



STATISTICAL
OFFICE
OF THE SLOVAK
REPUBLIC



2021 Annual Report

Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

2021 Annual Report

Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Content

1. Foreword	6
2. Identification of organization	8
3. We continue to develop the integrated QMS of the SOSR and to prepare the 3rd round of peer review of the European Statistical System in the Slovak Republic	10
4. What was achieved in the methodology last year?	13
5. Creating a cost-optimal database for the NSS and ESS	18
6. Macroeconomic statistics	21
7. Business statistics	25
8. Demography and social statistics	32
9. Election statistics	38
10. Cooperation with Institute of Informatics and Statistics	40
11. We serve customers	43
12. We publish the Journal Slovak Statistics and Demography	48
13. International activities	50
14. Human resources	54
15. Information systems and information and communication technologies	59
16. Financial results	62
17. 2022 Priorities	66
18. 2021 Organizational structure	72
19. Contacts	74

1.		
	Foreword	/ 6
<hr/>		
2.		
	Identification of organization	/ 8
<hr/>		
3.		
	We continue to develop the integrated QMS of the SOSR and to prepare the 3rd round of peer review of the European Statistical System in the Slovak Republic	/ 10
<hr/>		

Foreword

Ladies and gentlemen,

the year 2021 was again a very demanding and exhausting for our organization. The ongoing Covid pandemic and its multiple variants did not enable us to return to the normal and usual life of the statistical office. We continued with the newly adopted measures and methods in the collection and processing of data in all monitored statistics and in communication with the reporting units.

A major professional challenge during this period was the most extensive statistical survey **2021 Population of Housing Census**, which was conducted fully electronically for the first time in history and the residents could count themselves by filling in an electronic form. Certainly, the residents could have also requested and used the assisted census. We have paid due preparation and attention to the whole project in order to carry out the census at a high quality level. I am convinced that we managed to meet this goal to the satisfaction of all. As a proof of this are the two awards received for this project. The first was the ESRI Prize for Outstanding Achievement in the Use of the Geographic Information System and the second was the ITAPA Prize for the Company's Best Digitization Project.

Despite various measures and regulations during 2021, all professional departments worked on their tasks and priorities resulting whether from European or national requirements.

From the autumn of 2021, we began to focus on the activities related to the issuance of the second monitoring report on the implementation of the objectives of the **2030 Agenda** for



sustainable development in the Slovak Republic. The release of the report, scheduled for June 2022, will be based on a set of global indicators which were selected considering their political importance for the member countries of the United Nations, as well as their availability, country coverage, timeliness and quality of data.

In the field of statistical classifications, the clear priority of last year was the cooperation between our Office with Eurostat and the other member states, regarding the revision of the statistical classification of economic activities **NACE**. As the NACE classification is a multidisciplinary classification covering the whole economy, improving its relevance and accuracy has been assessed as beneficial for all areas of European policy.

Other important decisions concerned **reducing of the administrative burden**, which in 2022 would relieve several thousand businesses of filling out statistical forms. This relief from the

obligation to submit monthly surveys on imports and exports of goods within the EU will cover approximately 7 400 smaller companies and enterprises. The new rules exempted up to 58 % of importers and 33 % of exporters who were required to submit reports in 2020. In the field of macroeconomic statistics, we continued making methodological refinements in the context of several data sources, such as: records of output, intermediate consumption and gross value added, records of own-account output for gross fixed capital formation, etc. The result of this revision is an improvement in the quality and availability of the revised data at an earlier date for both internal and external users.

In all domains of business statistics, works continued on securing the outputs for Eurostat, international organizations and users at national level, including the processing of the required non-standard outputs for both business and scientific purposes. A special emphasis was paid to the processing of outputs evaluating the development in 2021 in relation to 2020, as well as in comparison with the period before the pandemic, i.e. with the year 2019.

The Office's marketing activities were focused on better understanding and expanding our customers' knowledge in the field of statistics and at revealing their expectations. For national and international organizations, the Office processed and provided a total of 531 products from various statistical areas. Within domestic customers, these were mainly legislative and executive bodies of the state administration. 296 products were provided to international organizations during the year, of which most products went to Eurostat.

As part of the publishing activities of the scientific journal **Slovak Statistics and Demography**, almost 600 scholarly articles have been published. The Office

also published a monothematic issue devoted to the most current topic of 2021 - the **Covid-19 pandemic**. The aim was to provide readers with the widest possible view of the pandemic, based on statistical and demographic data. Impact on health population, together with a wide range of economic impacts, are the most serious and publicly perceived consequences of a pandemic.

For the Office, the year 2021 was also a year of recertification audit of the quality management system. The Bureau Veritas certification organization has reaffirmed that the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic creates, maintains and develops the quality management system in accordance with the requirements of ISO 9001 standard. We perceive work in accordance with the requirements of the standard as very important and an integral part of our daily work.

Coping with this challenging period and activities arising from our mission and tasks would not be possible without our staff, experts in individual positions, willingness and interest in their work. I would like to express gratitude to them at the same time a hope that in the next period we will continue to improve our services and products.

My thanks for cooperation also go to all our partners and respondents who have contributed significantly to high-quality government statistics and credible statistical outputs.

Alexander Ballek

President
of the Statistical Office
of the Slovak Republic

Identification of organization

Title: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic
 Abbreviated name: SOSR
 Registered office: Lamačská cesta 3/C, 840 05 Bratislava 45
 Contact: phone +421 2 50236 222
 internet www.statistics.sk

Form of management: The Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic is a budgetary organization of the state, which is involved in the state budget of the Slovak Republic with its revenues and expenditures

Main activities:
 The SOSR¹ shall:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) draw up a program of state statistical surveys, b) determine the methodology of state statistical surveys organized and carried out by the Office, collect and process statistical data, c) produce statistical products and make them publicly or accessible, e) ensure that state statistics are accessible to the user, f) be the administrator of the registers established under this Act, g) be the administrator of the unified information system for state statistics, h) produce and publish statistical classifications and code lists, i) participate in the preparation and implementation of international treaties and cooperation agreements concluded by the Slovak Republic in the field of state statistics and represents the Slovak Republic in international bodies and organizations active in the field of statistics, j) participate in the preparation of legally binding acts of the European Union and represent the Slovak Republic before the bodies of the European Union in the field of European statistics, k) coordinate the performance of the tasks of state statistics by other bodies carrying out state statistics, in | <p>particular:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. by statistical planning and reporting on the implementation of the statistical plan, 2. by development of a basic methodological framework and a quality framework for state statistics, 3. by providing methodological guidance to other bodies carrying out state statistics in the development, production and dissemination of state statistics, 4. by monitoring the quality of state statistics and compliance with the basic principles of state statistics, 5. by determining and controlling the fulfilment of the requirements for statistical products, 7. by issuing interpretative opinions on the provisions of this Act, the provisions of generally binding legal regulations issued for its implementation, if these are important issues or if the performance of the tasks of state statistics is not uniform, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> m) propose to Eurostat the inclusion of another body carrying out state statistics in the list under a special regulation, n) cooperates with <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the National Bank of Slovakia in the production of European statistics |
|--|--|

- under a special regulation,
2. The Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic and the Council for Budgetary Responsibility in the area of deficit and debt assessment in order to ensure the reliability of the statistical information provided to Eurostat in relation to the Excessive deficit Procedure,
- o) control compliance with the obligations laid down in this Act; in carrying out the control, the basic rules of control activity shall be followed,
- p) perform other tasks under this Act.

A specific task of the SOSR include the preparation and processing of the results of the elections to the National Council of the Slovak Republic, elections to the European Parliament, elections of the President of the Slovak Republic, public voting on removal of the President of the Slovak Republic, elections to regional self-government bodies, elections to municipal self-government bodies, voting in referendums², population and housing census³ and administration of the Register of legal entities, entrepreneurs and public authorities⁴.



¹ Act No. 540/2001 Coll. on state statistics, as amended

² Act No. 180/2014 Coll. on conditions and exercise of the voting rights, amending and supplementing certain acts as amended

³ Act No. 223/2008 Coll. on the 2021 Population and housing census amending and supplementing certain acts

⁴ Act on 272/2015 Coll. on the Register of legal entities, entrepreneurs and public authorities amending and supplementing certain acts

We continue to develop the integrated SOSR's QMS and to prepare the 3rd round of peer review of the European Statistical System in the Slovak Republic

In the past period, we paid attention to the preparation for the **recertification audit of the SOSR's Quality Management System**, which was aimed at the compliance of the system with the requirements of ISO 9001 standard. After the certification audit in 2006, this was the fifth recertification audit of the SOSR's Quality Management System. The preparation for this important audit was focused on all areas of the standard in terms of PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act), i.e. from the context of organization and leadership, through planning, support and operation, to the evaluation of the system performance and its improvement. The recertification audit was performed by the Bureau Veritas Slovakia organization in September 2021. The successful audit again confirmed that the SOSR established, maintains and develops the Quality Management System in accordance with ISO 9001 standard. At the same time, the SOSR demonstrated the system's ability to meet the requirements for products and services within the certification and in accordance with its policy and objectives.

The SOSR's Quality Management System is built and developed as an integrated system based on ISO 9001 standard, into which the requirements of the European Statistical System specified in the **European Statistics Code of Practice** (hereinafter the „Code“) are implemented. In this context, the start of preparations for the **3rd round of peer review** of the

European Statistical System in the Slovak Republic was an important activity. The aim is to review the compliance of the European Statistical System with the Code, in order to demonstrate to the European Statistical System and external stakeholders that the European Statistical System is based on the principles of the Code and to identify recommendations that will support the progressive development of the European Union's statistical bodies. The SOSR, as the main coordinator of the preparation for the 3rd round of peer review in the Slovak Republic, carried out the necessary initial steps in the past period: set up a management system of the preparatory activities, developed a training schedule, provided trainings for all departments of the SOSR involved in the 3rd round of peer review, began preparing documents as a basis for the peer review experts who will perform the peer review in the Slovak Republic.

The achievement of **strategic objectives, especially the quality objectives included in the SOSR's Development Strategy until 2022** was an important part of a development of the SOSR's Quality Management System. This was monitored through the indicators of objectives and action programmes that supported their achievement. In this connection, the main attention was paid on programmes that represented modernizing approaches to the production and dissemination of state statistics, mainly on the input side of

the production process, i. e. using data from different sources and on the output side, i.e. ensuring greater accessibility of understandable statistical data and information. In relation to the intentions laid down, the attention was paid to the programmes that supported their realization, especially development of human resources, IT support, relationship management and external communication, and statistical literacy of users.

As part of the further development of the established integrated quality management system, the SOSR participated in the implementation of the project of National Quality Programme of the Slovak Republic for 2017-2021 (the last year of implementation). At the same time, it participated in the preparation of the **National Quality Programme of the Slovak Republic for 2022-2026** under the Slovak Office of Standards, Metrology

and Testing and approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic in December 2021.

In the past period, the project aimed at establishing **the SOSR's managerial information system** was successfully completed. Putting the system into routine operation enables the SOSR's management to have available information on the costs of individual projects, activities and the SOSR's departments at various time intervals. The system thus also allows, inter alia, management to gain an overview of exploiting the intellectual potential of employees, in order to optimize it and focus on value-added activities. Its use will significantly contribute to raising employees' awareness of the costs related to the different phases of the statistical process and the costs of producing statistical products of the SOSR.



4.

What was achieved in the methodology last year?

/ 13

5.

Creating a cost-optimal database for the NSS and ESS

/ 18

6.

Macroeconomic statistics

/ 21

What was achieved in the methodology last year?

In the field of **sample statistical surveys**, the methodological department provided standard methodological support in several areas: it participated in the production of samples, data processing, and calculation of weights and preparation of quality reports. In cooperation with other departments of the National Statistical System, it provided methodological assistance for the preparation of departmental surveys.

In 2021, the staff of the methodological department continued to actively participate in the implementation of JDEMTRA+ software and provided methodological support for the Office's employees in order to **apply the methods of seasonal adjustments** as well as taking into account the ongoing pandemic situation.

The methodological department ensured the application of the **confidential statistical data protection** in published outputs, and also in micro-data provided in a special regime for scientific purposes. Considering the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, an increased interest in micro-data on mortality statistics was notably recorded. To improve the comfort of researchers and operability in development of their scientific analyses, the methodological department cooperated with the Dissemination and Communication Directorate on the preparation of a new **Research Data Centre** in the new building of the Office. It includes confidential micro-data in special secure mode available for research and scientific purposes; it is possible to create analyses that are secure as for the data protection.

The methodological department also cooperated on solving **the grant project in statistics of industry**. Its main objective was to analyse the business units and to develop a programme on creating outputs protected for subcontracting operations in compliance with the Eurostat regulations.

In 2021, we significantly participated in preparing the outputs of **tourism statistics**. A comprehensive programme on creating protected data cubes published in the DATAcube database was prepared on a monthly and quarterly level. Considering the specific situation in tourism statistics in Slovakia, a complex solution was developed that is able to ensure the confidential statistical data protection to a minimum but necessary extent. The ongoing coronavirus pandemic did not certainly help the tourism in Slovakia, and thus the official statistics of this field. It resulted in a significant decrease in the number of visitors to accommodation establishments and an even higher level of confidentiality and the related marking of data as confidential in data cubes. The result of the established programme is secure multi-level data available to the public in a much higher volume than before.

In 2021, work also continued on **modernizing price statistics**. In December, the final report of the grant project focused on the use of **scanner data** was sent to Eurostat. The project objective was to develop a methodology and practical solutions for the use of transaction data from retail chains, the so-called **scanner data** in the conditions of the Slovak Republic for the food and non-alcoholic



beverages. It was necessary to review several methodological procedures for working with such data and to select the most appropriate procedure. To use the scanner data in production, an IT tool is developed and tested, this will be used for regular monthly processing of data from retail chains. Transaction data from retail chains were used as supporting information in the processing of price statistics during the year.

Also last year, work continued on compiling **annual structural statistics** in the form of micro-data. The creating of a micro-data database will be an integrated solution, i.e. combination of linkage and use of data from administrative sources, statistical surveys and the application of model approaches in the case of imputations.

Since October 2021, the SOSR has participated in activities aimed at publication of the second monitoring report on the implementation of the objectives of the **2030 Agenda** for sustainable development in the SR. The report is expected to be issued in June 2022 and will be based on a set of global indicators that were selected taking into account their political relevance to the Member States of the United Nations (UN), and also their availability, coverage of individual countries, timeliness and data quality. The first monitoring report on the implementation of national priorities was drafted in a period when the availability of data for monitoring the 2030 Agenda was not satisfactory at global level. In the period of 2015 to 2021, the situation significantly improved. At the online meeting of the Working Group on the 2030 Agenda and the National Investment Plan (NIP) on 5 October 2021, the authorities responsible for drafting the second report supported the SOSR's proposal that a base of the second monitoring report should be the framework of UN indicators in order to promote as far as possible the international monitoring and comparison.

The SOSR is authorised to provide data and the methodological framework (metadata) that will be used to report the achieved progress. The source of comparable data in time series are the data published on the UN portal. The SOSR's task is to coordinate the preparation of individual partial assessments and, on the basis of the obtained inputs, to draw up a summary analytical part of the report. To assess the extent to which the relevant strategies of sectors, policies, action plans, related legislation, etc., reflect the achieving the target measured by the UN indicator is the responsibility of the MIRD SR (Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatics of the Slovak Republic) and responsible authorities of global indicators – members of the Working Group on the 2030 Agenda and NIP, which was established at the MIRD SR. Global indicators for the SR are published in the form of graphs on the UN website, <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/UNSDG/countryprofiles/SVK>, which includes the profile of the SR. An individual website dedicated to 2030 Agenda providing information on the global, European and national level of the agenda implementation, <https://agenda2030.statistics.sk/Agenda2030>, was launched by the SOSR in July 2018 and new information are continuously available.

In **statistical classifications**, the cooperation of the SOSR with Eurostat and other Member States on the revision of the statistical classification of economic activities - NACE Rev. 2 (hereinafter „NACE“) was a key priority in the last year. As the NACE classification is a multidisciplinary classification that covers the whole economy, improving its relevance and accuracy was evaluated as beneficial for all areas of the European policy. The need for the NACE classification revision was confirmed by the European Statistical System Committee at its 40th meeting in May 2019. The cooperation

of the SOSR on the NACE classification revision consisted of preliminary analysis and evaluation of proposals for changes submitted by Eurostat and also assessing the correct timing of the NACE classification in different statistical fields within the European Statistical System. The proposal for a new structure of the NACE classification was completed in December 2021 and may undergo further changes as a result of ongoing global consultations on the ISIC classification, which is an international standard issued by the United Nations Statistical Division.

In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Act No. 305/2013 Coll. on e-Government, as amended, the SOSR continued to ensure the **updating of 15 basic code lists**, which are officially published on the MIRD I SR's portal, in order to ensure the mandatory use of these code lists in all information systems of the public administration. As part of the development of a new register of public authorities, three additional code lists were prepared for future users of this register, intended for further specification of a type and area of activity of registered entities.

In 2021, work also intensively continued on the project on **Consolidation of registers of public authorities, organizations, farms and foreign trade**. The key requirements, which were the subject of regular consultations with the supplier, were mainly related to increasing efficiency in the administration of statistical registers while maintaining their high quality. In the field of statistical registers, an integral part of the solution was also to ensure the meeting of substantive and methodological requirements resulting from the Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and the Council on European business statistics, repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics - FRIBS (Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics). In the

light of the implementation of the relevant provisions of this Regulation, it is about creating additional registers in which an enterprise (specified in the conditions of globalization) and a production unit as statistical units will be registered and administered.

Significant activities were performed in the administration of the **Register of legal entities, entrepreneurs and public authorities** (hereinafter "RLE"). In the course of the year, the remaining source registers, or registrations, were integrated, i.e.: registration of self-employed farmers administered by towns and municipalities of the SR and entities registered by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the SR in the network of schools and school facilities. In 2021, RLE achieved 100% integration with source registers, or registrations. Since the RLE is the only binding data source used to fulfil the specific roles and responsibilities of the state administration bodies, its use was beneficial when providing the required data as a part of the measures for enterprises and entrepreneurs to mitigate the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. For this purpose, a REST API interface was developed, the technical details of which are accessible to the general public on the SOSR's portal.

The SOSR played an important coordinating role in **synchronizing the processes of extract of natural persons - entrepreneurs from the Business Register** in accordance with the Section 768s of the Act No. 390/2019 Coll., amending the Act No. 513/1991 Coll.. As the application of this Act affected the completeness and quality of data administered in the information systems of the Ministry of Interior of the SR (Trade Register), Ministry of Justice of the SR (Business Register), SOSR (RLE) and NASES (Central Public Administration Portal), the representatives of stakeholders agreed on the need for mutual coordination of

activities related to the identification and control of the entities concerned, their coordinated extract from the business and trade register, export to the RLE and subsequent activation or deactivation of mailboxes. After previous detailed preparation, this action was successfully implemented within a single day.

As part of the fulfilment of tasks set by the Act on **protection against money laundering and on terrorist financing**, the SOSR began to implement a technical solution for interconnection of data on beneficial owners through the European Central Platform. The project is covered by the EC Committee on the

Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing („CPMLTF“). In the course of 2021, the CPMLTF organized several working meetings at which at the request of the Ministry of Interior of the SR, a representative of the SOSR regularly participated; as the SOSR is the central state administration body responsible for implementing this project due to performance of tasks in the field of data administration in the national central Register of Beneficial Owners (RBO).



