

SK EU2016



STATISTICAL  
OFFICE  
OF THE SLOVAK  
REPUBLIC



# ANNUAL REPORT

of the Statistical Office  
of the SR **2016**

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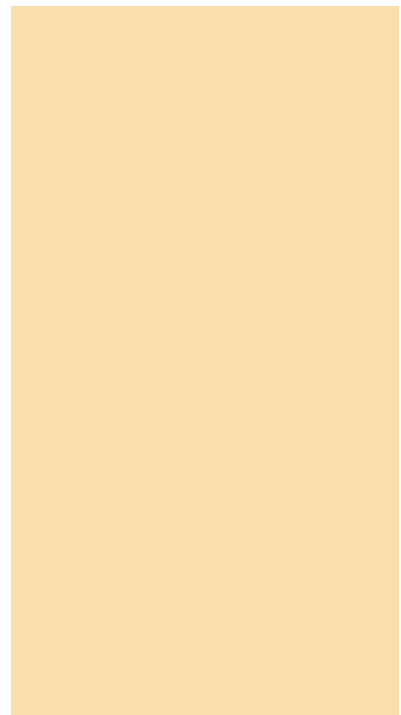
# Introduction

*„Last year the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, for the first time in history, it must be emphasized that successfully, has accomplished a task of chairing the meetings of the Council Working Party on Statistics and the European Statistics Day was also commemorated for the first time. Within modernisation of price statistics, a new term “scanner data” has emerged, a complex electronic data capture was launched and the Register of Legal Entities has been declared a reference register. The results of the elections to the National Council of the Slovak Republic were processed via the Integrated Election Information System and the concept of the 2021 Population and Housing Census which will be a combined use of administrative data and field surveys has been prepared. This is one way of characterising the most important milestones of 2016 from the perspective of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic (SO SR),,“*

*Alexander Ballek*



Alexander Ballek  
President  
of the Statistical Office of the SR



## Successful presidency

During the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU, the SO SR has been chairing the meetings of the Council Working Party on Statistics, where two Commission legislative proposals—the integrated regulation for European statistics on persons and households (IESS) and the proposal for the extension of the European Statistical Programme until 2020, have been discussed. The results of the work carried out by the Presidency Team were assessed positively by the highest representatives of Eurostat.

## European Statistics Day

In connection with the declaration of the first European Statistics Day, various activities were organized by the Office in order to raise awareness of official statistics. One of these was the conference Statistics- A mirror of society. The event was held under the patronage of Eurostat and it was focused on the Office's relations as a producer of official statistics with their users from scientific and scholarly community, state and local government, banking sector, business sphere and the media.

## Electronic data capture is self-evident

Since the beginning of 2016, electronic data capture is mandatory for all reporting units (legal entities, entrepreneurs). Electronization of processes led to administrative burden reduction and enabled the harmonisation of deadlines for the submission of certain statistical forms with the deadlines to submit VAT statements or income tax. It enabled the reporting units to gain greater comfort in completion of statistical return forms and it resulted in improvement of data processing as well.

## RLE is a reference register

The Register of Legal Entities (RLE) has been declared a reference register by enrolling in a list of reference data, managed by the Deputy Prime Minister's Office for Investments and Informatization of the Slovak Republic, applicable from 16 May 2016. By declaring it a reference, the RLE became an obligatory data source on legal entities for other public authorities.



## Elections to the National Council of the Slovak Republic processed in IEIS

In March 2016, elections to the National Council of the SR took place whose results were processed comprehensively, for the first time, in the Integrated Election Information system (IEIS). Despite the proven hacking attacks on the communication network, the processing of the election results was not threatened or suspended.

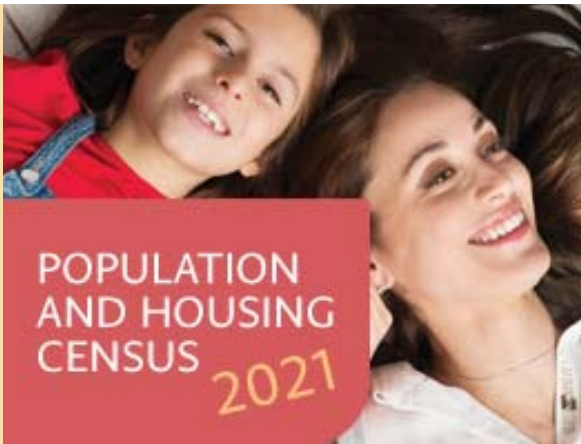
order to reduce administrative burden for citizens. The activities undertaken included definition of the objective of the census, its conceptual design, information intended for the government on the 2021 Census preparations (August 2016), analysis of selected administrative sources, methodology and proposals for their integration, preparation of the Action Plan's draft for 2017 - 2020 and other activities.

## Updated ESA 2010 methodology

Drawing up the new version, the so-called Sources and Methods for the compilation of the Gross National Income of Eurostat (GNI Inventory-SK, ESA 2010) was extremely important, containing the updated ESA methodology. This document describes the compilation method of key macroeconomic indicators GDP/GNI (gross national product/gross national income), including the quantification of individual calculation components. It is therefore a basis for the legality assessment of the used procedures in the new verification cycle, launched by Eurostat in autumn 2016 in the context of GNI-based fourth EU own resource.

## FRIBS

In the Business Statistics Section, there were continuing works regarding the preparation of the legal framework for FRIBS (Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics) integrating the entire production process of business statistics. FRIBS therefore concerns also the External trade statistics-



## The 2021 Census will be integrated

One of the priority projects of 2016, was the preparation for the 2021 Population and Housing Census. It focused on the proposed realisation concept of the integrated census which is a combination of data from administrative sources, registers and field data in

covering micro-data exchange on intra-EU exports between the EU Member States, with a greater focus on statistical outputs and allowing greater flexibility in the use of different data sources.

## Farm Structure Survey

In the field of agricultural statistics, we focused on the preparation of the Farm Structure Survey 2016, conducted tri-annually on the basis of equal methodology for all EU Member States. This survey aims at ensuring complete information on the Slovak agriculture, compatible with the requirements of European legislation, necessary for creating a single framework for the production of comparable statistics on the structure of agricultural holdings and agricultural production methods.

## Scanner Data as prognostication of the further development of the official statistics

One of the Office's modernisation activities is the use of transaction data (so-called scanner data) for the calculation of consumer price index. Scanner data are directly obtained from traders, containing information on prices, the quantity of goods sold and turnovers for individual products. These data can complement or completely replace the traditional data collection for prices and serve as a basis for the calculation of price indices. The SO SR participated in the European funding programme Modernisation of

price statistics- the use of scanner data. Within the project, negotiations with supermarket chains have started, discussing further cooperation on the provision of scanner data for price statistics. In parallel to negotiations, the methodology has been produced and the suitable IT solutions for data procession and implementation have been sought, obtained into the statistical production from supermarket chains.

## The roles of the statistical office within the 2030 Agenda

On 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015, at its 70<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the UN approved a document "Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", the new development agenda consisting of 17 sustainable development goals. It is a sustainable development agenda which is not focusing solely on aid for developing countries, for the first time in history, but drawing attention to the planet Earth as a whole. Subsequently in March 2016, the UN Statistical Commission endorsed a global list of 241 indicators to measure progress towards the targets. Under the SR Government Decree, the SO SR was tasked with ensuring the production of sustainable development indicators in line with the production of the European Statistical System and cooperation in monitoring of these indicators. In December 2016, the SO SR issued a publication Slovak Republic and the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. It is the first comprehensive publication for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda's sustainable development goals in the Slovak Republic. The publication aims

to provide a picture of the current situation of Slovakia within the European Union from a statistical perspective, based on principles of expertise, independence and impartiality.

## Integrated Management System and the Office's Development Strategy

In connection with the introduction of the new ISO 9001:2015 standard and the implementation of the Development Strategy of the SO SR until 2017, the realization of the strategic action programme has come to the fore which aimed at the compilation of competency matrices for the employees working in the field of statistics as a precondition for efficient increase of the educational process

of the SO SR, as well as the realisation of the programme creating favourable electronic environment for knowledge sharing in the SO SR.

The overall compliance of the implemented QMS with the ISO 9001:2008 was examined by the first surveillance audit in this certification period, performed by the monitoring organization Bureau Veritas Slovakia, spol. s r.o. in October 2016. The positive audit result reaffirmed the SO SR's ability to provide statistical products and services consistently fulfilling the needs of customers, respective regulations as well as the SO SR itself. This confirms the fulfilment of one of the primary precondition for the perception of the Office as a reliable institution and its products and services as credible outputs.





# Identification of organization

<b>Title:</b>	Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic	
<b>Acronym:</b>	SO SR	
<b>Address of headquarter:</b>	Miletičova 3, 824 67 Bratislava	
<b>Contact:</b>	telephone (operator)	+421 2 50236 211
	internet	<a href="http://www.statistics.sk">http://www.statistics.sk</a>

**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:

SO SR<sup>1</sup>:

- 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 and 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 processing the statistical surveys and determines the method of collection and technologies of processing the statistical data for statistical surveys conducted by the Office,
- k) manages, regulates and oversees collection and processing of statistical data at national level,
- l) comments on methodology of production, content and structure of statistical data and statistical information acquired by ministries and state organizations in performing their activities,
- 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 SO SR is the preparation and processing of election results to the National Council of the SR<sup>2</sup>, bodies of municipal self-governments<sup>2</sup>, bodies of regional self-government<sup>2</sup>, and processing of results from the presidential election<sup>2</sup>, referendum<sup>2</sup>, and elections to the European Parliament<sup>2</sup> and the population and housing census<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Act No 540/2001 Coll. On State statistics in wording of later regulations

<sup>2</sup> Act No 180/2014 Coll. on conditions and exercise of the voting rights in wording of later regulations

<sup>3</sup> 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 in developing the QMS of the SO SR by implementing the ISO 9001:2015 standard

Last year, further **deepening of the SO SR's QMS** was focused on gradual implementation of requirements of the **new standard ISO 9001:2015**, related specifically to establishing context analysis of the organisation including its stakeholders, systematic approach to risks consideration in the system and its processes, expertise of an organisation and thus employee competency, as well as gradual or breakthrough improvement. All these have been introduced into practice via the implementation of revised descriptions of processes, risk management measures as risk analysis outputs as well as via new approaches ensuring competencies necessary for the realisation of modern statistical production.

Within the environment of limited resources, the implementation of the **Development Strategy of the SO SR until 2017** was focused on action programmes contributing to the SO SR's quality enhancement and relating to statistical production outputs, the transformation process itself as well as the statistical production outputs. Important programmes covering the field of the 2021 Population and Housing Census and the 2030 Agenda were included in response to changes in the external environment.

In connection with the introduction of the new ISO 9001:2015 standard, the realization of the strategic action programme has come to the fore which aimed at the compilation of competency matrices for the employees working in

the field of statistics as a precondition for efficient increase of the educational process of the SO SR, as well as the realisation of the programme creating favourable electronic environment for knowledge sharing in the SO SR. Within the implementation of the Development Strategy of the SO SR until 2017, continued attention was paid to the action programmes which are part of the implementation projects of the **Vision of the European Statistical System (ESS) until 2020**, in particular those focused on efficiency enhancement and robustness of statistical production, the use of new data sources and increasing the level of quality management.

The level of quality management system was examined by internal audits. The conformity of the system with the requirements of the ISO 9001:2008 standard and with the requirements of the SO SR was tested by system audits. Furthermore, audits examined also the conformity of the system with part of the requirements of the new standard ISO 9001:2015, related to the organisation's context, as well as its expertise and the employee competency.

The methodological audit was mostly focused on verification of conformity of implementing specific statistics with the requirements of the respective regulations. The overall QMS of the SO SR has been evaluated in the annual **Report of the evaluation of the quality management system of the SO SR**.

The compliance of the implemented QMS with the ISO 9001:2008 was examined by the first **surveillance audit** in this certification period, performed by the monitoring organization Bureau Veritas Slovakia, spol. s.r.o. in October 2016. The positive audit result reaffirmed the SO SR's ability to provide statistical products and services consistently fulfilling the needs of customers, respective regulations as well as the SO SR itself. This confirms the fulfilment of one of the primary precondition for the **perception of the Office as a reliable institution and its products and services as its credible outputs.**

For managerial purposes, the **Information System for Monitoring Working Time** was used and its outputs combined with the wage and accounting system enabled monitoring and a subsequent more efficient allocation of the costs incurred for statistical projects. Based on the defined key performance indicator "production costs" the personal responsibility of managers for the used resources was achieved in order to use them more efficiently. Raising

awareness on the institution's resources for promoting their optimal allocation is essential for the establishment of the management information system, which enables monitoring of the costs of statistical projects on a monthly basis including costs planning and the evaluation of derogations during the year.

The SO SR participated in **quality management**-related activities, as well as **resources at the level of the European Statistical System (ESS)**. Last year, the Office became involved in Eurostat's initiative to monitor and manage the European statistical programme (ESP) costs where it participated in the production of unified methodology for determination of the costs and benefits of ESP projects, deciding on its prioritisation and further development. The Office passed on experiences in the above areas to the representatives of other statistical offices, e.g. Kazakhstan within the project Strengthening of the National Statistical System of Kazakhstan, Romania or at the High Level Seminar in Minsk for the Eastern European countries, Caucasus or Central Asia.



## What the last year brought in methodology

In the field of methodology, the SO SR actively participated in several important innovative projects.

In 2016, it established cooperation with the most important supermarket chains on the market in order to test the possibilities of using their data on prices of the goods sold for the price statistics and calculation of the harmonised index of consumer prices. In this field, it was also involved in the European project **Modernisation of price statistics – the use of scanner data**. Transaction data (the so-called scanner data) has been currently used in various European countries in the context of modernisation. Scanner data obtained directly from supermarket chains

contain information on prices, the quantity of goods sold and turnovers of individual products. These data can complement or completely replace the traditional data collection for prices and serve as a basis for the calculation of price indices. Working with these data represents a new and uncharted field of activity for the SO SR and their use brings many new challenges and will require a significant change of production processes. Following the processing of data from supermarket chains, an international seminar was organized by the SO SR, in October 2016, with representatives from Austria, Slovenia and the Czech Republic, where national experts exchanged their experiences in data collection and processing.

In 2016, the SO SR was also dealing with the **calculation methodology** of the increasingly requested **monthly estimates of unemployment rates**. In resolving this task an optimal estimation method has been proposed to meet accuracy and timeliness requirements.

Another project related to the **protection of confidential statistical data** was aimed at increasing the number of published values in industrial products statistics. The output is an automated solution through a programme enabling fast and simple generation of the protected outputs, while respecting the data publication of reporting units with their consent.



Within the project concerning **modernisation of EU SILC surveys**, a new calculation method for sampling weights has been introduced into practice as well as a new technique for imputing the missing data of key variables which will significantly contribute to the enhancement of the requested statistical outputs.

An important activity in the field of methodology and registers was the realisation of various **learning activities for the staff of the SO SR**. Another series of internal staff trainings were conducted on the theory and practice of sample surveys production. The training will be constantly continuing in order to ensure the continuous increase of the SO SR's staff expertise.

In the field of **seasonal analysis of time series**, the SO SR renewed membership in Seasonal Adjustment User Group. It consists of 8 members, representatives of national statistical offices (NSOs) in order to support the work of the Seasonal Adjustment Centre of Excellence as well as the developers of JDemetra+ programme which is recommended for this field by Eurostat as a standard software tool. The members of the working group, as skilled users are testing the software, plug-ins and the new programme functionalities and are exchanging experiences in this area.

Act No 326/2014 Coll. amending the Act No 540/2001 Coll on state statistics, introduced new submission guidelines of statistical forms, with effect from 1 January 2016. The reporting units (legal persons, natural persons-entrepreneurs) were obliged to submit statistical forms electronically.

The benefits of **mandatory electronic data collection** is the possibility of harmonising the reporting deadlines with the submission of VAT returns (value added tax), reducing of administrative burden, saving money, an ecological approach to environment, elec-



tronically available history of submitted returns, ready availability of electronic statistical forms which upon their publishing enable the reporting units extended time for their completion, embedded automated controls when completing the electronic form enhancing the quality of data obtained and, not least, the possibility of access from computer, anywhere in the world.

