

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Statistical Office
of the SR **2019**



STATISTICAL
OFFICE
OF THE SLOVAK
REPUBLIC

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of the SR **2019**

no. 10120 - 0001/2020

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Introduction



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

Alexander Ballek
President of the Statistical Office of the SR

Ladies and gentlemen, dear readers,

You are currently opening the Annual report of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, which will offer you a picture of the key activities of the Office in the processes of preparation, collection, processing and publication of statistical data in the SR during 2019. At the beginning, let me mention some of the most important activities of the Office carried out in the year.

Last year, the most significant event of the Statistical Office of the SR was undoubtedly the fact that we held a major international event in Slovakia - the 105th professional conference of the Director-Generals of the National Statistical Institutes DGINS 2019. Our host role was successful, we provided a background in negotiations on statistical recording adjustments of the globalization in Europe and developments of the European Statistical System to more than one hundred and twenty highest representatives of Eurostat, European statistical offices and different organizations.

At the same time, we strengthened our cooperation at the international level throughout the year, especially with the statistical authorities of the V4 countries. In the first half of the year, we successfully completed the presidency in the Visegrad Group. We continued to develop

a professional cooperation especially with statisticians from the Czech Republic. As part of the international activities, our Office also participates in 30 grants projects co-financed by the European Union, which contribute to an introduction of new statistical tools and methods in Europe.

The implementation of the europroject Reform of statistical data collection and processing in public administration was a very important activity of the Office to improve the National Statistical System. As a national coordinator of statistics, we carried out several important partial activities that will lead to developing national methodology and harmonizing the process of data collection and processing of all members of the system.

In terms of current activities, the year 2019 was the second year in a row to meet the approved Programme of State Statistical Surveys for the years 2018 to 2020. In the Slovak Republic, 189 planned statistical surveys were carried out via 252 statistical forms as part of this programme in the year. Our Office processed the outputs of most surveys, the other part was processed by authorised ministries and national organizations of the SR.

We are aware that an extent of surveys is particularly burdensome for enterprises, therefore reducing the administrative burden on reporting units is one of the long-term Office's priorities. In 2019, we extended the electronic data collection by additional pre-filled data, we increased the extent of data used directly from administrative sources and improved the existing infrastructure and application equipment to conduct surveys.

Personally, I am very proud of the scope and professional work, which was done in a preparation of the largest statistical survey – 2021 Population and housing census (2021 Census) over the past year. Activities on this project of decades are more challenging than in the past, because the census will be carried out fully electronically and with maximum use of administrative data sources for the first time in history. As part of the preparatory processes for the census, the Office initiated a required harmonization of data on the number of population of municipalities and cities, which will integrate data from administrative sources with data on demographic statistics. We also prepared a high-quality Act on 2021 Census and other legislative regulations for definition of the scope, method of realization and organizational support of the census.

As part of the statistics on household budget, we extended the survey on income and composition of households in the SR for the period of whole year and we carried it out according to a new redesign. We also offered our professional skills in case of the two unique special surveys on income and living conditions in marginalized Roma communities.

In 2019, significant changes also occurred in national accounts. We realized a big benchmark revision of annual and quarterly data on sectoral and national accounts since 1995 until 2017. At the same time, we revised the data on foreign statistics for the period of 2010-2018 and data on quarterly and annual accounts for 2018 in accordance with new guidelines.

In 2019, in business statistics, we aimed at improving outputs according to the requirements of Eurostat, international institutions and also national users. This statistics provides inter alia data on status, performance, production, sales or employment in sectors of industry, agriculture, construction, housing, trade and services, as well as data on transport, information and communications, tourism, energy, environment, prices or on science, technology and innovation.

I am very glad that Slovakia also participated in the project of the European Statistical System ESSnet Big Data in a part that addresses innovative methods for tourism statistics. We started with testing the data collection from Internet using the so-called „webscraping“. Possibilities of linking new data sources with data from traditional surveys are tested in the project.

The present time accelerated and multiplied a range of information that we encounter on a daily basis. The Statistical Office of the SR produces thousands of useful data and I am very glad that we also improved the quality and range of our products in 2019. To illustrate it, I support this with statistics as usual. From January to the end of December 2019, we provided a key partner or customer with 539 products (data files and tables) in total, we published 70 publications. In the public database DATAcube., we updated almost 1200 data cubes that capture different indicators of economic and social development.



The year 2019 was also challenging for the Statistical Office of the SR in providing election statistics, we processed the results of two rounds of elections of the President of the SR and elections to the European Parliament. We increased a scope and quality of the provisional and final election data results in this process.

For the second year, the Office actively participated in an application of the Act on prevention of legalization of proceeds from criminal activity and terrorist financing, the main objective of which is the prevention of the so-called „money laundering“. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Statistical Office of the SR continuously keeps current data on end-users of benefits in the Register of legal entities, entrepreneurs and public authorities. During the whole year, we provided data from this register to public authorities and liable persons.

Finally, let me thank to all our partners, respondents and users of ours statistics for cooperation and valuable feedback, as they contribute to increasing the quality and social values of official statistics. I also thank to more than 800 employees of the Office for performances and initiatives that have led to improving the national statistical service. Details on the scope and results of their work during 2019 can be found on the pages of this Annual report.

The logo for DGINS 2019 Bratislava. It features a stylized bar chart with four red bars of varying heights, each topped with a small red triangle pointing upwards. Below the chart, the text "DGINS 2019" and "BRATISLAVA" is written in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

DGINS 2019
BRATISLAVA

Identification of organization

Title: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic
Acronym: SO SR
Address of headquarter: Miletičova 3, 824 67 Bratislava 26
Contact: phone +421 2 50236 222
internet www.statistics.sk

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

Main activities:

The SO SR¹:

- a) develops and publishes the concept of national statistics,
- b) compiles the Programme of state statistical surveys in cooperation with ministries and national authorities and monitors its performance,
- c) compiles characteristics of statistical surveys and defines method of statistical data collection for purposes of national statistics in cooperation with ministries and national authorities,
- d) defines methodology of statistical surveys managed and performed by the Office, collects and processes statistical data,
- e) defines methodology for maintenance of the system of national accounts and compiles national accounts,
- f) sets up, releases and keeps classifications, code lists and registers in cooperation with ministries and national authorities,
- g) defines the method of developing registers, assigns and issues identification numbers,
- h) elaborates analyses of selected characteristics of the social, economic and environmental development of the SR,
- i) cooperates with international bodies and organizations to introduce standards and classifications in statistics,
- j) releases the results of statistical surveys for the SR and individual territorial and administrative units, regularly informs public about social, economic and demographic development, provides statistical information and issues statistical publications,
- k) organizes and provides project and programme preparation in order to process statistical surveys and determines the method of collection and technologies of the statistical data processing for statistical surveys conducted by the Office,
- l) manages, regulates and oversees the collection and statistical data processing at national level,

- m) provides methodological assistance as regards the national statistics or European statistics to ministries, other central authorities of state administration, national organizations, local authorities and public-law institution upon written request,
- n) obtains and collects external statistical information for purposes to compare the situation and development of the SR economy with foreign countries,
- o) supervises reporting duty in national statistics and imposes fines in case of its breach and

- p) fulfils other tasks set by an act.

A specific task of the SO SR is the preparation and processing of election results to the National Council of the SR, municipal self-governments bodies², regional self-government bodies², preparation and processing of results from the presidential election of the SR², referendum², elections to the European Parliament² and realization of the 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 and amending and supplementing certain acts as amended



We continue in developing the QMS of the SO SR in accordance with the ISO 9001:2015 standard and current version of the Code of Practice

Last year, we aimed at the first supervisory audit in the certification period until 2021 carried out by a certification body with an international accreditation as regards the implemented integrated **quality management system** of the SO SR. The audit preparations were particularly focused on an evaluation of activities in relation to the Office's current development strategy. Emphasis was also put on the organization, requirements for leadership, planning, human resources and their competence, as well as evaluating effectiveness of measures to manage the identified risks in relation to stakeholders and realization of processes, updating the set risks and documentation.

The first **supervisory audit** was successful and was carried out by the organization Bureau Veritas Slovakia in September 2019. The audit confirmed that the SO SR maintains the quality management system unambiguously in compliance with the requirements of the ISO 9001:2015 standard and demonstrated the system's ability to meet the requirements by the certification and in accordance with its policy and its objectives.

In 2019, a **gradual implementation of requirements** of the European Statistics **Code of Practice** and related quality framework, espe-

cially to implement the amended principles of the institutional environment adjusted in accordance with the Regulation on European statistics, was an important activity that developed integrated quality management system of the SO SR.

Other activities were related to a cooperation in the European Statistical System in order to prepare procedures, questionnaires, manuals and other documents for **the 3rd round of peer review**.

The implementation of the **action programmes of the Development Strategy of the SO SR until 2022** was an essential part of the system development. They were aimed mainly at creating values for a customer and other stakeholders, using data from the new sources for producing statistical outputs, as well as projects supporting the implementation of these programmes, effective external communication and using partnerships. In the action programmes of the Strategy, the SO SR continued to pay an attention to develop human resources, IT support, management of relationships with customers and data suppliers including increasing the statistical literacy of young generation, internal communication, financial

resources and cost management, legislative support as well as to develop continuously the whole quality management system.

A level of the integrated quality management system of the SO SR was examined by **internal audits**. The audits were aimed at examining of the compliance level with the requirements of the ISO 9001:2015 standard with emphasis on an aspect of the external and internal environment, external and internal stakeholders, understanding arising possible risks in relation to stakeholders and the process itself, the planning aspect, acquiring and sharing the necessary knowledge for a realization of the process and a continuous improvement of the process performance.

In connection with activities towards a development of the established integrated quality management system of the SO SR, it continued in two projects, namely in the project - **National quality program of the Slovak Republic 2017 - 2021** adopted by the Government

of the Slovak Republic in December 2016, as well as in the project **Implementation and support of quality management in public administration bodies** as part of the Operational Programme Effective Public Administration, which is covered by the Slovak Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing. The Information System for Monitoring Working Time (ISMWT) was used for management purposes, the outputs of which in combination with data on wage and accounting system allowed to monitor and then allocate more efficiently the costs incurred in individual statistical projects. At the end of the year, **a project of establishing the managerial information system** started. The objective of its implementation is an automated integration of data from existing transactional systems in order to monitor on a short-term basis and later to plan project costs for the SO SR's management purposes. This information system will enable the SO SR's managers to get an overview on how to use the intellectual potential of employees in order to optimize it and aim it at value-adding activities.



What was produced in methodology the last year

In 2019, as regards the **administrative data sources**, the SO SR extended a cooperation with ministries and national organizations, which produce administrative data sources (ADS) and thus continued to fulfil the Approach to using ADS. Its aim is to intensify a use of existing data and information sources in order to reduce the administrative burden on respondents of statistical surveys, increase the quality of national statistics and reduce its costs. In 2019, the SO SR concluded another new agreements and additions to agreements on data transfers with the ADS administrators, whereby at the end of 2019, there were 43 concluded agreements with national and public sector institutions and another 5 agreements with commercial organizations. During the year 2019, collected ADS allow to improve the outputs of national statistics, helped to update the statistical register of organizations and to prepare the next 2021 Population and housing census.

In **seasonal analysis of time series**, the SO SR continues to actively implement the software JDEMETRA+ when applying seasonal methods of adjustments in time series as regards the harmonization of procedures and methods in the European Statistical System (ESS).

In order to increase confidence in statistical outputs, the SO SR began to release **quality reports for users** on portal. They summa-

rize information on the quality of selected statistical products. A standardized structure harmonizing formats of quality reports of individual ESS members proposed by Eurostat was used.

In 2019, the Methodology Department continued in providing **professional trainings** for internal employees, especially in the area of methodology and processing of sample surveys, calculation of quality indicators and statistical confidentiality. A realization of these trainings is crucial to increase professional qualification of the Office's staff.

This department regularly provides an application of the **statistical confidentiality** in outputs required by external customers, both in tabular form and in the form of micro-data for scientific work. It provides technical assistance to students and researchers working with such data in the Office's safe centre and ensures that their work did not violate a strict data protection criteria.

The staff of the department also participated significantly in the implementation of some **European grant projects**. For example, a calculation methodology for matrices of link between individual levels in labour statistics was developed in them. The program of statistical confidentiality in industrial production statistics was completed, using of it significantly increases the volume of published data.

External professional presentations are an integral part of the activities at the Methodology Department as well. Within the Task force to the EU-SILC – Survey on income and living conditions in households, own Calif tool designed to calibrate wages in statistical surveys was presented at the University of Essex. The presentation on how to calculate a size of samples was held for external students of the Faculty of Management of the University Comenius. As regards the external cooperation, providing professional consultations and training for the Greek National Statistical Institute in connection with the implementation of the European project on statistical confidentiality in industry statistics also deserves an attention.

The SO SR joined the call for proposals from Eurostat in order to **modernize price statistics** by using different data sources and to examine inter alia the possible use of multilateral calculation methods of price indices to improve a calculation of the harmonized consumer price index (HICP) and the consumer price index (CPI). The calculation of HICP, which is used for international comparisons of price developments in the European Union, is one of the convergence criteria to enter the Eurozone. In turn, the CPI is an important and significant macroeconomic indicator for the National Bank of Slovakia, Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family and other central government authorities and is also a key indicator evaluating an impact of the price development on the living standard of the population. It is applied in a valorisation of pensions and wages and to assess an impact of the price development on minimum subsistence. The SO SR's aim is using data from

several sources and introducing robust methods that ensure the increased quality of price indices and more detailed level of monitoring their changes.

In 2019, the project ESS - **ESSnet Big Data** has continued, there is 28 countries involved together with Slovakia. This international project will continue until the end of 2020. Slovakia participates in the project part that aim is to solve innovative methods for tourism statistics. In this project, suitable data sources were identified, described and classified so far; best practices, methods as well as tools to collect data from these sources, as well as their subsequent integration were proposed. Testing of data collection from the internet using the webscraping techniques has started and the first results of linking the collected data with the data available in statistical surveys are analysed. In case of data linking from different sources, several procedures are tested (e.g. comparing matches of text chains, use of geographical coordinates) and the most appropriate universal solution is seeking. In addition to the General Methodology and Registers Directorate, the Business Statistics Directorate and Information Systems Directorate are involved in the project. The project outputs will provide the SO SR with methods updating more accurate the Register of accommodation establishments, enable to develop a methodological framework for the calculation of flash estimates in tourism and also expand the set of analysable and publishable data. Its successful implementation will be a stepping stone for the next modernization of tourism statistics.

In order to strengthen **the SO SR's coordinating role**, it continued to implement the project: Reform of collection and processing

of statistical data in public administration, which is co-financed from the European Structural Investment Funds under the Operational Programme Effective Public Administration 2014-2020. The project addresses requirements of Eurostat for a development of the national methodology, its subsequent unification towards members of the National Statistical System (NSS), while enabling a harmonization of the process of collecting and processing statistical data across all NSS members, as well as a protection and security of collected and processed data. In 2019, a regulation analysis was completed, its purpose was to develop comprehensive analysis of the regulatory environment in accordance with related legislation and legal and subordinate acts in the context of fulfilling the project objectives. The analysis of regulatory environment is a basis to define the basic framework of processes, tasks and responsibilities that define these standards for the NSS members. As part of the project, also the analysis of processes and process models for the NSS members in order to analyse the statistical process in the context of the European Statistics Code of

Practice, the GSBPM standard (Generic Statistical Business Process Model), CSPA (Common Statistical Production Architecture), GAMS0 (Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organizations) and also to analyse statistical processes of the NSS members. In 2020, next phases aimed at a development of uniform and harmonized methodology including the National Quality Manual, which will be usable by all NSS members, will follow to the completed phases of the project. It will define related processes, inputs and outputs, which will be realized by the NSS members to conduct statistical surveys for purposes of compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice and also allow to coordinate the SO SR more actively the implementation of international obligations by the NSS members. A part of the project is also an unambiguous definition of the SO SR's coordination role and its detailed legislative enshrining including draft amendment to the Act on State Statistics.

