



STATISTICAL
OFFICE
OF THE SLOVAK
REPUBLIC

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Statistical Office
of the SR **2015**



WORLD
STATISTICS
DAY

20.10.2015

ANNUAL REPORT

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Introduction

The past year was exceptional due to various reasons: we celebrated the World Statistics Day, ensured the conditions for the comprehensive electronic data collection, processed for the first time the referendum results in the integrated election information system and we managed to launch the Register of Legal Entities as one of the four core registers of public administration. This is a brief description of the major milestones of 2015 from the perspective of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic. In the area of foreign relations, integration processes with the European Statistical System were continued and an intensive preparation for the Slovak Presidency in the Council of the European Union began.

Electronic collection - another benefit of the project Electronic Services of the SO SR

In 2015, all the necessary conditions for the compulsory electronic data collection were fulfilled by the SO SR, thanks to the project Electronic Services of the Statistical Office of the SR within the Operational Programme Informatization of Society (OPIS). In order to ensure the smooth transition to the submission of statistical reports exclusively in electronic form, functionalities of the Integrated Statistical Information System (ISIS) were added for managing the users of reporting units and communication with them. Electronization of processes enabled the Statistical Office of the SR (SO SR) to harmonize the deadline for the submission of certain statistical reports with the deadline for the submission of VAT (short-term surveys) or income tax (long-term survey) without endangering the production of statistical outputs. Reporting units gained sufficient time for processing of the required data and completion of statistical forms.

Register of Legal Entities - a tool to reduce bureaucracy

The SO SR in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice of the SR and the Ministry of Interior of the SR managed to successfully implement the project Register and identifier of legal entities, entrepreneurs and public entities (RILE), included in the OPIS. It is a uniform data source of all legal entities and it will be one of the 4 core basic registers of the integrated information system of public administration. RILE will simplify administration, reduce bureaucracy and accelerate data access from the register. It was established in accordance with the National Concept of Informatization of Public Administration and it is part of the e-Government. The register will contain data from all source registers within 2 years after the entry into force of the Act on RILE, i.e. November 2017. All the existing source registers of legal entities will be integrated by that date.

World Statistics Day

In relation to the World Statistics Day, designated 20 October 2015 by the UN, the Office ensured various awareness -raising activities in the field of official statistics and highlighted its major role- the production of high-quality statistical information necessary for decision-making processes and the analysis of socio-economic development. One of them was the

organization of the Open Door day in the Headquarters and the Regional Office of the SO SR. Those interested were presented with the findings of the statistical activities and information from various statistical fields by means of lectures and consultations. Another activity to promote celebrations of the World Statistics Day, was the conference on the project Electronic Services of the SO SR which aimed to present the experts from public administration and the private sector the functioning of the entire project, included in the OPIS.

Preparation for the Slovak Presidency in the Council of the European Union

During 2015, preparations were intensified for the performance of tasks related to the historically first Slovak chairing of the meetings of the Council Working Party on Statistics, to be held in the second half of 2016. Interested staff members participated in linguistic, procedural and institutional training programmes according to their specific needs. Within the promotion of the Office during the presidency, preparations have started for the issuing of various publications on the economic, social and demographic development of Slovakia.

European statistical dimensions

For strengthening the confidence in the National Statistical System and to respond to requirements resulting from the European legislation in the field of statistics and to implement the national and international standards including quality standards of the European Statistical System (ESS), the SO SR reconsidered and updated the approach of managing the NSS whose main aim is to create a well-functioning NSS ensuring the production of official statistics in line with the customer demands and the related regulations.

In 2015, works have been progressing in the preparation of the common legislative framework FRIBS (Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics) focusing on the integration of the entire production process of business statistics. We actively participated in discussions and written consultations on the above-mentioned issue. We took part in the Eurostat grant project aiming at the calculation of the Index of Service Production. This task is resulting from the new amendments of the FRIBS Framework Regulation of the Short-term business statistics package.

The step-by-step solution of specific and cross-sectional reservations of Eurostat which the Slovak Republic received in January 2012 was of particular importance. It was based on the results of the two Eurostat missions on the issue of Sources and methods used for the compilation of the gross national income (GNI Inventory-SK) and the subsequent comparison of the mission results for all the EU countries. At the end of 2015, the European Commission accepted the resolution procedures proposed by the SO SR and for the Slovak Republic it has withdrawn all reservations in respect of the context 4 for the EU's own resources based on the gross national income.

Within the preparation of the Framework Regulation for the Integrated European Social Statistics (IESS), attention was paid to the commenting on relevant documents and testing of methodology and procedures. The regulation should enter into force in 2019 and it will cover the whole complex of household surveys.

