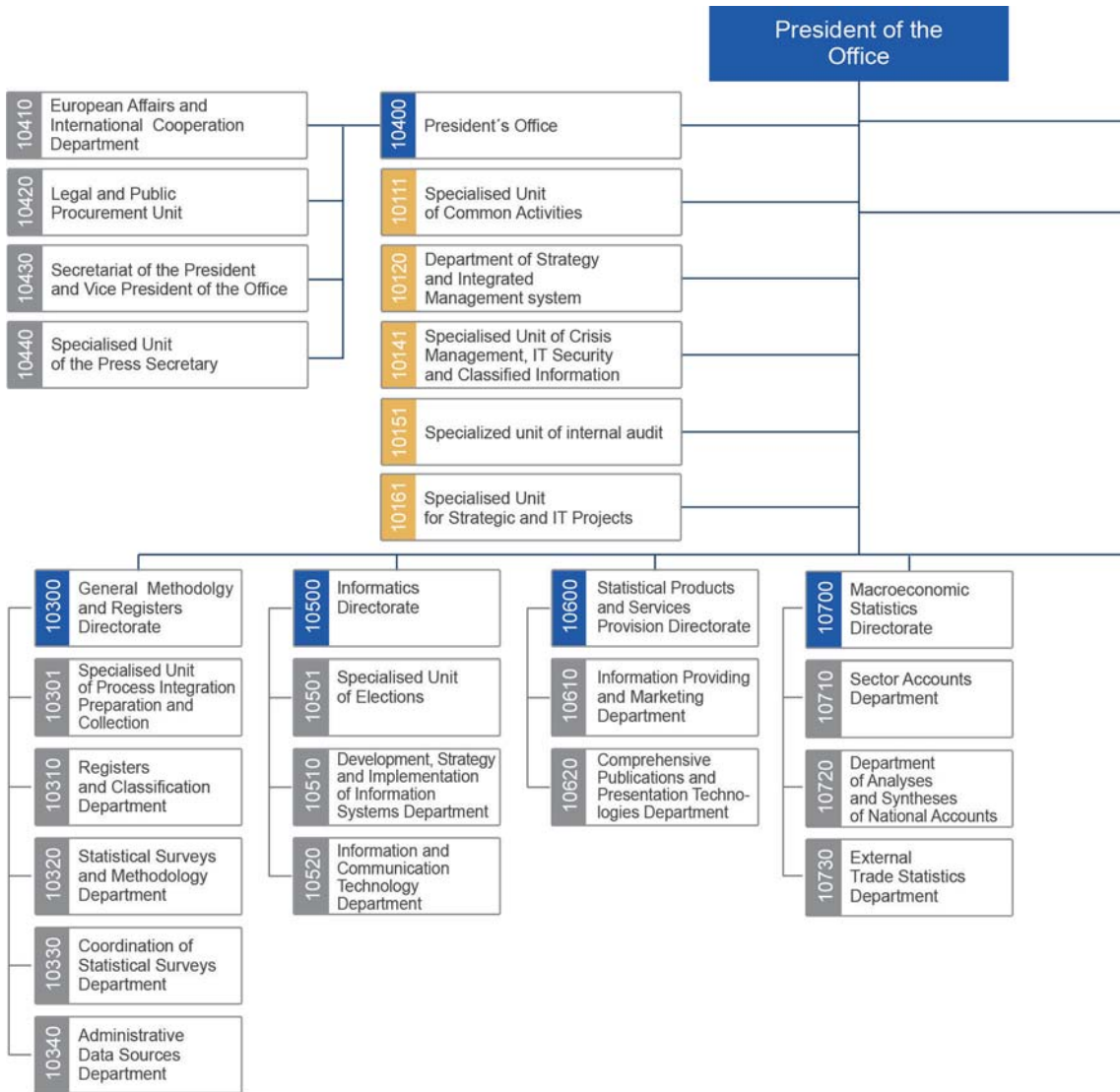
In **information systems and information and communication technologies**, a priority of the year 2018 will be the ensuring of the trouble-free functioning of the RLE (Register of Legal Entities), ISIS (Integrated Statistical Information System) and IEIS (Integrated