The process of implementing the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** in the Slovak Republic was launched by the Government of



the SR in 2016 and it intensively continued in the following years. The process of defining the list of indicators for national priorities continued regardless of the participatory process to define national implementation priorities of the 2030 Agenda. Works on the list of indicators were carried out at the end of 2018 and at the beginning of 2019. The SO SR (Resolution of the Government of the SR No. 273/2018) was entrusted to cooperate in developing indicators to national priorities. The SO SR coordinated works on defining the list of indicators of sustainable development of the SR in an open and an inclusive manner. Ministries and other central bodies of state administration were involved in the process. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) contributed by an input situation analysis. Proposals of indicators were investigated on pre-determined principles and criteria relating to a relevance to broadly outlined topics of national priorities and quality requirements. Indicators were selected with regard to their political significance from the point of view of the SR, accessibility, regional coverage of a country and data quality. Many of the selected indicators have already been used to monitor existing national, European or international policies. Elements of the 2030 Agenda, which are less relevant for the SR, because they focus on other parts of the world (for example, developing countries), were not taken into account. The final list of indicators was developed (hereinafter as „national indicators“) and covers the social, economic, environmental and institutional dimension of sustainability, which is represented by the 2030 Agenda. The set of national indicators was created as a file that is open to regular investigations in order to consider new policy developments or to include new indicators,

as methodologies, technologies and data sources are developing over time. External experts (ministries, or analytical centres of ministries, institutes for different policies operating in ministries and other external stakeholders) should participate in such investigation. The current list of national indicators, although it is not covered by a normative reference framework, has a potential to be used in evaluating of national priorities, or sustainable development. It is part of the document Draft: Vision and Development Strategy of the SR to 2030 (SlovLex No. LP / 2019/541).

In 2019, the SO SR also continued in realization of tasks relating to global monitoring as a national contact point of the UN organization and European monitoring as the ESS member. In July 2018, the SO SR has launched a single webpage on 2030 Agenda (<https://agenda2030.statistics.en/Agenda2030>) providing information on the global, European and national level of the Agenda implementation that is operationally supplemented by new information. Currently, the webpage provides an access to selected global data of the UN indicators and is ready for releasing data on future national indicators via the statistical database DATAcube..

In 2019, as regards **classifications and code lists**, a priority remained to provide their compliance with legally binding acts of the European Union and international standards.

At the national level, this aim was met in the form of amendments to the relevant decrees in accordance with the authorization given in the Section 19 (2) of the Act No. 540/2001 Coll. on state statistics, as amended and also in the form of methodological assistance provided to

reporting units in order to correctly read and apply classifications and code lists in conducting statistical surveys.

Based on an initiative of the Ministry of Health of the SR, which was justified by needs of an application practice in the healthcare sector, the Decree of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic No. 384/2015 Coll., by which statistical classification of occupations is issued, was supplemented by the Decree of the Statistical Office SR No. 286/2019 Coll.. The National Statistical Classification of Occupations is used for national and international purposes in order to compare statistical indicators of the employment and represents the most important source of input data for the information system National Register of Occupations, which as nationwide, unified information system describes standard demands of the labour market on individual jobs.

Based on update sheets to the ISO 3166-1 standard, the Decree of the Statistical Office of the SR No. 402/2019 Coll. amended the Decree of the Statistical Office of the SR No. 112/2012 Coll. issuing the Statistical Code List of Countries in wording of the Decree No. 108/2014 Coll.. This technical standard specifies codes and names of countries, dependent territories and other areas on the basis of the list of names of countries maintained by the United Nations.

In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Act No. 305/2013 Coll. on e-Government, the SO SR continuously administered 15 basic code lists that are officially published on the METAIS portal of the Office of the Deputy

Prime Minister of the SR for Investments and Informatization. Basic code lists are binding in providing data from information systems administered by public authorities, which is necessary in order to ensure integration and synchronization of data stored in different information systems of public administration at national level.

Main activities concerning the administration of statistical **registers** were aimed at stabilization of processes related to increasing their quality and to meet methodological and substantive requirements that are necessary to ensure compliance of registers with the new Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU) 2019/2152 on European business statistics repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics (FRIBS). To administer statistical registers, accessible administrative and external data sources, whose application methodology in the registers was coordinated by many departments not only within the Office but also by the Ministry of Finance of the SR (application of the European System of National and Regional Accounts ESA 2010), continued to be used consistently. These activities were a significant step towards regular, re-generation of the annual state of the register, which is as the only reference database used in compiling statistical data in business statistics.

Eurostat and other member countries cooperated to update the register of multinational enterprise groups, which Eurostat manages in the system of EuroGroups Register (EGR). The result of this cooperation is the final population of EGR 2017, which was completed and made available by Eurostat for statistical purposes in the first months of 2019.

In 2019, another 15 source registers, or records were added to the Register of legal entities and entrepreneurs (RLE), their total number reached the value of 59. Many liable persons did not meet their obligation under the Act No. 272/2015 Coll. on the Register of legal entities, entrepreneurs and public authorities, from different reasons by the end of 2019.

In order to speed up their technical and material integration, the SO SR performed several working meetings, personal consultations and trainings, in most cases also with the participation of representatives of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister of the SR for Investment and Informatization. To monitor the RLE data quality, the SO SR ensured a development and implementation of new functions into the information system of the RLE, thus creating optimal assumptions for a quick and effective response of liable persons related to the correction of error data already identified when trying to record them in the RLE. In cooperation with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister of the SR for Investment and Informatization, the first 67 quality indicators of data recorded

in the RLE were developed. Testing of indicators took place in December 2019 and the first comprehensive report on the results of the first routine measurement of the RLE data quality will be available at the end of March 2020. In 2019, a cooperation with administrators of source registers continued in areas of an identification of entities held in relevant source registers, before their migration to the RLE through generic register. On the basis of justified requirements of liable persons, basic code lists used in a registration of entities in the RLE were also adjusted in parallel.

In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Act No. 297/2008 Coll. on prevention of legalization of proceeds from criminal activity and terrorist financing, the SO SR continuously provided activities related to maintaining the current identification data on end users of benefits in non-public part of the Register of legal entities - in the module End Users Benefits Register, and these data were provided to the Financial Intelligence Unit, competent bodies of public authority and liable persons.



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

The **Programme of State Statistical Surveys 2018-2020** (hereinafter as “PSSS”) was a basic legislative document for the cost-optimal database production. In terms of statistical data obtaining, the PSSS is harmonized with **the European Statistical Programme 2013 to 2020**. As part of the three annexes of the PSSS, national statistical surveys of the SO SR, ministries and national organizations and administrative data sources used for statistical purposes are defined.

In addition to the SO SR, ministries and national organizations constituting together the **National Statistical System (NSS)** participated in fulfilling the tasks of these programmes. The number of authorities constituting the NSS remained unchanged in 2019.

In 2019, the **list of authorities constituting the NSS** 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 Sport of the SR

- Ministry of Interior of the SR
- Ministry of Health of the SR
- Ministry of Environment of the SR
- Ministry of Economy of the SR
- Administration of State Material Reserves of the SR
- Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communications and Postal Services
- Institute of Informatics and Statistics

In 2019, the SO SR added two **national authorities to the list of national authorities responsible for the development, production and dissemination of European Statistics**. On the basis of negotiations between the representatives of the SO SR and the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR concerning the gender based violence survey, we identified that a close cooperation is needed to conduct the survey and report on a situation and development of violence against women and domestic violence for the purposes of the European Statistical System. After evaluating impacts of this cooperation, the SO SR added to the list the Institute for Labour and Family Research in addition to the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR. The SO SR asked the Director-General of Eurostat to release the added list on the website <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/ess/about-us>.

In addition to the SO SR, the following national authorities responsible for the development, production and dissemination of European Statistics were included:

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

The year 2019 was the second year in the programme period set for the years 2018 to 2020. The PSSS for the three-year period 2018 to 2020 was amended by the Decree No. 266/2018 Coll.. The SO SR, ministries and national organizations included all valid annual national

statistical surveys and all valid multiannual surveys to the **PSSS for the year 2019**. In 2019, the SO SR planned 79 statistical surveys via 139 statistical forms. Ministries and national organizations planned 110 statistical surveys via 113 statistical forms.

In 2019, the SO SR prepared draft amendments of the **PSSS for the year 2020** in cooperation with the ministries and national organizations. Amendments were issued by the Decree No. 358/2019 Coll.. Amendments were based on the knowledge of the application practice, changes related to regulations and on requirements of the cooperating ministries and national organizations. One national statistical survey was again included in the PSSS last carried out in 2008 - Statement of ownership of housing fund HF (MDV SR) 1-01 based on an initiative of the Ministry of Transport and Construction of the SR. The Act No. 246/2015 Coll. on the ownership of dwellings and non-residential buildings, as amended of the Act of the NC SR No. 182/1993 Coll. was a reason to repeat the survey. The Act on ownership of dwellings ended the possibility of an advantageous transfer of state and municipal flats in the term until 31 December 2016, under a condition that all apartments had to be transferred until 31 December 2018. Conducting this survey will provide coverage of the period of years 2009 – 2019 by information on dwellings transferred to the ownership of natural persons. None new national statistical survey was included in the PSSS and at the same time none national statistical survey was excluded. From a legislative and technical point of view, amendments of five annexes to the Decree were done, but they did not disrupt the structure and even significantly did not change the content of the existing decree.

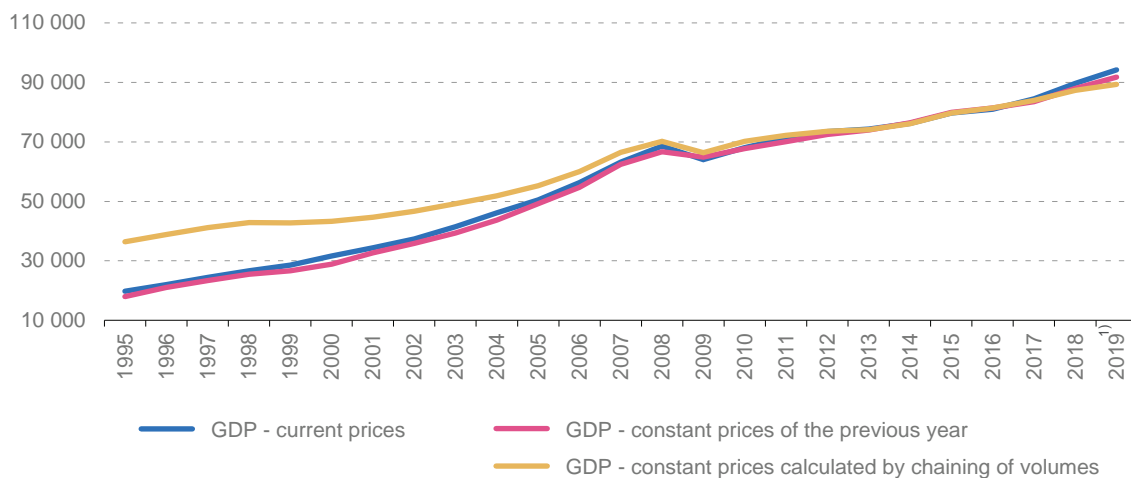
Macroeconomic statistics

National accounts form a compatible accounting framework for the systematic and detailed description of the economy, in which all stages of the economic processes are recorded (production, generation and distribution of pensions, their use, accumulation and financial transactions). In the Slovak Republic, a compilation of the national accounts is governed by the ESA 2010 methodology,

which is a commonly used acronym for the European System of National and Regional Accounts. The development of the national accounts system in line with the new regulations and directives of the European Union is one of the main objectives in macroeconomic statistics. Foreign trade statistics provide important input data to compile key macroeconomic aggregates.

Current annual data of GDP development in time series 1995 - 2019

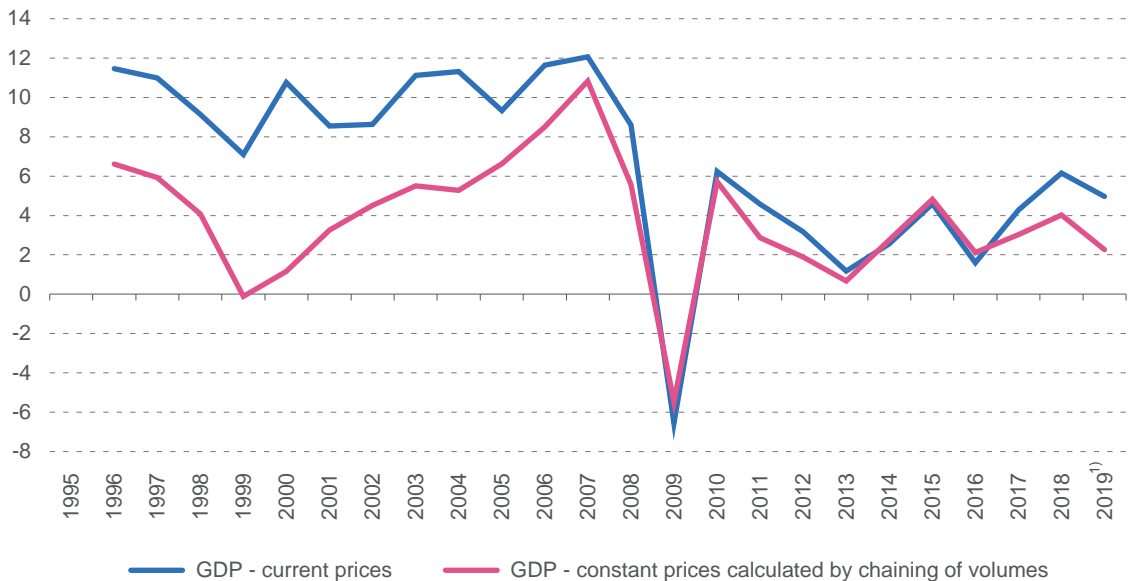
GDP in mil. EUR



Note:

- ESA 2010 methodology
- constant prices calculated by chaining of volumes by using the reference year 2015
- year 2019¹⁾ is a quarterly estimate (summary of quarters for a year)
- state to the 6.3.2020

Year-on-year development of GDP in %



Note:

- ESA 2010 methodology
- ROMR - the same period of the previous year
- constant prices calculated by chaining of volumes by using the reference year 2015
- year 2019¹⁾ is a quarterly estimate (summary of quarters for a year)
- state to the 6.3.2020

In **national accounts**, the SO SR performed a big benchmark revision that affected the annual and quarterly data for sectoral and national accounts, in some cases from 1995 to 2017. We also adjusted preliminary estimates of the annual data for the year 2018. Information from updated data sources, revised foreign trade data and methodological adjustments for individual indicators of national accounts were integrated into the existing tables of the whole system of national accounts. In addition, the data at constant

prices compiled by chaining of volumes in the whole time series 1995 - 2018 were recalculated to the reference year 2015.

As part of the spring and autumn data notification for Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP notification), the data in notification tables (including EDP questionnaire and other required information standardly provided to Eurostat) were sent in due time to assess the fiscal data quality of the Slovak Republic.