Creating a cost-optimal database for the NSS and ESS

The basic document for creating a cost-optimal database was the **Programme of State Statistical Surveys 2021-2023** (hereinafter „PSSS“). In terms of statistical data collection, the PSSS is harmonized with the European Statistical Programme. The PSSS includes definitions of state statistical surveys conducted by the SOSR, state statistical surveys conducted by other bodies carrying out state statistics and administrative data sources used for statistical purposes.

The European Statistical Programme 2021-2027 is based on the Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing a programme for internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed, and European Statistics (Single Market Programme) and repealing Regulations (EU) 2013/99, (EU) 2013/1287, (EU) 2014/254 and (EU) 2014/652. The European Statistical Programme is part of the Annex II on European Statistics. This multiannual programme is implemented through annual work programmes, which set out detailed measures and outputs for each year. EU Member States collect data and compile statistics for national and EU purposes. The European Statistical System (ESS) functions as a network in which Eurostat's role is to lead the way in the harmonisation of statistics in close cooperation with the national statistical authorities. The work of the ESS focuses mainly on the EU policy areas, but due to expanding of policies at the EU level, harmonization extended to almost all areas of statistics.

The bodies carrying out state statistics including the SOSR participated in fulfilling the tasks of the above-mentioned programmes and comprised the **National Statistical System** (NSS).

The **list of members comprising the NSS** has not changed since 2020 and in 2021 it included 13 institutions:

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



Based on the proposal of the SOSR, **the national bodies responsible for the development, production and dissemination of European Statistics** were included in the list maintained and published by Eurostat. In 2021, the SOSR did not identify the need to make changes in this area. In 2021, the SOSR was included in the first place of the list as a national statistical office and the following national bodies are included:

- National Statistical Office - Statistical Office of the SR
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR - National Forestry Centre (NLC)
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR - Central Controlling and Testing Institute of Agriculture (CCTIA)
- Ministry of Education, Research, Science and Sport of the SR – Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information (SCSTI))
- Ministry of Interior of the SR - Migration Office (MO)
- Ministry of Interior of the SR – Bureau of Border and Alien Police Office of the Presidium of the Police Force (BBAPOPPF)
- Ministry of Environment of the SR - Slovak Environment Agency (SEA)
- Ministry of Environment of the SR – Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute (SHMI)
- Ministry of Economy of the SR - Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency (SIEA)
- Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR
- Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR - Institute for Labour and Family Research (ILF)
- Administration of State Material Reserves of the SR (ASMR)
- Institute of Informatics and Statistics (INFOSTAT).

The year 2021 was the first year in the programming period of 2021 to 2023. The SOSR and other bodies carrying out state statistics included all valid annual

state statistical surveys and all valid surveys with a multi-annual periodicity in the **2021 PSSS**. The SOSR planned 80 statistical surveys using 140 statistical forms for the year 2021. The other bodies carrying out state statistics planned 110 statistical surveys using 113 statistical forms.

In the course of 2021, the Statistical Office in cooperation with other bodies carrying out state statistics, prepared and issued **amendments to the PSSS 2022 by the Decree No. 393/2021 Coll.**

Upon a review of the scope of conducted state statistical surveys and optimization of statistical reporting in order to reduce the burden on reporting units from 2022, the SOSR cancelled the Quarterly questionnaire of production industries in small enterprises (Prod 13-04). **The reporting obligation will cease for approximately 15,000 reporting units.** The SOSR cancelled the statistical form of the Quarterly questionnaire on prices of services in the area of financial leasing (Ceny FPS/Pin 6-04). In the Quarterly questionnaire in non-bank financial institutions (Pin 3-04), the reporting obligation will be introduced by setting a threshold, which will also reduce the number of reporting units contacted. In state statistical surveys **in the field of foreign trade** (ZO 1-12 Report on the import of goods within the European Union and ZO 2-12 Report on the export of goods within the European Union), a threshold for defining the reporting obligation increased. **The result is that approximately 7,400 smaller companies and enterprises are relieved of the administrative burden** to submit monthly statistical surveys on imports and exports of goods within the EU. As for the new rules, up to **58 % of importers and also 33 % of exporters**, who compulsory submitted these reports in 2020, were exempted from this obligation.

The Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic proposed a new module of International passenger transport by taxi on the basis of the Council Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No. 1553/89 of 29 May 1989 on the definitive uniform arrangements for the collection of own resources accruing from value added tax (OJ EC L 155, 7 June 1989), as amended. Data from taxi services will be needed for identifying own resources accruing from value added tax. Approximately 30 reporting units will be contacted in the area of taxi transport, which have not yet had a reporting obligation.

The SOSR was thus able to identify both positive and negative impacts on business entities when preparing the draft decree **for 2022. Reducing costs** of the business environment is expected to reach the amount of **EUR 4,969,109 and increasing to the amount of EUR 287** in 2022.



Macroeconomic statistics

National accounts provide a compatible accounting framework for the systematic and detailed description of the economy, recording all stages of the economic process (production, creation and distribution of pensions, its use, accumulation and financial transactions). The compilation of national accounts in the conditions of the Slovak Republic is governed by the ESA 2010 methodology, which is the abbreviation used in practice for the European System of National and Regional Accounts. The development of the system of national accounts in line with the latest European Union regulations and directives is one of the main objectives in the field of macroeconomic statistics. **Foreign trade statistics** provide important input data for the construction of key macroeconomic aggregates.

In the field of the system of national accounts, the SOSR revised the statistical data on the base of updated information from different data sources as well as methodological adjustments in the context of recording production, intermediate consumption and gross value added for self-employed persons in households; recording own-account production for gross fixed capital formation in non-financial corporations; recording remuneration paid by resident employers to non-resident employees and recording reinvested earnings on foreign direct investment. The result of this revision is an improvement in the quality and availability of the revised data for both internal and external users in earlier deadlines.

As part of the spring and autumn **Excessive Deficit Procedure data notification** (EDP notification), data in notification tables, including the

EDP questionnaire and other required information for evaluation of the fiscal data quality of the Slovak Republic, were sent to Eurostat within specified deadlines. In order to prepare the EU budget, data on VAT (3rd own resource) and **data on gross national income** (4th own resource) are required from Member States. Data on VAT are provided by the Ministry of Finance of the SR, while the Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate standardly prepares input data in the form of data on compensation for small companies exempted from VAT and data on the weighted average VAT rate (WAR). Gross national income (GNI) data were sent to Eurostat within specified deadlines, in September, together with a description of changes and additions to the methodological procedures for compiling GDP/GNI. On the basis of GNI data, each Member State calculates its contribution to the EU budget according to the key laid down in the relevant European regulation.

The **data** provided to the Commission **for administrative purposes (EDP, GNI, VAT)** are subject to regular control visits to Eurostat to verify the correctness of the procedures used and the data compiled. In 2021, Eurostat conducted virtual dialogue visits on all three topics.

The year 2021 was extremely demanding due to the preparation of an updated **description of Sources and Methods of GNI Compilation (GNI Inventory-SK)**. The reference year 2018 describes a comprehensive approach to the GDP compilation and subsequently GNI, starting with sources, through conceptual adjustments, completeness adjustments and subsequent balancing. The new GNI Inventory-SK will also serve as a basis for Eurostat to verify the correctness of the

GNI compilation process in the new 2020-2024 verification cycle.

In addition to tasks that are directly related to routine works according to individual statistical topics, in cooperation with the Price Statistics Department, staff in the field of national accounts continued to work on a project related to the **purchasing power parity**.

At the same time, work continued on projects aimed at improving the quality of national accounts, compiling labour productivity and ensuring the implementation of the European Regulation on business statistics in the context of statistical trade in goods.

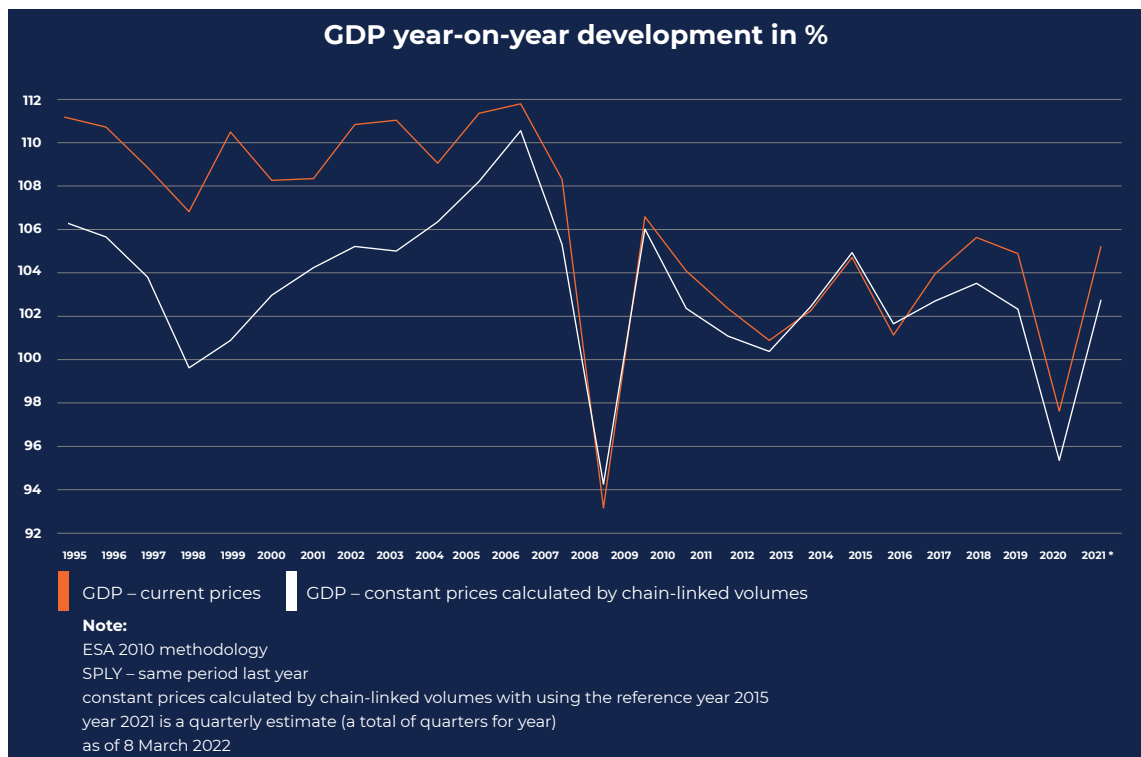
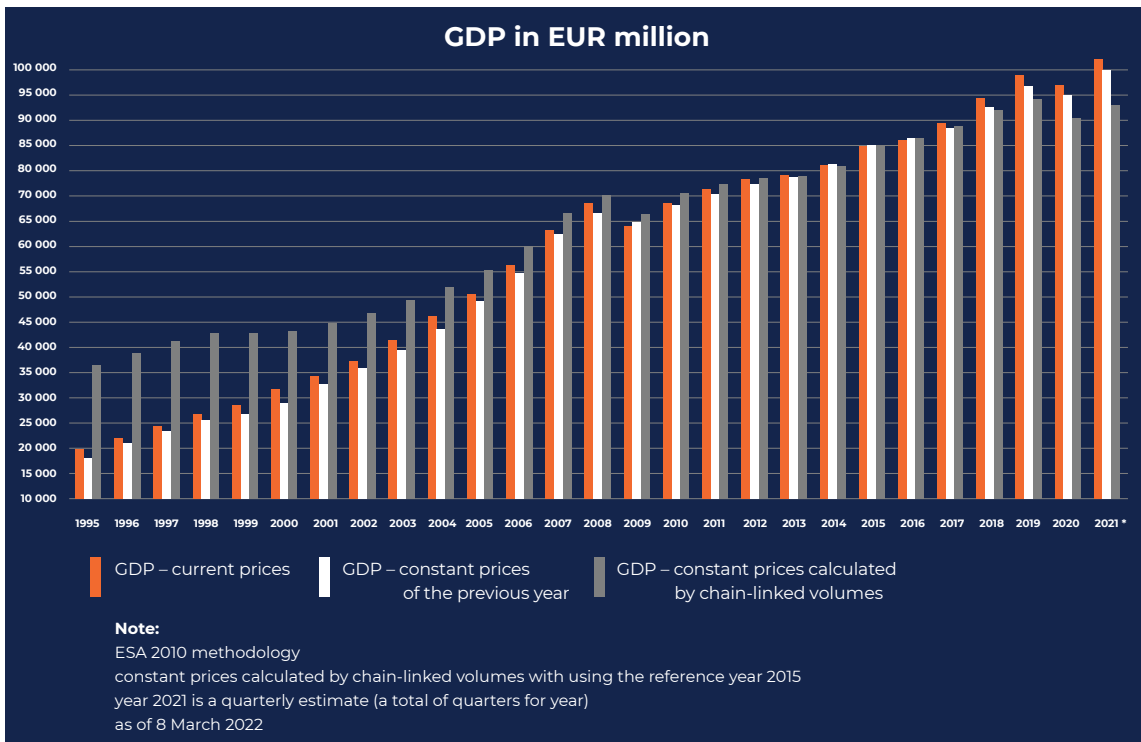
In the course of 2021, several working meetings were held with colleagues from the NBS and the MF SR, due to the ongoing unfavourable pandemic situation, they continued in online form. Mutual discussions were focused on the issue of methodological recording of individual transactions in financial and non-financial accounts including non-standard effects related to the corona-crisis.

In addition to planned tasks, staff in the field of national accounts were involved in solving current problems within the inter-ministerial working groups. Taking into account the updating of internationally valid methodologies in the field of national accounts and internationally valid classifications, which are used to compile national accounts, methodological activity in the context of a written assessment of proposed solutions is extremely important and also demanding on human resources and tacit knowledge of national accounts experts. In 2021, in addition to a preparation of background materials for economic analyses of the ministries and state institutions, we also prepared documents for assessing the fiscal transparency of the SR, which the Slovak Republic requested from the International Monetary Fund through the Ministry of Finance of the SR.

In 2021, data on **foreign trade statistics** and their updates were provided on a monthly basis, by specified deadlines.

In the course of 2021, work continued on a preparation of the implementation of changes in the compilation of foreign trade statistics. The Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European business statistics (EBS), which also includes foreign trade statistics, allows **modernization of the Intrastat system** in legislative terms. Considering the fact that the new provisions came into force on 1 January 2022, the SOSR collected new variables, partner ID in the Member State of destination and country of origin, in the Report on shipment of goods already in 2021. Reporting of these variables was optional, but it did not prevent the pilot collection from testing the information systems of reporting units, as well as the SOSR and the Financial Administration of the SR. At the same time, the EBS Regulation allows more freedom in the use of different data sources when compiling intra-EU trade statistics in goods and also in setting criteria for the selection of reporting units for these statistics. On this basis, and after thorough analyses, it was defined an exemption threshold of EUR 1 million for both exports and imports, which will reduce the number of reporting units by about 1,700 exporters and 7,000 importers for 2022. This reduction of the administrative burden of reporting units of the Intrastat system was adjusted in such a way that the quality of intra-EU trade statistics was maintained.

In 2021, the **consultancy centre** of the Intrastat system provided individual counselling for reporting units, processing an average of 180 phone calls and emails per week, which is an increase compared to 2020. The data sources of foreign trade statistics were verified in the same way throughout the whole year by employees of the Regional Office in Trnava.



7.

Business statistics

/ 25

8.

Demography and social statistics

/ 32

9.

Election statistics

/ 38

10.

Cooperation with the Institute
of Informatics and Statistics

/ 40

Business statistics

In the calendar year 2021, work continued on ensuring process adjustments in individual fields of the business statistics in order to implement the requirements of the European business statistics resulting from the **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197 on European business statistics**. This is an implementing regulation to the basic Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European business statistics repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics. This implementing regulation lays down the methodological concept of the required outputs, including the structures, as well as the technical specifications and deadlines for sending the outputs resulting from the mentioned legislation.

In all fields of business statistics, work continued on **providing outputs** to Eurostat, international organizations and users at national level including the processing of required non-standard outputs for business area as well as for scientific purposes. A special attention was paid to the processing of outputs evaluating the development in 2021 in relation to 2020, also in comparison with the period before the pandemic, i.e. with the year 2019.

As part of the process of **optimizing statistical surveys**, the SOSR proposed a partial reduction of indicators, reduction of the set of reporting units by establishing thresholds, or to cancel a realization of selected statistical surveys. In the calendar year 2022, data collection will be already conducted in the range of reduced statistical forms and the quarterly questionnaire of production sectors in the population of

small enterprises will be cancelled.

Representatives of individual statistical fields participated in the written comment procedure of the draft proposal for an updated Statistical Classification of Economic Activities.

In **short-term statistics** provided rapid statistical information evaluating the development of the sectors of the Slovak Republic, data were made available for national users and were also transferred to Eurostat in accordance with the requirements and timetable of the first release calendar. The assessment of compatibility with the requirements of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197 of 30 July 2020 laying down the technical specifications and details of the Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European business statistics was already carried out according to new criteria of completeness and timeliness in the field of short-term statistics. The SOSR defended its current position and remained included in the population of member countries with the highest degree of compatibility. The updating of metadata reports on indicators of short-term statistics was carried out of exceptional quality and evaluated with a 100% degree of compatibility in accordance with the requirements of Eurostat. The quality reports for users published on the Office's website were also updated. In the field of short-term statistics, work continued on the implementation of the relevant statistical unit, the type „production unit“, in monthly sectoral statistics.

In the field of **structural business**

statistics, the final indicators for the non-financial and financial corporations sector for the reference year 2019 and preliminary data for 2020 were provided to Eurostat and national users. The SOSR implemented a new mandatory validation tool of Eurostat "InputHall". The evaluation of the provided data's compatibility with the European Regulation on structural statistics for these reference years was carried out in accordance with the existing criteria and the SOSR ensured and defended the evaluation of the high degree of compatibility. Structured quality reports on indicators of the annual structural business statistics for users are available on the Eurostat website as well as on the Office's intranet website. In 2021, work continued on preparing the process of compilation of indicators in annual business statistics for financial corporations in order to cover all subsectors of this sector.

The statistical information on **domestic and external foreign affiliates** for the reference year 2019 was compiled and sent to Eurostat in required breakdowns within specified deadlines. Since 2021, the process of providing input data included the personalization of statistical form by information on affiliates from publicly available sources. The burden of reporting units was decreased when completing the statistical form to identify the units for which they reported the required economic indicators. Also in the case of Foreign affiliates statistics (FATS), InputHall was implemented and the required validation reports were provided to Eurostat. Data validation on data source in the EuroGroups register, and also on publicly available information, improved the quality of prepared outputs. The SOSR reached the highest evaluation of data compatibility with the requirements of the Regulation, and quality indicators and structured quality reports for users were also compiled.

Statistics of industry provided outputs in accordance with the requirements of Eurostat, international organizations, as well as national users in the required structures and by specified deadlines. Since October 2021, we have been involved in the Eurostat grant project in the context of globalization. The project objective is to link data at the micro level between the export indicator from foreign trade statistics and the export of products from statistics of products according to PRODSLOV. Work continued on preparing the environment for the mutual comparison of these data between the two statistical fields. Starting with the reference year 2022, automated checks will be carried out within the integrated statistical information system in the course of processing the Annual questionnaire on the production of industrial products and industrial services P 6-01.