In order to facilitate the completion of electronic forms, a new module has been added to individual forms by the SO SR, in which a contact of the Office's assistance provider (if necessary) will directly be displayed to a reporting unit.

In 2016, 56 surveys were available online, which represented 107 statistical forms. By introducing an electronic data capture the response rate of electronically submitted forms increased from 154 585 in 2015 (representing 36,98% of the total number of submitted forms) to 346 208 in 2016, representing 86,06% of the total number of form submissions. If we take into account the reporting units which were granted exemptions from law, the share of forms submitted electronically would increase to 90,55%.

In 2016, the SO SR extended cooperation with ministries and state organizations producing **administrative data sources** (ADS) and thus continuing in the implementation of the Concept of using ADS. It aimed to enhance the use of the existing data sources and information in order to reduce respondent burden of statistical surveys, increase the quality of state statistics and reduce its cost-effectiveness. The obtained ADS enabled in 2016, the output improvement of state statistics and facilitating the upgrade of the statistical organizations register.

A standardised procedure of receipt, processing and use of ADS was implemented through the implementation of the grant project Improving the use of administrative sources under the ESS.VIP ADMIN WP6 programme. The GSBPM (Generic Statistical Business Process Model) was applied for the use of ADS and the questionnaire was prepared and assessed on the possible uses of ADS for the future 2021 Census. It also included the questionnaire data and the assessment of their quality. The generally used project outputs were presented in the Working Seminar held in Brussels with 70 repre-

sentatives of statistical offices, science and research institutes and universities from four continents.

In the field of **statistical classifications and code lists**, activities correct interpretation and application of the amended statistical classification of products by activities (CPA), issued pursuant to Commission Regulation (EU) No 1209/2014 amending Regulation (EC) No 451/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The Slovak version of explanatory notes to the amended statistical classification CPA, processed on the basis of Eurostat documents was released for the needs of reporting units and other statistical authorities at the Office's website at the beginning of 2016. Given the significant impact of changes in this classification, particularly as regards the section F – Construction, special methodological assistance was provided to the Financial Directorate of the SR and the Chamber of Tax Advisors.

In the field of **statistical registers**, activities focused on the development and quality improvement continued. Preparation for the delineation of different statistical units – global enterprises and kind-of-activity units pursuant to the upcoming new regulation of the European Parliament and the Council of Business Statistics, was a key factor in the development of registers. Organisational and factual aspects relating to the application of European methodology to enterprise profiling at national level were stabilized within the preparation.

In relation to quality of registers, emphasis was placed on the previous quality analysis and the completeness of administrative sources ap-

plied in identifying activities of units registered in the statistical organizations register. Fine-tuning and the subsequent full operation of functions for the collective upgrade of statistical registers, which were developed within the integrated statistical information system REGIS had significant impact on the quality of registers.

In cooperation with Eurostat, work continued on the development of the register of multinational enterprise groups, managed by Eurostat in EuroGroups Register (EGR). The outcome of this cooperation is the final EGR 2014 population which was completed and made accessible by Eurostat for statistical purposes, at the beginning of 2016. In order to map the relationships between enterprises, a new external data source has been processed and used for the first time which raised the coverage of the Slovak enterprise groups in the EGR almost by 453% compared with the previous year.

As a result of participating in the project Implementation of interoperable business registers are another profiles of 5 multinational enterprise groups with a decision-making centre in the Slovak Republic and 27 profiles of groups represented by Slovak units though with a decision-making centre outside the Slovak Republic. By realisation of the project works, not only the professional training of the responsible employees had been completed but also the standardisation of activities relating to the specification of the statistical unit of global enterprise type. Another equally important result of participating in the project is gaining experiences and skills with the application “Interactive Profiling Tool”, developed by Eurostat with the aim of ensuring secure

communication of the member states in exchanging data and information on the subjects belonging to the same enterprise group.

As part of monitoring the activities of the Europe 2020 strategy, the indicators on fast-growing innovative enterprises in the SR for the year 2015 have been processed and submitted to the European Commission, as well as quarterly indicators on bankruptcy and restructuring of enterprises whose main user is the European Central Bank.

In 2016, in the field of the Register of Legal Entities and Entrepreneurs (RLE) an intense debate with the administrators of those core registers whose data were provided already in 2015 to meet the demands of RLE, as well as with administrators of other core registers that will be compulsorily included in the RLE by the end of October 2017. First of all, it was a correction of essential or non-essential shortcomings identified by the statistical office and were eliminated by the administrators of core registers primarily in their own core databases and subsequently also in the RLE. For the second, it was the cooperation in identification of subjects and the quality control of the data registered in other core registers before their migration to the RLE via the generic register. In the transition period, during which the administrators of other core registers focused on a technical and substantive preparation regarding mandatory data provision to the RLE, the generation of the company identification number was fully ensured through 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 sectoral classification of different subjects registered were sent on a daily basis.



## Production of cost-optimal database in NSS and ESS

The fundamental legislative document for the production of the cost-optimal database is the **Programme of state statistical surveys for 2015-2017** (hereinafter referred to as “PSSS”) which is aligned with the **European statistical programme for 2013-2017** (hereinafter referred to as “ESP”). The administrative data sources to the statistical surveys of the SO SR and resorts are set out in three annexes.

Besides the SO SR, these programmes were fulfilled by ministries and other central government authorities comprising the **National Statistical System (NSS)**. In 2016, there were no changes in the list of NSS authorities and it was made up of the following 13 institutions:

- Statistical Office of the SR,
- Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development 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,
- 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.

The **list of institutions is managed and published by Eurostat** included besides the SO SR other national authorities responsible for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics for 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
- Administration of State Material Reserves of the SR,
- Institute of Informatics and Statistics.

The SO SR issued the PSSS in accordance with the basic Decree No 291/2014 Coll. modified by Amendment No 385/2015 Coll. For 2016 which was the second year of fulfilling the PSSS, the SO SR included in the Programme 5 household surveys and 79 questionnaires for natural persons and legal entities - entrepreneurs through 146 statistical forms. Compared with 2015, their number was higher by 8 surveys with multiannual periodicity. As of 1 January 2016, two surveys have been dropped. The departments included 106 questionnaires for natural persons and legal entities-entrepreneurs for the year 2016. Compared with 2015, their number increased by 1 multiannual survey. As of 1 January 2016, 3 surveys were cancelled by the departments.

In accordance with the mandate provided by the Article 12 (4) of the Act No 540/2001 Coll. on state statistics as amended, in 2016 the SO SR, according to its own discretion and based on the wishes of ministries, issued the PSSS by a Decree No 358/2016 Coll. of amendments of the PSSS, with effect from 1 January 2017. The public was also involved into the law-making process and during the

preparatory stage of the legislative material it can submit their initiatives or suggestions regarding the material's content.

The amendments to the PSSS's Annex No 1 resulted from incorporating the new requirements of statistical users which are produced or disseminated mainly within the European Statistical System. The SO SR included in the Programme a new statistical household survey entitled ŽP 14-01 Household Energy Consumption Survey and it will be aimed at the finding of data necessary for the estimation of household emissions. Further proposed modifications covered, inter alia, the modification of time limits for the submission of statistical data by a reporting unit in 11 statistical surveys in their own favour.

The Decree amended the Annex No 2, containing national statistical surveys carried out by ministries and state organizations. The request for amendment was made by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR which has requested to be included in the new quarterly statistical survey designated by the name TRADE (MARD SR) 1-04 Quarterly Questionnaire on purchase of milk

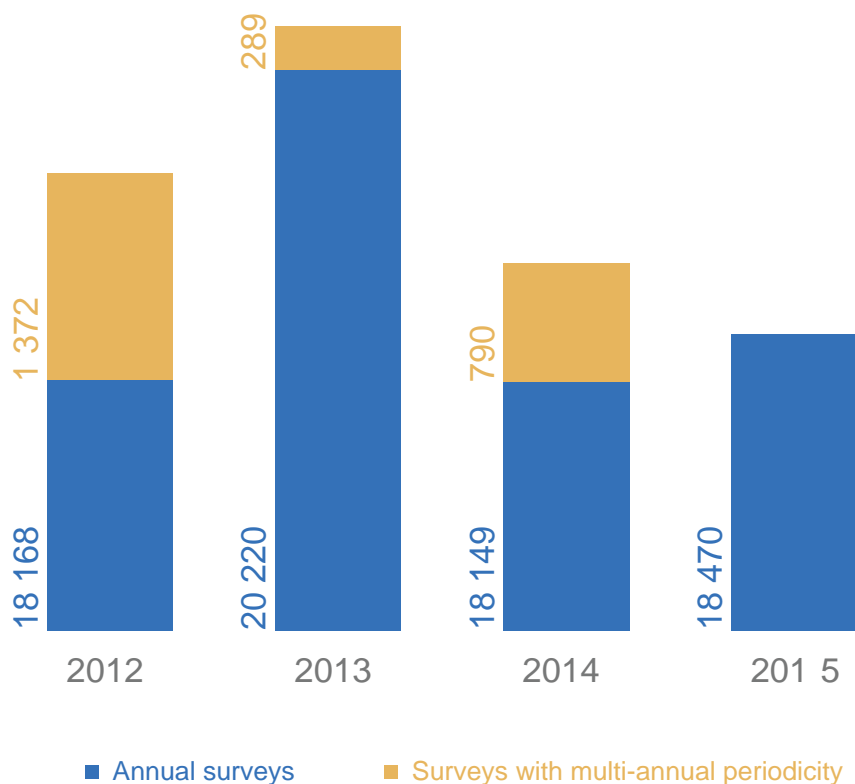


and cream and production of dairy products, meat, poultry and eggs. The new survey was designed by the department in accordance with the needs that emerged from one of the main goals “Food security and sovereignty” embedded in the Slovak Government Policy Statement for 2016-2020. Currently, the ministry has a data from primary producers and processors and it lacks data on trade. The complex data obtained will be used by the ministry for the global image creation of the functioning of the entire food supply chain.

One of the proposed changes in statistical agricultural surveys was the clarification of the definition of reporting units and survey variables for the national statistical survey designated by the name Wood (MARD SR) 1-01 Annual questionnaire on wood processing.

Integral part of the **production of cost-optimal database** is the respecting of the **criterion of administrative burden**. Response burden should adequately meet the users’ needs and should not be excessive for respondents. Bur-

## Number of items



den measurement is carried out since 2008 and it is based on obtaining data on the time required for the completion of a statistical form and on evaluation of item burden (hereinafter referred to as “IB”; IB is calculated by multiplying the number of individual items in forms by the survey periodicity and by the number of reporting units).

The SO SR’s objective of reducing the response burden until 2012 by 25% was fulfilled, compared with the situation in 2008. In 2012 compared with 2008, a decrease by 35,17% was recorded and the decrease in the number of items in forms by more than 25,67%. In line with the SO SR’s new strategy until 2017 the burden is continuously monitored and evaluated. It aims to examine whether the principle of conducting a survey in the context of importance, necessity and economic efficiency is fulfilled. 2012 was the base year for the burden comparison. **At the end of the year, comparisons between the years 2012 - 2015 were available.**

Between 2015-2014, the total response burden, decreased by 8,6% and the number of items in forms decreased by 2,6%, year-on-year. In 2015 compared with 2014, the NI of enterprises and entrepreneurs of all surveys conducted decreased by 5,7%. In the group of reporting/household units a year-on-year (2015 compared to 2014) decrease of NI by 15,4% was recorded, in the public administration sector it decreased by 6,5%, year-on-year.

In 2015 compared with 2014, the total response burden measured by the total survey completion time decreased by 3,0%. For the whole of 2015, the average survey comple-

tion time decreased from 157,1 min in 2014 to 146,6 min in 2015, which is a decrease by 6,7%. Overall labour costs of enterprises, entrepreneurs and public administration decreased by 1,0%, while in 2015, an estimation of hourly costs that enters into calculation, was EUR 9,46 and compared with 2014, it increased by EUR 0,26. The SO SR may affect to varying degrees all factors, i.e. average survey completion time and the number of reporting units for all periods during the year, except unit labour costs in the national economy. However, it should also take into account that the burden can be reduced only to the extent that the desired quality of statistical outputs will be reached.

In 2016, the SO SR continued in modernisation of statistical production which is associated with the standardisation of statistical operating procedures and the selection of appropriate methods and forms of data collection. The changes in data collection methods required certain legislative changes. In 2015 and 2016, the SO SR issued amendments to the PSSS, in which it sets out the details for respondents regarding the **mandatory statistical data collection in electronic form from 1 January 2016**. It will be fully implemented gradually, for the year 2016, 12 exemptions from data provision in paper form were provided. Thanks to electronic data collection, **the data provision deadline in favour of the reporting unit may be postponed**, from 1 January 2016, in 25 business surveys and consequently from 1 January 2017, in another 11 surveys. The main reason was the deadline harmonisation with the deadlines for accounting records preparation for the purposes of tax return submission.

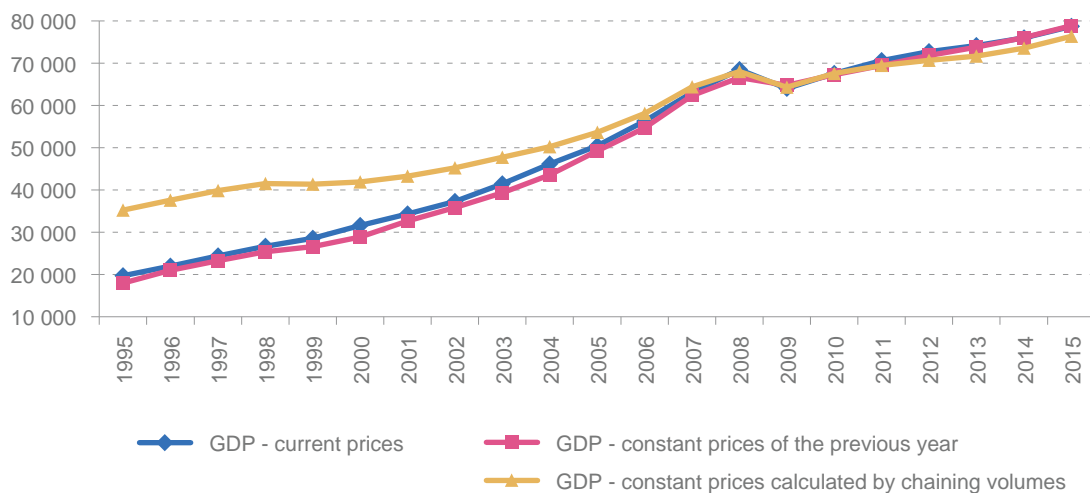
# Macroeconomic statistics

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. National accounts are compiled according to the methodology of the ESA 2010 which is an established abbrevia-

tion for the European System of National and Regional Accounts. The development of the national accounts system is in compliance with the new EU regulations and directives as one of the main objectives of macroeconomic statistics. External Trade Statistics provide important input data for the construction of key macro-economic aggregates.