To prepare the EU budget, VAT data (3rd own source) and gross national income data (4th own resource) are required from member countries. VAT data are provided by the Ministry of Finance of the SR, and the Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate standardly prepares an input document in the form of data on compensation for small companies being exempt from VAT and data on weighted

Based on GNI data, a contribution to the EU budget for each Member State is calculated by a key established by the European regulation. Data provided to the Commission for administrative purposes (EDP, GNI, VAT) are subject to regular control visits of Eurostat in order to verify a correctness of used procedures and compiled data. In 2019, 3 visits of Eurostat took place in Slovakia in order to discuss individual methodological questions, namely a problem of gross national income, VAT statement and Excessive Deficit Procedure.

In addition to tasks that are directly related to routine works according to individual statistical themes, employees of the National Accounts Unit in cooperation with the Price Statistics Department continued to work on the project PPPs data collection 2019 (GP 04-19) and completed work on the project National accounts and balance of payments - GNI data improvement (GP 02- 18) and PPPs data collection 2017-2018 (GP 07-16).

In 2019, several working meetings with colleagues from the National bank of Slovakia and the Ministry of Finance of the SR took part. Mutual discussions were aimed at questions of recording methodological and conceptual changes in foreign trade data and revision adjustments made as part of the benchmark revision of NA data, particularly with an impact on GDP and GNI. At the same time, methodological questions with regard to recording wages in the public administration sector, questions of discharge from debt of medical facilities, calculation of superdividends and green energy were discussed.

average rate of VAT (WAR). In September regularly, data on gross national income (GNI) together with a description of amendments of methodological procedures for compiling GDP/GNI were sent to Eurostat.



In addition to the planned tasks, the employees of the National Accounts Unit were involved to solve current problems in interdepartmental working groups. A large part of the work was aimed at filling in different questionnaires for international organizations (CMFB, Eurostat, ILO, OECD, UNECE and others) and preparation of background materials for economic analysis of ministries and national institutions (IFP, MF SR, NBS, MH SR and others).

In 2019, **data on foreign trade statistics (FTS)** and their updates were provided monthly and in accordance with the deadlines. The External Trade Statistics Department prepared and implemented the revision of the FTS data for the period 2010-2018. Use of new data sources for imports and exports of electricity and natural gas, update of procedures for verifying a change of the economic ownership of ships and aircraft led to an improvement of the quality in these statistics mostly in terms of data relevance. The meeting of experts from the statistical offices of the V4 countries, which took place on 24 and 25 June 2019 in Bratislava, was focused on quality of FTS, especially in terms of geographical data comparability. The aim of the meeting was to analyse an asymmetry in the mutual trade of the V4 countries. The analysis was based on data compiled in compliance with the EU concept. It included the final data for 2017 and the preliminary data for 2018.

Employees of FTS actively participated in discussions on forthcoming changes in compiling FTS. The Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU) 2019/2152 on European business statistics (FRIBS), which also includes FTS, in terms of legislation,

it implements the planned modernization of the Intrastat system and thus introduces an exchange of micro-data on the intra-EU exports between EU Member States, including IN of a partner in Member State of the intra-EU imports. At the same time, the Regulation will allow more freedom when using different data sources in compilation of intra-EU import statistics. The proposed measures should lead to an overall reduction of administrative burdens on reporting units of the Intrastat system while maintaining data quality. In drafting of implementing regulations, different aspects of micro-data exchange including deadlines, simplified reporting and metadata were discussed as well as.

The External Trade Statistics Department contributed by a presentation and active discussion on the theme of globalization in FTS at the DGINS conference (Director-Generals of National Statistical Offices), which was held in Bratislava in 2019.

In 2019, 4 trainings were provided for reporting units in different cities, but also directly in the premises of the SO SR, where 53 applicants took part. In addition to basic information about the Intrastat system, we also provided an overview of the latest changes in legislation and participants received responses to specific questions relating to data reporting at these trainings. Consulting workplace for the Intrastat system provided an individual counselling to reporting units, on average per week 170 phone calls and emails were solved. On average, it is by 24 phone calls and emails more than in year 2018. Employees of the Regional Office of the SR in Trnava verified collected data in the same form over the year.

Business statistics

During the calendar year 2019, preparatory work continued as regards the Regulation on the European business statistics repealing 10 legal acts in business statistics for several years. In November 2019, the first stage of work resulted into the publication of the basic Act of the **Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU) 2019/2152 on European business statistics** in the Official Journal of the European Union. In cooperation with Eurostat, we actively participated in the form of comments in all domains of business statistics in a preparation of implementing and delegated acts, which have to be adopted by the Commission in order to implement the requirements of the relevant Regulation. At the same time, preparatory work to meet the requirements arising from the new European Regulation on European business statistics in all statistical domains at national level continued.

In **structural business statistics**, the final indicators of the sector of non-financial and financial corporations for the reference year 2017 and the preliminary data for the year 2018 were provided to national users and Eurostat. The SO SR carried out analytical works from selected data of the annual business reporting on the population of selected core reporting units in order to subsequently consult with them and validate a quality of the provided data in the sense of new operational rules of Eurostat for business reporting. In annual assessments of a compatibility

of the provided data with the European Regulation concerning structural business statistics, the SO SR was included to the group of member countries with a high degree of compatibility. Structured reports on data quality were drawn up for users and are available on the Eurostat website.

In **short-term statistics**, data dissemination to national users and data transmission in the form of SDMX-ML through the new eDAMIS4 platform of website to Eurostat were realized in accordance with the requirements and timetable of the first release calendar and edition program. The SO SR remains in the first group of member countries with the highest degree of compatibility in the annual assessment of a compatibility with the Regulation on short-term statistics. The annual update of metadata files, via ESS - Metadata Handler in accordance with the requirements and within the deadline set by Eurostat, was carried out exceptionally in good quality and evaluated with 100% degree of compatibility. Work continued on the project of introducing the so-called activity units in the domain of short-term statistics in order to meet the requirements arising from the new Regulation on European business statistics.

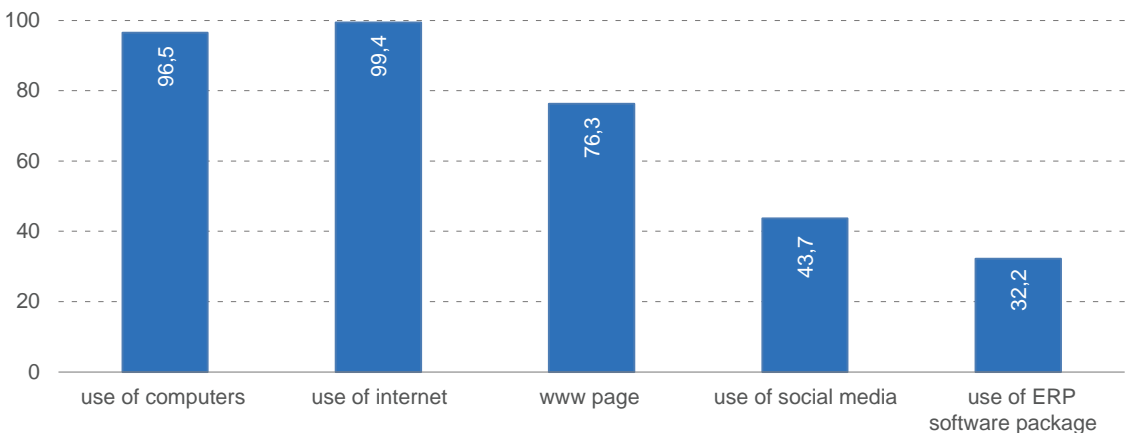
A compilation of required outputs was realized in **internal and external foreign affiliations** for the reference year 2017 on the basis of intensive data validation in time

and content for administrative data sources. Data files were compiled and sent to Eurostat in the required structures, quality and within the set deadline, which was reflected in the assessment of a compatibility with the Regulation on statistics on internal and external foreign affiliates and again the SO SR joined the group of member countries with the highest evaluations. For the second time, we compiled quality indicators to compare statistics on internal and external foreign affiliates with data from EuroGroups Register and provided them to Eurostat. Structured reports on data quality were drawn up for users and published on the Eurostat website.

In **statistics on industry**, work to process statistical outputs for Eurostat and specific requests defined by national users as well

as international institutions continued in the calendar year 2019. Analytical work was focused on mapping a development of basic indicators characterizing an industrial development in the SR on the basis of data from both short-term and long-term statistical surveys. Activities were completed in the project of data harmonization between statistics on production of products and statistics on foreign trade, which resulted in achieving much greater linking of data between these statistical domains and the possibility of publishing an increased number of the data provided at national and also international level. Other activities were focused on data harmonization between product statistics and annual structural statistics. The end of the year was aimed at work on a new list of products of PRODSLOV.

Use of ICT in enterprises in 2019 (%)



ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) is software package used to manage resources of enterprises by sharing information between different functional fields (e.g. accounting, planning, production, marketing, etc.)



In **agricultural statistics**, work to implement the grant Eurostat project relating to development of balances of the main cereals (common wheat, durum wheat, barley and corn for grain) and oilseeds (oilseed rape, sunflower and soy) continued. The result of balance sheets for the reference year 2018 are data on the total production, percentage humidity, imports, opening stocks, deliveries (domestic and exports), uses, changes in inventories and stocks at the end of the economic year in the Slovak Republic. The processed balances were sent to Eurostat in November 2019. A discussion on a new draft Regulation on agricultural input statistics and outputs (the so-called SAIO Regulation), on which the SO SR participated by comments, was opened at the EU level. The aim of the regulation is to integrate aggregated statistics on crop production, live-

stock production, organic farming, nutrient balances in soil and preparations for plant protection into a one common regulation. An assumption of its entry into force is expected in 1 January 2023. In 2019, work to process outputs for national users and international organizations and to compile the Economic Agricultural Account of the SR in cooperation with the National Agricultural and Food Centre - Research Institute of Agriculture and Food Economics continued. Data for 2018 were published in December 2019.

In **statistics on construction, housing, trade and services**, work to process statistical outputs resulting from the requirements of Eurostat, international organizations and specific requirements of national users continued.

Other works were aimed at implementing new requirements of the forthcoming European legislation and increasing the quality of released information including metadata. In statistics on housing, activities aimed at improving the quality of database and processing of statistical information on started, under construction and completed dwellings required by a wide range of users continued.

In **statistics on transport, information and communications**, work was concentrated on processing and sending statistical outputs to Eurostat, international organizations, UNECE, International Transport Forum, Danube Commission, International Road Federation into a common information system of EUROSTAT-UNECE-ITF, EUROSTATREGIO, as well as to national users. Quality reports for air and road freight transport were drawn up for the first time in cooperation with Eurostat. The joint survey on information and communication technologies in enterprises of the EU countries coordinated by Eurostat was conducted. In accordance with the requirements, the required outputs were sent in agreed structure and set deadlines.

In **tourism statistics**, a publication of standard statistical outputs for statistics on development of tourism in accommodation establishments, organized tourism, domestic and outbound tourism was provided and a large number of non-standard statistical outputs based on requirements of national users were carried out. In this year, we prepared a revision of tables on the tourism satellite account for the period of years 2013 - 2017 in terms of new methodological

recommendations communicated from international organizations in order to improve and ensure comparable data between individual member countries compiling the tourism satellite account. In 2019, a timeliness of available statistical information on activities of accommodation establishments published in electronic form in DATAcube improved. Updating of the Statistical Register of Accommodation Establishments was realized and added by information collected from municipalities via a personalized electronic form. In cooperation with the trade union, methodological guidelines for statistical surveys on selected services in tourism for the reference year 2019 in connection to the entry into force of the Act No. 170/2018 Coll. on tours, related services of tourism and certain business conditions in tourism were updated and specified.

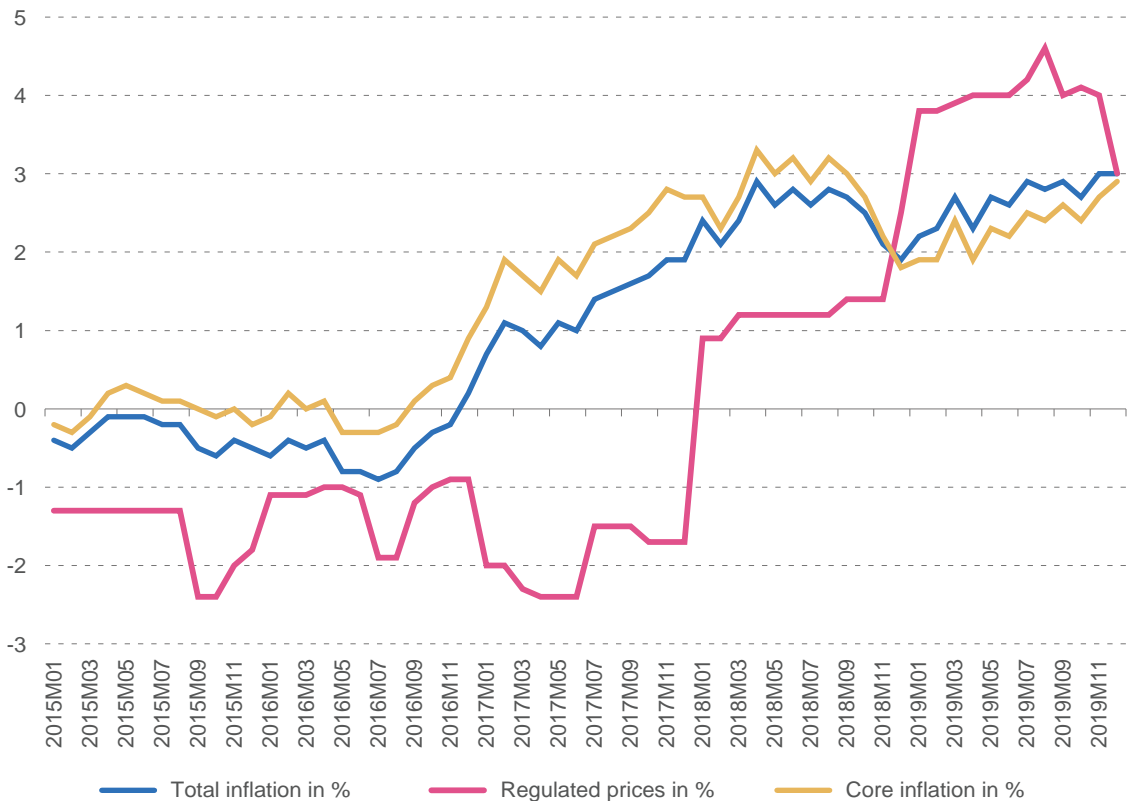
In **statistics on science, technology and innovation**, a main attention was paid on the implementation of changes resulting from revisions of the Oslo Manual for statistics on innovation and of the Frascati Manual for statistics on research and development. As part of the harmonized survey of the EU Member States (Community Innovation Survey - CIS 2018), the statistical survey on innovation Inov 1-92/2018 was prepared and conducted. In research and development, the statistical survey VV 6-01 was conducted, its results were processed in the standard and non-standard structures by requirements of Eurostat under the EC Regulation No. 995/2012. Pursuant to this Regulation, quality reports for individual sectors realizing research and development were also drawn up.

Energy statistics were focused on implementing new requirements on data transfer into the databases of international organizations. In accordance with the requirement of the implementing Commission Regulation (EU) 2019/803, quality reports for price statistics of natural gas and electricity were drawn up. Further activities were aimed at improving the quality of statistics on fuel and energy consumption in households by the method of use. We participated in comments of draft amendments of the annexes to the Regulation of the European

Union on energy statistics as regards a realization of the annual and short-term updates in energy statistics.