During 2021, work continued on calculating the data for production units from the statistics of products according to PRODSLOV and on establishing the subcontracting relations including the indicator proposed by Eurostat for subcontracting operations in the annual survey on industrial products for reference year 2021. It related to works carried out as part of the Eurostat grant project, concerning the statistics of industry, which were successfully completed in November 2021. In connection with the reduction of statistical reporting for the population of small enterprises, work continued on preparing estimates of indicators in short-term statistics for the industrial sector from sources available at this time.

In the course of 2021, in **agricultural statistics**, collection of data on the Slovak agriculture structure was carried out under the 2020 Agricultural Census, work continued on the validation of input data, processing and compilation of the resulting micro-data set, which is

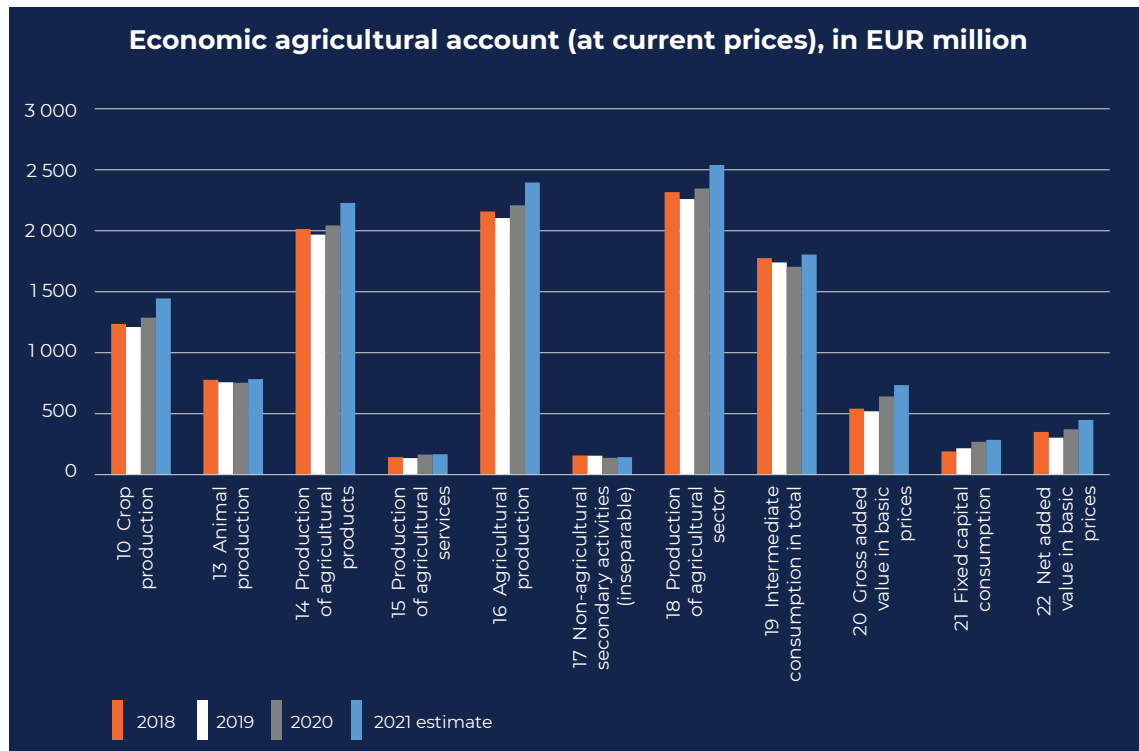


a subject of the transmission to Eurostat. The statistical survey was addressed to more than 34,000 entities carrying out agricultural activities, which met the threshold values set by legislation. The collection provided information on an activity of the entities contacted and data in a structure required by the questionnaire for entities carrying out agricultural activities. The agricultural census in the EU Member States was carried out in accordance with the Regulation (EC) of the European Parliament and of the Council 2018/1091 on integrated farm statistics, which repealed the Regulations (EC) 2008/1166 and (EU) 2011/1337. The result will serve to create a single framework for the production of comparable statistics within the EU at the level of agricultural holdings and to harmonize information on a structure of agricultural production with information on production methods, rural development measures, agro-environmental aspects and other related information.

Work continued on ensuring regular

annual compilation and publication of an estimate of the harvest of selected crops and on the final results of the Economic account for agriculture of the SR for 2020, which was published in cooperation with the National Agricultural and Food Centre - Research Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics in December 2021.

At the level of the Council Working Party on Statistics, an amendment to the Regulation (EC) of the European Parliament and the Council 2004/138 on the regional economic accounts for agriculture in the Community, which legislatively includes the obligation to compile regional agricultural accounts at the NUTS2 level, was approved. The discussion on the draft proposal for a regulation on agricultural input and output statistics (the so-called SAIO regulation) continued. This draft proposal for a regulation integrates aggregated statistics on crop production, livestock production, organic farming, soil nutrient balances and plant protection products into a single common regulation and



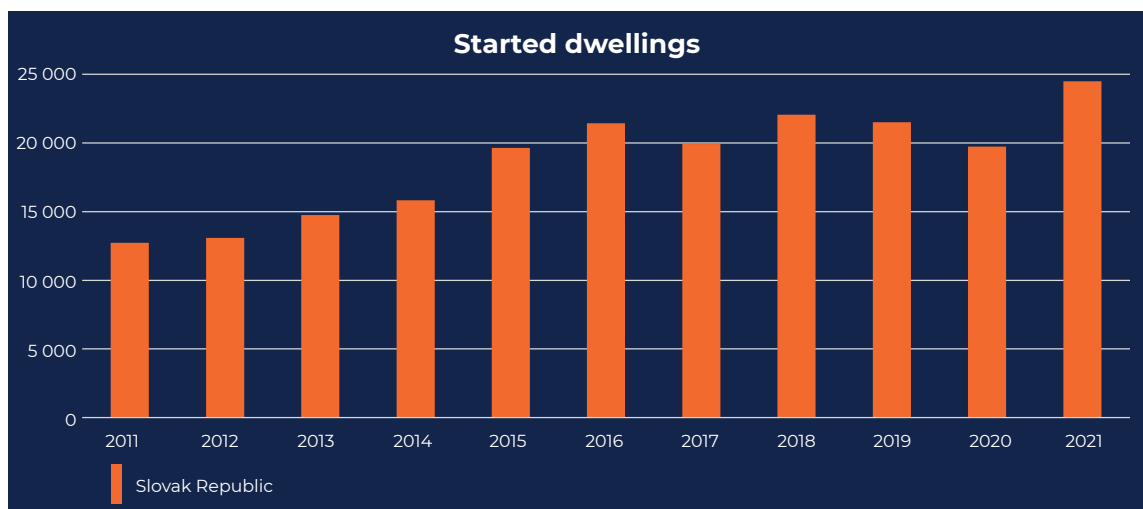
will be the subject of an interinstitutional dialogue in 2022.

Concerning the **statistics of construction, housing, trade and services**, all outputs were prepared in accordance with the regulations of European legislation. Eurostat, international organizations and national users were provided with high-quality of statistical information characterizing the development of basic indicators. In the field of housing, users were provided with structured information for the last 10 years including information at the regional level. As part of the business surveys, monthly surveys included new questions required for the assessment of the expected development of the economy in EU countries, such as the area of investment activity.

In **transport, information and communication statistics**, work was carried out to ensure outputs in accordance with European legislation and Eurostat guidelines, the results of which were sent to databases of international organizations (Eurostat, UNECE, International Transport Forum, Danube Commission, International Road Federation, common information system of EUROSTAT-UNECE-ITF, EUROSTAT-REGIO) as well as to national users. Based on the requirements of the EU

Regulation on statistics on information society, structured outputs on the use of information and communication technologies in enterprises were prepared.

In statistics of **tourism**, the SOSR substantially extended the database of monthly published statistical information on number of visitors to accommodation establishments, as it is aware of the importance to provide more detailed information in the current difficult period of the Covid-19 pandemic, or information needed to set development strategies. Available data were released on a monthly basis also at the level of districts, or cities and municipalities, as well as data divided in 6 categories of accommodation establishments not marked as confidential data. Outputs on the structure of foreign visitors by their home country were made available. The data release by months for the period 2017 to 2021 was beneficial for the analytical purposes. Very important potential of information from the adjusted new level of details will reflect later, mostly in the period after the end of the anti-pandemic measures. Information on the inbound and outbound tourism, organized tourism by travel agencies and tour operators, as well as the

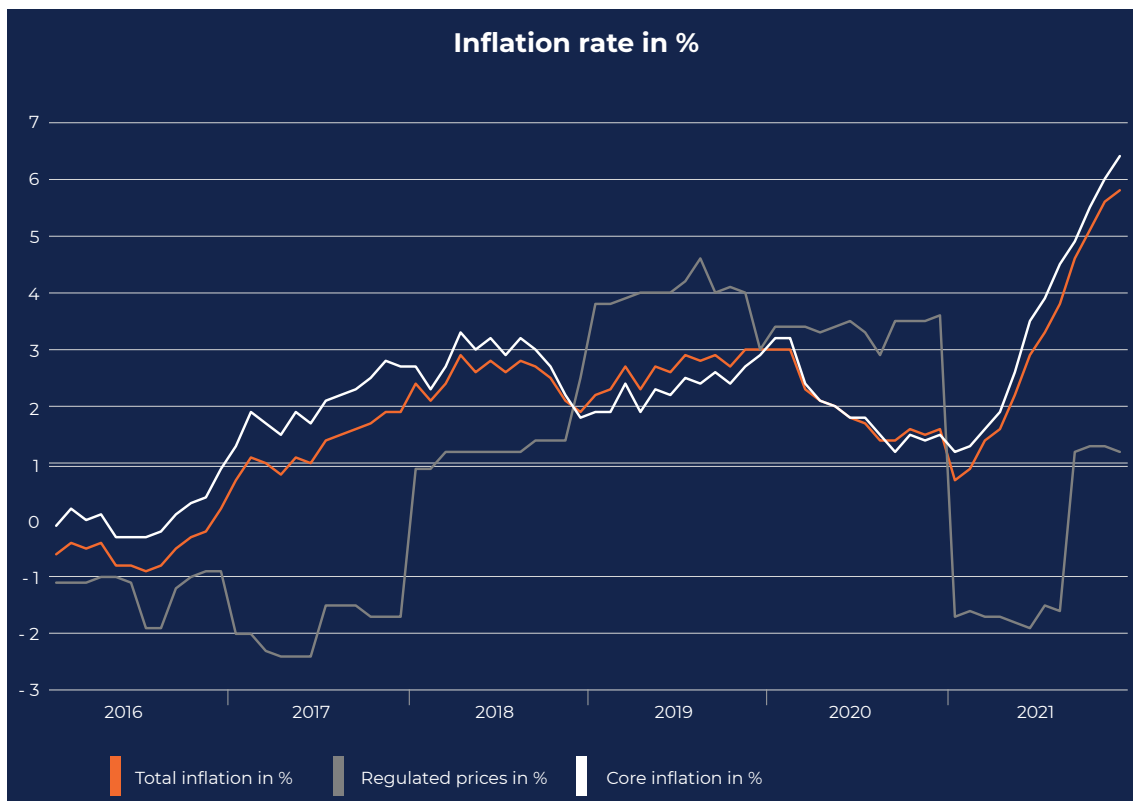


Tourism Satellite Account, which summarizes the sector's contribution to the Slovak economy, was published. Non-standard outputs were prepared on a monthly basis in accordance with Eurostat's requirements. The department actively participated in methodological discussions and analytical work of data sets of platforms provided and published by Eurostat. Work was also carried out to improve the Statistical Register of Accommodation Establishments. We have updated the register with information obtained from municipalities by a personalized electronic form in order to address the relevant accommodation establishments starting from January 2022.

Activities in the field of statistics of **energy** were aimed at ensuring the data transmission to the databases of Eurostat, the International Energy Agency and the United Nations Statistical Division in accordance with the requirements of EU regulations. Working meetings were held with representatives of the Ministry of

Economy of the SR to discuss the system and process adjustments of compiling statistics on heat from the environment. As part of the online meetings of the Eurostat Working Group on Energy Statistics, we actively participated in comment procedure on the draft proposal of amendments to the EU Regulation on energy statistics.

In statistics of **science, technology and innovation**, a harmonization of the methodology with the international methodology continued according to the updated Eurostat's recommendations. Outputs for research and development were prepared in accordance with the relevant EC regulation and according to the specific requirements of Eurostat, OECD and national users. The quality reports were drawn up for the individual sectors of research and development in a new form, in a uniform integrated metadata structure. In statistics of innovation, a statistical survey was prepared and carried out as part of the harmonized survey of the EU Member States

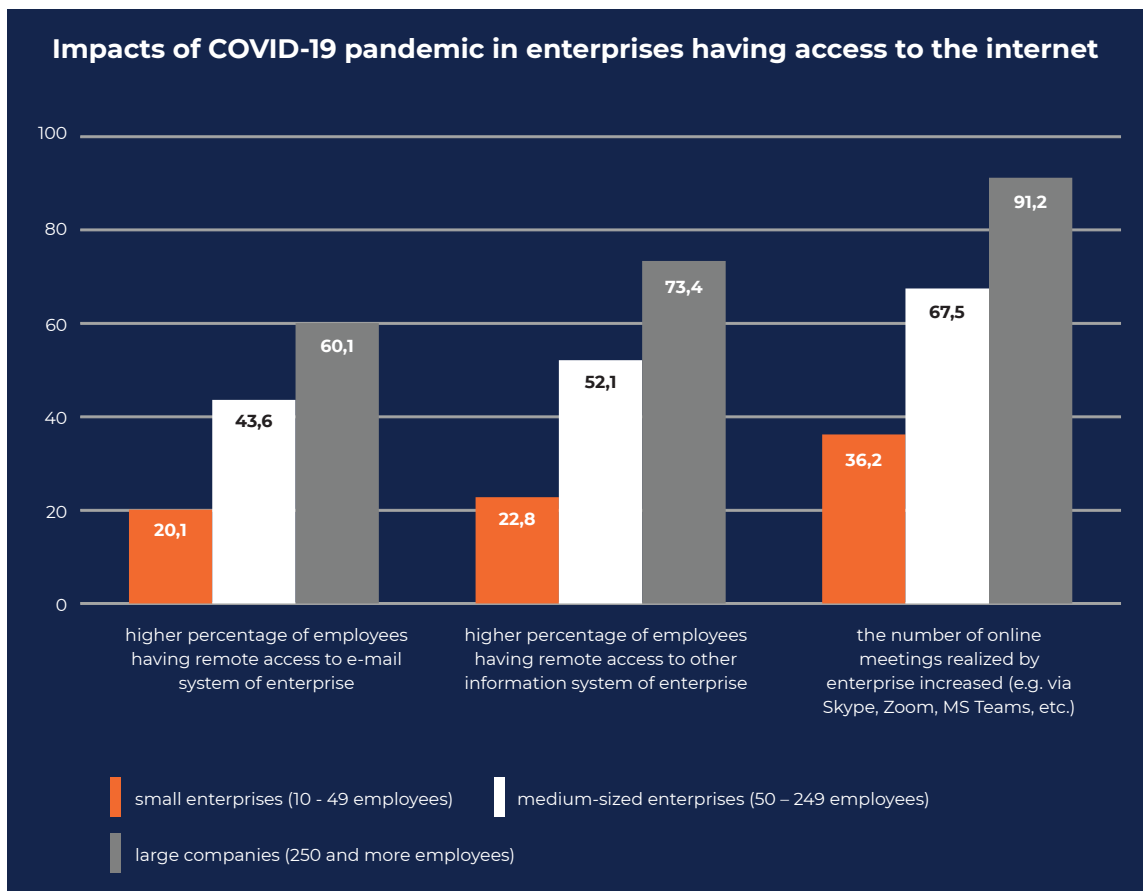


(Community Innovation Survey - CIS 2020). In the preparatory process of outputs, all new Eurostat requirements were implemented in the algorithms for outputs.

In the field of **environmental statistics**, the SOSR actively continued to improve the quality of statistics of environmental accounts. Based on the results of analytical work, the collection of important data on biodegradable municipal waste was added to a statistical questionnaire on municipal waste from the municipality. We extended the data on municipal waste, which are published in the SOSR's public database, to include data at the level of districts of the SR. Mandatory regular data reporting was ensured including updates to quality reports for environmental accounts, pesticide statistics and questionnaires for water statistics and municipal waste in the required extent and within specified deadlines. The SOSR participated in

discussions on preparing a report for the area of food waste.

Price statistics were mainly aimed at preparing the methodology on revision of the weighting schemes in surveys on prices in production statistics. The calculation of market rent price indices was implemented in the calculation of consumer price indices. In the area of prices of dwellings, we started to use data obtained from the database of the Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of the SR as a data source for the calculation of indices of price development of dwellings from the second quarter of 2021. The quality of input data was improved, as the number of transactions increased and for the first time, data from direct sales without real estate agencies was taken into account. We provided more information for users by extending the range of the released data in the DATAcube. database in the field of consumer prices and prices of production statistics.



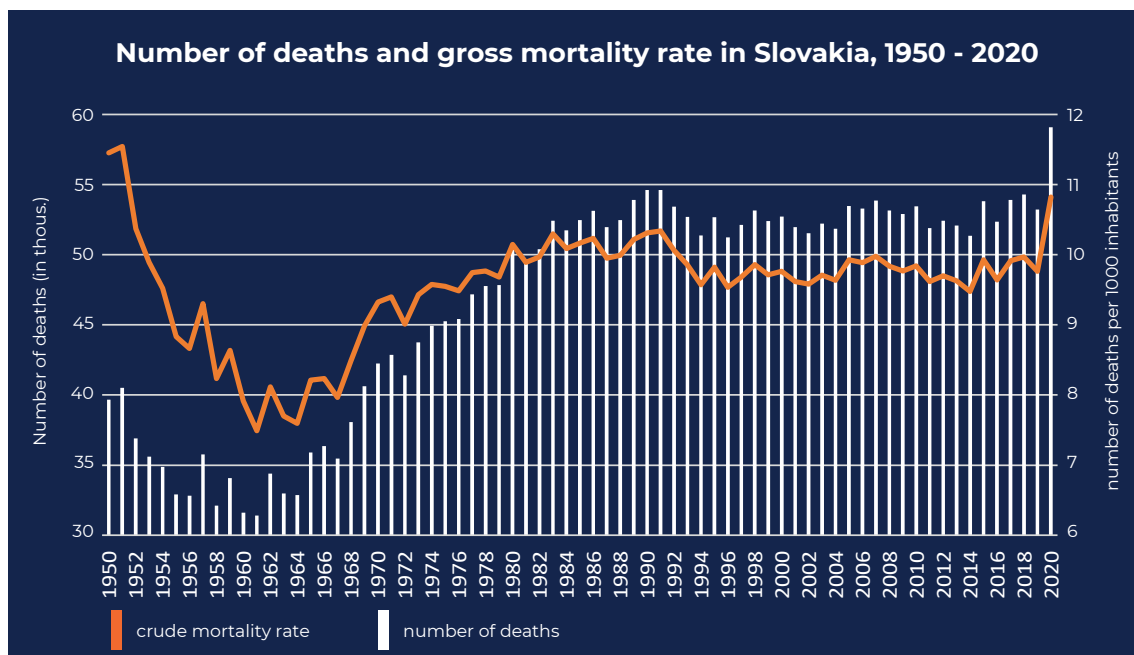
Demography and social statistics

In the field of **population statistics**, in 2021, the SOSR continued to develop the collection, processing and dissemination of demographic data. Population development was presented by book titles published in the edition We in numbers, Population movement 2020 and Foreign migration 2020. Both publications consist of Part A, dealing with data for the current reference year 2020, and Part B, providing a 10-year development time series.