## Current actual data on GDP development in time series 1995-2015

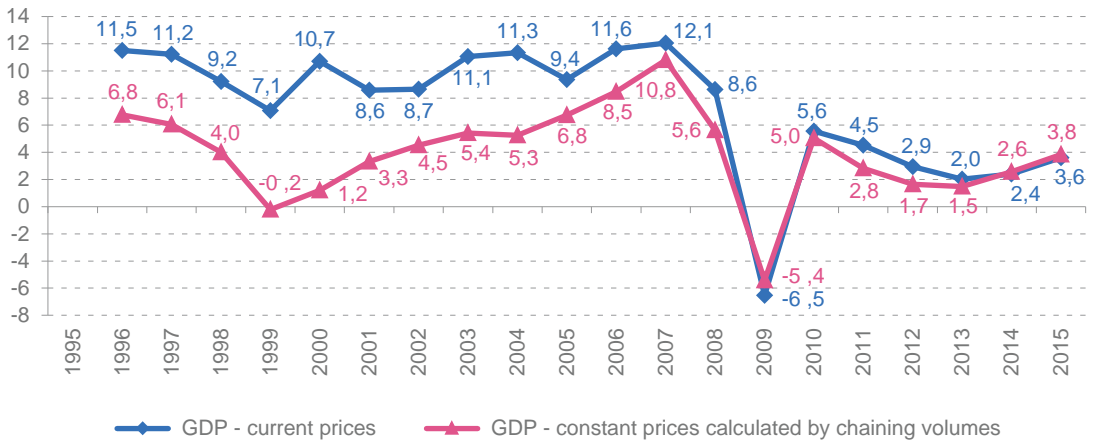
### GDP in mil. EUR



**Note:**

- Methodology of ESA 2010
- constant prices calculated by chaining volumes with the use of the reference year 2010
- years 2013 and 2014 – semi-definite data
- year 2015 – preliminary data

## GDP year-on-year development increases in %



### Note:

- Methodology of ESA 2010
- CPLY – corresponding period last year
- constant prices calculated by chaining volumes with the use of the reference year 2010
- years 2013 and 2014 – semi-definite data
- year 2015 – preliminary data

## Works in the field of the System of national accounts

Within standard works, the annual sector accounts for 2015, regional data for 2014 and 2015, input-output tables (TDP) and symmetric input-output tables (SIOT) for 2013, in the full range of the transmission programme pursuant to the Eurostat requirements, have been compiled based on the information of statistical reporting, administrative data sources and additional information as well. The standard autumn revision of data for the years 2014 and 2013

was conducted and released in compliance with the revision policy available at the website of the SO SR. Besides the standard revision, a data revision was realized in the annual national accounts due to sectoral reclassification of units based on ESA 2010 methodology in the whole time series, starting from 2005.

Flash GDP and employment estimates were provided regularly within 45 days once the reference quarter ended. More detailed quarterly national accounts data are compiled and regularly released at the website of the SO SR, as well as on press conference

on macroeconomic development and the subsequent debate within 65 days once the reference quarter ended. Data on quarterly national accounts were seasonally adjusted pursuant to the EU legislation.

Within the spring and autumn notification of Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP notification), data on notification tables including the EDP questionnaire and other required information standardly provided to Eurostat, were sent according to the deadline for the quality evaluation of fiscal data of the SR.

EU Member States are required to provide data on gross national income and data on VAT for the preparation of the EU budget. In this context, a standard draft of gross national income as well as data on compensation for small companies exempted from VAT and data on weighted average VAT duty rate (WAR) were prepared for the MF SR. In September 2016, a questionnaire on transition from GDP to a gross national income (GNI) was sent to Eurostat. An obligatory part of the GNI questionnaire is the quality report which summarised all the changes and amendments of methodological approaches for GDP/GNI compilation. Based on GNI data and the key established in accordance with the European regulation, each member state's contribution to the EU budget is calculated.

Besides the tasks directly associated with routine works, the project GP 01- Sources and methods for the compilation of gross national income by ESA 2010 (GNI Inventory-SK ESA 2010) has been completed which will serve as basis for the new verifi-

cation cycle of the compiled data quality assessment in 2017. The Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate further resolved the tasks of the grant project GP 09-14 Provision of basic information on Purchasing Power Parities, compilation of the Environmental Protection Expenditure Account (EPEA), issuance of the publication Slovak Republic and Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030.

In 2016, several working meetings were organized with colleagues from the Czech Statistical Office. The focus of the meetings was on the exchange of experience concerning ESA 2010 implementation. Besides the scheduled tasks, employees were dealing with current issues within interministry working groups.

Much of the work concerned the completion of questionnaires for international organizations (CMFB, Eurostat, ILO, OECD, UNECE etc.) as well as the preparation of materials for economic analyses of ministries and state institutions (IFP, MFSR, NBS, MHSR etc).

## Works in the field of External Trade Statistics

In 2016, there was a monthly provision of data on external trade statistics and its updates, as well as import and export price indices according to fixed deadlines. The selection of representatives serving as a basis for the calculation of price indices and the survey data was conducted electronically for the first time this year. The requested data on goods by business characteristics were sent to Eurostat.

In the beginning of the year, works progressed on the project Redesign of Intrastat, the purpose of which was to assess the possible alternatives of Intrastat simplification and reducing the response burden of reporting units. Cost analyses of the current Intrastat were developed and by comparison with that, the qualitative and quantitative analyses of the future impacts of each alternative. The final draft which was approved combined micro-data exchange on intra-EU exports among the EU Member States with the reduction or elimination of the individual flows coverage.

future micro-data exchange on intra-EU exports among the EU Member States including the ID partner/importer. In respect of micro-data exchange a greater freedom is assumed in using various data sources, especially in compiling intra-EU imports. The proposed actions should result in the overall reduction of response burden of reporting units while maintaining data quality. Domestically, we analysed mainly the possible impact on the use of intra-EU imports data for the departments in different publishing by the country of origin of goods to publishing by the country of dispatch of goods. Changes in Extrastat were analysed, arising from the EU's Custom Code, resulting in adjustment of input data for Extrastat and subsequent preparation of publication changes from 2017.

The Guide for the Intrastat reporting units, was also updated. During the year, reporting units were given 3 seminars in various towns, attended by 45 persons. Besides the basic information on Intrastat, the seminars provided an overview of the latest legislative changes and answers to specific questions concerning data reporting. Meetings with the reporting units having difficulties with the quality and timeliness of data transmission were also organized. A Consulting Unit provided individual consultations by means of e-mails and telephone calls. The collected data was intensively verified in the same way, by the staff of the Regional Office in Trnava.

Finally, it should be noted that the information provision shall be made on request, whether directly by customers, departments etc or through the Information Service and the employees are trying their best to meet the customer's needs.



There was continued cooperation to prepare the proposal for a regulation on business statistics (FRIBS) encompassing the External Trade Statistics as well. On the legislative side, the regulation implements the planned modernising of the Intrastat system, analysed within the VIP projects Redesign of Intrastat and SIMSTAT. This Regulation introduces the



# Business statistics

In business **short-term statistics**, the priority was the ensuring of Eurostat data transmission by means of the eDAMIS web portal, as well as data release of national users based on the SO SR's publication system. A regular updating of Eurostat metadata files was assured through the ESS Metadata Handler. Eurostat requirements regarding a more detailed description of certain parts of metadata quality reports were fulfilled at the same time, where the SO SR was positively assessed. In the overall compatibility evaluation concerning the regulation on short-term statistics, the SO SR was still ranked among the first category of member states with the best level of compatibility.

In 2016, the works regarding the calculation of **index of services production** continued, concerning tasks resulting from further changes to the FRIBS regulation (Framework

Regulation Integrating Business Statistics). Works were focused mainly on the refinement of the ISP calculations by input data acquisition (turnover and price deflators) at a more detailed level -SK NACE Revision 2 - for the selected sectors. The aim is to set up a methodological framework and conditions for the security of compiling the index of services production in accordance with the regulation requirements.

The outputs resulting from annual **structural statistics**, were transmitted within the required time and extent, in the form of sets of final indicators for 2014 and preliminary data for 2015 for the financial and non-financial sector. The objective and time-consuming validation process of output files has been handled in line with the requirements on the structure of defined outputs and respecting the appropriate technical format for the transmission of data. Thanks to the high-quality file validation, Eurostat expressed satisfaction with the provided data as a result of which the SO SR was included in the first category of member states with the best level of compatibility with the regulation on structural statistics.

Statistical outputs for domestic and non-domestic **foreign affiliates** for the year 2014 were transmitted to Eurostat in the time and quality required. Quality reports were elaborated and submitted to Eurostat through the ESS Metadata Handler also in this statistical field.



In statistics of **industry**, works were focused on fulfilling the requirements of national and international organizations and upgrading the PRODSLOV list of industrial goods valid for 2017. Analytical works regarding the development assessment of priority indicators for industry have been continuing due to the fact that the major constituent part of gross domestic products is produced in individual industry's activities. In 2016, there were also some activities aimed at increasing the scope of data provided for the field of statistics of products. Within the successful Eurostat project, analytical works were realized, focused on identification of the population of subjects, which would allow publication of confidential data on production and sale of products in natural terms, provided they give consent to do so. It was followed by the communication with the management of industrial enterprises in order to explain the benefit of this activity consisting mainly of the dissemination of publication outputs used in the management process and evaluation of economic activity of the respective industrial activities.

In the field of **agricultural statistics** the project Farm Structure Survey 2016 was launched. The survey aimed to provide complete information on Slovak agriculture, in compliance with the requirements of European legislation, necessary for the establishment of a uniform framework for the production of internationally comparable statistics on the structure of agricultural enterprises and agricultural methods. In accordance with the European Union legislation (Regulation (EC) No 1166/2008 on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods) the structure surveys are organized in three-year intervals on a uniform methodo-

logical basis for all EU Member States. The survey has been carried out among both legal and natural persons as well as non-registered natural persons-in households fulfilling the threshold values stipulated in the definition of a farm.

The statistical outputs on vineyards, based on the Vineyards Register kept by the Central Controlling and Testing Institute in Agriculture were ensured in line with the require-



ments of the Regulation (EU) No 1337/2011 concerning European statistics of permanent crops. Data on vineyard acreage, cultivated vineyard species and also on the structure of winegrowing enterprises were transmitted to Eurostat.

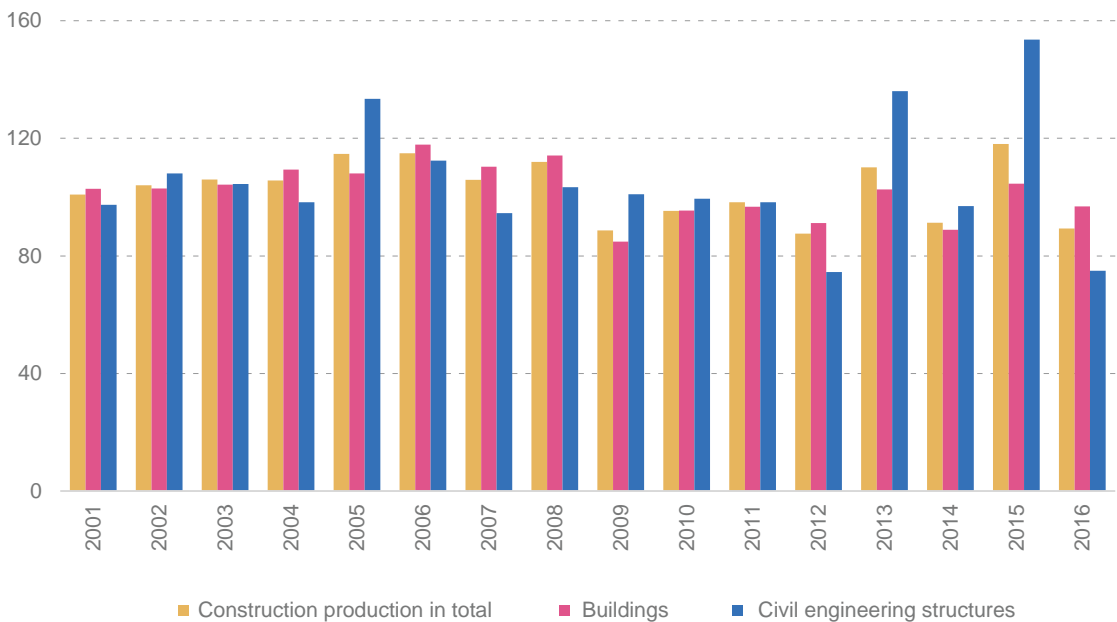
Work has been progressing on a regular annual compilation and dissemination of harvest estimate of selected crops and compilation

of the Economic Agricultural Account of the SR which is a satellite account of National Accounts. Active cooperation with the National Agricultural and Food Centre- the Research Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics regarding the data provision and processing necessary for its compilation. In September 2016, definitive results of the Economic Account for Agriculture of the SR for 2015 were published. Similarly as in the previous periods, works continued to ensure the delivery of agricultural statistical outputs mainly for the entrepreneurial sector, central government authorities and also for scientific purposes.

The business statistics of **construction, housing, trade and services**, focused mainly on ensuring statistical outputs in a prescribed structure and on the scrupulous respect of data submission deadlines to Eurostat. Increased attention was paid also to the metadata update of the published indicators. At national level, attention has focused on the monthly release of results and data processing at the Office's website, database updates and the provision of non-standard user-defined requests.

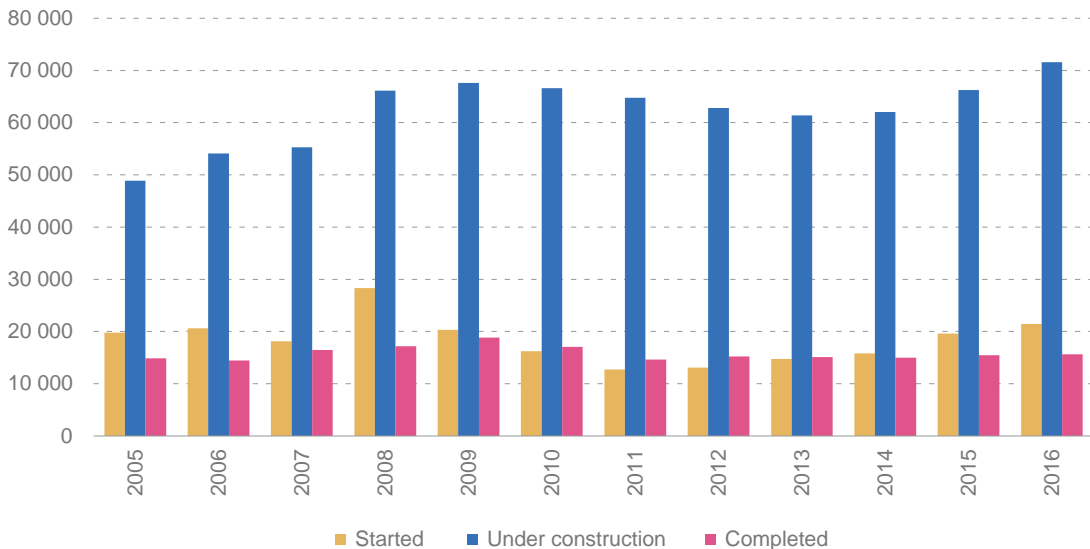
In the field of **housing construction**, activities were focused on the enhancement of a database and statistical outputs on the SR

## Construction production by orientation of construction work CPLY index (s.c 2010)



## Housing construction

Number of apartments



dwelling units started, under construction and completed. The publication *Construction of Dwellings over the years 2005 to 2015* was issued, providing a comprehensive view on a long-term development of the basic quantitative and qualitative indicators describing three stages of the construction process in the regional breakdown. It has also provided information on the attained level of quality of completed dwellings from the perspective of the number of rooms and residential and usable area of housing units.

In the field of **transport, information, communication and information society statistics**, work has been progressing on output processing pursuant to the requirements prescribed by Eurostat, UNECE, International Transport Forum, the Danube Commission,

International Road Federation, the World Bank into the common EUROSTAT-UNECE-ITF information system, as well as the national users requirements. The SO SR participated again in the joint survey programme of the EU countries on the usage of information and communication technologies in enterprises, organized by Eurostat.

In the field of statistics of **science, technology and innovations**, the main focus was on implementation of the revised international methodology of the Frascati manual. The SO SR participated in the preparation of guidelines for a unified approach to implementing changes within the EU countries, in the form of Eurostat questionnaires completion and participation in negotiations. The survey form on research and development

included new indicators and validation elements have been incorporated into the processing. The quality report was elaborated pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 995/2012 laying down the detailed rules for implementation of the Decision No 1608/2003/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the production and development of Community statistics on science and technology. The SO SR participated in the preparation of the model form of Eurostat and the EU Member States on innovations for the next decade and implemented relevant modules into its survey including the innovative-based pilot module in logistics, developed for DG MOVE, European Commission.