In **environmental statistics**, work to further improve the statistics on environmental accounts, mainly as regards the sectoral account of environmental goods and services, continued. All reporting obligations in environmental accounts resulting from a relevant European regulation and also in waste statistics, water statistics and pesticide statistics were successfully met. In 2019, conducting

Inflation rate



one-off sample statistical survey on the use of combustion plants and fuel consumption in households (ŽP 14-01/2019) in cooperation with the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute was a significant activity. The survey result was to collect valuable information in order to ensure a database needed for processing outputs in connection with the fulfilment of commitments of the Slovak Republic in air protection and climate change.

In 2019, work of **price statistics** in consumer prices was mostly aimed at a wider use of data collected from retail chains. Data were used also when creating a weighting scheme for calculation of the Index of consumer prices for the COICOP division Food and non-alcoholic drinks. In real estate price statistics, an analysis of pilot data provided by the Geodesy, Cartography and the Cadastre Authority of the SR was realized in order to test a calculation methodology of real estate price indices. In production statistics, activities were mostly aimed at mapping administrative sources of data on producer prices and service providers. The result is to obtain administrative data sources for price statistics on rent of agricultural land and selected sectors of price statistics on market services. The data sources are databases under the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR and the Ministry of Transport and Construction of the SR.

As part of the international project Business and Consumer Surveys organized by the European Commission in **business and consumer surveys**, an attention was paid to improving the quality of input data as well as outputs characterizing expected short-term development of the relevant field in the eco-

nomic environment. Special work was aimed at preparing a platform and testing an electronic form to collect qualitative information from respondents.

In **international activities**, a cooperation with Eurostat continued in preparation of a draft Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European business statistics, amending Regulation (EC) No. 184/2005 and repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics as well as in other domains of business statistics, where new legislative standards are preparing.

As part of the grant projects organized by Eurostat in order to implement new requirements for statistical outputs, we got involved in a harmonization of statistics on industry with foreign trade domain and with annual structural statistics, in an improvement of data collection in research and development statistics; and in statistics on innovation, we took part in a production of outputs of linking data from the Community Innovation Survey and the annual structural statistics.

Business statistics also actively participated in the 105th international statistical conference aimed at the theme of globalization in context of statistical implications under conditions of changing social as well as economic environment. The contribution was focused on operation of multinational enterprises in the conditions of globalization and cooperation of multinational company from steel industry with the SO SR. The main emphasis was laid to a need to have available data necessary to capture activities of business entities operating at national level, including those that are a part of the multinational companies.

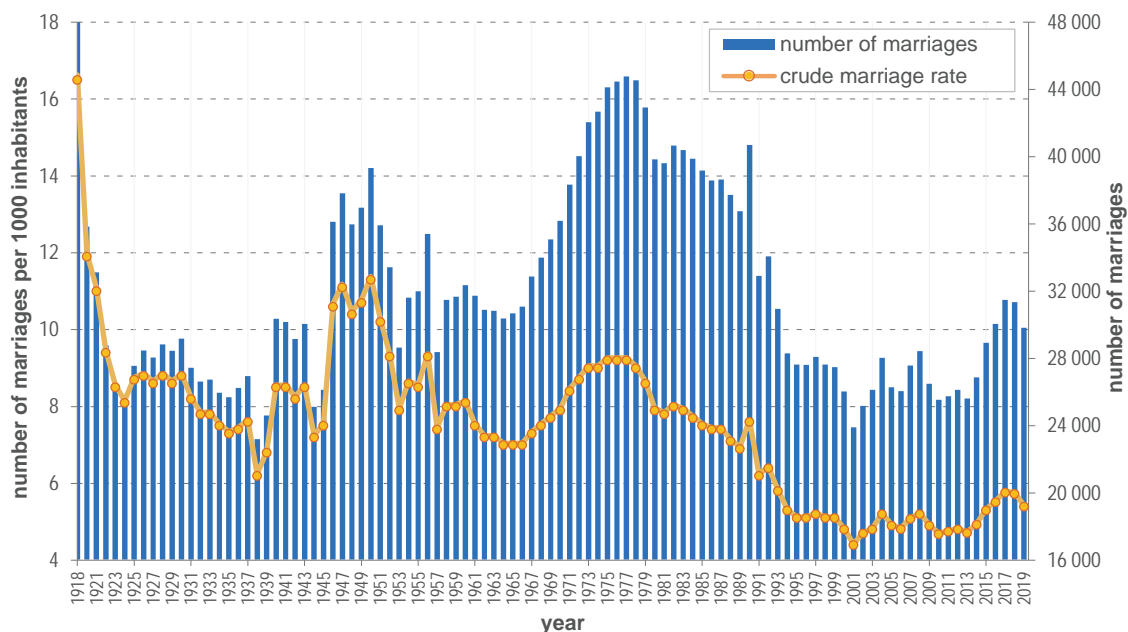
Demography and social statistics

In the field of the **population statistics**, the SO SR continued in the collection, processing and dissemination of demographic data.

The population development was presented by book titles published in the edition We in numbers: Population movement 2018 and Foreign migration 2018. Both publications consist of two parts – the first is dealing with data for the current reference year 2018 and the second with the 10-year development time series.

In the edition with analytical focus - Statistics in context, a publication the Main trends in the development of marriage in the Slovak Republic in 2018, was issued which presents an analysis of marriage in the Slovak Republic. It focuses on the evaluation of this demographic process, on the basis of selected marriage data from the perspective of the past and current development. It is supplemented with tables containing time series, development graphs and thematic maps. The analysis also contains regional and international comparison.

Development of marriage rate in the SR, 1918-2019



In connection with the preparation of the **Population and housing census** to be held in 2021, the SO SR contacted the mayors of towns and municipalities and initiated the possibility of harmonizing data on the number of population at municipal level, available from the administrative sources, with the data on demographic statistics. The proposed harmonization system enables a thorough initial preparation for the provision and implementation of the 2021 Census and it can significantly contribute to its quality.

An important milestone in the census preparation was the adoption of the Act (No. 223/2019 Coll. on the Population and Housing Census 2021 as amended), (hereinafter referred to as “Census Act”), in June 2019 by the SR government. The Census Act establishes the scope and the method of conducting the census of population and housing, as a special kind of statistical survey, the decisive census moment, census period, responsibilities of persons related to the census, the competence of state and municipal authorities for the census purposes. The subject of the Census Act is also a list of topics relating to demographic, social, economic and geospatial characteristics of the population, households, houses and dwellings surveyed during the census and the organizational set-up of the census and the provision of data obtained by the census.

To support the organizational set-up of the census, in 2019, the SO SR issued a number of measures (e.g. measure of the census assistant’s license; measure on the digital ID of the population and the verification system of the digital ID of the population, through its authentication; measure laying down the

details of the technical provision of data from the administrative sources; measure laying down the details of the operating conditions of the contact point).

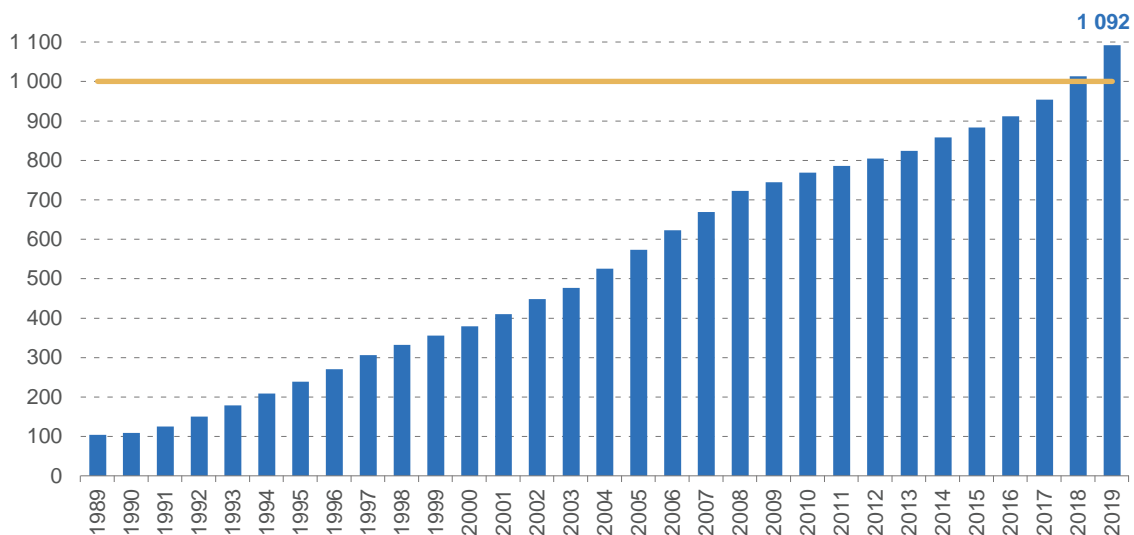
In **labor cost statistics**, information on the development of average nominal and real monthly wage were processed in quarterly periodicity, for the purposes of the calculation of successive indicators in the social field.

For the needs of the integrated system of the statistics on wages and labour costs of the EU, the quarterly indices of labour costs were calculated, measuring the development of direct, indirect and total labour expenses of employers per hour worked, as well as the seasonally adjusted expenses by irregular bonuses. There were also processed the complex annual data by the expenses and their individual components, spent by employers in connection with the employment.

Detailed annual data have been published on the level and structure of wages by sex, employment, age and education. Information on gender differences in remuneration, share of employees in wage bands, average net monthly wage and median wage, were also released. The regional and district overviews of wages, according to the place of work, were also compiled.

Labour statistics provided quarterly information on employment, unemployment and economic inactivity from the Labour Force Sample Survey (LFSS). Business statistics on work ensured the availability of information on the number and the proportion of vacant posts.

Development of average nominal monthly wage in the SR (converted in EUR)



In the 2. quarter, an ad-hoc LFSS on the work organization and working time arrangements was carried out. The results are necessary for the monitoring and analysis of the progress towards meeting the objectives of the Europe Strategy 2020 and the European Pillar of Social Rights, in connection with the work organization and working time arrangements. The European Employment Strategy, employment directive and the European Pillar of Social Rights require to increase the adaptability of companies and employees in Europe and emphasize the need to collect data on the use of various forms and new practices in work organization and working time arrangements. The SR has joined a project aimed at the preparation of ad-hoc survey of the LFSS, planned by the EU in 2020. Within the project, there was a testing of the formulation and optimization of the structure of indicators and the supplementary

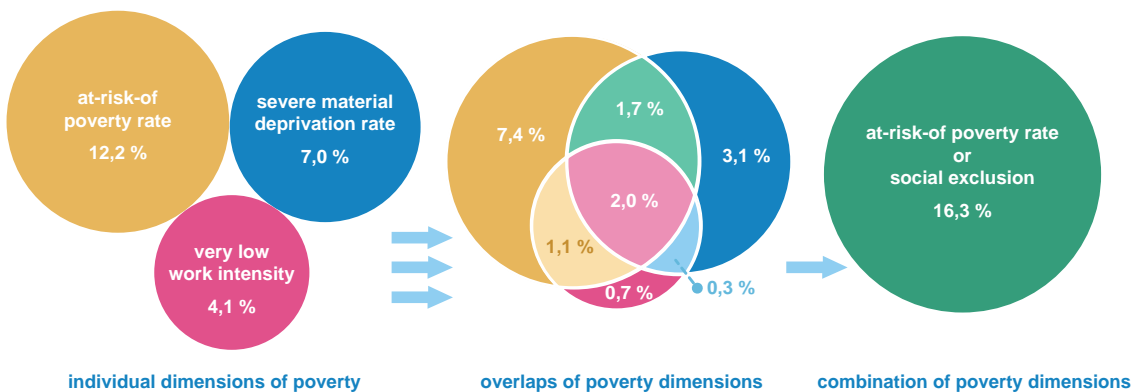
questionnaire enabling to effectively obtain information on the work accidents and work-related health issues. Works have also begun on the 3-year project related to the impact assessment of implementing the new EU legislative into the LFSS on key European indicators of employment and unemployment.

Two press conferences with the representatives of the media and meetings with analysts were organized to the basic data on the labour market development which were published quarterly. Selected information has been displayed in the electronic databases of the Office and detailed results of all statistical surveys in this field were processed in the form of publications that are available on the Office's website. Non-standard outputs and anonymized microdata files for scientific purposes were also compiled.

Family accounts statistics (FA) collects data on incomes, expenditures, consumption and composition of private households in the SR. In 2019, a survey on income and household composition in the SR was conducted for the first time since 2015. The investigation was carried out according to a new re-design which consisted of linking the survey of FA with the survey on incomes and living conditions of households (EU SILC). On the basis of this redesign, the FA survey will annually be conducted from 2019. By the use of data from the previous FA surveys and the available external information, forecasts and qualified estimates of selected indicators, an estimation for the year 2018 by simulation of microdata was realized. The results were published on the websites of the SO SR and in electronic publications Income, expenditures of private households of the SR in 2018.

Sample survey on Income and Living Conditions of Households (EU SILC), which has been regularly conducted by the SO SR since 2005, is the main source of data on poverty, social exclusion and living conditions. In 2019, microdata and indicators from the 2018 EU SILC survey and anonymized microdata were provided to external users for scientific and research purposes, based on standard and ad hoc requirements. The data were presented in two publications: the EU SILC 2018 – Survey on Income and Living Conditions of Households in the SR and the EU SILC 2018 – Indicators of Poverty and Social Exclusion. One of the main outputs of this survey is the indicator of poverty or social exclusion measuring and analyzing one of the main goals within the EU 2020 Strategy for the SR. The indicator is created by a combination of three sub-indicators:

16.3 % - poverty or social exclusion indicator (EU SILC 2018 - SR)



at-risk-of-poverty rate, severe material deprivation rate and low work intensity rate. According to the 2018 EU SILC results, 16,3 % of the population were at risk of poverty or social exclusion.

Based on the requirement to improve the collection and analysis of data on the Roma community, in 2018, the SO SR began the cooperation with the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities (OPGRC) to resolve the project Monitoring and assessment of inclusive policies and their impact on marginalized communities. The SO SR in cooperation with the OPGRC, aimed to prepare and conduct two special surveys – **Survey on Income and Living Conditions in Marginalized Roma Communities in Slovakia** (EU SILC MRC) and subsequently process the survey outputs. The preparation of the survey was based mainly on the methodology of the EU SILC survey, with the aim of analyzing the income poverty, living conditions and poverty indicators of this community. The first survey was carried out during 2018 and 2019 and by the SO SR it was completed according to the time schedule, in September 2019, by handing over the database of microdata and metadata together with the elaborated quality reports. The subsequent dissemination of results from the EU SILC MRC survey is fully within competence of the OPGRC, including the analysis of the data obtained and the preparation of the analytical report as well. The second round of the survey is planned to 2020 and 2021.

Sample survey on Information and Communication Technology Usage in households and individuals (ICT) examines

at household level, their access to ICT and among individuals it explores the Internet usage in general. In 2019, detailed information was obtained on the use of electronic public administration and electronic commerce. Information was also obtained on the electronic skills of individuals and their Internet security issues. The ICT results were published at the SO SR's website, in the form of the publication *Survey on the use of information and communication technologies in households 2019*.