The publication Main Trends in the Development of Mortality in the SR, 2020 was published in the analytically focused edition with the analytical focus Statistics in Context. The publication presents an analysis of mortality in the SR and focuses on the evaluation of this demographic process on the basis of selected mortality data in terms of past and current developments. It is supplemented by tables with time series, flow charts and thematic maps. The analysis also includes regional and international comparisons.

As part of demographic statistics, work was being carried out on the electronic statistical report on births (OBYV2-12). In 2021, several expert meetings were held between the cooperating entities (SO SR, National Center for Health Information, Ministry of the Interior of the SR, Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization of the SR), at which the final form of the process of data provision on births was agreed. At the same time, preparatory work began on the electrification of the Statistical Report on the Examination of the Dead and the Statistical Report on Death (OBYV3-12).

In 2021, the SOSR carried out the most extensive statistical survey - **the Population and Housing Census**. The electronic self-enumeration took place from 15 February to 31 March 2021. The residents were able to count themselves by filling in an electronic form. The census form was available in the state language (Slovak) and in 7 language



versions: Hungarian, Romani, Ruthenian, Ukrainian, English, German and French. Residents entered the data valid at the decisive moment of the census into the form, i.e. by midnight on 31 December 2020 to 1 January 2021. At a time when the epidemiological situation of Covid-19 in Slovakia allowed, the residents could use the assisted census. It was conducted from May 3 to June 13, 2021 and was intended for residents who could not count themselves or with the help of a close person at the time of the self-enumeration. In these cases, they had the opportunity to visit a contact point in any municipality or request a mobile census assistant.

Already on December 20, 2021, the SOSR released the first basic results from the 2021 Population and Housing Census. These results included data on population, age structure, education, marital status and nationality, and number of houses and dwellings. The data were published up to the district level.

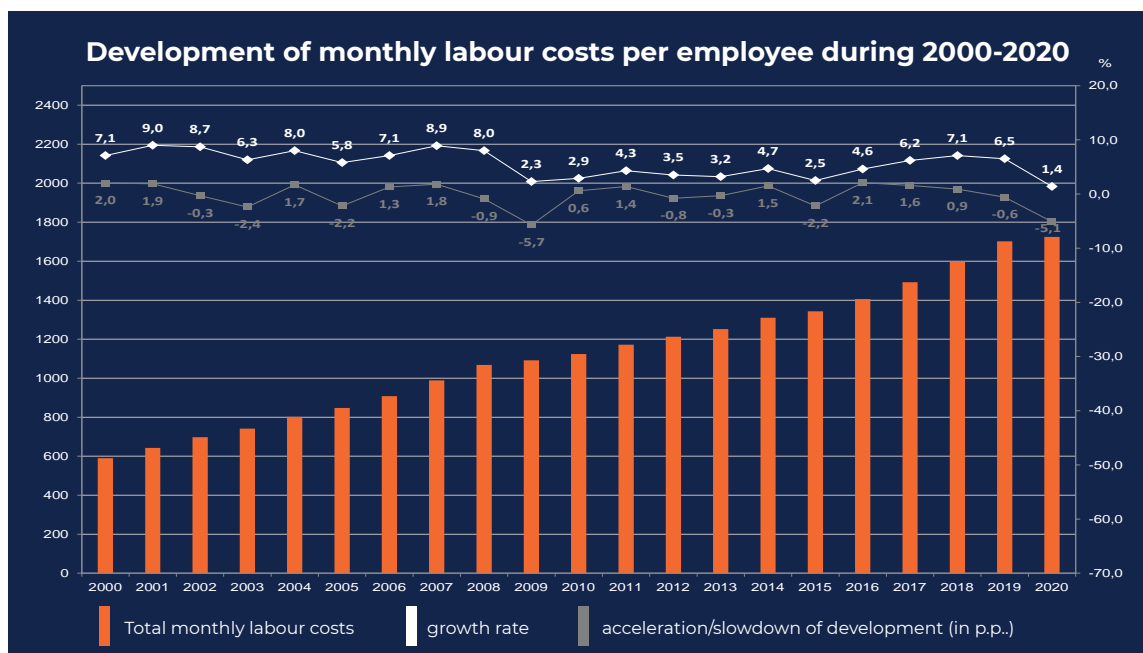
The census project was awarded twice in 2021, the first being the ESRI Prize for the outstanding results in the use of Geographic Information System (GIS)

at the 2021 Census, the second was the ITAPA prize for the Best Company Digitization Project (2nd place).

Wage and labor cost statistics

continued to ensure the availability of information on the development of employees' monthly wages in both nominal and real terms. This information are reference indicators for the calculation of other indicators in the social sphere. Basic quarterly information on wage developments in the Slovak economy by economic activities, regions and size groups of companies was expanded on an annual basis by other structural indicators related to wage components, median wages, net wages and also the distribution of employees by wage bands. Data on the development of wage differences according to personnel characteristics were also processed, such as occupation, education, gender, age. The overall picture of remuneration expenditures was supplemented by calculated data on components of labor costs paid in organizations in 2021.

In **labor statistics**, in accordance with the Development Strategy of the Statistical Office of the SR until 2022,



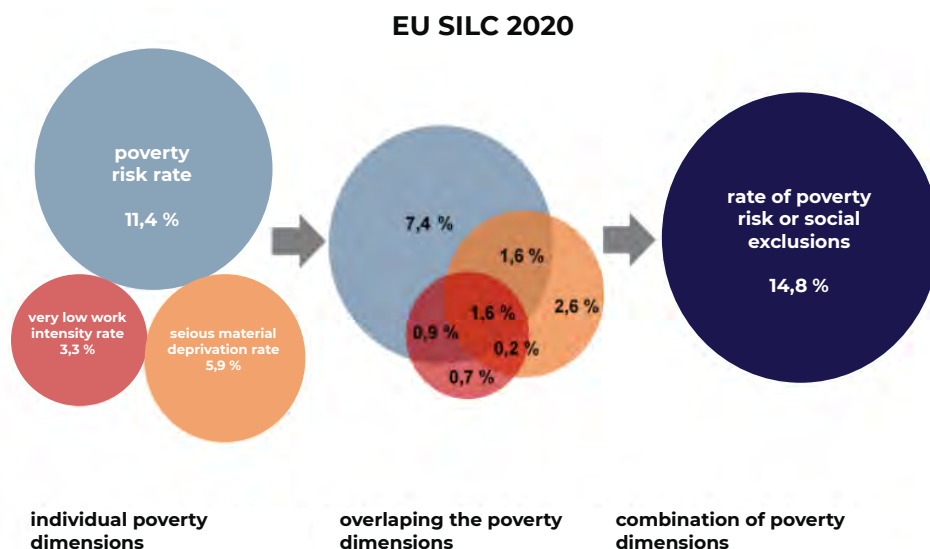
we ensured the transformation of the Labor Force Survey (LFSS) into new methodological requirements set out in the Integrated European Social Statistics (IESS) Regulation, entering into force in 2021. Data per sample were calculated using new integrated weights for the population, adjusted for persons in collective facilities. In order to satisfy the data users, the year-on-year indices were calculated from comparable estimates, with the data for the respective quarters in 2020 being adjusted in a way corresponding as closely as possible to the new methodology. For the needs of the EU, an estimate of the impact of the introduction of IESS on the main European indicators on employment and unemployment has been calculated. The LFS was extended by an annual module focused on the situation of migrants on the labor market.

Within the **education statistics**, the implementation of a sample survey on further vocational training of the CVTS (Center for Scientific and Technical Information of the SR) for 2020 according to the EU legislation was ensured. Particular emphasis was placed on data collection due to the fact that companies were negatively affected by the pandemic situation in that year.

The methodological preparation of the AES 2022 (Adult Education Survey) sample survey on adult education has begun. The preparatory activities were carried out in accordance with the new EU legislation (IESS) and with Eurostat guidelines and recommendations.

Family accounts statistics (FA) collects data on income, expenditures, consumption and composition of private households in the SR. Despite the limitations due to the unfavorable pandemic situation related to Covid-19, the FA survey on income and composition of Slovak households was carried out throughout the year and in accordance with the redesign linked to the data collection for the EU SILC (Statistics on Income and Living Conditions) survey. The survey needs to be conducted regularly every month throughout the year, as the main purpose of the survey is to monitor household expenditure, which may be subject to seasonality in individual months of the year.

The **Sample Survey on Income and Living Conditions of Households (EU SILC)**, which the SO SR has been conducting regularly since 2005, is the main source of data on poverty, social



exclusion and living conditions. In 2021, micro-data and indicators from the EU SILC 2020 survey were processed and submitted to Eurostat, and anonymized micro-data were provided to the external users for scientific and research purposes on the basis of standard as well as ad hoc requirements. The data were presented in 2021 in the publication: EU SILC 2020 - Indicators of Poverty and Social Exclusion. Further detailed survey data were entered into the DATAcube public database in the form of data cubes.

One of the main outputs of the survey is the poverty or social exclusion indicator. The indicator measures and analyzes quality of life and is created by a combination of three sub-indicators: at-risk-of-poverty rate, severe material deprivation rate and very low work intensity rate. According to the EU SILC 2020 results, which were published in 2021, 14.8 % of the population in Slovakia was at risk of poverty or social exclusion.

Based on the requirement to improve the collection and analysis of data on Roma, the SOSR cooperates with the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities (OPGRC) to resolve the project - Monitoring and evaluation of inclusive policies and their impact on marginalized Roma communities. The task of the SOSR, in cooperation with the OPGRC, was to prepare and carry out a special **Survey on Income and Living Conditions in Marginalized Roma Communities in Slovakia** (EU SILC MRC 2018 and 2020) and subsequently process the survey results. The preparation of these surveys was based primarily on the methodology of the EU SILC survey in order to analyze the income situation, living conditions and poverty indicators of this community. In 2021, the SOSR processed and evaluated data from the EU SILC MRC 2020 survey, which were submitted to the OPGRC according to the contract, with the subsequent dissemination of

the survey results being fully within the competence of the OPGRC. The first results of the survey were published on the OPGRC website at the end of 2021.

The **Household Finance and Consumption Survey (HFCS)** is part of a European project coordinated by the European Central Bank. Its aims to obtain reliable and comparable data on the current economic situation of euro area households, which would be used in important monetary policy decisions of the European Central Bank. The survey was implemented by the SOSR in cooperation with the National Bank of Slovakia (NBS) in almost 3 900 randomly selected households between July - October 2021. 480 towns and municipalities in Slovakia were included in the survey. The survey was primarily focused on obtaining important data on the economic situation of Slovak households, i.e. it examined the tangible and financial assets of households, their income, loans, consumption and savings, as well as the demographic characteristics of individual household members, their employment status and pensions. The project was completed by the SOSR by the end of 2021 with the submission of complete data to the NBS. The NBS will release the results of the survey in the course of 2022.

The **Sample Survey on the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Households and Individuals (ICT)** examines at the level of households and their members the access to information and communication technologies, especially information on the use of the Internet. The results of the ICT 2021 survey were published by the SOSR at the end of November 2021 on the website in the form of the publication *Survey on the use of information and communication technologies in households 2021*. The publication contains data on access to selected information and communication technologies in households, on the use of the Internet

for educational activities, on online shopping or on communication with public institutions through web services.

In 2021, as part of the **food consumption statistics**, data on the consumption of individual types of food for the year 2020 were derived on the basis of the balance method. These data are freely available for the users in the SO SR database in a comparable time series since 1990. Data on food consumption for 2020 were included in the publication *Food Consumption in the Slovak Republic*, published annually by the SOSR, which evaluates the development of food consumption in the SR and also in comparison with EU countries. Data on food consumption are regularly, as one of the statistical documents, part of the situational outlook reports of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic, evaluating the development of the market in the Slovak Republic for individual food commodities.

Every year, the SOSR collects, processes and provides data on **health care expenditures** for the Slovak Republic according to the methodology of the System of Health Accounts since 2005 (reference year 2003 and further). According to the relevant regulation, in 2021 the SOSR provided data for the reference year 2019, within the accounting framework of the Methodology of Health Accounts (SHA) methodology, edition 2011. The processed data for 2019 were submitted within the joint questionnaire, to Eurostat, OECD and the World Health Organization (WHO) and are published on the website of the SOSR. In 2021, the SOSR joined the project Support for Statistics on Health Expenditure, which was implemented in cooperation with Eurostat. The project concerned the description of the process of creating health care expenditures for the SR according to the SHA methodology, including SWOT analysis (analysis of

strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) and suggestions for further improvements in the future.

In order to monitor the development of social protection in the EU Member States, the European Commission requires access to up-to-date and detailed data and information on the systems, current status and development of social protection in the EU Member States. One of the basic tools for statistical monitoring of social protection is the **European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS methodology)**. In 2021, the SOSR released the publication *Social Protection in the SR in 2019*. The publication contains information on social protection incomes and expenditures, qualitative information (descriptions of social protection programs in the SR and descriptions of benefits paid), number of pension recipients with elimination of duplication and net expenditure on social benefits. The publication records the main trends in the development of social protection in the SR (in the summary for social protection programs), in the EU Member States and EU accession countries.



Election statistics

In 2021, in the field of election statistics, the Statistical Office of the SR ensured the preparation of elections and the processing of the election results of two by-elections to municipal self-government bodies.

At the same time, it started to prepare intensively for the joint municipal and regional elections, which will be held together for the first time in one day, at the end of October 2022. The concomitance of these elections presents a time, logistical, personnel and technological challenge for election commissions and specialist summaries.

In this context, the SOSR actively participated in the inter-ministerial comment procedure on the amendment to the Electoral Act, where it succeeded in enforcing fundamental changes in legislation.

By-elections to municipal self-government bodies

Based on the decision of the President of the National Council of the SR No. 297/2020 Coll. and No. 54/2021 Coll. on **15 May 2021**, by-elections to the municipal self-government bodies were held. In a total of 30 municipalities, voters elected their representatives at the municipal level. 9 mayors and 29 deputies of the municipal council were elected. The turnout reached 28.94 %.

The SOSR ensured the preparation of the summary and the actual processing of the election results, while providing the municipalities with the Integrated Electoral Information System (IVIS). IVIS was used by 37 % municipalities which shortened the total time for processing election results and prevented errors in filling out the form or rewriting the manually completed minutes. During the election night, the

staff of the Statistical Office of the SR, who are members of the Professional Summarizing Unit of the State Commission on Elections and Control of Financing of Political Parties, provided methodological and technical support to the professional summarizing units of individual district election commissions. For the purpose of summarizing the election results through IVIS, the Statistical Office of the SR created 21 professional summarizing units, in which 83 members worked. Thanks to them, the processing of the election results went smoothly. Definitive results are available at:

<https://volby.statistics.sk/oso/doplnkove2018/sk/index.html>

Further by-elections to municipal self-government bodies were held on **23 October 2021**, based on the decision of the President of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 235/2021 Coll. and No. 301/2021 Coll. In a total of 25 municipalities, voters elected representatives at the municipal level. Eleven city mayors and 1 municipal mayor, 19 deputies of the municipal council and 1 deputy of the urban council were elected to their positions. Turnout reached 34.16 %.

Similarly in these elections, the SOSR ensured the preparation of the summary and the processing of voting results itself, while providing municipalities with IVIS, which this time was used by 68 % of municipalities (by 31 % more than in May). For the purpose of summarizing the results of voting through the IVIS, the Statistical Office of the SR created 20 professional summarizing units, in which 79 members worked. Definitive results are available at

<https://volby.statistics.sk/oso/doplnkove2018/sk/index.html>

Preparing for the joint elections

Throughout the entire year of 2021, the Statistical Office of the SR intensively prepared for the joint elections to the bodies of self-governing regions (BSGR) and to the bodies of municipal self-government (BMSG). It prepared several concepts for activities requiring adjustments due to the complexity of the combined elections. Among other things, there will be changes regarding user access to IVIS, complete preparation of IVIS databases, and electronic transmission of the election results.

The SOSR also started to implement the above-mentioned changes or delivering them into practice. It optimized the processes of establishing an electronic register of candidate lists, which is a necessary condition for the full use of electronic processing of election results from the district level. At the same time, it facilitated the municipalities the creation of election documents. The Statistical Office of the SR has also adjusted the logistics of submitting and receiving election data via IVIS, so that it is possible to fully replace the physical minute taking with an electronic form from the district level.

For all these changes, it will be necessary to train the actors in the electoral

processes at the level of municipalities, local and district election commissions. Therefore, in 2021, the Statistical Office of the SR began to update training materials and prepare a new training concept. The next step will be the creation of a communication channel between the authorities in the process of preparing the processing of election results or the cooperation with municipalities and regional offices.

Major changes in legislation

In the second half of 2021, the Statistical Office of the SR succeeded in enforcing the most fundamental changes in the electoral legislation in the field of electronic electoral processes within the interdepartmental comment procedure.

Amendment to the Act No. 180/2014 Coll. on the conditions for the exercise of the right to vote introduces the obligation of electronic sending of voting results at all levels of election commissions (from the district), abolishes immediate physical delivery of minutes and creates conditions for complete electronic preparation of candidate documents in the IVIS. It thus provides the planned conceptual changes with the legal support necessary for their successful implementation in practice.



Cooperation with the Institute of Informatics and Statistics

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

In 2021, INFOSTAT resolved 26 research and development tasks consisting of 68 partial outputs focused mainly on:

methodological solutions

- proposal for the calculation of price indices for selected goods from data obtained by downloading from the Internet for the purposes of price statistics - web scraping;
- application of the selected machine learning method for automatic connection of ECOICOP classification to the data obtained from retail chains;
- methodology of construction of derived population forecasts for individual domains (labor force, human capital, education, Roma and households);
- improving the methodology and updating the estimate of household energy consumption data in the structure required by Eurostat;
- methodology of construction of projection simulations and demographic forecasts of population groups; methodology of decomposition techniques applied in demographic research in identifying

changes in selected demographic processes; methods of demographic research on the mortality process, epidemiological situation, causes of death and avoidable mortality;

updating and development

- pilot implementation of web scraping of prices of selected goods into the environment of the Statistical Office of the SR;
- programming solutions in energy statistics;
- implementation of changes in the processing of price statistics with monthly and quarterly periodicity;
- UNIDEMO and SDMX tables (demographic data collection model for Eurostat);
- updating of software solutions for processing business consumer surveys;
- creation of a tool for validation of micro-data sent to Eurostat within the IFS 2020;

calculations and constructions

- processing of monthly population movements and balancing of the population at the end of the reference period from the data of the source database of the integrated statistical information system (ZBD ISIS);
- implementation of control links in ISIS (Integrated Statistical Information System) for monthly, quarterly processing in 2021 and annual processing in 2020;
- creation of a metadata model in the IBM Cognos Framework Manager environment for publishing in DATAcube. on the public portal of the Statistical Office of the SR;
- compilation of long time series of demographic events data; construction

of selected demographic analytical indicators; construction of cross-sectional and cohort life tables; estimation of the educational structure of Slovakia;

analyzes, studies, forecasts and surveys

- analysis and forecast of the development of the business cycle in the Slovak economy in 2021 with a quarterly periodicity;
 - quick estimates of GDP at T + 30 days and T + 45 days after the end of the reference quarter;
 - quick estimate of total employment in the Slovak economy at time T + 45 days after end of the reference quarter;
 - compilation of the Satellite Account of Culture and Creative Industries for 2019;
 - cooperation on the TDP balance for 2019 in the SNA-NT system;
 - compilation of the Tourism Satellite Account for 2019;
 - a comprehensive study of the cohort approach and the possibilities of its use in the data conditions of Slovakia, analytical and methodological approaches to researching the impact of crises on demographic reproduction, the birth process of children born out of wedlock and their parents' characteristics and the formation and dissolution of marriages in Slovakia;
- In 2021, the Center for Social Research conducted a survey of corporate culture and employee satisfaction of the Statistical Office of the SR.

analytical outputs

- analysis of input data, functionalities and outputs resulting from the new questionnaire for the survey of agricultural production and intermediate consumption; a proposal for a procedure for interconnecting farm data sources in the household sector between different data sources;
- analysis of the formation and

dissolution of marriages in Slovakia, development and changes in the process of mortality and causes of death in Slovakia, the process of out-of-wedlock births and the characteristics of the parents of this children in Slovakia in time and space, the impact of the current crisis on selected demographic processes in Slovakia and analytical evaluation of the use of the cohort approach in the research of demographic reproduction in Slovakia.