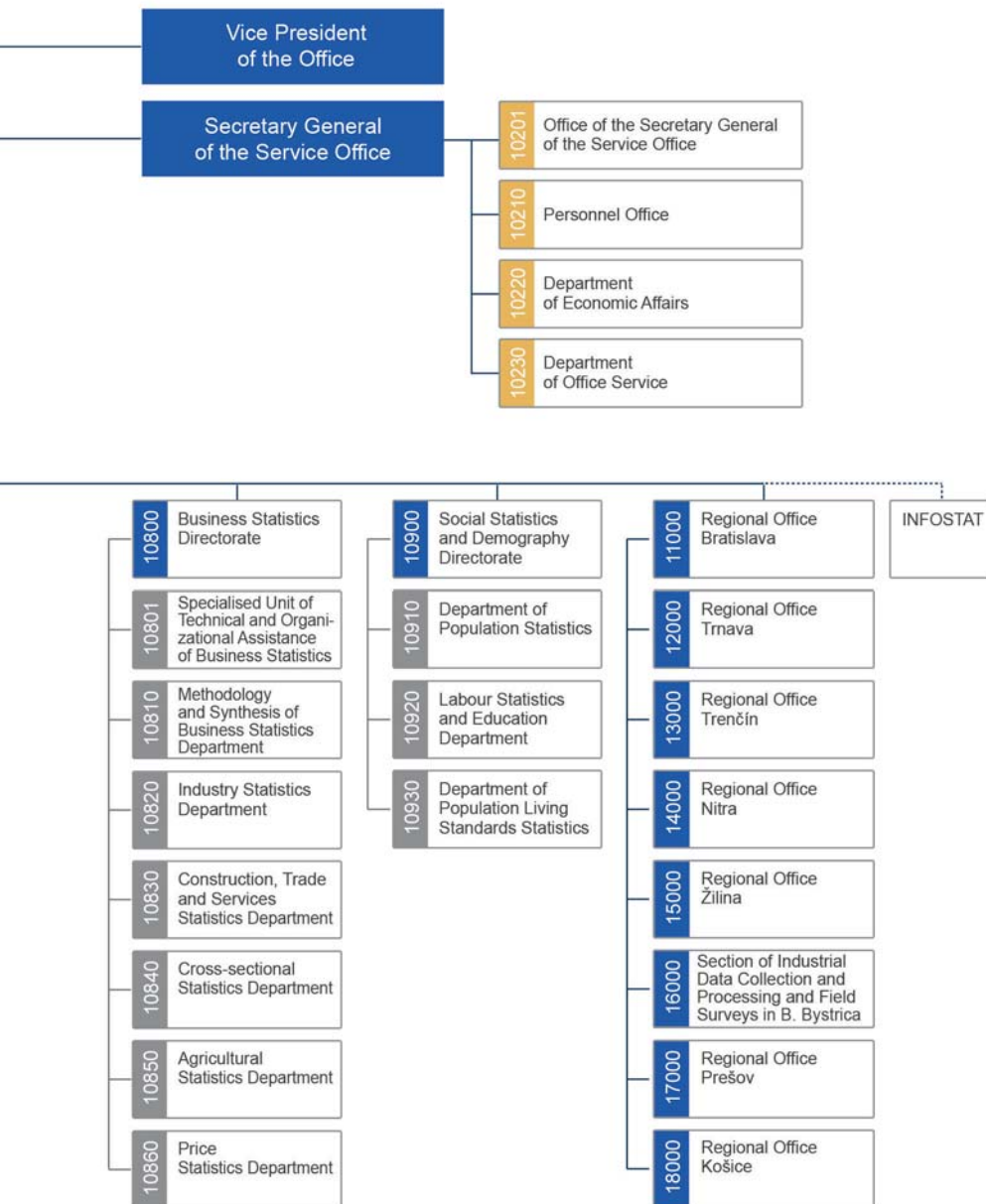
Election Information System). At the same time, the SOSR will continue to provide assistance to liable persons while working with the RLE. On the basis of the draft legislation, the SOSR plans the extension of the RLE system to the Register of end-users of benefits. The Office plans to reconcile the protection of personal data with the Regulation of the EU on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on free movement of such data (GDPR). It will also implement the project *Reform of the collection and processing of statistical data in public administration* under the Operational Programme *Effective Public Administration* and prepare the project *Unified Information System for the collection and analysis of statistical data in the National Statistical System*, to be carried out under the Operational Programme *Integrated Infrastructure*. Another of the priorities of the SOSR will be the fulfilment of the prescribed IT security framework of Eurostat, thereby increasing the Office's IT security to a uniform European level which is a precondition for microdata exchange of the national statistical systems.



Organizational structure

applicable as of Dec. 31, 2017





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