In the second half of 2019, the SO SR conducted a data collection for the sample **European Health Interview Survey (EHIS)**. The EHIS survey has been compulsorily conducted in all EU Member States, on a regular basis, i.e. every five years. It aims to establish a harmonized data source on health, health care and the factors affecting the population's health in Slovakia and in other EU countries as well. The survey is a valuable source of subjective information (on own perception and assessment of the health of respondents), which cannot be obtained otherwise, only through surveys realized directly in private households. Data obtained this way, help to supplement data from routine collections carried out in health care providers and build up a comprehensive picture on public health and the extent of the use of health care in the SR. The processing of the data obtained and the further publication of the results will take place in 2020.

In 2019, in the field of **food consumption statistics**, data on consumption of certain types of food for the year 2018 were derived based on the balance sheet method. These data are freely available for users in the SO SR's

database in a comparable time series since 1990. Data on food consumption for the year 2018 were also included in the publication Food Consumption in the SR, issued annually by the SO SR which also assesses the development of food consumption in the SR and compared with the EU Member States as well. Data on food consumption are regular part of the situational outlook reports of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR, evaluating the market development in the SR for individual food commodities.

The SO SR collects, processes and provides data related to **health care expenditure** for the SR, according to the methodology of the of the System of Health Accounts (SHA) since

2005 (the reference year 2003 and further). In March 2015, the Commission Regulation (EC) No 2015/359 of 4 March 2015 entered into force, implementing the Regulation (EC) No 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council regarding statistics on expenditure of health care and its financing. According to this regulation, the SOSR in 2019, provided data for the reference year 2017, within the accounting framework of the SHA 2011 methodology. The processed data were submitted to Eurostat, OECD and WHO within a joint questionnaire. The data published serve as a comparison of health expenditure not only within the European Union but also in the OECD and WHO countries. Data are also released at the website of the SO SR.



Election statistics

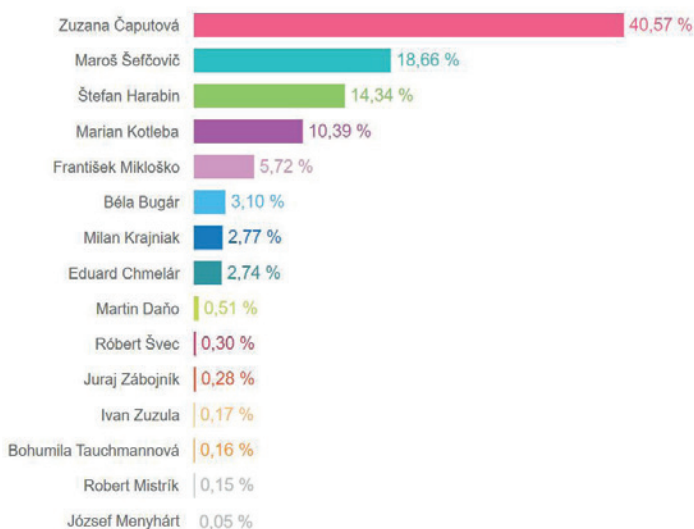
In 2019, the SO SR ensured within elections statistics, processing of the results of the Slovak presidential elections and the elections to the European Parliament.

The **Slovak presidential elections** were held in two rounds, the first one on 16 March 2019 and the second round on 30 March 2019. In accordance with the decision of the Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No 8/2019 Coll., the SO SR ensured the processing of the election results under the Act No 180/2014 Coll. on the Conditions of Exercise of Election Rights and on amendments to certain laws. In the results processing, the Office cooperated with the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic. The preparation of the processing was realized in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior of the SR, from

October 2018. In order to ensure the processing, the Office established specialized summary units for the State Commission for Elections and the Control of Financing Political Parties. The preparations included three rehearsals verifying the organizational, technical and personnel preparedness of all specialized summary units of district election commissions and the State Commission for Elections and the Control of Financing Political Parties. The results of the SR presidential elections were processed by specialized summary units of district election commissions, based on the minutes of the district electoral commissions. From the recorded minutes of the district election commissions, the minutes of district electoral commissions were processed by summarization and approved by the commissions. By their further higher-level summarization in the

Results of the 1st round of the SR Presidential elections

Eligible votes of candidates



Results of the 2nd round of the SR Presidential elections

Eligible votes of candidates

ZUZANA ČAPUTOVÁ
1 056 582 votes
58,40 %

MAROŠ ŠEFČOVIČ
752 403 votes
41,59 %



summarizing units, the minutes of the district electoral commissions were created. These minutes served as a basis for the creation and approval of the minutes of the State Commission on Election and Control of Financing of Political Parties. The citizens of the Slovak Republic were allowed to vote directly the President of the Slovak Republic, for the fifth time.

Elections to the European Parliament, were held on 25 May 2019, following the statement of the Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic. A total of 31 political entities contested the elections and 14 candidates could stand for each.

In 2019, as in the previous elections, the Integrated Election Information System was used for the processing of results of the new elections to municipalities and to the bodies of self-governing regions. It was used not only by the members of specialised summary units of electoral commissions but also by municipalities which have shown interest in the electronic processing of election results.

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

Results of the Elections to the European Parliament 2019

Number of mandates assigned to political subjects

4	Koalícia PS a SPOLU
3	SMER-SD
2	ĽS Naše Slovensko
2	KDH
2	SaS
1	OL'ANO



714 507
valid votes cast for the
proceeding political parties

14
total seats for SR in EP (laid
down in certain laws)

47 634
Republic Electoral Number
(REN)

Cooperation with the Institute of Informatics and Statistics

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

In 2019, the INFOSTAT resolved 27 research and development tasks consisting of 75 partial outputs focused mainly on the following:

- **methodological solutions** – design of methodology of using web scraping; compilation of the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) for the year 2017; methodology of construction of derived population projections for individual domains (labour force, human capital, education, Roma and households);
- **updating and development** – programming solutions in energy statistics; implementation of changes into the processing of price statistics with monthly and quarterly periodicity; new model of the collection of demographical data for Eurostat- SDMX;
- **calculations and constructions** – processing of monthly population movement and population balance at the end of the reference period from data of the Source Database of the Integrated Statistical Information System (SD ISIS);
- **analyses, studies, prognosis, surveys** – cooperation on the balance of IOT for 2017 in the SNA-NT system, analysis and prognosis of the development of business cycle in the Slovak economy in 2019; compilation of revised tables of tourism satellite account for the years 2015-2016; T+45 employment flash GDP estimates; demographic projection of the population in regions and districts of Slovakia;
- **analytical outputs** – mortality tables, population balances, balance of population and the educational structure of the SR population.

Within the cooperation with the INFOSTAT, particularly the activities of the Demographic Research Centre (DRC) should be mentioned, which in 2019, resolved various tasks, assigned by the Statistical Office of the SR, under the contract, resulting in analytical and methodological materials.

The studies were as follows:

- Methodology of constructing regional (sub-national) population forecasts

- Complex analysis of population development of the regions and districts of Slovakia in the context of the construction of population forecasts
- Description of design procedures and evaluation of the forecast results of regions and districts of Slovakia until 2040
- Methodology of derived population forecasts for individual domains: labour force, education, the Roma and households
- Description of design procedures and evaluation of results of the derived population forecasts: labour force, education, the Roma and households
- Identification of new statistical and analytical methods used in demographic research
- Methodological evaluation of the practical use of the EU-SILC and LFSS sample surveys (for the purposes of demographic research)
- Application of selected approaches in specific fields of demographic research in Slovakia (use of EU-SILC and LFSS for the purposes of demographic research)
- Identification of the main target countries, establishing and deepening cooperation with the national statistical offices in the field of mirror statistics
- Cross-sectional and cohort life tables; mortality tables, fertility tables, marriage and divorce rate
- Estimation of the educational structure of the Slovak population by sex and age units as of 31 December 2018

The cooperation with the SO SR, activities of the INFOSTAT and the DRC in 2018 are documented in detail in the annual report of the Institute for the year 2018 at the websites www.infostat.sk and www.infostat.sk/vdc.



We serve customers

In terms of customer service provision, the SO SR continued in fulfilling the action programmes set out in the strategic objectives of the Office. It carried out activities in accordance with the approved Marketing Plan of the SO SR for the year 2019 by means of which it aimed to efficiently satisfy the demands of the users of statistical information.

The SO SR ensured the **provision of data sets for domestic and international customers**. Within the planned product portfolio for 2019, the Office processed and submitted the national and international organizations altogether 539 products in form of data sets, various questionnaires and pre-defined tables from various statistical fields. From the domestic customers, it concerned, above all, the legislative and executive authorities of state administration, mainly the National Bank of Slovakia (39% of products), the Ministry of Finance of the SR, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR and the Ministry of Economy of the SR. In total, 240 products in different periodicity were provided to national organizations. The obtained statistical information was used by the sectors for their governance and decision-making processes and for the analyses of the social and economic development of the society. The regular provision of products for international and inter-governmental organizations concerned predominantly

Eurostat (84%). Other data consumers were especially the International Energy Agency, the United Nations and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. In total, 299 products were provided to the international organizations, during the year.

The Office also ensured **marketing activities aimed at knowledge expansion of our customers** in the field of statistics and on **revealing their expectations**. During the year, professional units at the Central Office and in the Regional Offices of the SO SR, organized seminars, workshops, presentations and lectures with debates. These events were attended particularly by the representatives of the central bodies of state administration, local self-governments, financial institutions, students and teachers of secondary schools and universities. During the year, in total, **53 events** were organized by the SO SR with participation of more than 1200 existing and potential users of statistics. Customers were presented with the structure and content of the Office's Internet portal, a wide range of statistical products and services, their dissemination forms and the possible use of statistical information. Customers also obtained information on the upcoming 2021 Population and Housing Census.

The SO SR commemorated the fourth consecutive **European Statistics Day** whose celebrations were held under the slogan Look at the facts. The event was designed

to raise public awareness of the importance of official statistics in society. A website was established on the Office's web portal providing information on this event and on the products prepared by the SO SR for its support and promotion. On this occasion, the Office released a new publication Slovakia in the EU 2019 and an informative and promotional publication Slovak Republic in Figures 2019. Moreover, the Office prepared a Slovak version of the digital publication of Eurostat – People on the move- mobility statistics in Europe, as well as posters and information and promotional leaflets in various thematic fields of statistics.

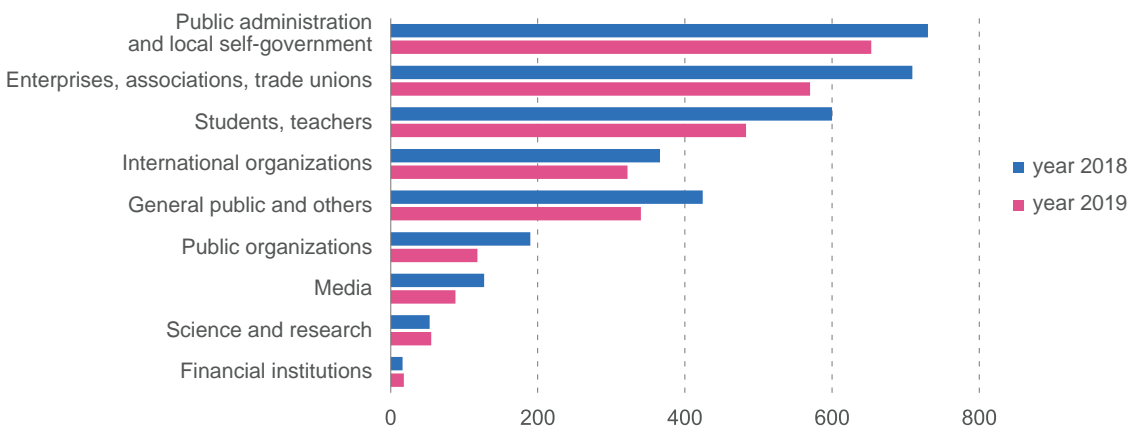
In 2019, the SO SR satisfied 2 647 **requests for statistical information** from various thematic areas by means of the information provision departments. At the Central Office of the SO SR, 1 802 requests were met, of which 83,5 % were from domestic customers. The most requests were from enter-

prises, associations and syndicates (24,5 %). The majority of requests were from students and educators (17,4%). The share of requests from the customers in the field of state and local administration represented 15,3 % of the total requests. The wide public showed similar interest. Financial institutions and researchers had a lower interest for statistical information.

According to thematic areas, similarly as in the previous years, the highest interest was recorded for the information in the field of demography and social statistics (33,5 %). A more demanding requests needing processing by the Office's specialized units accounted for one fifth of the total requests, mainly from the field of sectoral and demographic and social statistics.

The demanding customer requirements included also requests for the **provision of anonymised microdata for scientific**

Interest for statistical information by groups of customers in the Central Office of the SO SR and in its regional offices



purposes. In 2019, 12 contracts for the provision of microdata were concluded with the scientific and research institutions. There was a seasonality in the provision of statistical information, similarly as in the previous years. The greatest interest in statistical information was in March and the lowest in June. The regional offices of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic processed a total of 845 requests on statistical information, most of them for self-government and state administration (44,7%) and students and teachers (20,1%). The biggest interest was for information from the demographic statistics area.

The Office, as the member of the international network of the **European Statistical Data Support** (ESDS), provided assistance to customers when seeking statistical data and information from the field of European statistics. Activities in this field were carried out on the basis of gentlemen's agreement with Eurostat by means of the European Statistical Data Support Centre, established at the Central Office of the SO SR. The users were provided assistance mainly in the form of navigation at the Eurostat's website.

The publication activity of the Office was ensured in accordance with the Catalogue of Publications 2019. During the year, 70 publications were issued in total, including four titles beyond the Catalogue of Publications. Among the crucial publications belonged: Statistical Yearbook of the SR 2019, Regional Statistical Yearbook of Slovakia 2018, Statistical Report on the Basic Development Tendencies in the Economy of the SR and Report on the Economic Development in the SR regions. Among the interest-

ing titles, published beyond the Catalogue of Publications, belonged- Foreign Trade of the SR - definitive data for 2018 in a new methodology and Population movement in the SR for 2018 (source work). Within strategic intentions, the Office paid attention to value added products, such as the Visegrad Four: sustainable development indicators of the Agenda 2030. Bratislava in Figures 2019, Our Regions, Region in Figures 2019, Basic Indicators of Holiday and Business Trips, Gender Equality 2019 and Social Protection in the SR in 2017. Furthermore, 9 types of information and promotional newsletters containing varied visualization tools were released from different statistical fields. All publications were released at the website of the SO SR.

During the year, the **Library** of the SO SR was available for customers and its services were used by 117 readers (Office's employees and external visitors). In 2019, the library stocks were increased by 564 new volumes, of which 501 were new publications of the Office. In total, 143 borrowings were registered. The Library ordered and registered 6 titles of newspapers (of which 2 with online access), 7 online accesses to specialised literature and 28 journals. In total, EUR 10 000 were spent on the purchase of specialised literature and on the subscription of newspapers and journals.

The Office regularly updated and extended the content of information at the **Internet portal**. During the year, new website of the Journal Slovak Statistics and Demography was established, as well as a subpage Simple statistics intended to promote statistical literacy. A new interactive web application

– How do we live in statistics was also launched. It enables to present selected statistical indicators for all Slovak municipalities. The Slovak version of the digital publication of Eurostat- People on the move was uploaded at the Office's website, along with the animation Selection from the geography of Slovakia, presenting geographical and demographic information about Slovakia. Within the new content structure, new interactive elements including visualization of election results, were supplemented into the presentation of the results of presidential elections and elections to the European Parliament. At present, the Catalogue of publications contains almost 2 780 electronic publications. In 2019, 225 new publications were added. During the year, the Portal was visited by 1 276 223 users (compared with 2018, the share of visitors rose by 12,1 %). During the year, there were 6 137 212 page views. (compared with 2018, the number of page views increased by 5,4 %). In terms of the content, the users were the most interested mainly in the Business Register, electronic data collection, statistics by individual fields, code lists, classifications, samples of statistical forms and the DATAcube. database.