Within the cooperation with INFOSTAT, it should also be mentioned that the result of activities and solutions to the above-mentioned tasks in 2021 were several **analytical and methodological materials**.

The studies were as follows:

- The concept of cohort approach and the possibilities of its use in the data conditions of Slovakia
- Analytical evaluation of the use of the cohort approach in the research of demographic reproduction in Slovakia
- Analytical and methodological approaches to research into the impact of crises on demographic reproduction
- Analytical publication of the effects of the current crisis on selected demographic processes on Slovakia
- Analytical and methodological approaches to research into the birth process out of wedlock and characteristics of the parents
- Analysis of the process of childbirth of wedlock and the characteristics of their parents in Slovakia in time and space perspective
- Possibilities of research into the formation and dissolution of marriages in Slovakia on the basis of data of the official demographic statistics

The cooperation with the Statistical Office of the SR and the activities of INFOSTAT in 2021 are documented in detail in the Annual report of the Institute for the year 2021 and published on the website www.infostat.sk.

11.

We serve customers

/ 43

12.

We publish the Journal Slovak
Statistics and Demography

/ 48

13.

International activities

/ 50

14.

Human resources

/ 54

We serve customers

In the field of customer services provision, the Office continued to implement the action programs set out in the Office's strategic objectives. In order to best fulfill the requirements and expectations of users of statistical information, the Office implemented activities during the year in compliance with the approved Marketing Plan of the SOSR for 2021. For **national and international organizations**, the Office processed and provided a **total of 531 products** from various statistical areas in the form of predefined tables, data sets and various questionnaires. Within domestic customers, these were mainly legislative and executive bodies of the state administration. The most important were the National Bank of Slovakia (39 %), the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic. A total of **235 products** were provided to the national institutions in various periodicals. **296 products** were provided to international organizations during the year, most of which concerned Eurostat (84 %).

The marketing activities of the SOSR were focused on the **knowledge and expansion of our customers' knowledge** in the field of statistics and on **finding out their expectations**. The individual specialist departments at the Office's headquarters and at the regional offices of the SOSR organized a total of **76 meetings** during the year, which were attended by almost 1 100 existing and potential users of statistics. These events were organized in the form of seminars, workshops, trainings and consultations for various customer groups. A significant part

of the activities was intended for local government representatives, the content of which is focused on the assisted census within the 2021 Population and Housing Census. As in the previous year, in 2021 the organization of activities was affected by the limitations related to the Covid-19 pandemics and the majority of them were held online.

On October 20, 2021, the SOSR, together with the European Statistical Community, commemorated the **European Statistics Day** for the sixth time, held with the message **Statistics, a vaccine to protect democracy and combat the virus of disinformation**. The aim of the regular event is to raise citizens' awareness of the importance and value of official statistics produced by European and national statistical institutes. On the occasion of the European Statistics Day, the Office published an **informative and promotional publication Slovak Republic in figures 2021, which displays through visualization elements** statistical information from the field of demographic, economic and social development in Slovakia. The Statistical Office of the SR has published several new statistical information, in particular interactive visualizations of three indicators from the new product Regional Cities of the Slovak Republic. Through short animations, it is possible to follow the development of the share of seniors in the population, the amount of municipal waste produced in the years 2010 to 2020 and the average prices for the purchase of real estate in 2019 and 2020.

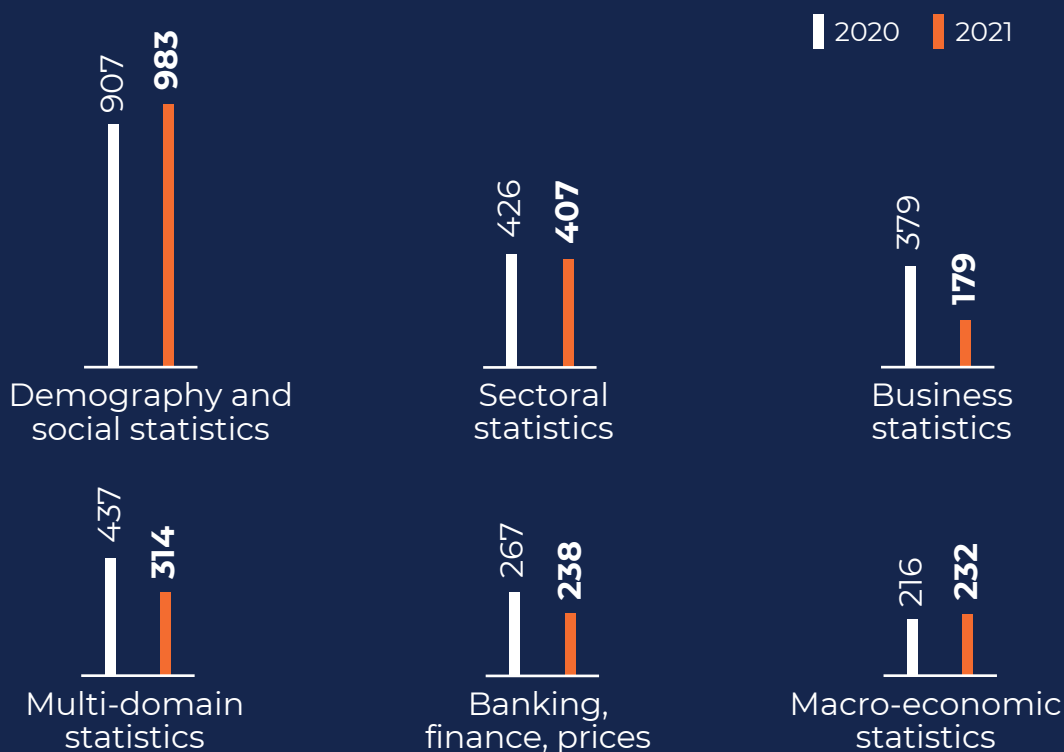
In 2021, the statistical information services dealt with a total of **2 353 requests for statistical information** from various thematic areas. The Central Office processed a total of 1 821

requests for statistical data, of which 86 % were from domestic and 14 % from foreign customers. The highest number of requests was made by enterprises, associations, unions and trade unions (19.7 %). Compared to 2020, there was an increase in requests from the general public (19.1 %), which was the second largest group of customers. Share of requests from students and teachers reached 19 % and from customers from state administration and self-government 14.6 %. Experts from science and research and financial institutions have shown lower interest in statistical information. In terms of thematic areas, as in previous years, the highest interest was in data from the field of demography and social statistics remains (39.6 %). In 2021, the departments providing statistical information at regional offices

processed a total of 532 requests, most of them for self-government and state administration (44.5 %), the second largest group of applicants were students and teachers (18 %). Compared to previous years, the number of applications from companies, associations, unions and trade unions decreased (15.6 %). As in the previous years, the most popular were statistical information in the field of demography and social statistics.

The more demanding requirements requiring processing in the SOSR professional departments accounted for almost a third of all applications (29.9%), of which the most requirements were from demography and social statistics. The demanding customer requests also included requests for **confidential statistical data for scientific purposes**.

Number of satisfied requests at the Central Office and the Regional Offices of the SO SR



15 contracts for the provision of micro-data have been concluded with institutions from the scientific and academic community.

In 2021, the statistical information services at workplaces and regions handled a total of 532 requests for statistical information, most of them for self-government and state administration (44.5%), the second largest group of applicants were students and teachers (18%). Compared to previous years, the number of applications from companies, associations, unions and trade unions decreased (15.6%). As in previous years, statistical information from the field of demography and social statistics was the most desired.

For those seeking information on European Statistics and support in navigating the Eurostat website, the Office provided assistance through the Support Center for Users of European Statistics. The center is established at the Central Office of the Statistical Office of the SR is part of the international **European Statistical Data Support (ESDS)** network.

During the year, **46 readers** (office employees and external customers) used the **library** services. In 2021, **241 new volumes** were added to the library's collection, of which 205 represented new publications of the Office. 39 loans were registered. The library received 6 daily newspaper titles, 14 journal titles and 5 online accesses to specialized literature intended for the departments of the Office. In total, EUR 6 630 were spent on the purchase of professional literature and subscriptions to newspapers and magazines.

In order to increase the promotion of SO SR products, the Office began compiling a **newsletter** distributed to key customers in 2021. The newsletter included information about the recently published online publications of the

Office, new data cubes, which were added to DATAcube. and other major events, e.g. European Statistics Day or press releases.

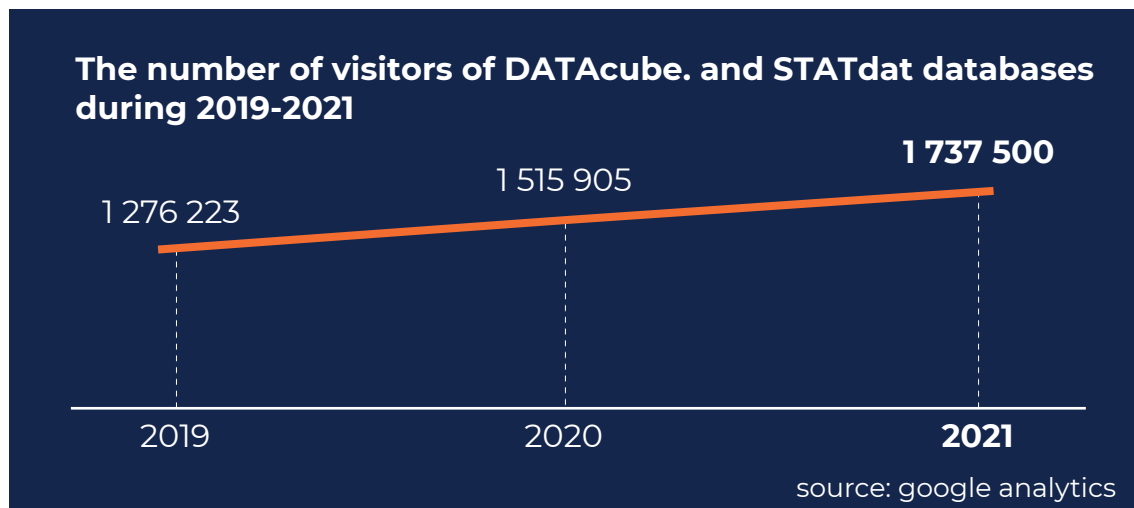
The Office provided **publishing activities** in accordance with the Catalogue of Publications 2021. During the year, it published a total of **51 titles** in monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual periodicity, including 4 publications beyond the Catalogue of Publications.

31 publications were issued in English. The main publications were the Statistical Yearbook of the Slovak Republic 2021, the Statistical Report on Basic Development Tendencies in the Slovak Economy and the Report on Economic Development in the Regions of the Slovak Republic. In accordance with the set strategic goals, the Office focused on the creation of value-added publications, which included e.g. Slovak Republic in Figures 2021, Statistics in regions - Regions in Figures 2021, Women and Men in the SR 2021 and Housing construction in the years 2010 - 2020. All publications were available on the web portal of the Statistical Office of the SR. **Promotional videos** were made for the statistical publications Statistical Yearbook of the Capital City of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava 2021, and Statistics in Regions - Regions in Figures 2021, in order to disseminate them to a wider range of users.

During the year, the Office regularly updated and expanded the content of information on the **Internet portal of the SOSR**. The Catalogue of Publications in 2021, the 3rd round of Peer Review, Drawing on EU Funds - Eurostat and others were added to the pages of statistical topics. The Slovak version of the **Demography of Europe** web application was published on the Office's portal, which provides interesting data on population development, population aging, structures and movement in the form of visualizations and interactive

elements. New quarterly reports on the economy, labor market and housing construction and a monthly informative report on accommodation statistics in the Slovak Republic were added to the published information reports with new visualization elements. As part of the new value-added products, a new monthly

press release on the topic of **mortality and causes of deaths in the Slovak Republic** with knowledge interpretation of data and interactive visualizations was published. During the year, two new press releases with static graphs, processed tables and a video on the **topic of poverty and its manifestations** in the SR



were also published.

In 2021, the Internet portal was visited by 1 737 500 users. Compared to 2020, the number of visitors increased by 14.6 %. During the year, users viewed a total of 7 179 962 pages, representing an increase of 4.1 % compared to 2020. In terms of content, users were particularly interested in electronic data collection, Register of Legal Entities, Entrepreneurs and Public Authorities, databases, statistics by individual headings, code lists and classifications, models of statistical forms. 216 new publications (including information leaflets) were added to the Catalog of Publications, as of 31 December 2021 it contained more than **3 205 electronic publications** for download, including the archive.

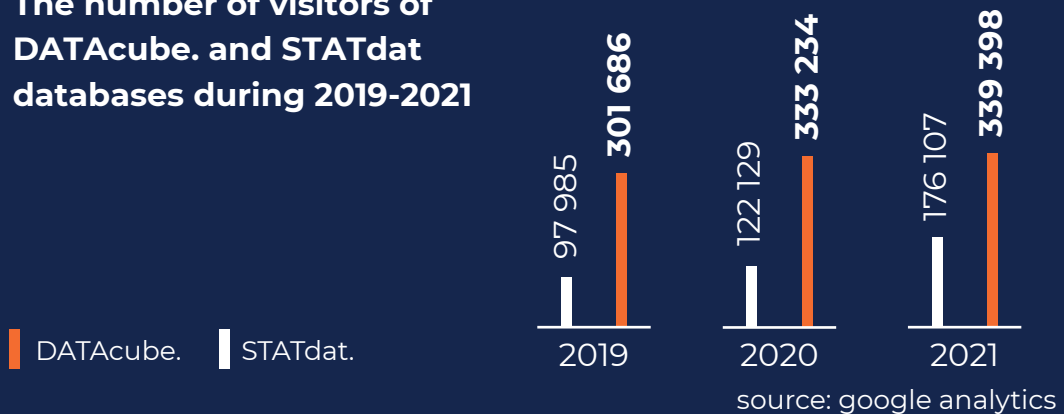
As part of the newly created pages, the **Current Information Dashboard** has been added to the Portal, which provides a presentation of the selected key indicators of the development of Slovak society and the economy over time (including the Covid months) in an

easy-to-read and understandable form. The **Information Dashboard of the City of Bratislava** presents 16 key indicators from selected statistical areas and their development over time, in the form of clear interactive graphs.

During 2021, the Statistical Office of the SR gradually expanded the provision of statistical information via the **social networks Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Youtube and Vimeo**, thus making official statistics available to a wider range of users.

DATAcube public database currently contains 1 374 data cubes and the **STATdat** database. 364 dynamic reports. **The total number of displayed data cubes in 2021 was 1 046 193, which represents an increase of 30.7 % compared to 2020.** From the statistical areas, users were mainly interested in the indicators of population and migration, national accounts, labor, consumer prices and prices of production statistics. During 2021, 122 new data cubes were created, of which about a quarter of

The number of visitors of DATAcube. and STATdat databases during 2019-2021



the cubes containing statistical data, which have so far been published in monthly publications in the field of price statistics and industry (publications were not included in the 2022 Publishing Program). New cubes from EU SILC, tourism, health, demography, business statistics and the environment have also been created. **In 2021, there was a significant increase in the number of visitors to the DATAcube. Database, which represented up to 44 %.**

During the year, the Office published **289 new datasets** in accordance with the **Action Plan of the Open Government Initiative**, on the open data portal <https://data.gov.sk/> during the year. The Statistical Office of the SR remains the leader in the provision of datasets with a total of **1 023 published datasets** in 2021, representing 36 % of

all 2 800 published datasets for state administration institutions.

The aim of the Office, in accordance with the Development Strategy of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic until 2022, is to systematically increase the value of the institution for stakeholders and its recognition at the national and international level. The Office monitors the fulfillment of the objective using the indicator of the **credibility of the Statistical Office of the SR**. In 2021, the Office, through an external independent organization, conducted a survey of the credibility and extent of the use of information provided by the public on a representative sample of 1 002 inhabitants of the Slovak Republic aged 18 and over. Based on the results of the survey, 59 % of respondents expressed confidence in the Office.



We publish the Journal Slovak Statistics and Demography

The year 2021 was the 31st year of the scientific journal Slovak Statistics and Demography. The Statistical Office of the SR has been publishing this scientific journal since 1991. Individual articles of the Journal provide the professional and lay public with information from various statistical fields, underlying the appropriate use of statistical and demographic methods and procedures, promoting the importance of statistics, supporting the development of statistical theory and connection with practice.

So far, almost 600 professional articles have been published. So far, there have been 5 executive editors of the Journal's editorial board. **Since 2016, the Editorial Board has been cooperating with 6 foreign consultants.**

The monothematic issue of 2021 was the fourth one and was devoted to perhaps the most current topic of 2021 - the **Covid-19 pandemic**. This monothematic issue of the Journal

Slovak Statistics and Demography provided readers with the broadest possible view of the Covid-19 pandemic, based on statistical and demographic data. The impact on the health of the population, together with a wide range of economic impacts, are the most serious and publicly perceived consequences of the pandemic. Published professional articles are also the reaction to these two areas. The Editorial Board monitors the current demographic and statistical topics and continues its activities focused on a positive public perception of the Journal. New authors presenting the results of their scientific activities, which were created by the application of statistical methods, are also given the opportunity.

We would like to thank all the contributors of the Journal, members of the Editorial Board and foreign consultants, reviewers, readers and supporters of the Journal for their support.