In **energy** statistics, the focus was on completion of the project Experimental Compilation of Physical Energy Flow Accounts (PEFA). The SO SR prepared the implementation of the Regulation No 2016/1952 of the EP and of the Council on European statistics on natural gas and electricity prices and repealing Directive 2008/92/EC. The Office actively participated in individual commenting phases of the amend-

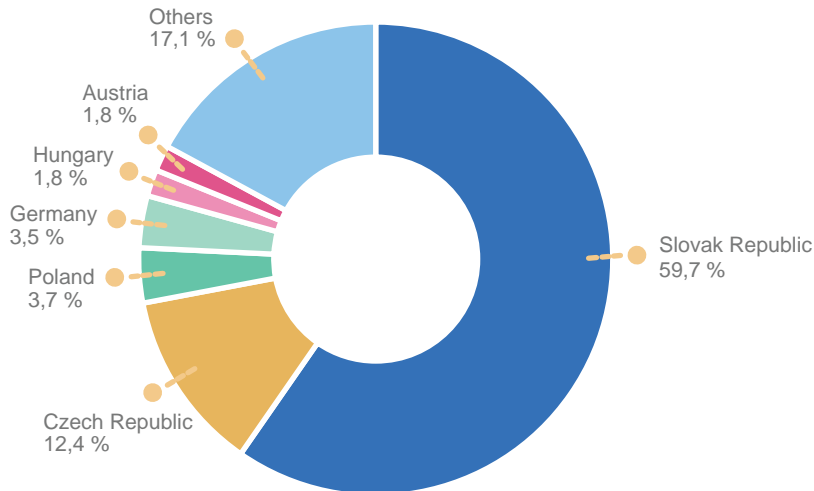
ment of the Regulation (EC) No 1099/2008 of the EP and of the Council on energy statistics and it implemented new requirements into the monthly statistical surveys.

In the statistics of **environment**, the Office continued in implementing the action programme to introduce three new environmental accounts- the Environmental Protection Expenditure Accounts (EPEA), the Environmental Goods and Services Sector Accounts (EGSS), the Physical Energy Flow Accounts (PEFA), as required by the new Regulation (EU) No 538/2014 amending the Regulation (EU) No 691/2011 on European environmental economic accounts.

All the reporting obligations resulting from EU regulations in the field of environment statistics and agro-environmental statistics, including the preparation and submission of reports, were submitted to Eurostat. Within the Survey on municipal waste, amendments were implemented resulting from the new Act No 79/2015 Coll. on waste, which came into force in January 2016.



## Structure of visitors in accommodation establishments from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2016



In the field of **tourism statistics**, the Office continued the process of ensuring standard statistical outputs through its publication system, as well as high volume of non-standard outputs for the external users at national level. There was an undergoing compilation of tourism satellite accounts tables, supplemented by the year 2014.

In **price statistics**, a transition of the Survey of Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices (HICP) to a new base period (based on average of 2015=100), was carried out, while indices to a new base were published beginning with January. Metadata describing the HICP methodology in the ESMS structure were also updated. Work continued on developing methodology for the usage of supermarket chains data in consumer price statistics. From January 2016, in fuel price statistics,

the Office has commenced the CNG consumer price survey and since then, there was a dissemination of fuel prices by CNG prices. In real estate statistics, the main focus was on developing methodology for the calculation of housing market development indicators. This concerned in particular the indicators on the number of property sold and the development of housing expenditure in property purchase. In the field of production statistics, the focus was on the revision of weighting schemes for industrial producer prices while the transition to a new base year was carried out from January 2017. At the same time, inputs were provided for the revision of weighting schemes in other surveys, to be revised in 2017. Regarding the survey on prices in selected market services, certain modules were updated, based on consultations with trade union representatives.

Last year, within the project of **Business and Consumer Surveys**, the main focus was on quality enhancement of the processed and published data. Increased attention was paid to the methodological definition of input indicators and the correct output interpretation in the analytical activities and data publishing. In Business Surveys, during the communication with the reporting units, the Office continued in the improvement of response rate and optimisation of data collection. In Consumer Surveys, in 2016, the project team of the European Commission focused attention on further harmonisation of questions in a unified questionnaire. In data collection and processing of socio-occupational status, an International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-08) was introduced in order to ensure greater comparability of the data covered.

The result of processing of Business Consumer Surveys for the sectors of industry, construction, retail trade, services, industrial investments and the consumer barometer were submitted to the EC in monthly periodicity and in a prescribed structure, to the agreed schedule. At national and international level, data are used for calculation of business composite indicators (confidence indicator in industry, construction, retail trade, services, consumer confidence index and the subsequently calculated economic sentiment indicator) which characterize the current and expected short-term development of business environment in a particular field. To both international and national organizations and financial institutions (EC, OECD, ECB, NBS, INFOSTAT) they serve as basis for the realisation of short-term predictions of future develop-

ment of basic macroeconomic indicators including realisation of quarterly flash GDP estimates.

Within the **cooperation with the international organizations**, in 2016, the SO SR continued to be involved in a written commenting procedure and the preparation of common opinions for the SO SR on the forthcoming **framework regulation integrating business statistics (FRIBS)**. The negotiations on the basic legal act of FRIBS were concluded during the extraordinary meeting of Business Statistics Directors' Group in October and the final version of the proposal was submitted to Eurostat for consultation between the European Commission units. During the Presidency of the Council of the EU, the Office participated in negotiations of proposals for regulations in the field of inland waterways freight transport statistics, railway freight transport statistics and the regulation on European statistics of natural gas and electricity prices.

Within **bilateral communication** with the Czech Statistical Office, the business statistics attended various consulting meetings aimed at methodological resolutions of current tasks. The cooperation continued with meetings and working visits in order to exchange experiences in the field of statistics on science, technology and innovations and energy statistics. The meetings were focused on implementation of the updated international methodology of the 2015 Frascati manual into the research and development statistics, new innovation survey indicators, fulfilment of international requirements pursuant to the regulation on energy statistics according to the directive on energetic efficiency and compilation of energy balances.

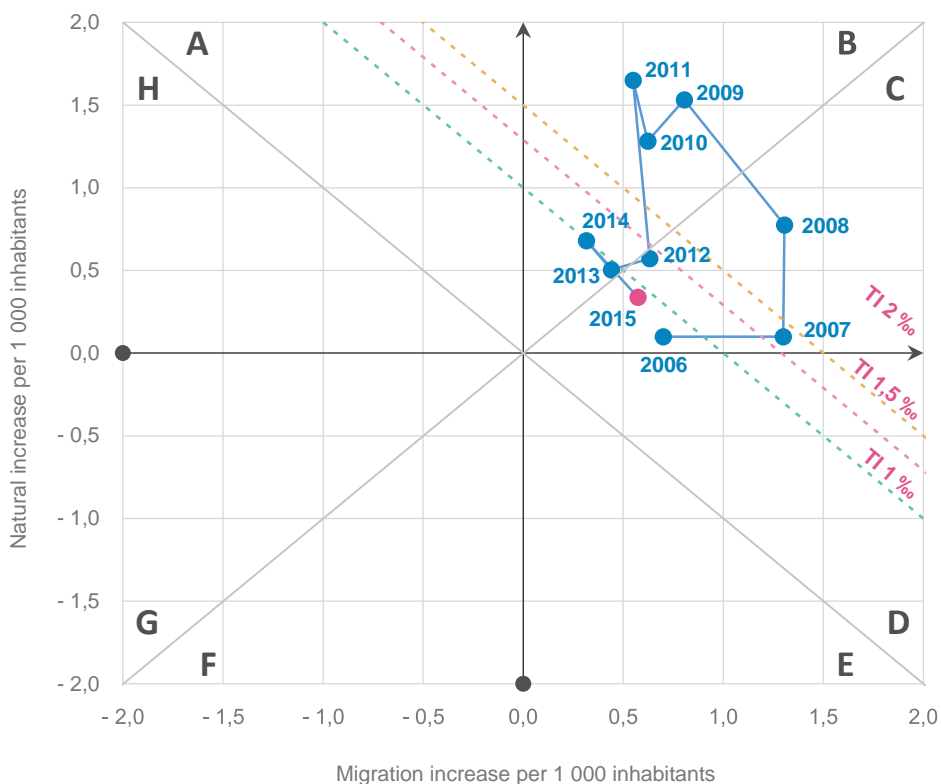
# Demography and social statistics

In the field of **population statistics**, data processing and dissemination were further developed, in 2016. Data on population movement were completely processed in a new framework of the Integrated Statistical Information System (ISIS) and, at the same time, there was a detailed testing of the selected ad-

ministrative data sources and registers containing demographic data, where a potential for population statistics has been identified.

Demographic population development in 2015 was the main topic of the press conference of the SO SR, in June 2016.

## Migration development in the SR, 2006-2015





Population development was documented also by publishing of books issued as part of the series *We in Numbers: Population Change 2015*, *International Migration 2015* and a new title *Young Population in the SR 2015* presenting statistical information on the youth population of the Slovak Republic, composed of demographic data and selected data on social statistics as well.

Working Group decided on an integrated census, as an optimal model for 2021. It combines the advantages of the traditional census and the census using data from registers and administrative sources. The main advantages of the integrated census are the reduction of the response burden, quality preservation of the obtained data and information, and efficiency. In August 2016, the SO SR submitted to the Government of the SR the conceptual design of the 2021 Census, within the section of Information on the 2021 Population and Housing Census in the Slovak Republic. In this context, we appreciated that the Government of the SR considers the Census as one of its priority, what was also confirmed in the Manifesto of the Government: “The Government will support the Population and Housing Census 2021 as the unique opportunity to acquire reliable, comparable and interconnected data on the state of society, its structures and housing. In doing so, the Government will take into account the administrative burden reduction of the population.”



In the edition of analytical series such as the *Statistics in Contexts Main Trends of Population Development in the SR in 2015* and *Social Protection in the SR*, were published as the standard analytical publishing outputs. For the first time, the publication *Main Trends of Population Development in Bratislava the Capital of the SR 2015* was published.

For the second year in a row, the Working Group of the President of the SO SR for the preparation of 2021 Population and Housing Census continued its activities. In 2016, it fulfilled its first main objective – to propose an optimal method of census taking in the SR. After considering a number of options, the

In 2016, the ad hoc expert team was formed for the preparation of the National Action Plan for the Population and Housing Census 2021 for the years 2017 – 2020. The SO SR is considered by the National Action Plan as the partnership instrument for cooperation with selected ministries, other central government authorities, organisations under their jurisdiction and municipal authorities. The expert team defined the strategic goals, activities and measures, pursuing the conceptual design of the 2021 Population and Housing Census preparation.

In terms of international commitments, the Slovak Republic, in accordance with the Regulation (EC) No 1260/2013 of the European

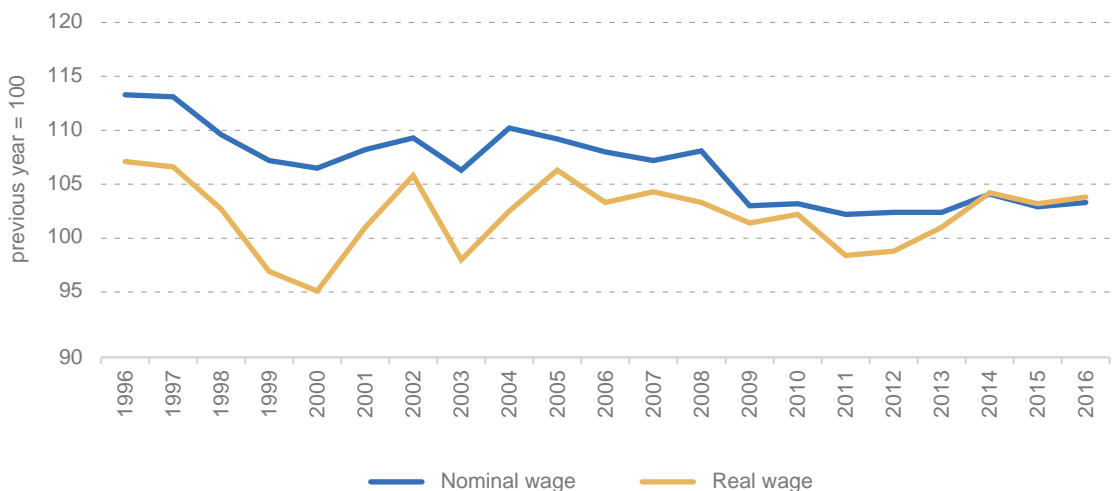
Parliament and of the Council on European demographic statistics, had to carry out and to provide to the Commission with the feasibility study concerning the definition of the “habitual residence” related to the population and vital statistics events, by 31st December 2016. The study was elaborated, submitted within the deadline and its results were accepted by the Eurostat.

**Statistics on wages and labour cost** continued in the ensuring of the information availability on development of nominal and real wages, which are also the reference indicators for the calculation of other social indicators. The basic quarterly information on the wage development in the economy of the SR in classifications according to the economic activities, regions and the size groups of enterprises were supplemented, on an annual basis by detailed data on wage components, median wage, net wage and by employees’ allocation according

to the wage zones. Data on wage differentials according to gender, age, profession, education and work time were also surveyed and processed. The overall picture about the remuneration expenditures was completed by calculated data on the total labour cost incurred by the employers.

**Labour statistics** acquired, processed and provided quarterly and annual information on the employment development in terms of enterprises and households, short-term labour migration, vacancies, unemployment and economic inactivity. In the 2nd quarter, the Labour Force Survey (LFS) was expanded by additional module focused on the young people in the labour market. The research work for the needs of the EU was devoted to the development and testing of methodology for estimating the monthly unemployment rate and testing of the forthcoming ad hoc survey of the LFS in 2018 on reconciliation of family and professional

## Average wage growth dynamics in the SR over the years 1996-2016



life. We participated actively in the activities of the Eurostat's working group for the design of the upcoming 8-year modules.

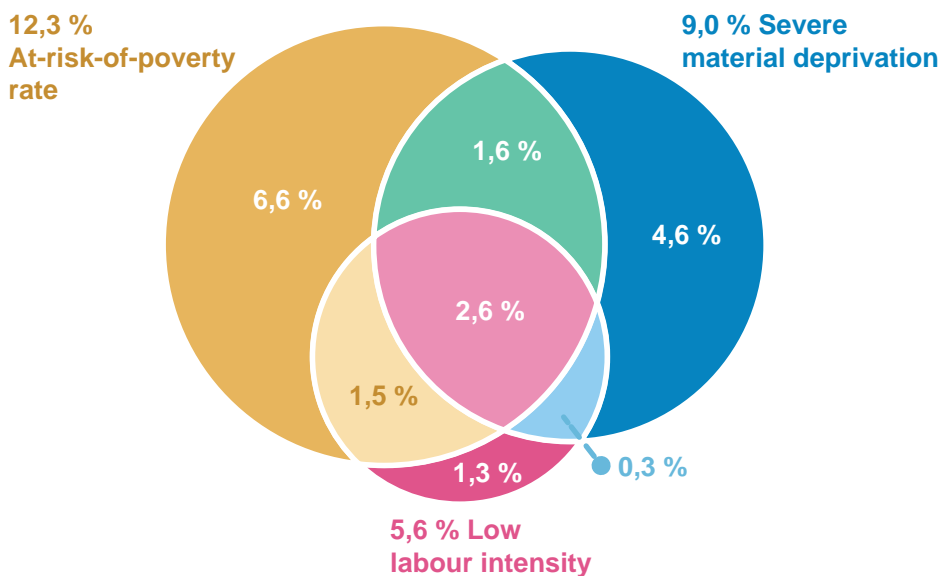
In **education statistics**, methodological preparation for international adult education surveys - (AES) and on further professional preparation of the CVTS was ensured. In the 2nd half of the year, data collection was carried out in households (AES) and in organizations (CVTS). Activities were carried out in terms of the existing EU legislation and according to the instructions and recommendations from Eurostat.

**Households account statistics** provides data on income, expenditure, consumption and the composition of private households in the SR.

In 2016, the survey on income and household composition in the SR in the 1st quarter was conducted. Data were processed from the survey carried out completely in 2015. The results were published at the SO SR's website in the online publication *Incomes, Expenditures and Consumption of Private Households* in the SR in 2015.