In 2019, there was a significant progress in the field of **modernisation of the uniform public database, the DATAcube**. A new functional website - News was established, presenting a monthly list of updated cubes. The uniform public DATAcube. database contains 1 190 datacubes for economic and social indicators and the STATdat. database containing 484 dynamic reports. During the year, the DATAcube was visited by 97 985 users (by 25,2 % more than in 2018)

who viewed 546 521 datacubes. They were interested mainly in the indicators from the field of population and migration, labour market, national accounts and income and consumption. The STATdat. database was visited by 301 686 users who realized altogether 1 482 418 data extractions. The highest interest was recorded for the indicators of consumer prices, production statistics, labour costs, population and migration and national accounts.

During the year, on the basis of the action plan of the Open Government Initiative, the SO SR added 89 new datasets to the **open data portal** (<http://data.gov.sk/>). In selecting indicators, the Office took into account the importance, demand of the public for the most requested data and the social order. In 2019, with 739 released datasets, in total which represents 33 % of all the 2 223 published datasets for the institutions of state administration, the SO SR remains the leader in the dataset provision.

In accordance with the Development Strategy, from 2020, the Office aims to systematically increase the value of the institution to the stakeholders and its recognition at national and international level. The Office monitors the fulfillment of this aim by means of the indicator the **credibility of the Statistical Office of the SR**. In 2019, the Office conducted a credibility survey and the extent of use of the provided information by the public, through an external independent organization, on a representative sample of 1 021 inhabitants of the SR, from the age of 18 years. According to the survey results, 64 % of respondents expressed confidence in the Office.

We publish the Journal Slovak Statistics and Demography

In 2019, the scientific peer-reviewed Journal **Slovak Statistics and Demography** has moved further along the path which has already begun, with the aim of incorporating the journal in the registers supporting open data access and into international citation databases. One of the conditions was the establishment of the new website of the Journal that was fulfilled in 2019. The modern website which has a good reputation both at home and abroad, annually offers the readers four issues, in electronic form. The issues are available to the readers immediately upon their release, similarly as the printed version.

The editorial staff is preparing the current demographic and statistical topics and continues the activities aimed at the positive perception of the journal by the public. New authors are also given a chance to present interesting results of the scientific efforts that arose from the use of statistical methods and procedures. In 2019, we have welcomed a new member of the Editorial Board and said goodbye to one of its members.

The second issue of the Slovak Statistics and Demography followed the tradition of a monothematic issues, focusing on the demographic projections and forecasts. The series of contributions by Slovak authors draws attention to some of the specific aspects of the future demographic development resulting from this analysis.



We would like to thank to the readers and supporters of the journal. We believe that the gradual innovation steps will more intensively present the results of scientific researches in the journal, promote the importance of statistics and demography and give the Statistical Office of the SR a good image.

International activities

In 2019, in the field of European affairs, the SO SR emphasized the effective ensuring of activities within the European Statistical System, as well as the active participation in the adoption of EU legal acts.

One of the most important activities in the field of European affairs and international cooperation, was undoubtedly the **105. DGINS conference**, conducted for the first time in Slovakia, on 9 and 10 October 2019, in Bratislava. It is a specialist conference of national statistical institutes, organized by the SO SR in cooperation with Eurostat. The DGINS conferences are annually conducted in another EU Member State, with the aim of establishing a platform for the discussion of topics on the future direction of the European Statistical System (ESS) and its further development, mainly related to the user needs. More than 120 highest representatives of European statistical institutes and experts in the field of statistics from other international organizations and financial institutions held a discussion in Bratislava on The statistical implications of globalization. A specific output of the conference are the so-called Bratislava Conclusions, summarizing the main inspiring ideas which have been raised at the conference.

In the first half of the year, another significant initiative in the field of EU affairs was the **Slovak Presidency within the V4 countries**. The purpose of cooperation is the achieve-

ment of methodological and qualitative improvements in the production of statistics, exchange of knowledge and experience in the identified fields and issuing of the common publications. The priorities were the significant initiatives within the ESS, such as the globalization, data provision for the production of cohesion and regional policies, migration statistics, social statistics, foreign trade statistics, as well as the forthcoming farm census and the population and housing census with the use of administrative data sources.

At **ESSC** and **PG** level, the examined issues last year were e.g. general methodology for another round of the peer review, shared economy, prioritization in the ESS, ensuring the fundamental values of the ESS, proposal of the multiannual action plan ESP 2021-2027, revision of legislative rules regarding agricultural statistics after 2020, implementation of the ESS Vision 2020, globalization, the DGINS 2019 conference, amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the ESSC and PG, establishment of the task force for strategic communication, establishment of a network “data protection officers” in the EU Member States.

In October 2019, the **ECOFIN Council adopted the Conclusions on EU Statistics**, in which it approved the so-called statistical package, identifying the direction and prioritization of statistics and evaluating the main activities last year.



Within the activities in the field of the **adoption of EU legal acts**, a regulation **on the European business statistics** was adopted, the aim of which is to ensure the harmonization of the concepts of business statistics. The SR will continue to be actively involved in the preparation of the implementing rules in individual statistical domains. In the agricultural statistics, preparatory works were ensured for the implementation of the **2020 Agricultural Census**, in line with the Regulation on integrated farm statistics.

Following the approval of the framework regulation for **social statistics**, the Slovak Republic commented on the implementing regulations whose implementation will start next year. For the system of the production of social statistics it means to prepare the collection and process-

ing of data in order to fulfill the harmonization of the EU sample surveys. The **European Statistical Programme (ESP) for the years 2021-2027** is approved for the first time within the framework of the proposal for a regulation on the Single Market Programme. The SR generally supported the proposal of the ESP's statistical part. More intensive negotiations shall be foreseen concerning the implementation of new statistics on money laundering, the European Defence Action Plan and the fight against financial terrorism, required by the EP. Last year, an amendment to the regulation on **migration statistics** was adopted, at the level of EU policy-makers, on which the SO SR closely cooperated with the Ministry of the Interior of the SR. The goal is to publish the amendment of the Regulation in the Official Journal in March 2020. The SO SR was involved in the

preparation of the regulations by actively participating in the Council Working Party on Statistics in Brussels, in written comments procedure, and also in the phase of linguistic amendments of jurist-linguists and translators.

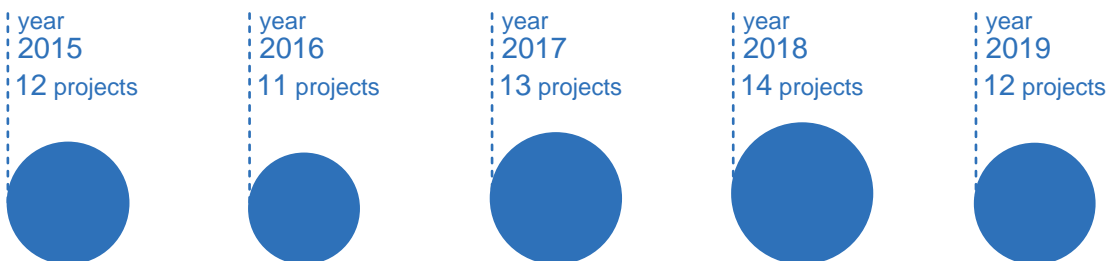
In 2019, the Office's employees attended 193 **foreign trips**, representing 254 individual travels. The foreign trips were focused mainly on the activities carried out within the ESS, organized by the European Commission's Directorate for statistics-Eurostat. In particular, it involved the participation of experts in working group meetings responsible for the implementation of the EU legislation and reduced working groups (so-called task forces) whose task is to develop new methodology and tools.

The Office's management took part in the meetings of the Steering Groups and the Steering Committees. The President represented the Office at the meetings of the European Statistical System Committee and at the Conference of Director Generals of National Statistical Institutes - DGINS. In total, within the ESS, employees attended a meetings of almost 90 working groups at various levels, 15 task forces, 22 seminars and workshops

and 2 events related to the implementation of grant projects. 18 employees attended training courses abroad. In three cases, the Office's representatives acted as lecturers. The Office staff regularly attended the meetings of the Council Working Party on statistics and thus participated in the preparation of EU legislation. This type of meeting was the goal of 4 foreign trips. Of the other events, most of them had the character of bilateral and regional cooperation with the neighboring countries, and 16 employees traveled abroad to this end. Representatives of the Office participated actively in statistical conferences and events of other international organizations such as the United Nations, the OECD and the International Statistical Institute (ISI). The Office organized various international events in Slovakia. Their purpose was mainly the exchange of experiences within bilateral cooperation and visits of experts from Eurostat.

In 2019, the Office applied for 12 **new grant projects**, co-financed from the EU with the objective of implementing new statistical tools and methods. During the year, 30 projects have been implemented, in total, including the projects from the previous period.

Number of projects per year



Human resources

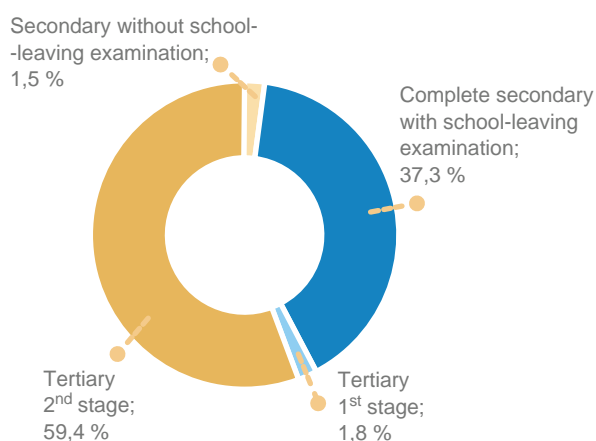
In 2019, **813,8 employees** (the average registered recalculated number) were employed in the SO SR, of whom 308,6 employees at the Office's Central and 505,2 at the Regional Offices of the SO SR (including the Section of Industrial Data Collection and Processing and Field Surveys in Banská Bystrica). In the national budget, in the chapter concerning the SO SR, the number of posts was curtailed to 863, while in the Central Office, 36 posts were designed for the fulfilment of special tasks in the field the 2021 Population and Housing Census (2021 Census), of which (18 at the Central Office and 18 at the regional offices

of the SR and at the Section of Industrial Data Collection and Processing and Field Surveys in Banská Bystrica).

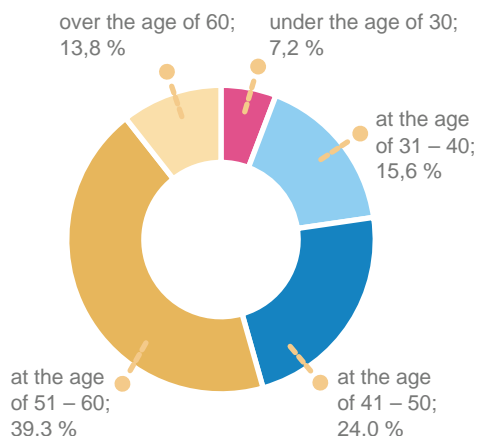
76,5 % women and 23,5 % men worked at the Office. Out of 129 managers, there were 68,0 % women and 32,0 % men.

In 2019, the available budget of the SO SR was **EUR 13 454 342** for salary appropriations (in the amount are also included salary appropriations intended for the 2021 Census and elections to higher territorial units). For the period January – December 2019, the expenditure was EUR 13 454 122,

Educational structure in 2019



Age structure in 2019



hence the limit for the obligatory indicator for wages, salaries, pays, and others personal surcharge in 2019 has been respected.

The Educational Plan of Employees of the SO SR for 2019 was approved as the basic document for the **education of the Office's employees**. The employees attended the education events in the following fields:

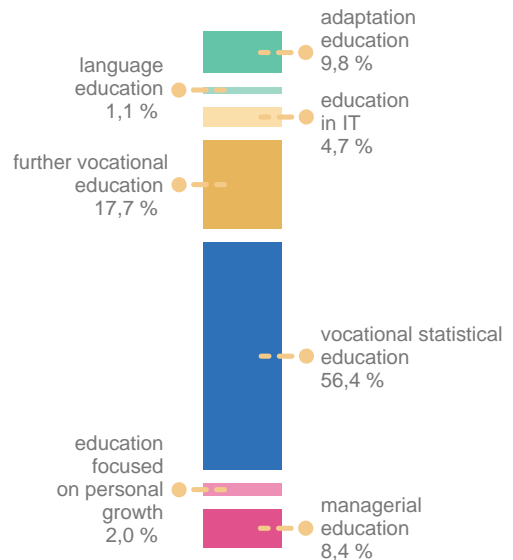
- adaptation education,
- managerial education,
- education focused on personal growth,
- vocational education,
- further vocational training,
- information technologies,
- linguistic training.

The range of educational activities has been continuously complemented by further educational requirements, readily submitted by the respective organizational units.

The priorities in the sphere of **professional education** were the activities related to the development of employee skills for ensuring the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of statistical information from administrative data sources, the comprehensive preparation of the 2021 Population and Housing Census, preparation and processing of the results of presidential elections, EP elections and the implementation of national and international projects.

The Office's staff participated in 36 **foreign educational activities** (international workshops, courses, seminars and conferences of educational character) where beyond compe-

The share of individual types of education in 2019



tence development they had many opportunities to share knowledge and expertise on the national and European statistical system with other participants. Professional courses organized within the programme European Statistical Training Programme were beneficial for the Office's experts in their professional advancement. Within **further vocational training**, the Office's staff participated mainly in the events related to legislation, legal services, management of state administration, wages and allowances of employees, personal data protection, control, audit, finances, budget, registry and state property management. The **language training** was provided through semi-intensive English group courses.

During the last year, 855 educational activities were realized for 5 829 participants, in total. In 2019, EUR 56 992 were used by the Office for educational purposes.

Information systems and information and communication technologies

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

In order to **reduce the administrative burden of reporting units** (RU), the SO SR continues to extend the range of the used administrative sources which replace the data originally obtained from the RU or complete the statistical data collected from the RU by implementing new technologies.

In pursuing the objectives defined by the state, the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic participates in the application of the Act on the prevention against legalization of terrorist financing. The Act on the prevention against legalization of proceeds from criminal activities and terrorist financing lays down the rights and obligations of natural and legal persons in preventing and detecting legalization of proceeds from criminal activity and terrorist financing. Its main goal is to prevent the so-called money laundering. In accord-

ance with the provisions set out in the Act, coming into effect from 1 November 2018, the SO SR shall be required to keep a register of current identification data on the end user benefits in the **Register of Legal Entities, Entrepreneurs and Public Authorities** (RLE) and submit them at the same time to the liable persons in providing basic care in relation to the client. According to the Article 7a of the Act No. 272/2015 Coll. on the register of legal entities, entrepreneurs and public authorities, as amended, the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic provides from 1 November 2018 data on end user benefits from the RLE, in an electronic and automated form to liable persons, according to the Article 5 of the Act No. 297/2008 Coll. on the protection of legalization of proceeds of criminal activity and terrorist financing as amended. The above-mentioned liable persons can be obtain access upon request, available after logging in via eID, on behalf of the liable person, through the Central Government Portal www.slovensko.sk or the portal of the SO SR <https://rpo.statistics.sk>.