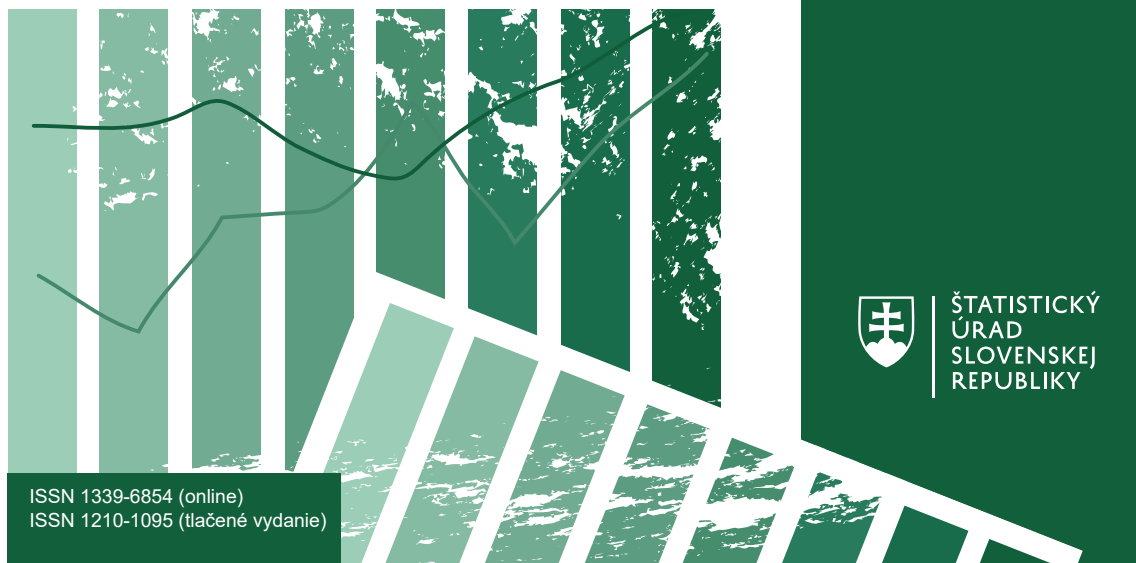
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International activities

Due to the unfavourable pandemic situation, the trend of organizing international activities in a virtual or hybrid event format continued in 2021. The SOSR successfully adapted to this trend and continued to be actively involved in activities at the European and international level.

As for the **European Statistical System**, the Office's staff play an active role mainly in the expert working groups, as well as in the so-called task forces focused on specified topics, e.g. to develop new methodologies and tools. In 2021, it was e.g. Task Force on Strategic Communication. The Office's directors took an active part in the discussions of director's groups and steering or management committees. At the level of the European Statistical System Committee, as the highest strategic and governing body of the European Statistical System (ESS), the Office dealt with and commented on a number of important topics, such as: integration of innovation and experimentation across all ESS activities, remote access to European confidential micro-data for scientific purposes, the results of the 2020 Vision in the ESS, the project of Intrastat modernization or the NACE revision.

In the field of cooperation with the **European System of Central Banks (ESCB)**, the Office participated in the **European Statistical Forum (ESF)**, which task is to coordinate and manage the cooperation between the ESS and the ESCB, approve annual work programmes on common activities in both systems, and delegate the implementation of these programs to the operational level (CMFB and other

relevant ESS and ESCB bodies). In cooperation with the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic, the Office participated within the **Subcommittee for Statistics of the Economic and Financial Committee (EFC SCS)** in the preparation of the so-called statistical package, on the basis of which the ECOFIN Council adopted conclusions on European Statistics 2021.

In 2021, the Office's representatives also attended the three **high-level meetings**, organized by the Presidency of the Council of the EU together with Eurostat. The meetings provided an opportunity to exchange experiences on national approaches to implementation of data governance, as well as to discuss the possible future role of national statistical institutes and the ESS in the developing data ecosystem and ensure the timeliness of statistics across all statistical fields.

The 106th DGINS (Conference of the Directors General of National Statistical Institutes) was one of the **international conferences**, at which, thanks to the virtual or hybrid event format respectively, a wider range of staff from several relevant sections of the Office could participate, it was focused on strategic issues related to the use of Earth observation as a data source for official statistics.

The relevant Office's representatives also regularly took part in the virtual meetings of the Council Working Party on Statistics and thus participated in the preparation of **EU legislation**. Further draft regulation from the package of three regulations in the field of agricultural statistics has started to be

discussed in the context of the ongoing revision of the legislative rules relating to the common agricultural policy (the draft proposal for a regulation on agricultural inputs and outputs, the so-called SAIO). At the end of the year, proposal for a revision of the ESA 2010 was submitted to the legislative process at the level of legislative authorities, the approval of which will continue in the following year.

In the first half of the year, the cooperation of the SOSR within the **Visegrad Group** countries under the responsibility of the Polish Presidency also continued. The aim was to achieve methodological and qualitative improvements in the production of statistics, exchange the knowledge and experiences in identified areas and publish joint publications. At the end of March 2021, a joint V4 publication "Europe 2020 strategy in the Visegrad group countries" was published, and at the beginning of June 2021, a meeting on Global Value Chains was held, at which the Office presented the implementation and results of the previous pilot surveys in grant projects. At the end of June 2021, a seminar "Challenges for cross-border statistics in the context of the information needs of the V4 countries" was organized. The SO SR's representatives participated in panel discussions on the topics "Use of big data (tourism data) in tourism statistics" and "New data sources - methods and possibilities of their acquisition".

At the invitation of the President of the Office, an official visit of representatives of the Czech Statistical Office, headed by its President, took place in October 2021. This is a traditional annual meeting in order to deepen the development of **bilateral cooperation** not only at the expert level, but also at the level of management of both offices. The members of the delegation visited

the Safe Data Centre of the SOSR and discussed the topics of 2021 CENSUS and the coordination of the national statistical system.

Within the **international cooperation**, the SOSR mainly acts as a member of the UN Statistical Division, UNECE, and CSSP-OECD, the relevant Office's experts participate in meetings of the working groups and also provide data to databases and complete monothematic questionnaires for the purposes of these organizations.

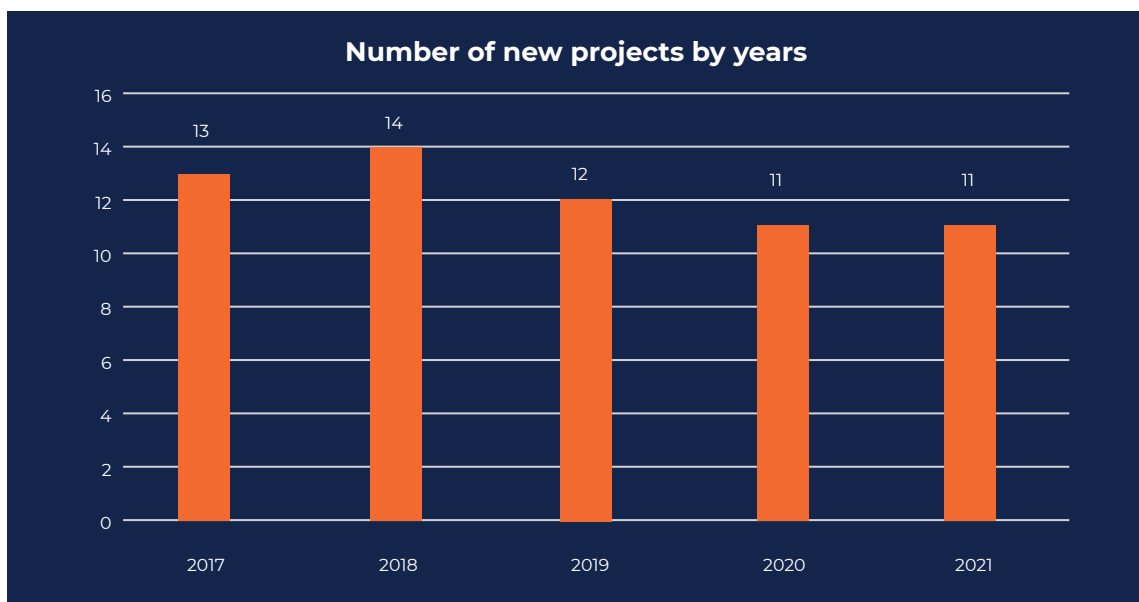
In 2021, the relevant Office's representatives actively participated in the Forum on Tourism Statistics, the Expert Groups of the UN Statistical Division on Population and Housing Census and the UN Statistical Commission on Dissemination and Communication in Statistics, Modernization of Official Statistics and Modernization of Statistical Legislation. At the beginning of March, a plenary session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) was held in New York (virtual event format). The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development continued to be a key topic. Other important items on the agenda concerned economic statistics, national accounts, migration statistics, business and trade statistics, environmental economic accounts, modernization of statistical systems and international classifications. The June joint session of the UNECE Conference of European Statistics and the plenary session of the OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy focused on innovation and new approaches to data in national statistical offices in the post-covid period was held in Paris (hybrid event format).

In 2021, the European Affairs and International Cooperation Unit also continued to act as a **central contact point** for ministries and other central government bodies, as well as the

EU and international institutions and other statistical offices, with regard to requirements of the EU and international agenda.

Concerning the **foreign trips in physical format**, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Office's staff participated in events abroad only in a very limited number. In 2021, only three foreign trips took place, all of which were held in neighbouring countries. In June, the President of the Office attended a meeting of the Czech Statistical Council in Prague. In September, the Office's representatives visited the Mendel University in Brno, where the possibilities of professional practice of students at the Office were discussed and at the same time the preparation and realization of the 2021 Census were presented.

In 2021, the Office applied for 11 new EU co-financed **grant projects** aimed at introducing new statistical tools and methods. Together with projects from the previous period, the SOSR has implemented 30 grant projects in total during the year.





Human resources

The SOSR entered the year 2021 in a difficult situation with a reduced number of employees. The budget measure of the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic set the limit of the number of employees at 793 (of which 744 were current posts and 49 designed for the specific tasks in the 2021 Census Unit), which meant a 10 % reduction in current posts compared to the previous year. In order to strengthen the role of the Statistical Office of the SR as the coordinator of the National Statistical System, 11 new positions were created as of 1 July 2021, organizationally integrated into the new Department of coordination of the national statistical system, or to the existing departments for streamlining the coordination processes of individual expert areas of statistics.

In 2021, the SOSR had **765.9 employees** (average registered recalculated number), of which 302.8 at the Central Office and 463.1 employees at the

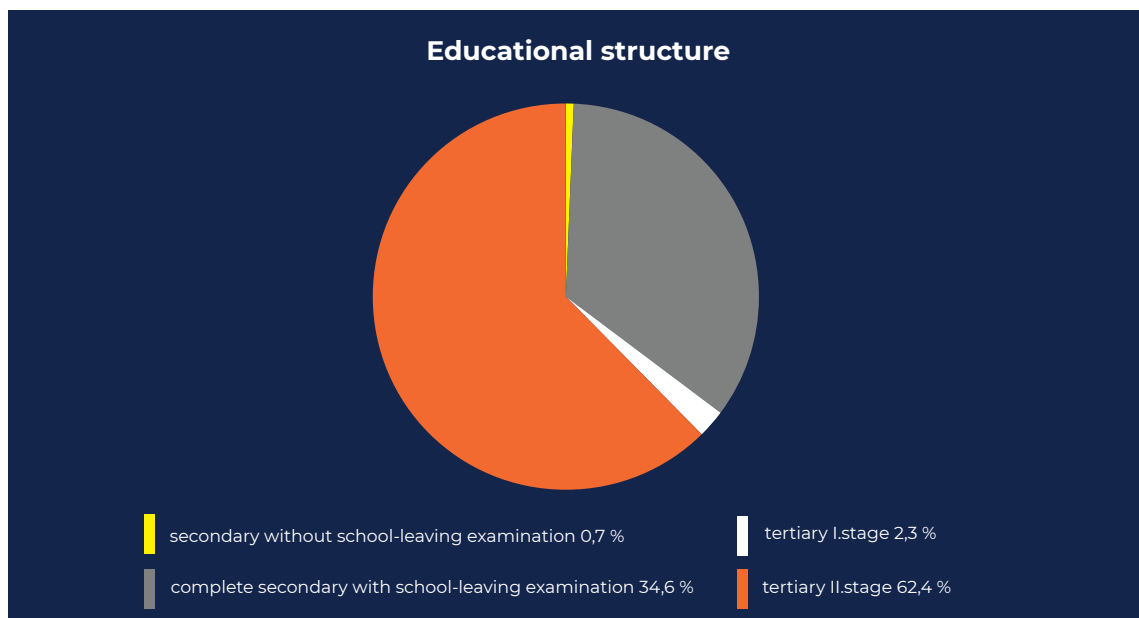
Office's regional offices (including the Section of Industrial Data collection and Processing of Field Surveys in Banská Bystrica).

The **educational and age structure** of the Office's employees as of 31 December 2021 illustrated by the graphs.

77.6 % of women and 22.4 % of men were employed at the Office. There were 126 employees in management positions, of which 69.0 % were women and 31.0 % were men.

For the year 2021, the available budget of the SOSR was EUR 13 293 166 of budgetary wage funds (this amount also includes wages for the Census). For the period from January to December 2021, the need arose for **EUR 13 270,418**, hence the limit of the obligatory indicator for wages, salaries, pays and other personal surcharge in 2021 has been respected.

The Office's **staff training** was based



on the approved Staff Training Plan of the SOSR for 2021. During the year, employees completed educational events in the field of:

- managerial training,
- education focused on personal growth,
- vocational training,
- further vocational training,
- information technologies,
- language learning,
- adaptation education.

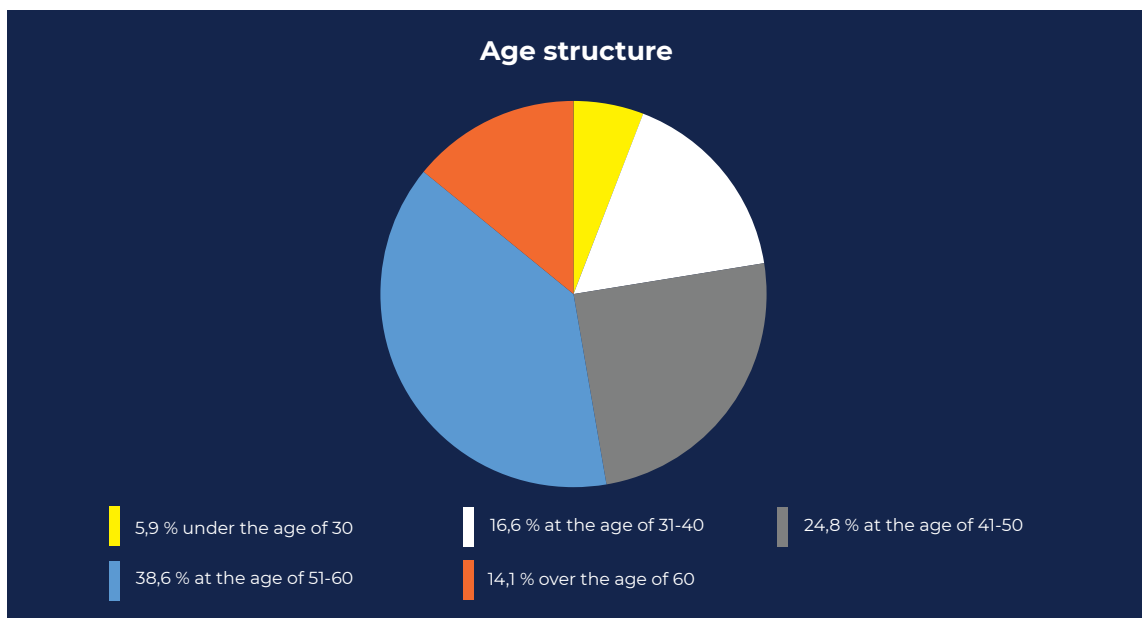
The **share of individual types of education** in 2021 is illustrated in the graph.

Even in 2021, severe epidemic measures caused by the spread of Covid-19 pandemic significantly interfered with the possibility of implementing the scheduled educational events. Courses were attended only during the summer months, during the other months the training was carried out only online, in the form of webinars, video conferences or guided self-study of employees. The planned training events were continuously supplemented by other operational training activities, responding mainly to the changes in legislation and compliance with the

Office's legal obligations in the field of public procurement, human resources management, control, audit, registry and financial processes.

In the field of **vocational training**, the activities were primarily focused on the development of staff skills related to the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of statistical information from statistical surveys or administrative data sources, to fulfill tasks related to the collection and processing of 2021 Census of Population and Housing, for the preparation and processing of the results of by-elections to municipal self-government bodies and for the implementation of online courses within the project Reform of the collection and processing of statistical data in public administration.

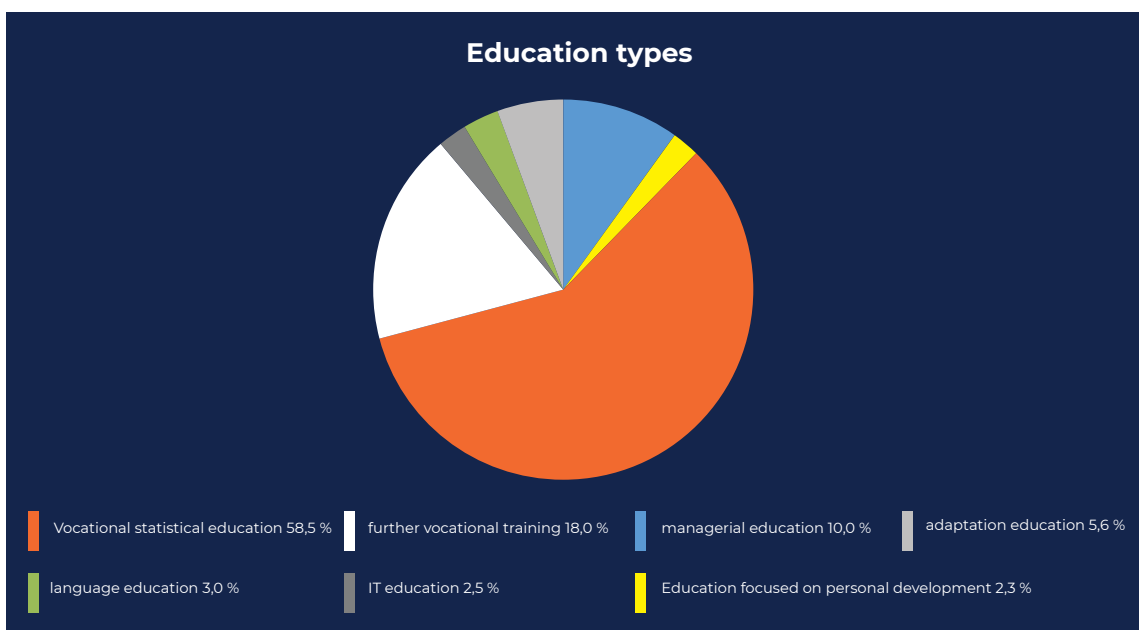
The Office's staff also attended 61 educational events (international online courses, webinars, online workshops, video conferences) organized by international organizations such as the UN, IMF, World Bank, Eurostat, and foreign statistical offices. Employee participation in these events enabled to expand their expertise, skills and competences. The online forms were



predominantly used, which compared with the personal meetings provided only a significantly limited space for the mutual exchange of experiences and knowledge between the participants of the event. During this challenging period, the Office's experts also took part in professional online courses within the **European Statistical Training Programme**.

Language training was provided in the form of intensive online English language training during the second half of 2021. The training focused on the use of professional English terminology in legislation, writing expert opinions, emails and conducting international negotiations.

In 2021, a total of **854 educational activities** took place with **3 110 participants**. During the year, the Office spent **EUR 39 470** on education.





15.

Information systems and information and communication technologies / **59**

16.

Financial results / **62**

17.

Priorities 2022 / **66**

18.

Organizational structure 2021 / **72**

19.

Contacts / **74**

Information systems and information and communication technologies

As part of the fulfillment of the objectives of the **National Concept of Public Administration Informatization** (NKIVS), the SOSR has been collecting statistical data in electronic form for the sixth year, which has increased the return on data also thanks to the pre-filling of data and controls implemented in electronic forms. The Office also provides its electronic services available on its Portal also through the Central **Public Administration Portal** (IPOS) www.slovensko.sk. In order to reduce the administrative burden on reporting units (RU), it continues to **extend the range of administrative sources used**, which replaces the data originally obtained from the RU or complete the data collected from the RU by implementing new technologies.