From 2005, the SO SR 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 2016, microdata and indicators from the EU SILC 2015 survey were processed and sent to the Eurostat and the anonymised microdata, were provided to external users for scientific and

### 18,4 % - Indicator of poverty and social exclusion (EU SILC 2015 - SR)



research purposes, based on standard and ad hoc requirements. Data were presented in two publications, the EU SILC 2015 – Survey on Income and Living Conditions of Households in the SR and the EU SILC 2015 – Indicators of Poverty and Social Exclusion.

Recently, there is a strong emphasis on the production and analyses of the main poverty indicator and social exclusion e.g. on the strategy EU 2020 or on the 2030 Agenda 2030 for the SR. Indicator is formed by combining the three partial indicators, the at-risk-of-poverty rate, severe material deprivation rate and low work intensity rate. According to the EU SILC 2015 results, 18,4 % of the Slovak population were at risk of the poverty or social exclusion.

**Survey on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Usage** in households for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2016 was conducted pursuant to the Commission Regulation (EC) No 2015/2003 in all EU Member States according to the uniform questionnaire prepared by Eurostat. The survey was conducted in April – May 2015, in 4 690 random households in the territory of the Slovak Republic. In the households of selected individuals, interviewers surveyed the internet access (internet use) and the internet activities performed by individuals: e.g. contact with public authorities through the webpages (public administration online use), purchase of goods or services through the internet for private purposes (electronic commerce use). Respondents were also surveyed in terms of knowledge and skills, as computer activities related to mobile devices or software-related activities (Knowledge and skills in the field of ICT). In 2016, a particular attention was paid

to the protection of personal and confidential data during private internet use. The ICT survey results were published by the SO SR at its website, as an online publication Survey on Information and Communication Technology Usage in Households 2016.

In the field of **food consumption statistics** data on consumption of certain types of food for the year 2014 were derived according to the balance sheet method. These data are freely available for users in the database of the SO SR in a comparable time series since 1990. Data on food consumption for the year 2015 were also included in the publication Food Consumption in the SR, issued annually by the SO SR. This publication also evaluated a development of food consumption in the SR compared with the EU Member States. Data on food consumption are regular part of the situation and outlook reports of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR, evaluating the market development in the SR for individual food commodities.

The SO SR collects processes and provides data in terms of **expenditure on health** 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 in 2016, the SO SR for the first time provided data with the reference year 2014, within the accounting framework of the SHA 2011 methodology.

# Election statistics

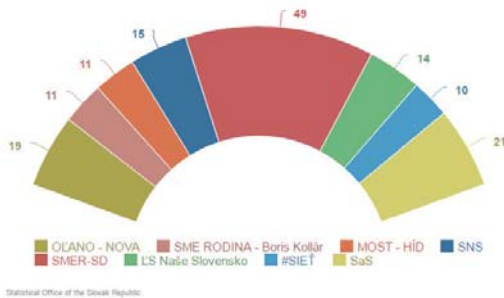
In 2016, in election statistics, the SO SR ensured the Elections to the National Council of the Slovak Republic 2016 and the results processing of new elections to the bodies of communal self-government (by elections to the bodies of municipal/local and city councils).

**On 5 March 2016, the Elections to the National Council of the Slovak Republic were held**, in accordance with the Decision of the Speaker of the National Council of the SR No 307/2015 Coll. The SO SR ensured processing of results, according to the Act on Conditions of the Exercise of Voting Rights and on amendments to certain laws No 180/2014 Coll. The Office cooperated with the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic in the preparation of processing. The SO SR has been preparing the processing of election results since October 2015. The Office established specialised summary

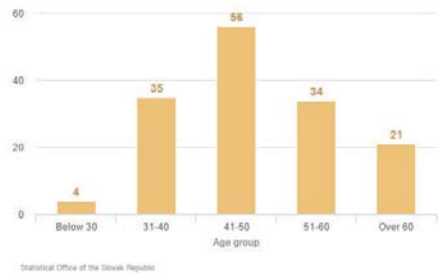
units for the State Commission for Elections and Control of Financing of Political Parties to ensure the processing. The preparation included three tests verifying the organizational, technical and personal preparedness of the specialised summary units of the district election commissions and of the State Commission for Elections and Control of Financing of Political Parties.

Final results of the Elections to the National Council of the Slovak Republic 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 district election commissions were established by summarization and approved by commissions. Based on the minutes of local election commissions, the minutes of the State Commission for Elections and Control of Financing of Political Parties was

**SEATS WON BY POLITICAL PARTY**  
Select chart segment to see age structure of MPs of the party



**AGE STRUCTURE OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**  
All Members of Parliament



## Final results of the Elections to the National Council of the Slovak Republic on 5 March 2016

Party number	Party name	Votes	Share of the vote in %	Seats won
1	Strana TIP	18 845	0,72	
2	STRANA MODERNÉHO SLOVENSKA (SMS)	4 559	0,17	
3	OBYČAJNÍ ĽUDIA a nezávislé osobnosti (OĽANO - NOVA)	287 611	11,02	19
4	Demokrati Slovenska - Ľudo Kaník	1 998	0,07	
5	ŠANCA	6 522	0,25	
6	SME RODINA - Boris Kollár	172 860	6,62	11
7	Strana zelených Slovenska	17 541	0,67	
8	KOALÍCIA SPOLOČNE ZA SLOVENSKO	1 777	0,06	
9	Maďarská kresťanskodemokratická aliancia - Magyar Kereszténydemokrata Szövetség	2 426	0,09	
10	VZDOR - strana práce	3 182	0,12	
11	MOST - HÍD	169 593	6,5	11
12	Slovenská národná strana	225 386	8,64	15
13	Odvaha - Veľká národná a proruská koalícia	3 428	0,13	
14	Komunistická strana Slovenska	16 278	0,62	
15	Slovenská demokratická a kresťanská únia - Demokratická strana	6 938	0,26	
16	SMER - sociálna demokracia	737 481	28,28	49
17	Kresťanskodemokratické hnutie	128 908	4,94	
18	Slovenská občianska koalícia	21 785	0,83	
19	Koľeba - Ľudová strana Naše Slovensko	209 779	8,04	14
20	#SIEŤ	146 205	5,6	10
21	Strana maďarskej komunity - Magyar Közösség Pártja	105 495	4,04	
22	PRIAMA DEMOKRACIA	3 595	0,13	
23	Sloboda a Solidarita	315 558	12,1	21

2 648 184 voters participated on the Elections, what represents 59,82 % of all eligible voters.

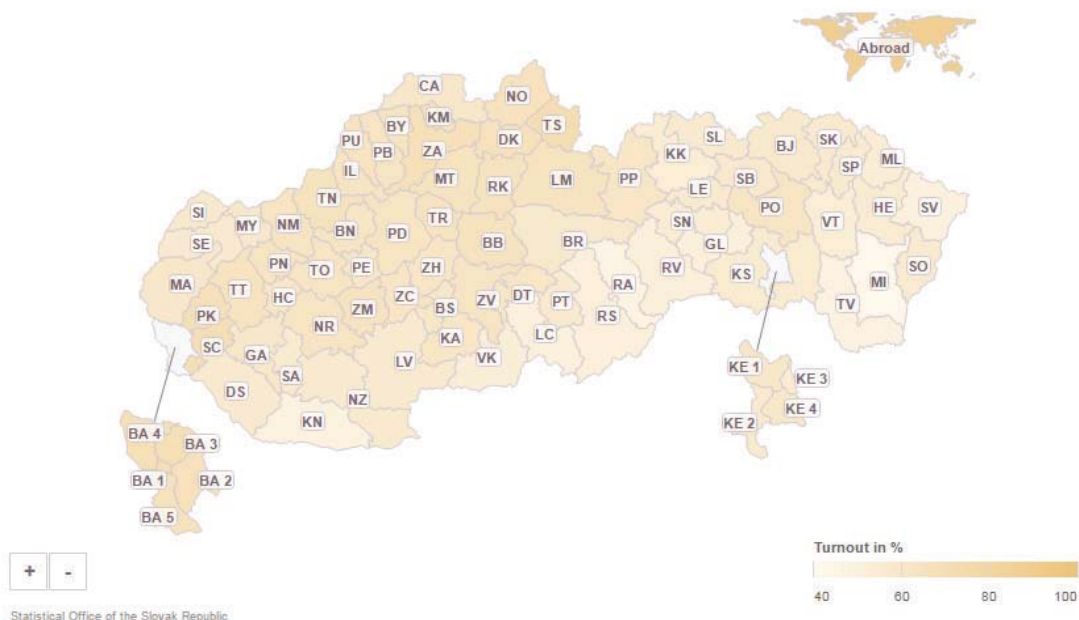
created and subsequently approved. For the fourth time, citizens of the Slovak Republic were allowed to vote by mail in the Elections to the National Council of the Slovak Republic.

On **9 April 2016** and on **5 November 2016**, **new elections to the bodies of communal self-government** (by elections to bodies of municipal/local and city councils) were held on the basis of the Declaration of the Speaker of the National Council of the Slovak Republic. In the both dates, new elections were held in 63 municipalities. Together, 28 new mayors and 35 new MPs were elected.

In 2016, the Integrated Election Information System was used for results processing of the elections to the bodies of communal self-government and of the Elections to the National Council of the Slovak Republic. It was used not only by the members of specialised summary units, but also by the municipalities, which were interested in the electronic election results processing.

Employees of the Regional Offices of the SO SR, as the members of specialised summary units of the district election commissions, significantly participated in all tasks in the field of election statistics.

## TURNOUT IN TERRITORIAL DISTRICTS AND COMMUNES



# 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 2016, the INFOSTAT met 29 research and development tasks consisting of 91 partial outputs mainly focused on:

- **innovation and development** – of the BLAISE program tool and developing a new transcoded programme for transferring the Labour Force Survey database into Eurostat codification; programming solutions for statistical innovations;
- **methodological solutions** – of the technological process for the compilation of agricultural account and the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) for the year 2014; programming solutions for energy statistics;
- **updating and development** – of the software for processing of the business consumer surveys in the field of energy and implementation of changes into processing of price statistics with monthly and quarterly periodicity;
- **calculations and constructions** – processing of monthly, quarterly, semi-annually and annually 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 and surveys** – revisions of the Input-Output Tables (IOT) and the Symmetric Input-Output Tables (SIOT) due to the implementation methodological changes of the ESA 2010 in the time series 1995 – 1999, incorporation of other revision changes of the national accounts from September 2015 in the time series 1995 – 2011 and cooperation on the IOT balance for the year 2013 in the system SNA\_NT; analysis and prognosis of the development of the business cycle in the Slovak Economy in 2016; inbound tourism surveys;
- **analytical outputs** – life tables; population balances; balance of population and the educational structure of the SR population; household sample surveys; micro-simulation model of census households in Slovakia; impacts of the underground economy in the SR on the gross domestic product in 2012 – 2016.



Within the cooperation with the INFOSTAT, particularly an **operation of the Demographic Research Centre (DRC)** should be mentioned, which in total, resolved or participated 6 tasks, assigned by the Statistical Office of the SR under the contract, resulting in analytical and methodological materials.

The studies were as follows::

- Methodological evaluation of the indicators analysing public health conditions – EU SILC and EHIS
- Design of expenditures evaluating public health conditions in Slovakia
- International decomposition of the indicator results and their impact on the quality of health conditions
- Multidimensional analysis of respondents in respect of the differences in health assessment
- Interpretation of data obtained and analytical evaluation of the possible differences of public health indicators in Slovakia – EU SILC and EHIS
- Analysis of the possible uses of other health indicators

The cooperation with the SO SR, operation of the INFOSTAT and the DRC in 2016 is documented in detail in the annual report of the Institute for the year 2016 at the websites [www.infostat.sk](http://www.infostat.sk) and [www.infostat.sk/vdc](http://www.infostat.sk/vdc).

## We serve customers

In terms of customer service provision, the SO SR continued to meet the action programmes set out in the strategic objectives of the Office. Activities carried out in accordance with the approved Marketing Plan of the SO SR for the year 2016 were aimed at ensuring of the product portfolio for national and international organizations, satisfying the needs and expectations of the users of statistical information as well as enhancing their knowledge level.

The SO SR ensured the provision of data sets for domestic and foreign customers, on the basis of requirements, which have been included in the products portfolio for the year 2016. During the year, **in total, 534 products were provided** to national and international organizations in the form of pre-defined tables, data sets and various questionnaires.

Among the domestic customers, it concerns, above all, legislative and executive authorities of the state administration, mainly the National Bank of Slovakia (41 % of the 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, **239 products** were provided **to the national institutions** in different periodicity. The obtained statistical information was used, by the government resorts,

for management, decision-making processes and for social-economic development analyses of the society. Ensuring products portfolio for international and intergovernmental organization concerned particular processing of data for the Eurostat (81 %). Other data consumers were the United Nations, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the International Energy Agency, the International Transport Forum and the Food and Agriculture Organization. In total, **295 products** were provided **to the international organizations**, during the year 2016.

The Statistical Office of the SR also realized **marketing activities**, aimed at information provision to the users about the possibilities of obtaining and using of statistical products, improving knowledge in the sphere of statistics, and detecting their expectations. The competent departments at the Central Office as well as at the Regional Offices of the SO SR organized workshops, presentations, discussions and lectures with debates. Those events were attended particularly by secondary schools and university students; representatives of the central bodies of state administration, local self-governments and financial institutions. During the year, in total, **36 events** were held by the Office **with participation of more than 700 existing or potential users of statistics**. Customers were presented with an offer of statistical products and services as well as the forms of their dissemination, possibilities and

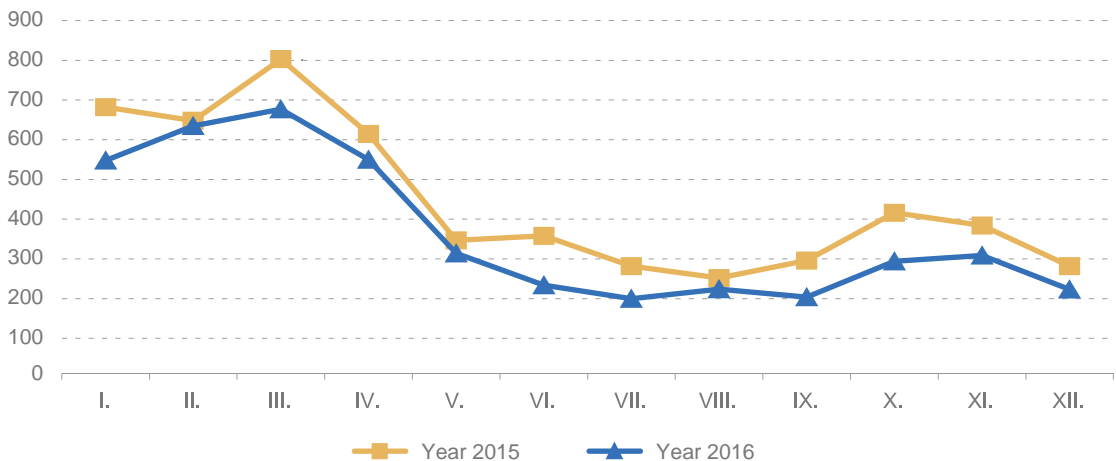
restrictions of the use of statistical information. A significant share was constituted by events focused on the presenting a structure and content of the Office’s website, public databases and the acquisition of skills necessary for the creation of own outputs. Customers also obtained information about the methodological processes, organisation of statistical surveys and the electronic data collection.