The project “**The reform of the collection and processing of statistical data**” shall address Eurostat’s requirements for the establishment of a national methodology, its subsequent standardization towards responsible persons of statistical surveys enabling streamlining

of the process of collecting and processing statistical data of all liable persons, as well as the protection and security of collected and processed data. The project outputs will represent a uniform and harmonized methodology that will be applicable to all liable persons of the National Statistical System.

In 2019, a process of the **ESS IT security certification** was successfully completed, audited by the PWC company appointed by Eurostat, as a condition for further steps to joint IT security projects and a plan of project granting.

In 2019, major improvements were made to the existing **infrastructure and application equipment** within the SO SR, necessary for

the implementation of the statistical survey, as well as for a reliable and smooth processing of the results of the 2019 presidential elections and the 2019 EP elections. In parallel to these activities, there were a number of preparatory analytical phases as the basis for the implementation of the strategic plan for the development of the SO SR information systems. The activities were mainly focused on systems and data security, Big Data collection and processing, typology and availability of artificial intelligence tools in the field of statistical production, innovation of statistical tools and registers, as well as the possibility of re-platforming towards a greater use of open source technologies, preparation of migration to the government cloud.



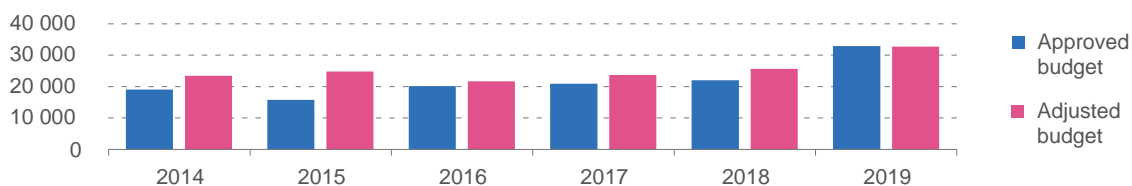
Financial results

Pursuant to the Act No 370/2018 Coll. on the state budget, **expenditures** in the amount of EUR 32 931 511 were approved for the chapter the Statistical Office of the SR. During the year, the budget of the Office was adjusted by 22 budgetary measures of the Ministry of Finance of the SR and 4 budgetary measures of the Ministry of the Interior of the SR to EUR 32 778 522,63. Adjustment by the MF SR concerned mainly exceeding the capital expenditure by funds from the previous years (EUR 390 147), funds for the necessary development of information systems of the Office and resolution of issues in licensing security (EUR 3 million) by funds for the 2021 Population and Housing Census (hereinafter referred to as “2021 Census”), namely capital expenditures (EUR 160 000) and current expenditures (EUR 570 000, of which 126 000 for wages), exceeding the limit of current spending limit for surveys related to the development and fulfillment of the Tourism Satellite Account (EUR 245 840), increase in personal expenses for valorization of employees (EUR 1 672 425, of which on wages EUR 1 239 708) and for the budgetary organization INFOSTAT EUR 65 420, exceeding the limit of current

expenditures on the ensuring of technical and technological conditions for the results processing of the elections to the National Council of the SR in 2020 (EUR 320 000) and the transfer of current expenditures to capital expenditures in total of EUR 247 639.

Other adjustments were related to the binding of the current expenditure limit due to unfavourable development of the public budget in 2019 (EUR 1 100 thous.), binding of current expenditures in favour of the chapter of the Ministry of Finance of the SR in terms of the Central Agreement on the provision of Oracle products (EUR 407 919,94), commitment of capital expenditures (EUR 5 799 848,04) and EU funds and co-financing from the state budget (EUR 1265 721,22) with a possibility of their use in the next financial year. The budgetary measures increased the limit of current revenues by EU funds and co-financing from the state budget intended to cover the project of “The reform of the collection and processing of statistical data” within the Operational Programme Effective Public Administration (EUR 884 668,83) whose managing authority is the MI SR

Budget of expenditure of the SO SR in the years 2014 – 2019 in thous. EUR - comparison of the approved and adjusted budget



For the year 2019, the indicator for a **binding revenue limit** –in the amount of EUR 120 000 **was approved** for the SO SR. The budgetary measure of the Ministry of Finance of the SR **decreased** the limit of revenues **to EUR 93 000**. The revenues de facto reached EUR 93 009.

The adjusted **budget of expenditures** in the amount of EUR 32 778 522,63 **was drawn** actually in the amount of EUR 32 721 306, i.e. to 99,8 % (of which the EU funds were EUR 595 595,20 and funds for co-financing from the state budget (hereinafter referred to as “SB”) in the amount of EUR 162 352,41, which, together make up EUR 757 947,61.

The revised **budget for salaries and wages** EUR 13 407 882 (excluded the EU funds and funds for co-financing from the SB, in the total amount of EUR 46 461,85) was actually drawn in the amount of EUR 13 407 660, of which EUR 999 965 for the presidential elections and for the elections to the European Parliament (hereinafter referred to as “EP”) and EUR 420 664 for the 2021 Population and Housing Census.

Budget for the **insurance payments and for the insurance contribution** covered by an employer was in the amount of EUR 5 010 482 (excluded the EU funds and funds for co-financing from the SB, in the total amount of EUR 16 181,98), of which EUR 422 393 from the budget for the presidential elections and the EP elections and EUR 124 271 from the budget for the 2021 Census.

In total, EUR 9 787 718 were used for **goods and services** (excluded the EU funds and funds for co-financing from the SB, in the total amount of EUR 695 303,78) of which EUR 603 208 from the budget for the presidential elections and the

EP elections and EUR 536 952 from the budget for the 2021 Census and EUR 5 654 985 from the budget for information technologies financed from the state budget. EUR 2 992 573 were spent on ordinary activities of the SO SR, mainly on the statistical surveys, travel costs, costs related to the processing of statistical information, contribution to the social fund and catering of employees. A substantial share was represented by expenditures on energies and communication, object security and operation of motor vehicles and maintenance of operating machines, equipment and buildings.

Current transfers were drawn in the amount of EUR 1 207 825 of which EUR 1 044 120 were assigned to the subsidised organisation - INFOSTAT. Other transfers were used on severance grant, severance pay and sickness benefits.

Capital expenditures were drawn in the amount of EUR 2 549 674, of which EUR 2 269 338 for information technologies financed from the state budget, EUR 30 thousand for the presidential elections and the EP elections and EUR 42 840 for the 2021 Census. Resources for supporting activities in the amount of EUR 207 496 were used for the purchase of passenger cars and operating machines and equipment and for the refurbishment and modernisation of the building stock.

Special types of expenditures

Presidential elections and Elections to the European Parliament

In 2019, in total, EUR 2 055 566 were spent on the elections. Expenditures incurred mainly for the overtime payments, remunerations and related insurance contributions of employees

involved in the processing of result of the elections. Expenditures on goods and services were spent on material provision of expert summary units, telecommunication services, general material and on agreement for the performance of work.

2021 Population and Housing Census

Funds in the amount of EUR 1 125 773 were spent mainly on wages and related contributions to the insurances of employees temporarily employed for the tasks related to the preparation of the 2021 Census, for the study on the possibilities of improving census outputs and household sample surveys, for the study on system analysis of the ISCED 2011 implementation, on marketing consultancy on the choice of supplier of creative services, media campaign and communication for the 2021 Census and consultancy for other fields related to the 2021 Census, as well as trainings, promotion, business travel and overhead costs.

Reform of the collection and processing of statistical data in public administration

EUR 8 014 623 were spent on information technologies financed from the state budget, of which on goods and services EUR 5 654 985, on transfers for the subsidized organization INFOSTAT EUR 90 300 and capital transfers in the amount of EUR 2 269 338. Expenditures were drawn on ensuring the sustainability of outputs resulting from the project Electronic Services and the Register and Identifier of Legal Entities and Entrepreneurs, on ensuring information technologies for processing election results for the 2021 Population and Housing Census, as well as for the information technologies for the internal governance system, ancillary infrastructure and specialized systems.

Information technologies financed from the state budget-SO SR

For financing the project reform of the collection and processing of statistical data in public administration, which is resolved by the Office within the Operational Programme “Effective Public Administration-Priority Axis 1”, the EU funds and funds from the state budget were used for the co-financing of joint programmes of the SR and the EU, in the total amount of EUR 757 947,61, of which the EU funds in the amount of EUR 595 595,20 and state budget funds for co-financing in the amount of EUR 162 352,41. Most of the funds, in the amount of EUR 695 303,78 were used in accordance with their intended purpose on goods and services, i.e. analysis of regulation, analysis of processes and the existing process models, design of the optimal process model and functional and non-functional requirements for a uniform IS and collection and evaluation of statistical data in the NSS, and part of the funds in the amount of EUR 62 643,83 on repayment of personnel costs within the project.

Separate accounts

In 2019, the SO SR obtained common foreign grants for a separate account of foreign gifts, grants and subsidies in the amount of EUR 1 335 599, within the meaning of §22 (4) on budgetary rules which were provided by the European Commission with the aim to introduce new statistical surveys. The funds were drawn in the amount of EUR 1 206 589 and used mainly for the reimbursement of wages of the staff involved in the EU projects, material security, reimbursement of agreements and foreign business trips.

Priorities 2020

In 2019, the development of Integrated QMS of the SO SR will focus on the gradual **implementation of the requirements of the amendment to the Code of Practice for European Statistics** and the related framework for quality assurance, in particular for the implementation of revised principles of institutional environment and starting of the implementation of the revised principles in the field of statistical processes and statistical products. Further work on the integrated QMS will be focused on the cooperation within the ESS

to prepare procedures, questionnaires and other documents for the **third round of peer review**. Preparatory works for the completion of this peer review will start following their adoption by the European Statistical System Committee.

The continuation of the fulfillment of the objectives, priorities and principles of the **National Quality Program of the Slovak Republic for the period of 2017 - 2021**, as well as the continued participation in the project **Implementation and Support of Quality**



Management in Public Administration Organizations, will contribute to the development of the integrated QMS of the SO SR.

A significant priority in the development of the system will be the **second year of implementation of the action programs of the SO SR's Development Strategy until 2022**. Emphasis will continue to be placed on the implementation of programs contributing to the creation of customer value and other interested parties and thus to the value of the SO SR as well, to the increase of efficiency of processes by using data from new data sources, in the production of new statistical outputs, as well as projects supporting the implementation of these programs, with emphasis on effective external communication and the use of partnerships.

In the field of **methodology**, one of the priority tasks for 2020, the continuing activities will be related to the SO SR's projects. In the project on the modernization of price statistics, it will be a conceptual study and empirical studies focusing on impact analysis of using various methods to aggregated price changes, i.e. weighted vs unweighted methods, monthly chained vs direct indices or bilateral vs multilateral methods related to the use of various data sources for the calculation of the harmonized consumer price index (HICP) and the consumer price index (CPI).

As part of activities in another **Big Data** project, a more accurate updating of the data register of accommodation establishments is assumed and the creation of further modernization of tourism statistics. One of the priorities will also be the imple-

mentation of other possibilities of the use of administrative data sources (ADS) in business statistics in order to improve statistics or reduce the response burden. One of the tasks addressed will concern the analysis of possibilities of dependency modelling between the variables from the ADS and the variables from statistical surveys for annual statistical surveys in small enterprises. We also plan the enhancement of the existing models used or testing of the new modelling approaches also in short-term statistics.

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

In the field of **statistical registers and statistical units**, the focus will be on the ensuring of the quality of registers with emphasis on methodological and substantive requirements for the statistical registers, resulting from the new Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council No. 2019/2152 on European business statistics, repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics (**FRIBS**). In terms of the **RLE**, the main goal remains the integration of all the remaining source registers into the RLE, as it is laid down by the Article 12 of the Act No 272/2015 Coll. on the Register of Legal Entities, Entrepreneurs and Governmental Bodies, as amended. No less important

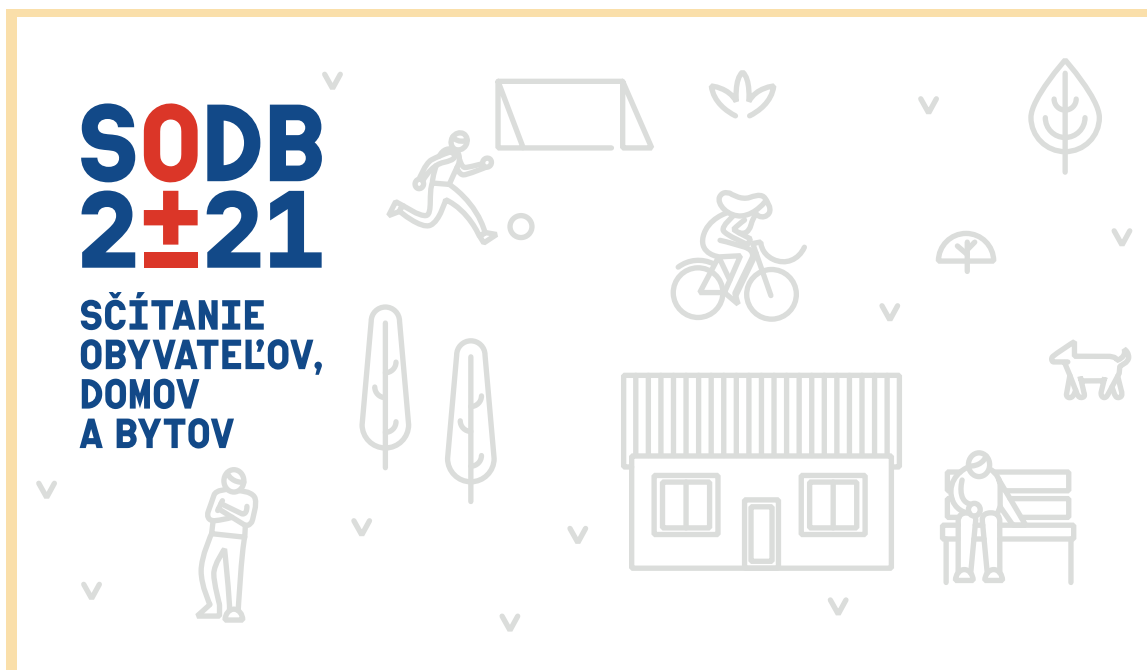
will also be the stabilization of processes measurement of the RLE data quality and the adoption of further decisions, measures and procedures focusing on the elimination of deficiencies detected in cooperation with the liable persons. In terms of the RLE – the module End User Benefits Register, the SO SR's key role will be to develop and implement new functions into the information system RLE, ensuring full conformity with the new requirements for data release from this register, resulting from the amendment of the Act No. 297/2008 Coll. as well as the Directive 2018/843 (Business Registers Interconnection System).

The main priority in the **cost-optimal database**, will be the preparation of the basic legislative document - **Programme of State Statistical Surveys for a new three-year period 2021-2023** (PSSS). In 2020, a Regulation on the Programme for Single Market 2021-2027 will be issued along with the new **European Statistical programme for 2021-2027** (ESP) which will be included in the II Annex of this Regulation. The Single Market Programme and the ESP have been developed and will be adopted in the context of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 of the European Union. In the upcoming years, new requirements will be imposed on the NSS, i.e. to adjust the statistical surveys or obtain administrative or other data from the external sources, implemented into the PSSS.

In 2020, activities within **macroeconomic statistics** will be focused on the preparation and compilation of the **revised data of the national accounts**, in line with the new Revision Policy of the SO SR, preparation of

the **final report within the project GP 04-19** to individual sub-tasks and addressing the settlement of reservations granted by the Commission as a result of the **verification cycle HND 2016-2019**. Besides the standard routine works, foreign trade statistics department has been working on the following tasks- preparation of an extended publication on foreign trade statistics in DATAcube., and the pilot collection of **new variables** on Declaration on dispatch of goods in the Intrastat system (ID of the partner in a member state intra-EU import and the country of origin), as well as implementation of the **FRIBS Regulation including foreign trade microdata exchange**, carried out within the project GP 03-19.