The SOSR participates in the application of the **Act on Protection against Money Laundering and on Protection against Terrorist Financing**. This act regulates the rights and obligations of legal and natural persons in preventing and detecting money laundering and terrorist financing. Its main goal is to prevent the so-called „money laundering“. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, which entered into force on 1 November 2018, the Statistical Office of the SR is shall be required keep up-to-date identification data on the end users of benefits in the Register of Legal Entities, Entrepreneurs and Public Authorities (RLE) and submit them to public authorities and liable persons in the provision of basic care in relation to the client. According to the Article 7a of Act No. 272/2015 Coll. on RLE, as amended, the SOSR provides data on end users of benefits in electronic form from RLE

since 1 November 2018. It also provides data to liable persons in an automated manner according to Article 5 of Act No. 297/2008 Coll. on protection against money laundering and on terrorist financing and on the amendment of certain laws. Establishment of access for the above-mentioned liable persons is possible on the basis of an application, which is accessible after logging in via eID on behalf of the liable person through the Central Government Portal or the portal of the SOSR <https://rpo.statistics.sk>. A novelty offered by the Statistical Office of the SR to the general public is the open REST API interface for data provision from the RLE. Technical details for each call and access to the REST API for RLE are available at <https://susrrpo.docs.apiary.io>.

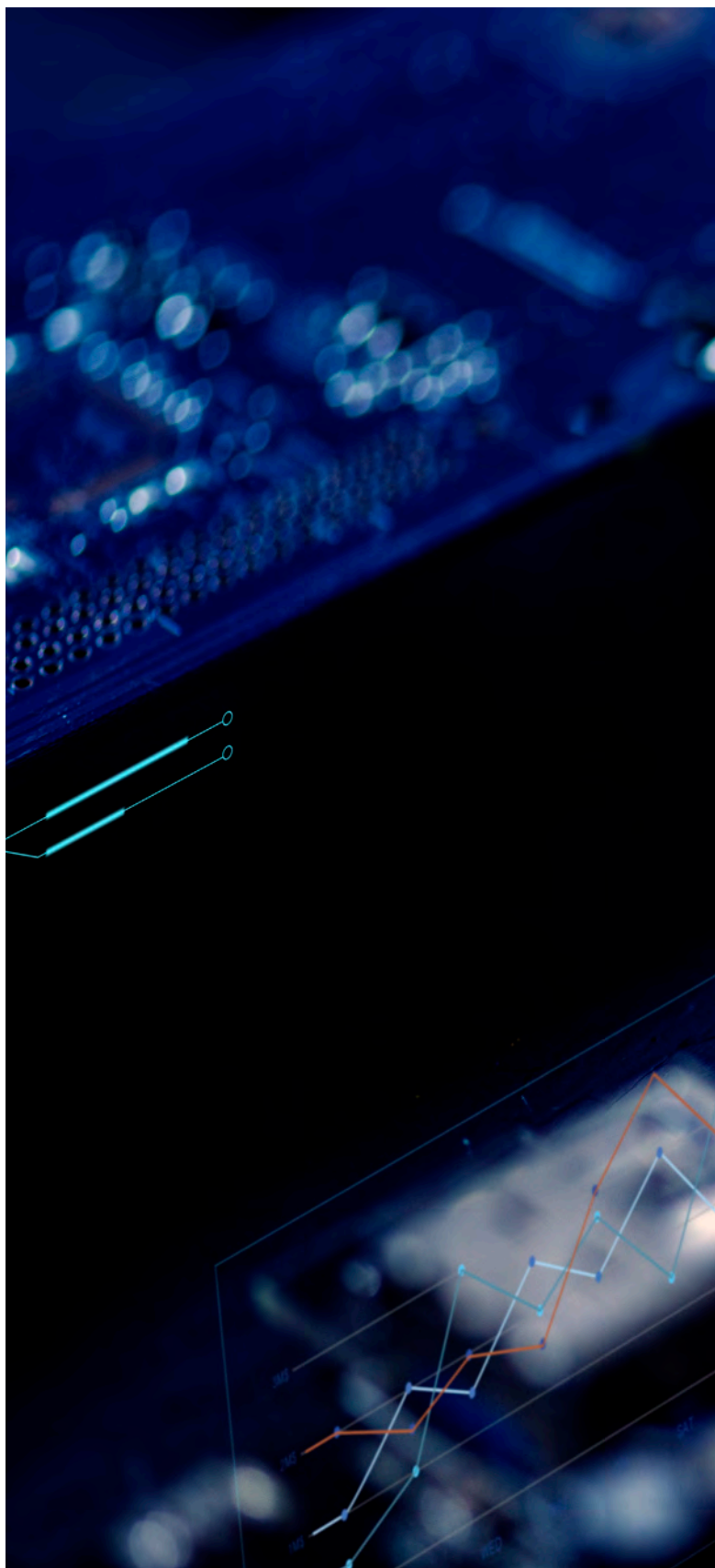
In 2021, the implementation of the **Unified Statistical Information System** (USIS) project continued. The project follows up on the outputs and recommendations of the Reform of Statistical Data Collection and Processing project, which should take into account Eurostat's requirements for the development of a national methodology and its subsequent unification towards the obliged persons of the survey. The project will also enable the unification of the collection and processing of statistical data through all liable persons, as well as the protection and security of the collected and processed data in the National Statistical System (NSS). A novelty will be introduced within the USIS- the possibility of sending reports from ERP systems.

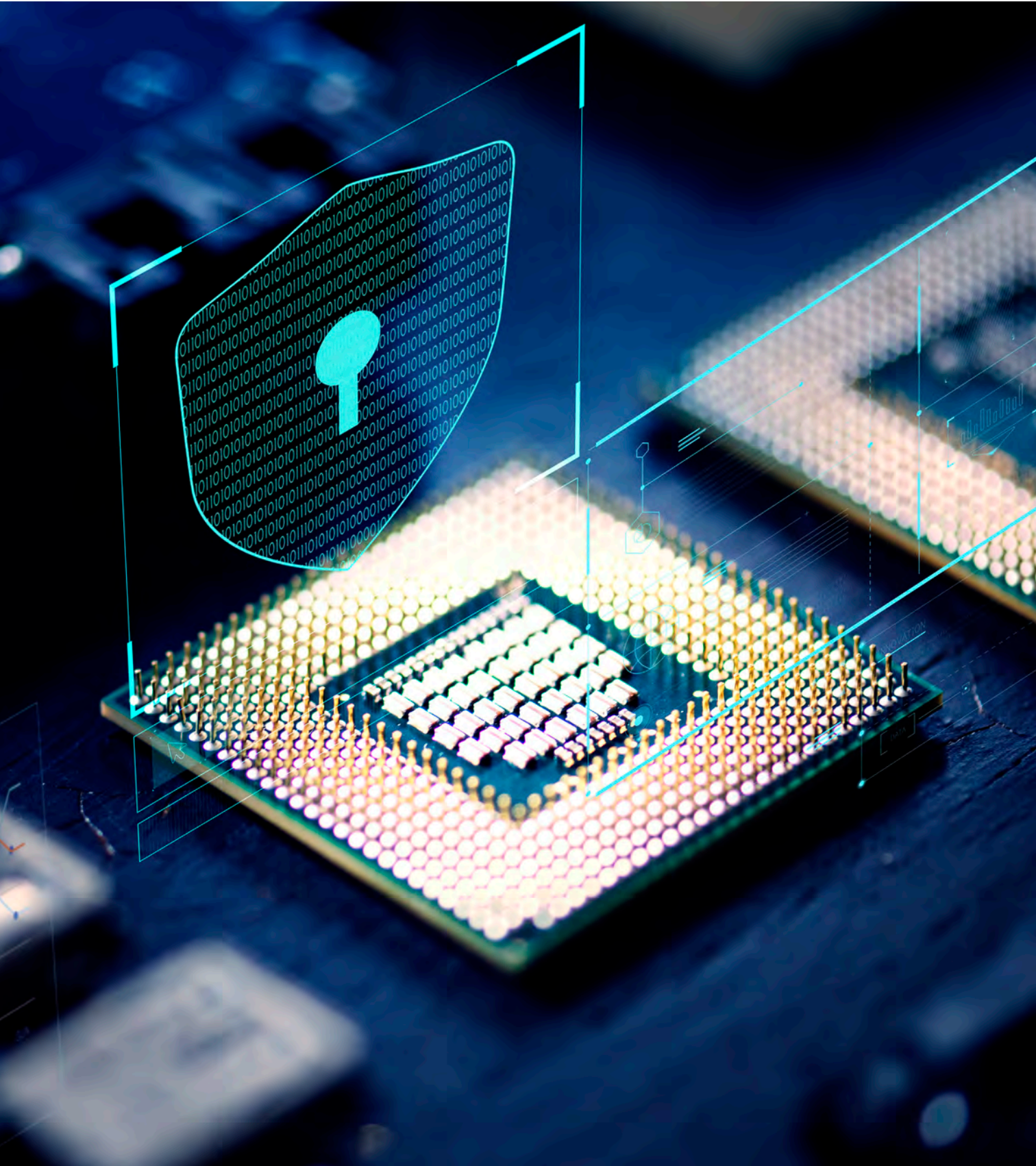
In 2021, after the certification of the information security management system according to the ISO / IEC

27001: 2013, the Office continued other activities related to increasing the security of information and communication technologies (ICT). The **implementation of a „security platform“** has been realized, ensuring a very high level of security for the transmission, management and storage of confidential statistical information. By automating all these activities, any operational risks related to these activities have been eliminated. Within the established automation, the quality and structure of data can be verified at the same time. Minimizing the repetitive human activities and capacity release for other significant activities is also a very important benefit.

During 2021, other **major organizational changes** were implemented within the SOSR **related to streamlining the work of the Information Systems Directorate and changes to the existing infrastructure and application equipment** in connection with resettlement the Office to new premises, securing tasks the Office associated with the prepared and implemented projects financed from the European structural and investment funds (ESIF) at the SOSR. The changes were also related to the valid system documents and methodological instructions of the Central Coordinating Body, the governing and methodological documents of the managing and intermediate body, the provisions of the Decree No. 85/2020 Coll. on project management and other legislative rules.

The **strategy of supporting the development of the information society** within the SOSR is focused on investing in the development of electronic services for citizens and entrepreneurs and on increasing the availability of public administration data through open data. At the same time, ICT is intended to support the ongoing reform of the public administration, including the further expansion of the use of the government cloud and the modernization of the Office's communication platform.





Financial results

Pursuant to the Act No. 425/2020 Coll. on state budget, expenditures in the amount of **EUR 48 477 693 were approved** for the chapter- Statistical Office of the SR, (of which EUR 22 057 061 for the 2021 Population and Housing Census (hereinafter referred to as "Census"). In 2021, the Office's budget **was adjusted by 39 budgetary measures of the Ministry of Finance of the SR to EUR 53 671 231,09**. The adjustments mainly concerned the exceeding of the limit of capital expenditures by funds from the previous years in the amount of EUR 318 232, by funds for the 2021 Census, in connection with the amendment to Act No. 223/2019 Coll. in the amount of EUR 1 052 000, by funds for personal expenditure for the activities of the Central Coordination Unit EUR 156 758, for the implementation of the third anti-bureaucratic package EUR 196 440 and for the payment of remuneration in the amount of EUR 350 for staff by increasing personal expenditure, by EUR 373 941. Other adjustments were related to the binding of the current expenditure limit under the Central License Agreement for Oracle- EUR 716 064 and the binding of capital expenditure- EUR 446 580 and the funds of the European Union funds and co-financing from the state budget- EUR 35 461 with the possibility of their use in the next financial year. Other budgetary measures increased the limit of expenditures by the European Union and co-financing from the state budget in the total amount of EUR 4 262 210 for projects resolved by the Office within three operational programs: OP Effective Public Administration - Priority Axis 1, OP Environmental Quality - Priority Axis 4 and OP Integrated Infrastructure 2014 - 2020 - Priority Axis 7 - Information Society

For 2021, the indicator for a binding revenue **limit-in the amount of EUR 14 196 000 was approved** for the SOSR, including non-tax revenues from the sale of capital assets- EUR 14 106 000 and non-tax current revenues- EUR 90 000. The **revenues actually amounted to EUR 82 048** in non-tax current revenue. The planned revenues from the sale of capital assets, which were to be secured from the sale of vacant buildings under the administration of the SOSR, were not fulfilled, as the originally adopted procedure was reassessed during the year and the planned sale was cancelled. The Office has taken this step on the basis of the modified conditions on the real estate market and new economic analyzes, which clearly pointed to the economic disadvantage of sale of the immovable property in question, especially in the long term.

The revised budget of expenditures in the amount of EUR 53 671 231,09 was drawn in the amount of **EUR 53 631 685 - to 99.9 %** (of which the EU funds were EUR 3 211 763 and funds for co-financing from the state budget (hereinafter referred to as "SB") in the amount of EUR 1 050,447 which together make up EUR 4 262 210).

The revised budget for **salaries and wages** of EUR 13 268 680 (excluding EU funds and funds for co-financing to them from the SR in the total amount of EUR 24 486) was drawn in the amount of EUR 13 245 932, of which EUR 1 049 383 for the 2021 Census.

Budget for the **insurance payments and for the insurance contribution** covered by an employer was in the amount of EUR 4 616 896 (excluding EU funds and co-financing funds from the SR in the

total amount of EUR 8 682) of which EUR 390 357 from the Census funds.

In total EUR 15 560 116 was used for **goods and services** (excluding EU funds and co-financing funds from the SB in the total amount of EUR 1 520 529), of which EUR 3 365 681 from the Census funds and EUR 7 560 770 from IT funds financed from the state budget (of which EUR 1 651 172 was spent on Census-IT). EUR 4 633 665 was spent on ordinary activities of the Statistical Office of the SR, mainly on the statistical surveys, expenditures related to the collection of statistical information, social fund allocations and staff meals. A substantial share is also represented by expenditures on rental buildings of the new headquarters of the SOSR, energy and telecommunications, protection of buildings, operation of motor vehicles and maintenance of operating machines, equipment and buildings. Part of the funds of EUR 170 206 was used for expenditure related to the measures against the spread of Covid-19.

Current transfers were drawn in the amount of EUR 13 619 436, of which EUR 753 621 for the subsidized organization INFOSTAT and EUR 12 713 606 for the municipalities to cover the costs of delegated state administration within the second stage of the 2021 Census taking place in 2021. Other transfers were used on severance grant, severance pay and sickness benefits.

Capital expenditures were drawn in the amount of EUR 2 327 095 (excluding EU funds and co-financing funds from the SR in the total amount of EUR 2 708 513), of which EUR 2 205 545 for IT financed from the state budget (of which EUR 1 868 086 was drawn on Census-IT). Appropriations for support activities amounting to EUR 121 550 were used for the purchase of passenger cars, operating machines and equipment and the refurbishment and modernization of buildings.

Special types of expenditure

2021 Population and Housing Census

A total of EUR 17 527 400 (excluding funds for information technology - Census-IT in the total amount of EUR 3 519 258) was used for salaries and related contributions to insurance companies of employees temporarily recruited to perform tasks in the preparation and implementation of the Census, for municipalities to cover the costs of the delegated performance of state administration within the implementation of the second stage of the 2021 Census, for communication and promotion campaign, for the payment of agreements and overhead costs.

Information technologies financed from the state budget - SO SR

EUR 9 766 315 was used for information technologies financed from the state budget, of which EUR 7 560 770 for goods and services and EUR 2 205 545 for capital expenditures. Expenditures were drawn to ensure the sustainability of results from the Electronic Services and Register of Legal Entities, Entrepreneurs and Public Authorities projects, to ensure the implementation and processing of the Census results, as well as to provide information technology for internal administration systems, support infrastructure and specialized systems.

Projects financed from European Union funds and the state budget funds for co-financing of joint programs of the SR and the EU

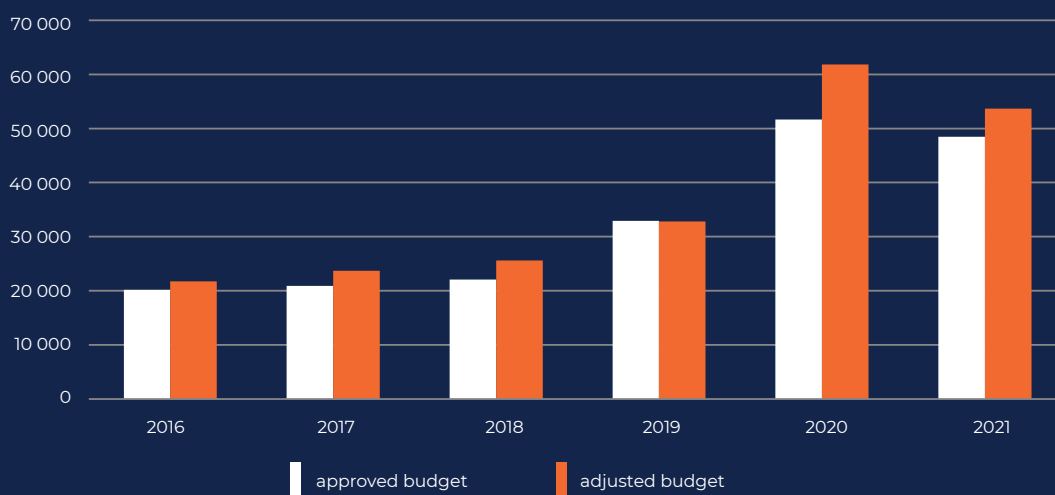
EU funds for joint programs of the SR and the EU in the amount of EUR 3 211 763 together with state budget funds for co-financing of joint programs of the SR and the EU in the amount of EUR 1 050 447 (total EUR 4 262,210) were drawn by the SOSR for projects solved within three operational programs: OP Effective Public Administration - Priority Axis 1 (project Reform of collection and processing of statistical data in

public administration in the total amount of EUR 252 934), OP Quality of Environment - Priority Axis 4 (project Reducing the energy intensity of office buildings managed by the SOSR) in the total amount of EUR 180 049) and OP Integrated Infrastructure 2014 - 2020 - Priority Axis 7 - Information Society in the total amount of EUR 3 829 227 (projects: Unified Information System of Statistical Data in the amount of EUR 1 320 456, Solution of consolidation of public authorities, organizations, farms and foreign trade in the amount of EUR 1 713 960, Migration of information systems of Internal administration, Integrated statistical information system of the SOSR to the government cloud in the amount of EUR 402 728 and Migration of information systems Integrated Electoral Information System, RLE, to the government cloud in the amount of EUR 392 083).

Separate accounts

In 2021, the SOSR received current foreign grants on a separate account of grants of EU programs in the amount of EUR 614 240 within the meaning of Article 22 (4) on budgetary rules provided by the European Commission with the aim to introduce new statistical surveys. The funds were drawn mainly for covering the wages of the staff involved in the EU projects, their material and technical support and to cover the remuneration of the employees outside the employment relationship.