On the occasion of the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU and the European Statistics Day which the Eurostat has designated at October 20th, the Statistical Office of the SR organized the **specialized conference: Statistics – a Mirror of Society**. The event was held under the auspices of the Eurostat and it was focused on the Office’s relations with the users of official statistic data from the academic and scientific community, public administration, finance, insurance and business. Within special-

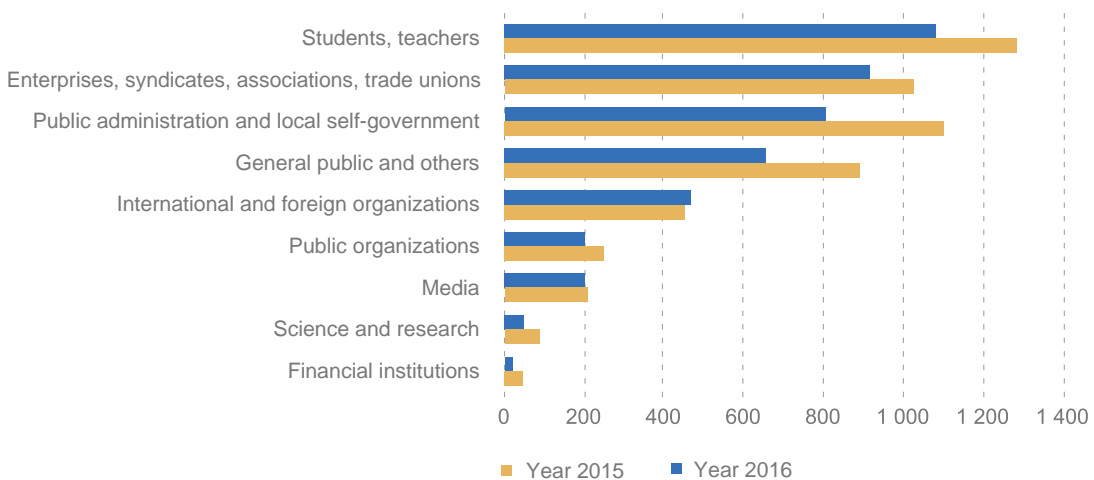
ised topics, the SO SR presented the modernising elements in statistics (information about the Integrated Statistical Information System, the DATAcube. database, the INTRASTAT system and the Agenda 2030 indicators). On the part of customers, a contribution of official statistics for the analyses, decision-making and monitoring, as well as, users’ expectations of the data availability from the corresponding field of statistics was declared. The conference was attended by several representatives of the Eurostat led by Mrs. Mariana Kotzeva, the Deputy Director General.

In the field of customer service, the Office provided statistical information from various thematic areas. In total, **4 412 requests** for statistical information were met by the **statistical information provision departments** at the Central Office and the Regional Offices of the SO SR, during the year 2016.

## Monthly development of satisfied requests by the Central Office and Regional Offices of the SO SR



## Interest in statistical information by customer groups from the Central Office and Regional Offices of the SO SR



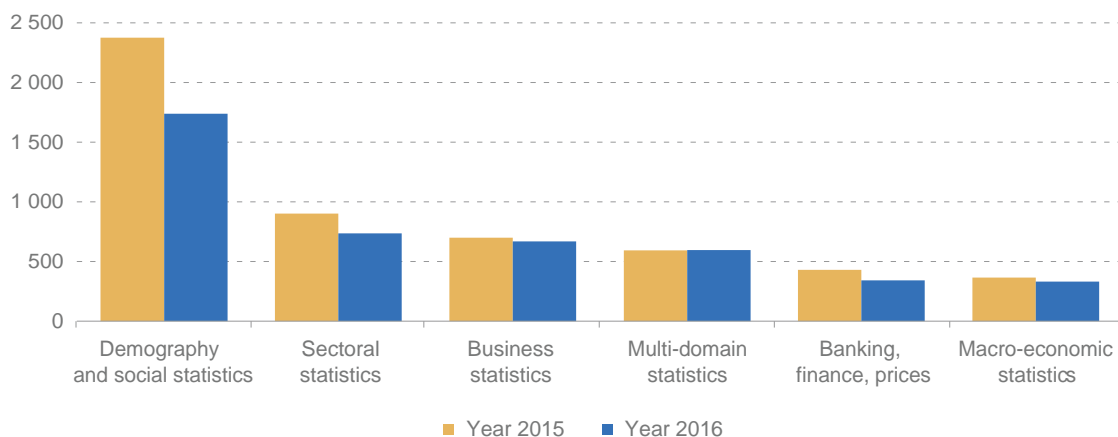
During the year, **the statistical information provision departments at the Central Office** satisfied **2 935 requests**, in total, of which 86 % were from domestic and 14 % from foreign customers. The most requests were from enterprises, syndicates, associations and trade unions (22 %). A high interest about the statistical information was registered among students (21 %), but also among the general public (19 %). A lower interest about the statistical information was shown by financial institutions, science and research representatives. According to thematic areas, similarly as in previous years, the highest interest was recorded for the information in the sphere of demography and social statistics (37 % of the requests). A considerable interest was also shown for organizational statistics and sector statistics. Almost one quarter of all demands was constituted by non-standard requests, which required processing by the competent departments of the Office. The majority of them were from the field of demography and

social statistics, and sectoral statistics. A specific category was represented by the requests for anonymised microdata for scientific purposes. In 2016, there were **22 contracts** concluded **with the institutions from scientific and academic community**. During the year, a seasonal character was demonstrated in the field of statistical information; the greatest interest for information was shown in March and the lowest in September and December.

In total, **1 477 requests** were met by the **Regional Offices of the SO SR** for statistical information, the majority of them for the local self-governments and public administration (31,5 % of the requests) and for students (31 %). The requesters were predominantly interested in demography and social statistics data.

Within the international network of the **European Statistical Data Support (ESDS)**, the Office ensured the information provision to

## Number of satisfied requests by the thematic fields at the Central Office and Regional Offices of the SO SR



the customers, who were looking for data in the sphere of European statistics. Activities in this field were realised on the basis of gentlemen's agreement with Eurostat. The European Statistical Data Support Centre, established at the Central Office of the SO SR, provided data search support on the Eurostat website and with answering the methodological questions.

The **Library** of the SO SR was available for customers and its **services were used by 458 readers** (Office's employees and external visitors), during 2016. 758 borrowings were registered. The Library stocks were increased by 645 new volumes, of which 454 were new publications of the Office. The Library ordered and registered 5 titles of newspapers and 28 journals, which were assigned to the Office's divisions. EUR 7 818 were spent on the purchase of specialised literature and on the subscription of newspapers and journals.

The regularly updated and expanded content of information on the Office's **website** was actively used by expert and non-expert public. In 2016, the website was **visited by 1 359 559 users of statistics** in total, what represents a **year-on-year increase by 35 %**. The total number of website's displays reached almost 7,5 million (by 34 % more than in 2015). The users were interested mainly in the Register of Organizations, electronic data collection, statistics according to particular fields, databases, classifications and models of statistical forms. The **uniform public database, the DATAcube.**, which is presented in form of multidimensional cubes (tables), **was visited by 34 412 customers** realizing 605 513 data extraction. In terms of the statistical fields, the users particularly searched for indices from demography, labour, organizational statistics, agriculture and national accounts. The **STATdat. database** was visited by **170 214 users** and 752 977 data extractions were realized.

The users were interested mainly in the consumer price indices, demography, labour, national accounts and industry. During the year, the **SLOVSTAT database** was visited by **7 652 users** who realized 162 675 data extractions. An interest was recorded particularly about the indices of quarterly national accounts, labour and wages, industry, demography and prices.

During the year, on the basis of the action plan of the Open Government Action Plan, the SO SR added 20 new datasets in the field of the Elections to the National Council of the SR in 2016 to the open data portal (<http://data.gov.sk/>). In selecting the datasets, the Office considered the importance and public demands for the most requested data. By the end of 2016, 35 organizations published 1 063 datasets, in total, on the open data portal. The **SO SR released 606 datasets**, therefore it remains the notable leader in the field of the open statistical data and metadata approach.

In accordance with the **Catalogue of Publications 2016**, the Office published **75 publications** in total, during the year. **6 titles** were published **beyond** the Catalogue. Among the crucial publications belonged: Statistical Yearbook of the SR 2016, Regional Statistical Yearbook of Slovakia 2016 and sectorial yearbooks. In terms of publication activity, the Office paid a significant attention to the creation of value-added products, with analytical texts and visualisation tools. Such as e.g.: Slovak Republic in Figures 2016, Our Regions, Statistics in Context – Main Trends of population development in Bratislava 2015, Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic – Past and Present, Slovak Republic and Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030, Slovakia in the EU 2016, Construction of Dwellings over the Years 2005 to 2015, Social Protection in the Slovak Republic 2016 (ESSPROS). Furthermore, in total, **19 types of information and promotional newsletters** from different statistical fields were published. All publications were available on the Office's website.



## We publish the Journal Slovak Statistics and Demography

Even in 2016, the **Slovak Statistics and Demography** continued to maintain a level corresponding the scientific peer-reviewed journal, By applying the Principles of Publication Ethics and by the Editorial Board's fair approach to the authors and the reviewers a favourable environment for creative cooperation has been successfully created As a result, articles of new authors were also published presenting interesting scientific achievements by using statistical methods and procedures.

Four numbers of the journal were published in 2016. They were fully released at the Office's website [www.statistics.sk](http://www.statistics.sk) following a three months after the issuing of the print version, and it was welcomed positively by the readers. Despite the electronic version of the Journal, the number of subscribers of the Slovak Statistics and Demography started to increase slightly.

Every year, readers can look forward to one monothematic issue, focused on the specific fields of Slovak Statistics and Demography. In 2016, the scientific, peer-reviewed Journal's focus of attention was primarily on children and youth. There were several reasons why the Editorial Board decided to elaborate this topic. It was primarily relying on the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for youth for the years 2014 – 2020. The document underlines the specific needs of children and young people, which need to be taken into account, during their preparation for social and professional



life. Children and youth belong to the most vulnerable groups of society, but also the major source for social development. Thus, the topic of number 3/2016 has a cross-cutting nature. The updated Report 2016 on task performance resulting from the National Action Plan for Children 2013-2017 also referred to the content of monothematic issue of the scientific peer-reviewed Journal Slovak Statistics and Demography as a potential data source.

To promote the Journal, the editors present the content of all issues to the ever-increasing number of the potential readers. Despite being aware that the impact of these activities will only become apparent in the long term, the responses are encouraging.

All recent activities aim at strengthening the status of Slovak Statistics and Demography on the market and at its positive perception by the readers as the modern journal, which decisively work towards the objective of prospective incorporation into the international citation databases.

# International activities

In 2016, the priority in the sphere of statistical legislation was the performance of the Presidency of the Slovak Republic in the Council of the EU. During the first half of the year, the Office was focused mainly on the intensive preparation of the Presidency – by setting the cooperation mechanisms with the General Secretariat of the Council and with the Permanent Representation of the SR to the EU, cooperation was intensified with the Dutch colleagues and with the Commission. A greater attention was paid to the detailed elaboration of legislative acts which were in the ratification process at the beginning of the year. Following the beginning of the Presidency, the Presidency Team of the SO SR was building on the efficient work of the Dutch colleagues and formally completed the adoption of four statistical legislative acts: the regulation on statistics on natural gas and electricity prices, and the amendments of the regulations on statistics relating to external trade with non-member countries, on rail transport statistics, and on statistics of goods transport by inland waterways.

Within the Council Working Party on Statistics, the Presidency Team of the SO SR focused on two particularly significant legislative proposals, which were adopted by Commission at the end of August and at the beginning of September. The proposal for a regulation on extension of the European Statistical Program for the years 2018 – 2020 which establishes a legisla-

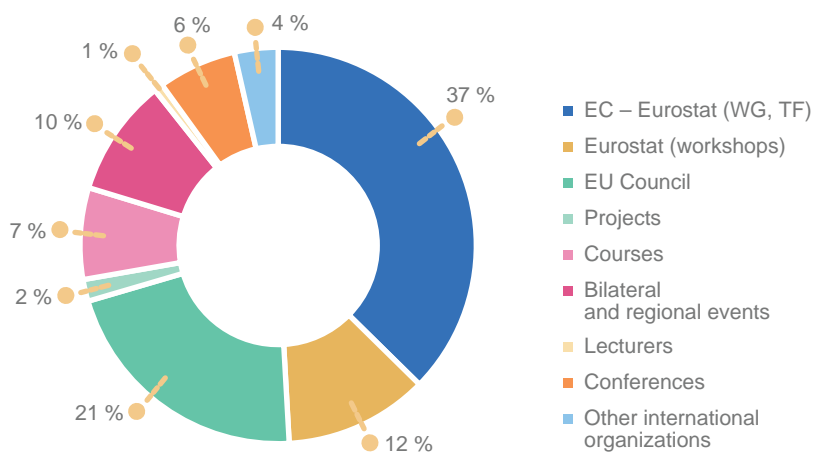


tive framework and priorities of the European statistics including the budget was successfully concluded by the agreement of a compromise text and with adoption of a general approach by the Permanent Representatives Committee. The integrated regulation on European statistics relating to persons and households was the first regulation in the field of statistics, presented by the Commission in the framework of legislation simplification – the „REFIT“. The Presidency Team of the SO SR contributed to the significant advance in the proposal negotiations by the written comment process as well as by direct negotiation on the working group meeting. Considering the scope, complexity and diversity of approaches on the part of the Member States, the Maltese Presidency will continue in the adoption process and will build on the approach and the results achieved by the SK PRES.

In December 2016, another two proposals of statistical legislative acts were presented by the Commission – i.e. the framework regulation in the field of agricultural statistics which is



## The percentage share of particular event types within the foreign trips



relevant also for the preparation of the Farm Structure Survey planned for 2020 and the amendment of the regulation on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) as far as the territorial typologies are concerned.

In 2016, **six legislative acts** were adopted in the field of statistics – besides **four regulations** adopted **during the Slovak Presidency** there were the regulation on harmonised indices of consumer prices and the amendment of the regulation regarding the balance of payments statistics which were adopted in the first half of the year. The field of implementing regulations was much wider for statistics. In 2016, **57 non-legislative acts** were adopted for statistics.

In September, a **memorandum of understanding** was signed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development where both sides declared their interest in cooperating in the sphere of technical assistance provision to

third countries in order to improve their statistical system in the field of collection, processing and dissemination of statistical information. Both sides were committed to, plan joint activities, share knowledge and experiences, organize common meetings, trainings, conferences and workshops and provide experts and facilities.

Several **international events** in Slovakia were organized by the Office. In particular, it concerned the exchange of experiences in terms of bilateral cooperation and visits of experts from the Eurostat. The most remarkable event was the **conference: Statistics – a Mirror of Society** which was held under the auspices of the Eurostat and on the occasion of the Slovak Presidency in the Council of the EU and the European Statistics Day.

Within the European Statistics System, the Office's representatives participated in 54 meetings of the working group responsible for the

implementation of EU legislation in various spheres of statistics; on 16 smaller work groups (so called task force) and on 4 expert groups, which are supposed to develop a new methodology and instruments. The Office's managers attended the meetings of director groups and management committees. The heads of the EU Statistical Offices met on an annual basis in four meetings of the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC), four meetings of the Partnership Group and in the DGINS Conference. As for knowledge and competence acquisition the Office's representatives participated in 26 workshops and five representatives of the Office were sent to attend the meetings realised within the projects co-financed with EU funds.

During the Presidency, the Office's representatives participated more intensively in the events organized by the Council of the EU. 60 individual travels were realized in respect of these activities.

The expert groups meetings of the international organizations such as the OECD and the UNECE were attended by the Office's representatives, and they also actively participated in 12 international conferences abroad.

In terms of bilateral and regional cooperation, 27 representatives travelled to the neighbouring countries.

In total, **209 foreign trips** were organized by the Office, which represented 280 individual travels. The travels were realized mainly to the seat of the Eurostat in Luxembourg and to the seat of the Council of the EU in Brussels.

During the last year of the project realization aiming at the **Kazakhstan's statistical system development**, in which the Office participated as the member of the international consortium, the study visit of representatives of the Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Statistics took place in the Office focusing the quality management.

In August, the **President of the Czech Statistical Office** Ms. Iva Ritschelová with the vice-presidents visited the Office. The purpose of the visit was exchange of experience in the field of the ICT security during elections and the financing of the elections and the household budget survey.

The Office applied for **16 new grant projects** co-founded by the EU aiming at the introduction of new statistical tools and methods.