Main priority **in the field of business statistics**, will be the commenting on the delegated and implementing acts to the Regulation (EU) No 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European business statistics. At national level, works will focus on preparing the ground for the implementation of new requirements resulting from this framework regulation in individual statistical domains. This should include the implementation of kind-of-activity units in short-term statistics, implementation of the amended methodology of subcontracting relationships with regard to the PRODCOM, ensuring the transition from the Classification of buildings to the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in construction statistics, mapping the available information on the vacancy of commercial properties, changing procedures in the compilation of outputs for the annual structural statistics and other activities focusing on the harmonization of statistical domains in business statistics.



In **agricultural statistics**, activities will be targeted at the preparation and implementation of the 2020 Farm Structure Census, conducted every 10 years and its outputs are important for the decision-making process for the adoption of measures and regulations in the field of common agricultural EU and national policy.

In **statistics of science, technology and innovations**, activities will be focused on the continued implementation of changes resulting from the revisions of the Oslo manual and Frascati manual by processing of mandatory outputs in a new innovation structure, their submission in SDMX format for the first time and elaboration of quality reports as well as the processing of selected indicators beyond the Regulation of statistics of research and development.

In **energy statistics**, work will continue regarding the implementation of new survey requirements, arising from the changes of the Commission Regulation No. 2019/2146 on energy statistics.

One of the main priorities of **price statistics**, will be the preparation of methodology for the price collection of production statistics for the transition from calculation of price indices to a new base period - average of the year 2021=100. The preparation of the methodology for the calculation of real estate prices with the use of data from the Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of the SR.

In all fields of business statistics, we will focus on further deepening of the quality of statistics and harmonization with the European methodology.

In 2020, the main priority in **social statistics and demography** is the preparation and implementation of the population and housing census. The work will concentrate mainly on the completion of work regarding the development of the Information system for territorial planning and on the territorial planning itself, on the pilot survey on the population and housing census which will be conducted by municipalities, and on the activities within the preparation of the electronic system of the 2021 Census.

In the field of **statistics on labour and education**, besides the regular Labour Force Sample Survey I the 2. quarter, attention will also be paid to an additional survey on work-related injuries and accidents. Another priorities will be the adaptation of the Labour Force Sample Survey to the new EU legislation related to the Integrated European Social Statistics (IESS) valid until the end of 2020 and start preparatory works for ensuring the vocational training survey in enterprises in 2021.

In 2020, in the **statistics of living conditions of the population**, the conduct of statistical surveys according to Eurostat's requirements will be a priority. At the same time, preparations are ongoing for the adaptation of sample social statistical surveys to the new regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council introducing a common framework for European statistics relating to persons and households, on the basis of data at individual level acquired from samples. Within these amendments, the sample social statistical surveys, redesign of questionnaires of individual surveys and interlinking of data from various sources

will be improved thus providing the customers more accurate and new data for assessing living standard.

The priority of **election statistics** will be the processing of results to the National Council of the SR, declared by the Chairman of the National Council of the SR by his decision NO 351/2019 Coll. from 4 November 2019 to 29 February 2020. The elections shall be held pursuant the Act No 180/2014 Coll. on the Conditions of the Exercise of Voting rights and on amendments of certain laws. Besides these tasks, the SO SR will continuously perform activities related to ensuring the new municipal elections held pursuant the decision of the Chairman of the NC SR.

In the field of **statistical information dissemination**, the Office will focus on fulfilling of the strategic objectives set in order to better know its customers and satisfy their ever-increasing demands on quality and complexity of products and services. In line with the marketing plan, the attention will be focused on the processing and provision of data sets for the national and international institutions and ensuring of various communication activities. By means of the effective external communication and the utilization of communication channels, the Office aims to contribute to the increase the knowledge potential in the field of statistics. Customer communication will be oriented on the meetings with the key users of statistics. The specialized departments of the Central Office and its regional offices will organize seminars aimed at selected customer groups, in order to inform them about the position and tasks of the Office, its products and services and thus increasing the aware-

ness on the Office and the official statistics. These activities will be an opportunity to learn about the needs and expectations of our customers. The planned survey on the satisfaction of customers with the products and services of the SO SR in which respondents can also express their improvements, will be helpful to gathering feedback. These suggestions will be considered by the Office, to the extent possible, in the creation and dissemination of products and provision of customer services. Activities organized on the occasion of the second consecutive European Statistics Day, declared for the first time by the UN to 20 October 2015, will also raise awareness of official statistics and the SO SR. This event is celebrated every five years. In accordance with the overall Development Strategy, the Office will continue in disseminating the content and forms of products published at the Office's website, which remains the main communication tool for the dissemination of statistical information. When publishing statistics through a web portal, the Office will focus on further development and modernization of a public database DATAcube., consolidation and expansion of a database in terms of the customer requirements and increasing user comfort when working with data. For greater accessibility of open data in machine-readable format, the Office will ensure the publishing of new datasets and the accessibility of data via the REST API, providing data in JSON-stat format. In the process of dissemination, the Office will flexibly react to the new release trends, by implementing interactive data visualization tools with the aim of presenting statistical data comprehensively and innovative form.

Attention will be paid to the provision of value-added products using interactive tools and appealing presentation form of statistical information.

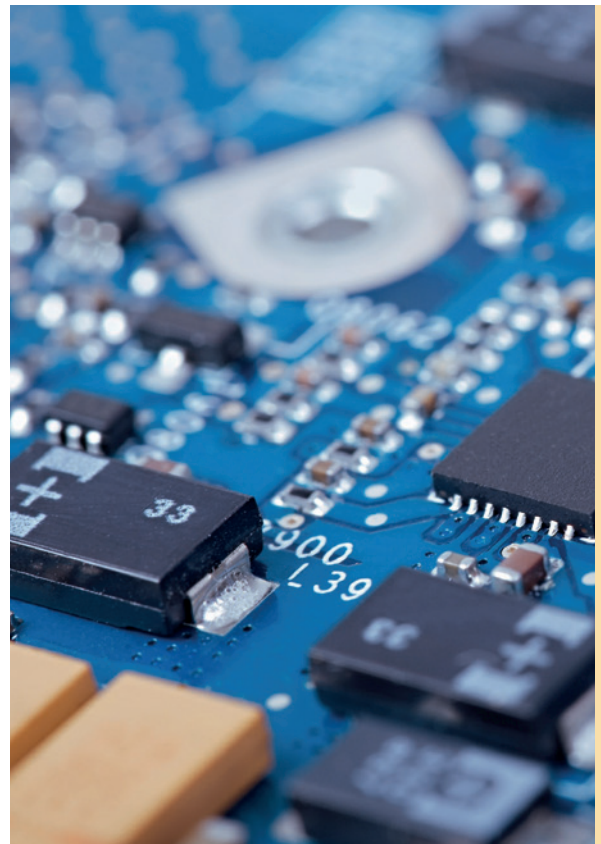
In the field of **European Affairs and international cooperation**, the most important activity of 2020 will be to contribute to a better interconnection and closer cooperation with other national statistical offices. The first step towards this should be a better visibility of activities within the task force on strategic communication. In the context of events from the beginning of 2020, there is an urgent effort to a better adjustment of communication channels towards a general public. In any modern and democratic society, the management and decision-making is based on an accessibility of high-quality data available in individual statistical offices. Therefore, it is crucial that a participation in this group will be an extremely important part of the future position of the SO SR not only within the ESS but also at the level of other government authorities of the SR as well. An equally important aspect remains also the cooperation with partners within the V 4 countries, or other regional groupings e.g. the Slavkov Declaration.

In the area of **human resources** management, with limited financial resources and personal capacities, the motivation of the whole staff to a better performance of tasks and the satisfaction of their wage claims above the national average remains to be an urgent challenge. The Office will make its best for the stabilisation of effective, key and committed employees. Ensuring staffing for the conduct of specific tasks of the

2021 Census, the presidential elections and the elections to the European Parliament will be an important priority of further period. In the field of education and development, we will continue in strengthening of the employees' engagement, flexibility and adaptability in the fulfilment of important tasks of the SO SR. Therefore we will place emphasis on the key employees with leadership potential, creation of standards in the field of managerial training and improving the education forms of experts.

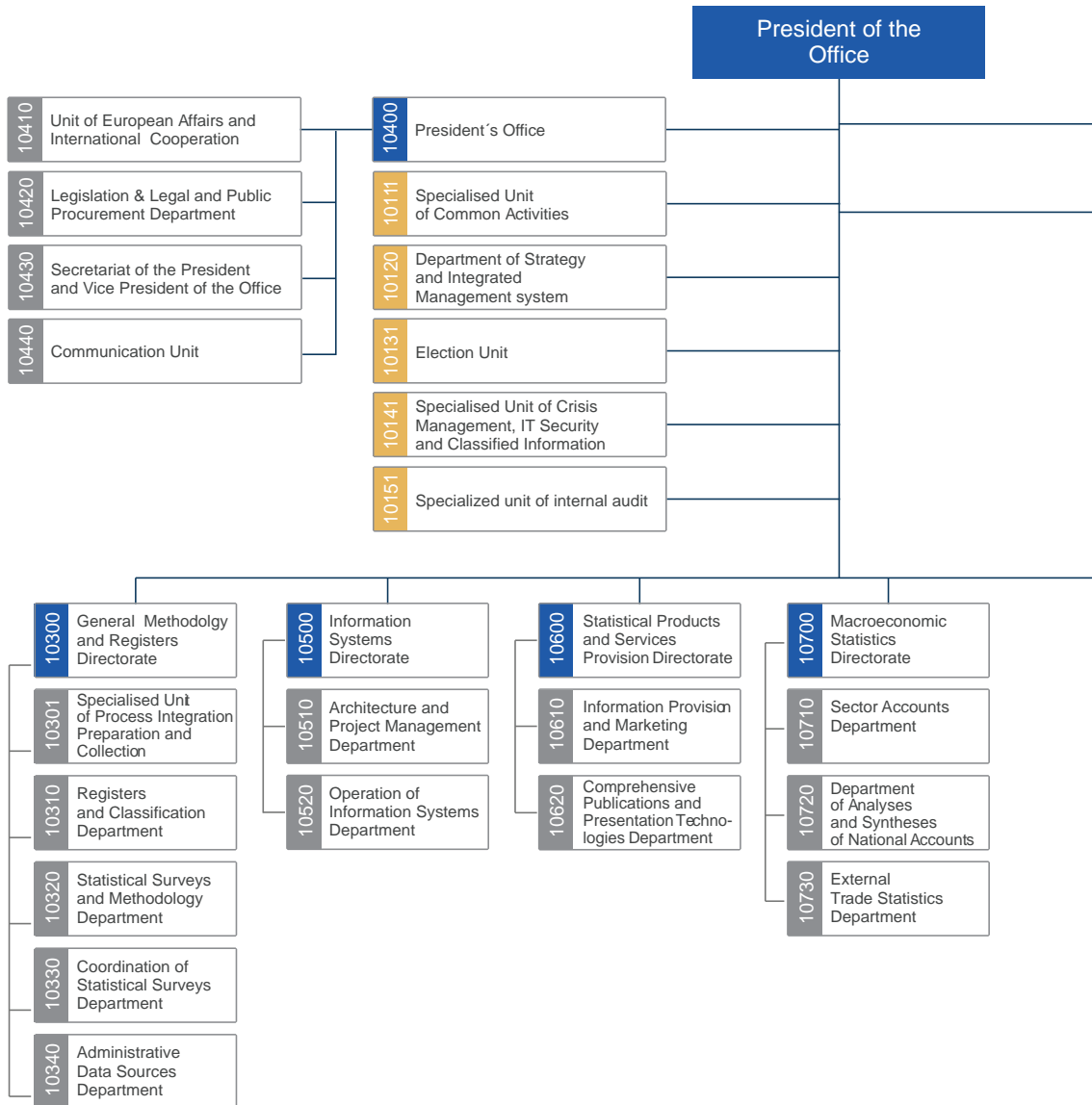
In the field of **information systems and information-communication technologies**, the priority for 2020 will be the completion of the process of reorganization of the department for streamlining the provision of services in the context of new tasks and challenges, ensuring smooth functioning of operating systems including the Register and Identifier of Legal Persons, Entrepreneurs and Public Authorities (RLE), the End Users Benefit Register (EUBR), the Integrated Statistical Information System (ISIS) and the Integrated Electoral Information System (IEIS) to a new legislative requirements. At the same time, the SO SR will continue to provide assistance to liable persons while their work with the RLE and the EUBR, carry out activities related to the completion of the information system for the 2021 Census support and launching of the first stage of the development of the Unified information system for the collection and evaluation of statistical data in the national statistical system. The priorities will include also the completion of the migration of selected SO SR's systems into the government cloud which will be implemented under the

Operational Programme Integrated Infrastructure (OPII). The SO SR in cooperation with Eurostat will continue to harmonize the protection of personal data with the EU Regulation (GDPR) and completion of the project Reform of the collection and processing of statistical data in public administration within the operational programme Effective public administration. Another priority of the SO SR will also be the development of the existing tools of statistical production under the OPII Call for the Data management of public sector institutions.



Organizational structure 2019

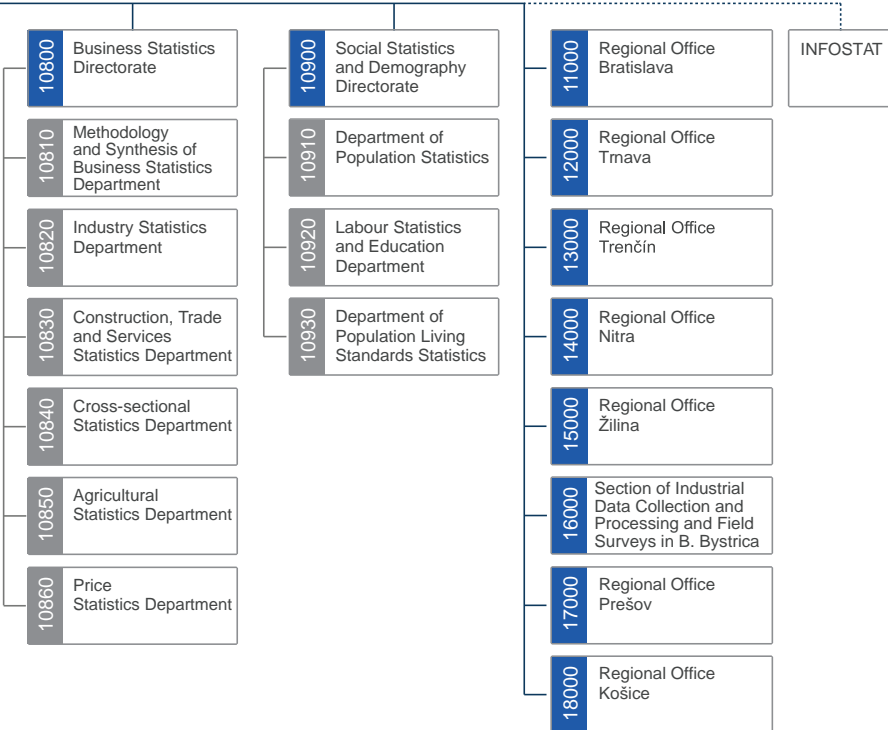
applicable as of Dec. 31, 2019



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