Comparison of the approved and adjusted budget in thousands of EUR





Priorities 2022

The priority in 2022 will be the continuing preparations for the **third round of peer review of the European Statistical System in the SR**. The training period will also be used for the thorough integration of the principles and indicators of the Code of Practice for European Statistics with Innovation and Modernization Elements into the QMS of the SO SR, as well as the principles concerning professional independence and coordination and cooperation. The fulfillment of goals, priorities and principles of the **National Quality Program of the Slovak Republic for the years 2022 - 2026** will further contribute to the development of the integrated QMS of the SO SR. until 2022 and at the same time to begin the **Development Strategy of the SOSR by 2027**. In both cases, emphasis will be placed on those areas that are a prerequisite for the development of state statistics and the Statistical Office of the SR in compliance with the intentions of the European Statistical System, especially the modernization.

One of the priority tasks in the field of **methodology** will be the ongoing activities on the project of modernization of price statistics, where the testing of regular monthly data processing from retail chains in a new IT tool and comparison of the new outputs with outputs from the current method of processing is being prepared. Solutions for other new data sources are also being prepared, whether they are data scanner for new product groups or price data obtained from the website. The Methodological Unit also plans to further expand the use of automatic imputation methods, especially in connection with the use of available administrative data sources in business statistics. Another

significant task that the staff of the methodological department in 2022 will be the activities related to the preparation and implementation of the protection of confidential statistical data in all outputs from the 2021 Census.

In the field of **classifications**, a clear priority will be the continuing active participation in the adoption of the final version of the revised statistical classification of economic activities NACE Rev. 2. In parallel, in accordance with the Eurostat timetable, activities related to the development of the harmonized CPA classification, the implementation of the revised NACE classification into the statistical registers and also in the RLE register will be provided. In the field of **statistical registers**, emphasis will be placed on the completion and operation of the project Consolidation of Public Administration Registers, organizations, farms and foreign trade. Due to the international importance of the non-public part of the RLE - the module of end users of benefits, adequate attention will be paid to the timely implementation of the technological solution of the project of integration of data of end users of benefits into the European network, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the European AML Directive (Anti-money Laundering) for combating money laundering.

In the field of creating a cost-optimal **database**, the priority will be to achieve progress in demographic statistics in the design and implementation of electronic data retrieval from birth and death reports from the administrators of the given administrative sources. The aim is to eliminate data collection in paper form as part of the ongoing initiatives of

central government bodies within the eGovernment.

In 2022, **macroeconomic statistics** activities will focus on ensuring the tasks arising from the dialogue visit of Eurostat on the data provided to the Commission for the Excessive Debt Procedure - EDP, the consistent fulfillment of tasks in ongoing grant projects, addressing the cross-cutting reservations with deferred maturity for 2022 granted by the Commission as a result of the 2016-2019 GNI verification cycle. Other priorities will be the thorough communication with Eurostat within the verification cycle GNI 2020-2024 on the basis of the updated GNI Inventory-SK and ensuring cooperation in fulfilling the tasks arising from the preparation of the update of the basic methodological documents, namely SNA2008 and ESA2010. Priority in the **external trade statistics** will be the compulsory collection of new variables on the EU Export Reports (Partner ID in the Member State of destination and country of origin), routine exchange of micro-data on intra-EU exports and customs data exchange and the analysis of micro-data exchanged in order to identify the new methods of imputations and calculations in the statistics of trade in goods within the EU implemented within the grant project.

One of the key priorities in the field of **business statistics** is the continuation of work on the implementation of requirements arising from the implementing Commission Regulation (EU) 2020/1197 on European business statistics in the individual statistical domains. In the field of harmonization of foreign trade statistics and industrial statistics, works will continue on the creation of a converter between PRODSLOV and the Combined Nomenclature. The aim will be to identify the entities carrying out the sale abroad. Works will also continue on finalizing the compilation of annual enterprise statistics indicators for financial

corporations carried out under the Eurostat grant project. At the end of 2021, the European Commission addressed the EU Member States with a request to expand the results of **business consumer surveys**. Works will be carried out to prepare and secure new outputs in the field of labor force accumulation. In the field of **innovation statistics**, a CIS 2022 model form for the survey of EU countries and the preparation of a quality report in a new single integrated metadata structure will be prepared in cooperation with Eurostat. In **energy statistics**, data will be submitted to Eurostat for the first time in 2022 in a new questionnaire on final consumption of fuels and energy in industrial sectors. We will actively participate, within the comment procedure, in the preparation of legislative standards at both EU and national level. In particular, for example in the field of agricultural statistics, the proposal for a regulation on agricultural input and output statistics, which will be the subject of an interinstitutional dialogue in 2022. In **agricultural statistics**, preparatory works will begin to ensure the Farm Structure Survey 2023. In the field of the environment, in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment of the SR, works will continue to improve waste statistics. Environmental accounts statistics will prepare the implementation of Commission Delegated Regulation No. 2022/125, amending the annexes I to V to the Regulation No. 691/2011 on environmental accounts. Within **price statistics**, the works will focus primarily on the implementation of transaction data obtained from retail chains in the calculation of consumer price indices. When calculating the price indices of real estate intended for housing, the SOSR plans to expand the number of the published indicators by an indicator of price development by regions. In all domains of business statistics, works in the calendar year 2022 will also focus on improving the quality of statistical outputs submitted to

Eurostat and international organizations in accordance with the requirements of European legislation and their international comparability as well. The works will also focus on outputs processed for the national users. The aim is to increase their informative value in the context of their defined requirements, with special regard to the assessment of developments during the pandemic situation in individual sectors of the economy.

The main priority of **social statistics and demography** remains the 2021 Population and Housing Census. In 2022, the SOSR plans to complete the data processing and this year will be a year of extensive data dissemination at the national level at the website of www.scitanie.sk and published basic and extended results, access to anonymized databases, presentation of geospatial data, PR presentations, etc. The electronic data flow for the Statistical Office of the SR on births should begin in June 2022 and at the end of 2022 the electronic data flow on deaths. The benefit of electronic statistical reporting will be a lower burden on reporting units, while the Statistical Office of the SR will be able to provide more timely data if necessary, which is in compliance with the post-census focus. The implementation of statistical surveys on the basis of regulations and requirements of Eurostat is also a priority for 2022. In 2022, one of the main goals will be the first publication of data from the redesigned Family Accounts Survey (FA) for the reference year 2020. The data will be derived on the basis of a representative micro-data database created by merging three sub-databases from the FA surveys conducted in 2019, 2020 and 2021. The data will be submitted to Eurostat by the end of June and afterwards presented in the form of an analytical publication. In 2022, grant projects co-financed by Eurostat will also be implemented to improve some of the data provided by the

Integrated Social Protection Statistics System (ESSPROS) and the Data on Occupational Disease Statistics (EODS). A grant project will also be implemented to improve the timely provision of some variables from the EU SILC and FA surveys and to implement new data collection methods (CAWI and CATI) in these surveys, associated with the need to implement the IESS Regulation. The priority of 2022, is also the optimization of obtaining data on work in the segment of small organizations within the quarterly corporate reporting. In education statistics, the methodological preparation of the Sample survey on adult education AES 2022 will continue and the output data of the Sample survey on further training in CVTS enterprises will be processed in accordance with EU requirements.

The greatest challenge of the year in terms of **elections** will be the successful management of the historically first joint elections to the bodies of self-governing regions and elections to the self-government of municipalities, which are scheduled for October 2022. Prior to that, at the beginning of the year (March 19), another by-elections to the self-government of municipalities will be held. These will be the first elections to be held in compliance with the current amendment to the Electoral Act and will enable the Statistical Office of the SR, before the joint election, to a lesser extent test the fully electronic preparation of the summary and the summary itself without physical minute taking. Subsequently, throughout the year, the Office will work to prepare the joint elections. In addition to testing individual activities and the IVIS system (Integrated Electoral Information System), the priorities will also include training of the actors in the individual electoral processes, from the representatives of municipalities and cities to members of election commissions. In this regard, the Statistical Office of the SR is preparing

an interactive training method, with the aim of training the highest number of people working with IVIS to date. The SOSR in the joint elections aims to successfully go through all the processes of preparation of results processing and summarization itself so as to streamline organizational, personnel and technical costs, minimize the time spent delivering minutes and their error rate as well.

The Office's activities in the field of **dissemination of statistical information** will be focused on meeting marketing objectives so to know the needs and requirements of customers, as well as their increasing demands on the quality and complexity of products and services. The focus will be on processing and provision of data sets for national and international institutions, as well as on provision of various communication activities with selected groups of users of statistics. The Office intends to contribute to increasing the knowledge potential in the field of statistics in the long term through effective communication and effective communication channels. The activities organized on the occasion of the celebrations of the seventh European Statistics Day will also help to raise awareness of official statistics and increase statistical literacy. When publishing statistical data through the portal, the Office will focus on further development and modernization of the public database DATAcube., consolidation and expansion of the database in terms of customer requirements and increasing user comfort when working with data. The Office will ensure the publication of new datasets to increase the availability of open data in machine-readable form and disclosure of data through the Open Data API of the SOSR. In order to present statistics in an easy-to-understand and innovative way, the Office will continue to respond flexibly to the new disclosure trends. It will focus on the use of tools for interactive data visualization and

video production when publishing outputs on the Office's Portal and on social networks. Customer satisfaction will be determined within the survey of user satisfaction with the products and services of the SOSR, which is conducted by the Office in a two-year periodicity.

In the field of **European affairs and international cooperation**, one of the priorities for 2022 will continue to be active participation in the adoption of EU legal acts in the field of statistics on the premises of the EU Council, especially in the field of agricultural statistics, macroeconomic and demographic statistics. The revision of the EP and Council framework Regulation No. 223/2009 on European Statistics, to be launched in the second half of the year will also be a challenge. The Office will continue to monitor the adoption of EU legislation in the field of EU digital strategy, such as the Data Governance Act and the Data Act, and to participate in those parts of the regulations concerning it. Priorities also include active participation in meetings of working groups, steering groups and steering committees within the European Statistical System (ESS) and in meetings and events in the field of statistics organized within the UN and OECD, and support for participation in international conferences and workshops. The takeover and successful performance of the presidency of the Visegrad Group from July 2022 will also be an important project. Cooperation and exchange of experience in agreed areas of statistics is expected in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Cooperation between the statistical offices of the V4 countries, whose appendix to the programme of the Slovak presidency in the field of statistics should be signed at a traditional meeting of the presidents of the statistical offices of the V4 countries. The President of the SO SR will continue to actively represent the Office at meetings of the ESS Committee, at the

meetings of the highest representatives of statistical offices in the ESS, as well as at the statistical conferences and events of international organizations (UN, OECD) and other international forums (ISI, IAOS).

In the field of **human resources management**, due to new tasks and involvement in European and national projects, it is necessary to constantly optimize the activities in individual departments of the SO SR. It is still important to motivate employees to the high-quality performance of tasks and, above all, efficiently. The Office's priority will be to implement measures to stabilize the powerful, key

and committed staff. An important task for the next period will also be the staffing of the coordination activities of the National Statistical System, the Unified Information System of Statistical Data and the associated elections to the bodies of self-governing regions and elections to the self-government of municipalities. In the field of **education**, the Office will continue to strengthen the commitment, flexibility and adaptability of employees. Special attention will be paid to increasing the expertise and development of personal potential of selected experts involved in the program to support leaders.

The priority of 2022 for the field of



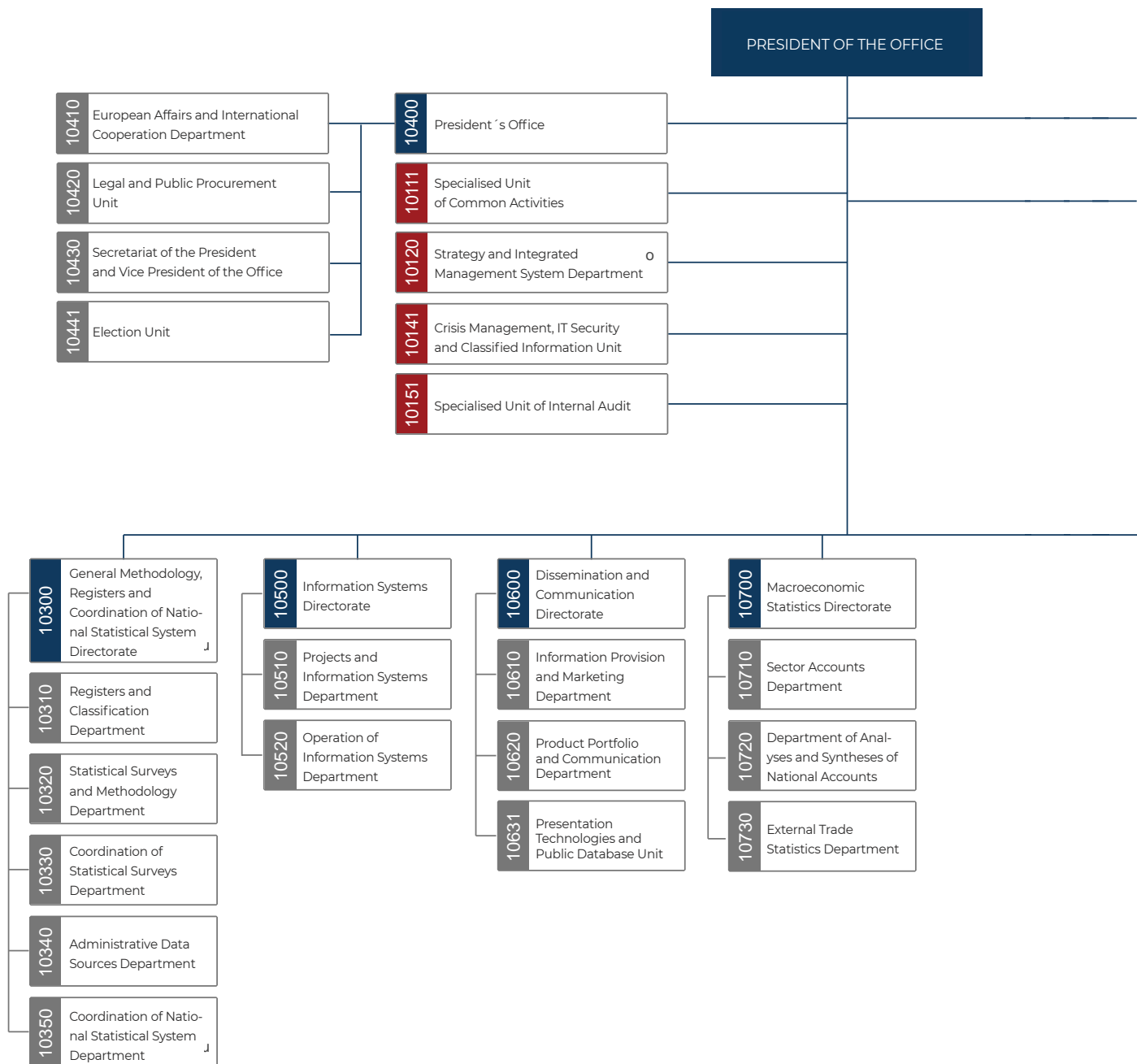
information systems and information and communication technologies

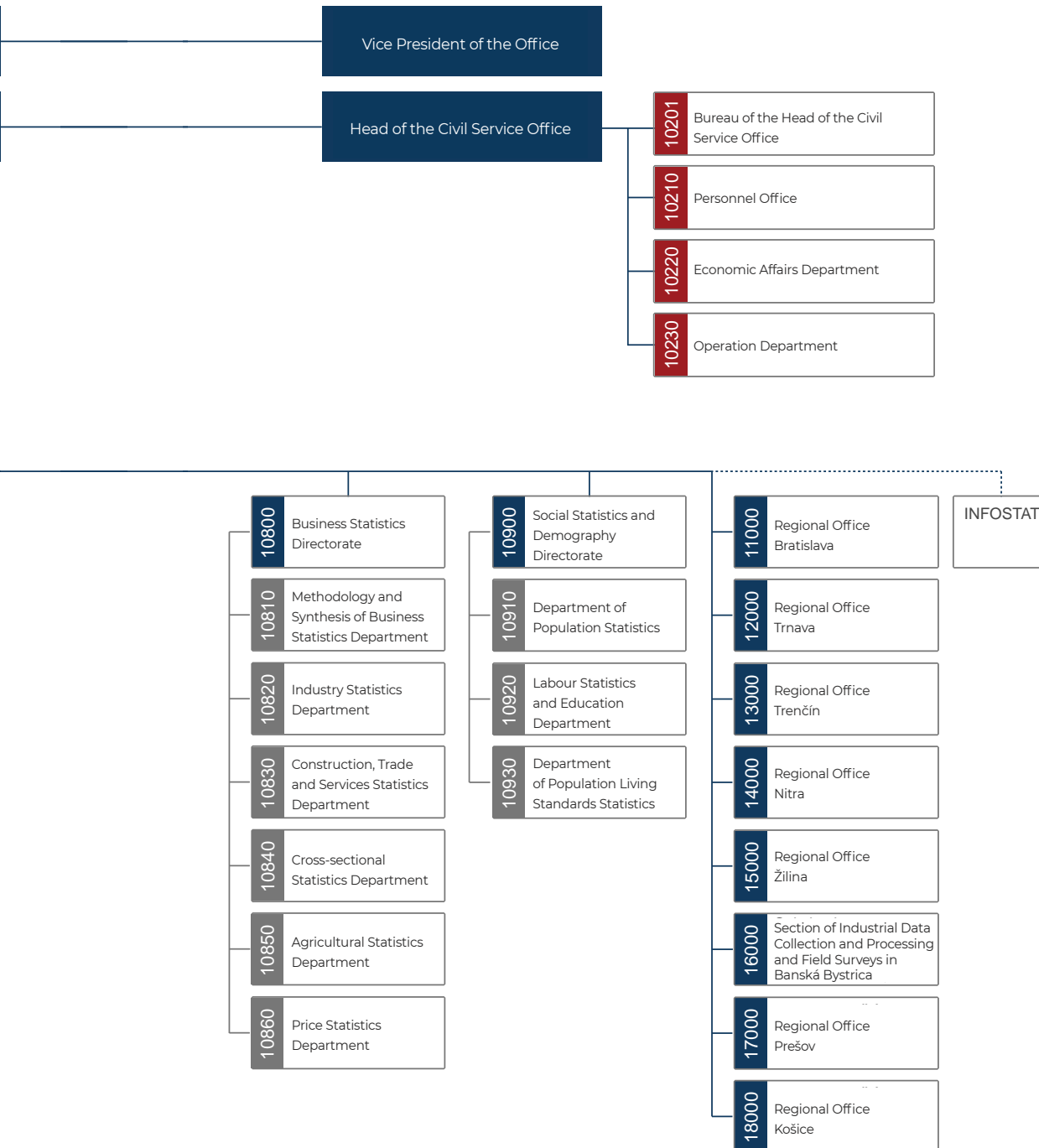
will be to complete the process of streamlining the provision of services regarding the new tasks and challenges, to ensure the smooth functioning of operating systems including RLE, RKUV, ISIS (Integrated Statistical Information System) with the integration to the new system Unified information system of statistical data (UISSD) and the preparation of the IVIS for the new election method. At the same time, the Statistical Office of the SR will continue to provide cooperation to liable persons in their work with RLE and RKUV (Register of End User Benefits), completion of migrations of selected SO

SR systems to the Government Cloud, establishment of the Business Register and increase of cyber security, which will be financed and implemented within the Integrated Infrastructure (OPII). The SOSR will continue to harmonize the protection of personal data with the EU Regulation (GDPR) in cooperation with Eurostat. One of the important priorities of the Office will be the development of the existing statistical production tools under the call for proposals-OPII for Data Management in Public Administration Institutions.



Organizational structure applicable as of 31 December 2021





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