## Human resources

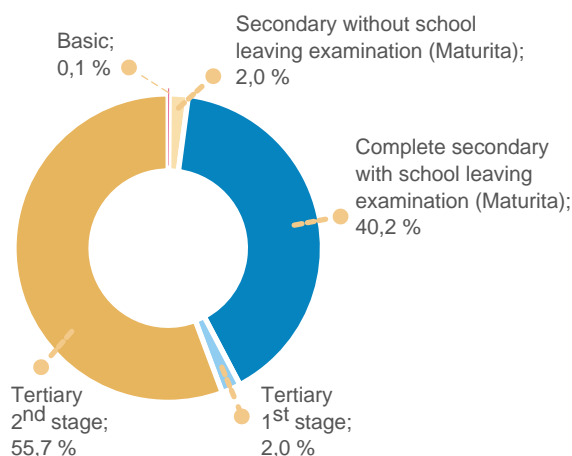
In 2016, 810,4 employees (the average registered recalculated number) were employed in the SO SR, of whom 301,2 at the Office's Central and 509,2 employees at the Regional Offices of the SO SR (including the Section of Industrial Data Collection and Processing and Field Surveys in Banská Bystrica). In the national budget, in the chapter concerning the SO SR, the number of posts was curtailed to 826, while in the Central Office, 1 post was established for the specific tasks associated with the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

78,4 % women and 21,6 % men worked at the Office. Out of 125 managers, there were 69,6 % women and 30,4 % men.

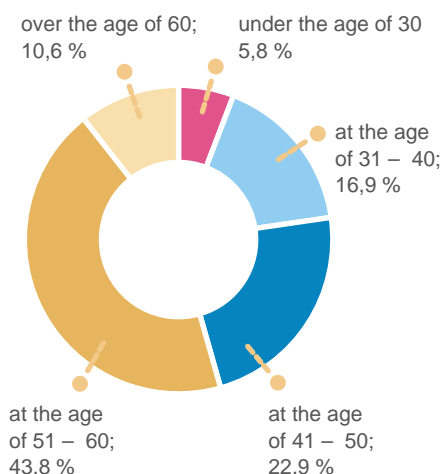
In 2016, the available budget of the SO SR was EUR 9 395 674 for salary appropriations (in the amount are also included salary appropriations intended for the SK PRES, and for the Elections to the National Council of the SR). For the period January – December 2016, the expenditure was EUR 9 395 481, hence the limit for the obligatory indicator

On 31 December 2016, education and age structure of the Office's staff was as follows:

### Educational structure



### Age structure





for wages, salaries, pays, and others personal surcharge was complied, in 2016 has been respected.

The basis for the education of employees was the Educational Plan of Employees of the SO SR for 2016.

The priorities in the sphere of professional education were the activities related to the transition to the electronic data collection, by the preparation of the team members of the SO SR for the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU and with results processing of the Elections to the National Council of the SR in 2016.

The Office's employees, who participated in foreign education activities, not only enriched their expertise but also had a chance to exchange the knowledge and experiences on the national and European statistical system with other participants. In 2016, 60 foreign education activities were at-

tended by the Office's employees (international educational workshops, seminars and conferences, foreign courses and consultations regarding the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU). 19 professional courses within the European Statistical Training Programme were part of the total number of foreign education activities. The Office's two representatives participated in the ESTP courses as lecturers. In terms of further professional development, the Office's employees took part in education concerning legislative issues in the sphere of wages, taxes, social and health insurance, accounting, public procurement, human resources management etc.

The language training was provided through the semi-intensive English courses.

During the last year, 969 educational activities were realized for 5 336 participants, in total. In 2016, EUR 44 360 were used by the Office for educational purposes.

# Information systems and information and communication technologies

Since 1 January 2016, the SO SR started entirely using electronic source data collection from reporting units which are obliged to submit statistical reports electronically, after entry into force of the Article 18 of the Act No 540/2001 Coll. on State Statistics, as amended. By changing the data collection method from combined to a paper-based, the response rate and the quality of obtained data have also increased. Electronic collection also contains sophisticated controls, helping users while completing data or in certain cases pre-fill the data for users. The functionalities extension for managing user accounts of reporting units was part of the electronic collection implementation.

Simultaneously, more and more administrative sources are involved, which help improving the statistical output quality, as they are used as complementary sources of statistical data. In some cases, they replace data obtained through statistical reports thus reducing the administrative burden or pre-filled data for the reporting units via sophisticated algorithmization.

With effect from 16 May 2016, the Register of Legal Entities (RLE) was declared as a reference register by entering on the reference data list maintained by the Deputy Prime Minister's Office for Investments and Informatization of the SR. By declaring it as a reference register, the RLE became mandatory data source of legal entities for other public authorities for the

purpose of proceedings relating to rights, interests protected by law or responsibilities of persons in accordance with the Article 17(5) of the Act No 305/2013 Coll. on the e-Government. That means, if a person acts in the proceedings against a public authority after that date and it has to demonstrate the reference data, the public authority is obligated to use reference data for this purpose and it cannot ask for that data from the person during the proceedings.

The RLE does not contain data from all source registers because the Act foresees a two-year transitional period after the Act on the RLE enters into force i.e. to 31 October 2017. The above-mentioned transitional period was set out so that other source registers shall be able to carry out the implementation works of their systems for data provision immediately after data entry, as required by law.

At the end of 2016, the Register merged data from the 12 registers under the Ministry of Justice of the SR and under the Ministry of Interior of the SR:

1. Business Register
2. Register of Associations of Municipalities
3. Register of Associations of the Owners of Residential and Non-residential Premises

4. Register of the Interest Associations of Legal Persons
5. Trade Register
6. Register of Political Parties and Political Movements
7. Register of Foundations
8. Register of Non-investment Funds
9. Register of Non-profit Organisations Providing Generally Beneficial Services
10. Evidence of Civil Associations
11. Register of Trade Union Organisations and Employers' Associations
12. Register of Organisations with the International Element

The Management Information System (MIS) was implemented and afterwards has been tested by using own human resources and it was based on prior analyses and proposal. Finalization of the testing phase and its subsequent putting into operation is planned for 2017. The MIS's objective is the possibility of monitoring projects costs, activities, cost centres and the time of employees, as well as, costs for their various combinations. This will allow, the management to adopt measures, contributing to increasing the efficiency of the SO SR through the allocation of sources.

The SO SR as part of the European statistics, is involved in projects organized by the Eurostat also in the sphere of information technologies. In 2016, the Office applied for the grant: Merging statistics and geospatial information in MS – Support policy-making by the use of spatial information; this grant covers integration of statistical and spatial information. The project will be implemented over the years 2017 – 2018. Enabling the accessibility of map outputs for internal users

within the SO SR in the user friendly form will be a benefit of the project. As a result, publications intended for the public could be supplemented with cartographic outputs.

Within the project of Innovation of LAN/WAN communication and security services innovation, the implementation of voice service on the basis of the VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) took place. The added value of the VoIP implementation was the central management of network participants by the SO SR's technical support, flexible options of the virtual unit without any further hardware investment claims. The Office was also supplied with a new telephone apparatus with call history and employee phone directory and with minimum requirements for extending the original network infrastructure.

At the end of 2016, modernisation of the database environment began by acquiring new Oracle licences. The database software will be deployed in new server infrastructure, located in the data centres of the SO SR. Database modernisation will increase the availability and efficiency of the SO SR's information systems will be acquired by database environment modernization.

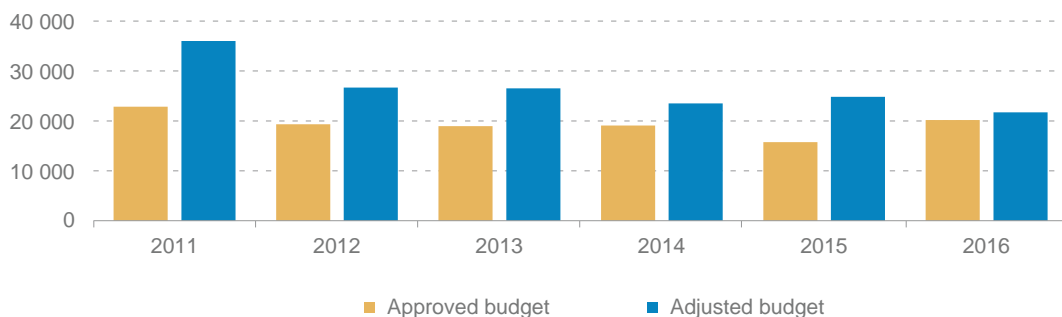
The Informatics Directorate ensured operation of 23 applications, of which 5 applications are designated for internal administration, 5 for GIS- data analysis, seasonal adjustment, data analyses and protection of confidentiality of statistical data, 3 major applications for statistics, elections and the RLE, 5 applications for national and international cooperation and 5 applications for the production of specific statistics.

## Financial results

Pursuant to the Act No 411/2015 Coll. on the state budget, **expenditures** in the amount of EUR 20 180 407 were **approved** for the chapter the Statistical Office of the SR. During 2016, the budget of the Office was adjusted by 17 budgetary measures of the Ministry of Finance of the SR to EUR 21 722 161,92. The budget adjustment covered mainly exceeding the expenditure limit by funds earmarked for the preparation of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2016 (EUR 71 694), for the execution of surveys connected with the production and implementation of the Tourism Satellite Account (EUR 309 800), for the valorisation of personal expenses (EUR 462 524), furthermore an increase of the capital expenditure limit for financing the renewal of the complex infrastructure of the ICT of the SO SR (EUR 2 500 thous.), an increase of the current expenditure limit owing to the lack of budget means for the Office's regular activity

(EUR 500 thous.), an increase of the limit by funds from the European Union and funds from the state budget earmarked for the co-financing of joint programs of the SR and the EU earmarked for the refund of personal expenses for the project Register and Identifier of Legal Entities and Entrepreneurs (EUR 429 499,92). Other adjustments were related to the commitment for the current expenditures limit in order to ensure the compensation for purchase prices of milk and wage indexation for the pedagogical and professional staff and university teachers (EUR 415 714), commitment of current expenditures (EUR 113 264,15) and capital expenditures (EUR 1 211 283,85) for the benefit of the chapter of the Ministry of Finance of the SR in terms of the Oracle License and Service Agreement and commitment for capital expenditures with respect of their possible use in the next financial year (EUR 1 142 877).

### Budget of expenditure of the SO SR in the years 2011 – 2016 in thous. EUR - comparison between approved and adjusted budget



For the year 2016, the indicator for a binding revenue limit –in the amount of EUR 180 000 was approved for the SO SR. The budgetary measure of the Ministry of Finance of the SR decreased the limit of revenues to EUR 96 995. The revenues de facto reached EUR 1 369 572, of which non-tax revenues constituted EUR 109 247 (including extra-budgetary revenues of EUR 11 017) and extra-budgetary revenues from foreign grants in the amount of EUR 1 260 325 provided by the European Commission with the aim implementing new statistical surveys. A binding indicator - non-tax revenues – was exceeded compared with the adjusted the budget by EUR 12 252.

The adjusted budget of expenditures amounted to EUR 21 722 161,92 was drawn actually in the amount of EUR 22 991 978. The real drawing of expenditures includes budget expenditures in the amount of EUR 21 720 636 i.e. to 100 % (of which funds of the European Union in the amount of EUR 323 456 and funds co-financed from the state budget in the amount of EUR 106 044, EUR 429 500 in total) and extra-budgetary expenditures in the amount of EUR 1 271 342, of which chapter was authorised to exceed the limit of expenditure, according to the Article 23 of the Act on the Budget Rules. Extra-budgetary expenditures cover funds from foreign grants in the amount of EUR 1 260 325 provided by the European Commission and funding obtained from the compensation insurance benefits in the amount of EUR 11 017.

Adjusted budget for salaries and wages was EUR 9 395 674 excluding funds of the European Union and funds co-financed from the state budget, in the total amount of EUR 319 014). The real drawing of this budget was in the

amount of EUR 10 093 156, including the budgetary resources of EUR 9 395 481 (of which EUR 498 962 for the Election to the National Council of the SR and EUR 18 072 for the Presidency of the SR in the Council of the European Union in 2016) and extra-budgetary resources in the amount of EUR 697 675.

Budget for the insurance payments and for the insurance contribution covered by an employer was in the amount of EUR 3 945 844 (excluding funds of the European Union and funds co-financed from the state budget, in the total amount of EUR 110 486), of which EUR 228 516 from the budget for the Elections to the National Council of the SR, EUR 6 317 from the budget for the Presidency of the SR in the EU Council in the year 2016, and EUR 262 922 were used from the extra-budgetary resources.

In total, EUR 7 149 764 were used for goods and services, of which EUR 792 234 from the budget for the Elections to the National Council of the SR, EUR 2 322 948 from the funds of the financial burdens for ensuring the sustainability of the results accrued from the projects Operational Programme Information of Society, EUR 572 395 from the funds for ensuring the operation sustainability of the information systems of the SO SR, EUR 69 686 from the funds for education and operation of training centre, EUR 47 861 from the budget for the Presidency of the SR in the EU Council in the year 2016 and EUR 310 745 were used from the extra-budgetary resources. EUR 3 033 895 were spent on ordinary activities of the SO SR, mainly on the statistical surveys and processing of statistical information, technical assistance services of the information communications technology, travel expenses, expenditures associated with the collection of statistical



information, contribution to the social fund, and employee catering. A substantial share was represented by expenditures on energies and communication, object security and operation of motor vehicles.

Current transfers were drawn in the amount of EUR 1 052 355 of which EUR 963 477 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 321 359. This amount was used for the purchase of software, IT equipment, passenger cars, operational machines and equipment, reconstruction and modernisation of software.

## Special types of expenditure

### Elections to the National Council of the SR

In total, EUR 1 572 967 were spent on the Elections to the National Council of the SR in 2016. Expenditures incurred mainly for the overtime payments, remunerations and related insurance contributions of employees involved in the processing of result of the Elections to the National Council of the SR. Expenditures on goods and services were spent on material provision of expert summary units, telecommunication services, technical assistance services and on agreement for the performance of work.

### Financial burdens for ensuring the sustainability of the results accrued from the projects OPIS

Funds in the amount of EUR 2 322 948 were spent on payments for the technical assistance services of the projects: Operational

Programme Information of Society (OPIS) – the Electronic services of the SO SR (EUR 1 538 310) and the RLE (EUR 784 638).

### Sustainability assurance of the operation of information systems of the SO SR

Funds in the amount of EUR 572 395 were spent on payments for hardware and software support services in the SO SR's data centres for the sustainability assurance of the operation of the SO SR's information systems as the part of the integrated information system of public administration of the SR along with the sustainability assurance of the conditions of the OPIS project outputs – the Electronic services of the SO SR and the Register and Identifier of Legal Entities and Entrepreneurs.

### Electronization of public administration and the development of electronic services at the central level of the MF SR – the SO SR

Funds of the European Union and from the state budget earmarked for co-financing of the joint programmes of the SR and the EU in the amount of EUR 429 499,92 were used for reimbursement of the wage costs (EUR 319 013,98) and insurance (EUR 110 485,94), on the project – the Register and Identifier of Legal Entities and Entrepreneurs. The project was implemented within the sub-programme – the Electronization of PA and the development of Electronic Services at the central level of the Ministry of Finance of the SR – the SO SR, resolved by the Statistical Office as a participant of the interdepartmental program, the OPIS. In 2015, the project was completed and it has been put into service operation.

## Priorities 2017

In a subsequent period, development of the **integrated Quality Management System** will be focused on the further implementation of the ISO 9001:2015 standard into the system with emphasis on leadership, risks related to the execution of processes and on the management of external product and service providers.

In terms of implementation the ESS Vision 2020, the important activity within the key quality area remains to be the active participation in the European Statistical System's (ESS) structures in developing the ESS common quality framework by integrating the TQM (Total Quality Management) requirements into this framework.

The priority in relation to evaluation of the level of implementation of the Quality Management System of the SO SR will be the re-certification of the system in terms of the ISO 9001:2015 carried out by an internationally accredited certification body.

Another significant priority within system development will be the completion of the implementation of the SO SR's Development Strategy's action programmes until the year 2017 and the assessment of their continuation, during the next strategic period with the targets reflecting the new situation in the Office's internal and external environment. The emphasis will be given to the implementation of projects contributing to the effectiveness and economic efficiency of the SO SR,

as well as to the programmes supporting the output implementation of the projects of the ESS Vision 2020.

In the field of **methodology**, the activities will continue related to the implementation of transaction data, so called scanner data, into the price statistics production. The presumed activities will predominantly concern linking of the internal classifications of supermarket chains with the statistical classifications as well as the design, preparations and testing of programme software for processing of this type of data.

The SO SR will continue to focus on the active communication with data suppliers through the electronic data collection. Regarding communication enhancement with the reporting units, the SO SR is preparing a provision of direct feedback in selected statistical fields via the so-called visualised statistics – infographics. Simultaneously, the Office plans to conduct on a daily basis a satisfaction survey of statistical surveys' respondents with electronic data collection and the communication with the Office's staff. In the field of **classifications and code lists**, ensuring their compliance with the legally binding acts of the European Union, international norms and standards will remain 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 thorough preparation and ensuring of all requirements resulting from business registers according to the proposal for a new Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on 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.

Fulfilling the objectives of the Conception of the **NSS coordination** through the approved action programmes is one of the main strategic priorities for creation of a well-functioning, consistent and coherent NSS. An annual priority is the review of requirements of the NSSP, in order to conduct important and necessary surveys with respect of the economic efficiency principles. A special emphasis will be placed on data ensuring for the purpose of monitoring the fulfilment of the Agenda 2030 objectives.

In the long term, an increase of effectiveness and a decrease of cost rates of the **database production** should be achieved by a gradual integration of data from different databases of the SO SR. The objective is that the internal statistical surveys data will be combined, supplemented or replaced by data from the external statistical surveys, administrative sources, supermarket chains and from the enterprise accounting systems.

In the field of **macroeconomic statistics**, activities in 2017 will be focused on the task fulfilments resulting from the conclusions from the Eurostat mission in January 2017 in the

context of materials for the third own resource of the EU budget (WAR and compensations), completing the activities of the grant project GP 09 – 14 Provision of basic information on the purchasing power parities and execution the activities of the grant project GP 06 – 16 on the methodology implementation of the ESA 2010. Attention will be paid to the preparation of materials for the first mission of the Eurostat within the new verification process during the 2nd half of 2017 and to a subsequent meeting of the action points resulting from its conclusions, as well as, to the preparation and ensuring of the tabular outputs of the TP ESA 2010 in context of the required SDMX standards of STRUVAL and CONVAL for all domains of the Transmission programme ESA 2010. The processing and dissemination of data will be ensured with respect to changes in the Extrastat and there will be an on-going cooperation in the preparation of implemented and delegated acts of the FRIBS Regulation regarding external trade statistics.

During 2017, in the field of **business statistics**, activities on the preparation of the basic legal act - the FRIBS (Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics) will continue as well as the preparation of the new legislation in terms of the Strategy for agricultural statistics for 2020 and beyond. In the field of agriculture statistics, one of the priorities will be the preparation of statistical outputs from the Farm Structure Survey 2016 complying with the EU regulation requirements. In several domains of business statistics, a priority will also be the ensuring of data transmission to the Eurostat in the SDMX structure.

One of the main priorities of price statistics will be the transition of price survey of production statistics to a new base period – average of

the year 2015 = 100. At the same time, in price surveys of agriculture, construction and market services, a revision of weight schemes will be carried out, while a basis for the revision will be the structure of these sectors 2015. A preparation of methodology of agricultural land survey and rental prices for agricultural land use is planned.

On the basis of the first data collection of the new research and development indicators, activities will continue on the further development of the survey and its harmonization with international methodology. Quality reports on research and development statistics will be elaborated for individual sectors dealing with research and development. In the field of innovations, the survey for 2016 will be prepared and conducted, in terms of harmonized survey in the EU Member States (Community Innovation Survey – CIS 2016).

In the field of energy statistics, activities in implementation of the new requirements on annual surveys resulting from changes of the regulation on energy statistics will continue. The first mandatory data submission on electricity and gas prices will be realized in accordance with new methodology.

The Office will pay a greater attention to the changes resulting from the approved revised regulations in the field of rail and inland waterways transport in terms of annual surveys adjustment for the areas mentioned and ensuring of the required statistical outputs for the Eurostat.

In environmental statistics, an important task will be to provide data for tree new environmental accounts (EPEA, EGSS, PEFA) and send them to the Eurostat, in terms of

the first mandatory reporting. The Office will also take part in resolving the project on the improvement of the quality of air emission account whose principal investigator is the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute. The SO SR will also aim at ensuring the preparation and realization of ad-hoc sample survey on household fuel consumption.

In the field of **demography and social statistics**, the main priority will be the preparation of the project of the 2021 Population and Housing Census. This concerns mainly: the fulfilment of activities of the National Action Plan to the 2021 Population and Housing Census, submission of a proposal of the legislative intention of the Act on the 2021 Census, field analysis, analyses of registers and administrative sources and the preparation of the 2021 Census with regard to censuses after 2021.

Regarding the implementation of ad-hoc modules into the surveys for the purpose of detailed examination of the specific areas of political interest, the SO SR have applied and in June 2016 signed an agreement with Eurostat on the grant GP 05-16 Preparation for the EU SILC revision – testing of rolling modules in the EU SILC 2017. In terms of the EU SILC 2017 survey, the goal of this grant will be to test of supplementary variables, which are focused on Labour and on the topic Health (2<sup>nd</sup> priority), according to the requirement of the ESS regulation for ad-hoc modules. In March 2018, the grant project will be completed and it is, that by variables testing it will be possible to respond more promptly to the new urgent political Eurostat requirements.

The priorities of 2017 will also be the preparatory works for a revision of the harmonized European Time Use Survey (TUS) for 2020

and the processing and production of outputs from the European surveys on adult education, the AES and on Continuing Vocational Training Survey (CVTS).

The priority of **election statistics** will be the processing of election results to the bodies of self-government regions. 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 2017, the SO SR 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.

Besides these tasks, the SO SR will continuously realize activities regarding the new elections to the local self-government bodies in accordance with the relevant act and on the basis of the Decision of the Speaker of the National Council of the Slovak Republic.

In the field of **dissemination**, the Office's long-term goal remains the preparation and provision of high-quality product portfolio and services, covering the requirements not only of the common user but also of more demanding ones. The Office's website will be the main communication tool for all forms of statistical information dissemination. The Office aims at completing a unified public database, called the DATAcube. By the integration of the unified database into the web portal, the SO SR will provide in a modern and unified way to the Professional and general public the consolidated statistical data,

thus ensuring greater user comfort at working with data. In the area of open data access, the Office will focus on the publishing of new datasets, increasing quality of metadata and data formats in terms of fixed standards for Open data. During selection of new datasets, the Office will take into account the importance and the demand of the general public for the most requested data.

Building relationships with customers will primarily focused on the meetings with statistics users in order to detect their expectations and to improve their knowledge potential in the sphere of statistics. Activities organized on the occasion of the European Statistics Day can also contribute to that.

Regarding publication activities, a higher emphasis will be put on value-added products and on the use of visual tools allowing better understanding of statistical data for the user.

In accordance with the Office's strategy, a satisfaction survey of the SO SR will be conducted by independent external agency, in order to determine how is our institution perceived by general public. The survey of user satisfaction with the SO SR's products and services will ensure the provision of feedback on the needs, requirements and expectations of customers. The respondents will be allowed to express their opinions and suggestions about the Office's activity or about statistical outputs through the online questionnaire. The survey results will be taken into account during the improvement of products and activities of the Statistical Office.

In the field of **international activities**, the Slovak Republic will still be a member of the TRIO Presidency in the Council of the

European Union until the end of the first half of 2017. Therefore, the close cooperation of the SO SR with the Netherlands and Malta will continue within the Council Working Party on Statistics.

In terms of other activities within the European Statistical System, the Office's international activities will be related to the legislative processes in the EU Council, in particular, to the coordination of positions in relation to the negotiated legislation either within the SR or towards the EU institutions.

In terms of the European Statistical System, the SO SR will aim at improvement of its own activities in the Eurostat's working parties at various levels and on the organization of the DGINS conference (with participation of the highest representatives of national statistical institutions) in Slovakia in 2019.

During 2017, as in previous years, in the field of **human resources** management, an urgent challenge will be a motivation of staff to the high-quality quality performance of tasks and sufficiently meeting of the needs of our customers. The Office will do its best to get their key, efficient and active employees stay. A significant task is the application of new Act on State Service with effect from 1 June 2017 and staffing of elections to the bodies of self-government regions.

Staff education and development form their occupational skills and flexibility. Therefore, the objective of education will be to ensure constant and effective knowledge and skills of managers and other employees, so they will be able to professionally, flexibly and impartially fulfil the Office's key tasks. A high-quality

staff training for the results processing of elections to the bodies of self-government regions will be a special challenge.

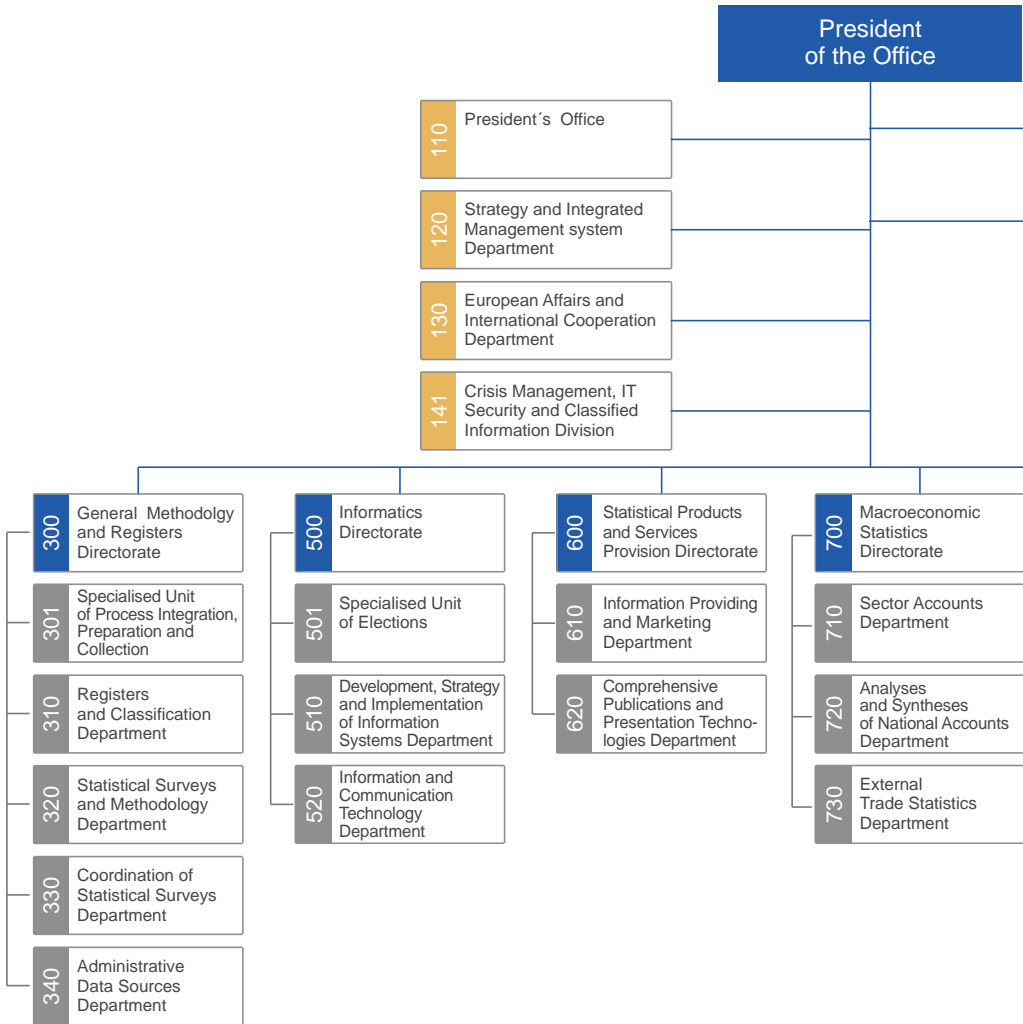
In 2017, in the field of vocational statistical education, we will start to build-up the system of staff education on the basis of individual competence matrices which will be based on levelling the differences between the de facto and required competences of particular employees. The implementation of competence matrices for statistical positions should help to more efficient activities in the field of human resources management at the line manager level.

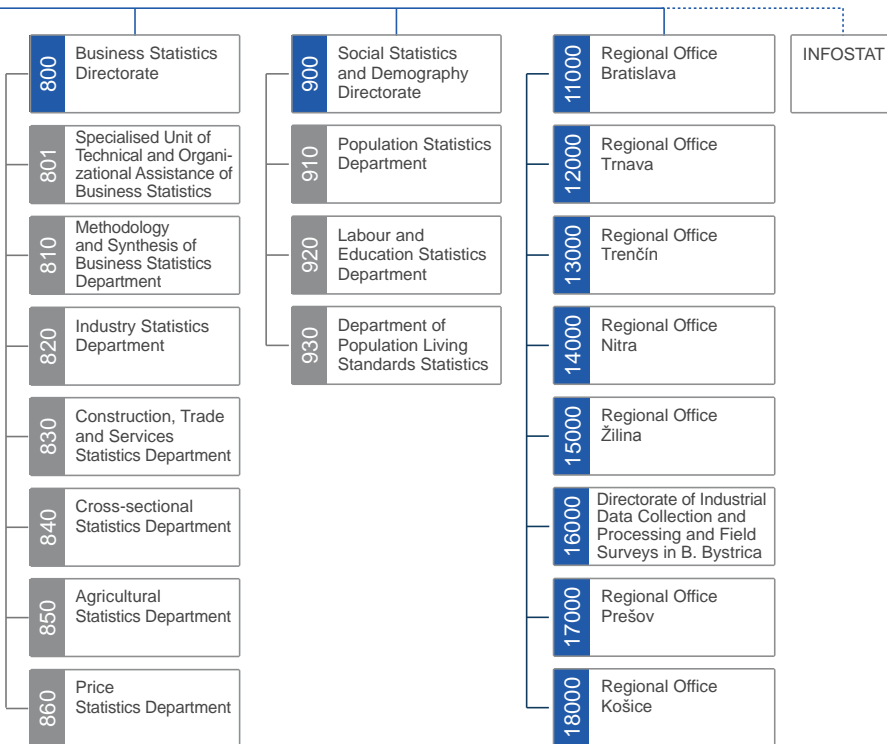
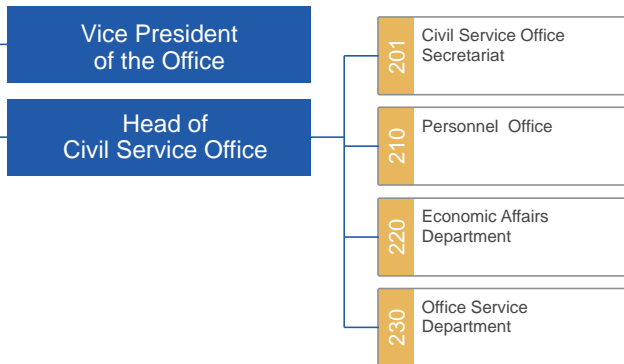
In **information systems and information and communication technologies**, a priority of the year 2017 will be the ensuring of the trouble-free functioning of the RLE, continue with the integration of those source registers which should be integrated during the two years transitional period after the Act on RLE entry into force, putting the MIS into operation service and preparation of the integration project on statistical and spatial information.

At the same time, preparation of new projects is planned i.e. the Reform of collection and processing of statistical data in public administration under the Operational Programme the Efficient Public Administration and the project – the Single Information System for collection and analysis of statistical data in the National Statistical System (NSS), which will be realised under the Operational Programme the Integrated infrastructure. The realization of the above mentioned project has 3 basic goals: innovate data collection, reduce administrative burden and increase data quality for all obliged persons, which are part of the NSS.

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as of Dec. 31 2016







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