Modernisation of statistics and its processes

In 2015, we also continued with modernisation of statistics in the field of standardisation of the production process and the integration tools (registers, classifications, code lists), data collection regarding the sources, methods and forms, data processing, production and dissemination of statistical outputs.

Within the methodology for the production of samples, the SO SR started preparatory works concerning the sampling methodology of business statistical surveys that should take due account of two opposing demands- ensuring the required quality of statistical outputs and minimize the administrative burden of respondents.

In 2015, further reduction of the administrative burden of the Intrastat system was resolved through the project Redesign of Intrastat. The suggested simplification alternatives of Intrastat were evaluated in relation to the quality, timeliness, burden and last but not least also the costs. According to the analysis of evaluations of all EU Member States, the most suitable alternative to the Intrastat simplification will be decided during 2016.

In Foreign trade statistics, besides the routine monthly data release, increased efforts were paid to the completion and evaluation of the Simstat project which aimed at testing of microdata exchange within selected EU countries.

In order to enhance the statistical processes, reduce respondent burden and costs, a redesign of the statistics of family accounts was implemented.

In Social statistics and demography, during the past year, increased emphasis has been placed on data publishing extended with analytical texts. Within the edition Statistics in context, mainly the publications Major trends of population development and Family Behaviour were issued.

In the field of Information dissemination, we have focused on the provision of high-quality products and services according to the overall strategy of the Office. We have continued in the extension of the scope of disseminated products at the Internet portal and development of a unified public database.

Census 2021- what's next?

The Office's preparation for the 2021 Population and Housing Census began with the activities of the Working Group for Census. Last year's primary outcomes were the definition of the 2021 Census objective, processing of the 2011 Census analyses, recommendations and suggestions for the 2021 Census as well as the identification of the administrative data sources for census purposes.

Processing of the referendum results- for the first time in IEIS

In February 2015, the results of the referendum were processed for the first time by means of the Integrated election information system (IEIS) and subsequently preparatory works were initiated for processing of election results to the National Council of the SR 2016.

Human resources

In order to fulfill the key roles, favourable conditions for the development of the personal and professional development of the employees have continued to be created also in 2015, to improve the efficiency and optimization of their performance. Particular emphasis was put on the performance of tasks associated with the preparation for the Slovak Presidency in the Council of the EU, in the second half of 2016. The trend of the successful recruitment and maintenance of qualified and productive employees and creation of opportunities for their development, has been fulfilled proportionally to the limited resources of the Office.

Satisfaction survey-our mirror

In 2015, the Statistical Office of the SR conducted a regular customer satisfaction survey on products and services of the SO SR via online questionnaire. The survey results, published at the website of the Office provide an important feedback on the needs and expectations of statistical users. The relevant user comments will contribute to the improvement of the Office's activities.

Integrated Quality Management System

In developing the Office's strategic management, we have focused on the implementation of programmes of the Strategic Development of the SO SR until 2017, contributing to the increase of its performance and fulfilment of certain projects of the Vision of the European Statistical System until 2020.

The deepening of the management system by putting emphasis on the quality, was focused on enhancement of the system by promoting the intentionally integrated view at the production process of statistical outputs, i.e. value creation for the customer.

The ability of the Office to provide statistical products and services consistently fulfilling the expectations, was proved by the third certification audit of the Quality Management System of the SO SR, conducted in October 2015 by an internationally recognized certification body, Bureau Veritas Slovakia. The aforementioned ability is one the main preconditions to perceive the SO SR as a reliable institution offering reliable outputs in the form of products and services.

Identification of organization

Title:	Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic
Acronym:	SOSR
Address of headquarter:	Miletičova 3, 824 67 Bratislava 26
Contact:	telephone (operator) +421 2 50236 111 Internet http://www.statistics.sk
Management:	The Statistical Office is a budgetary organization with its incomes and expenditures being a part of the state budget of the Slovak Republic

Main activities:

SOSR¹:

- a) develops and publishes the policy of national statistics,
- b) compiles the Programme of State Statistical Surveys in co-operation with ministries and state organizations
- c) defines methodology of statistical surveys and collects and processes statistical data,
- d) defines methodology for maintenance of the system of national accounts and compiles national accounts,
- e) sets up, releases and keeps classifications, nomenclatures and registers in co-operation with the ministries and state authorities,
- f) defines the method of setting up the registers, assigns and issues identification numbers,
- g) elaborates analyses of selected characteristics of the social, economic and environmental development of the SR,
- h) co-operates with international bodies and organizations in introduction of standards and classifications in the field of statistics,
- i) publishes the results of statistical surveys for the SR and individual geographical and administrative units, regularly informs general public about social, economic and demographic development, provides statistical information and issues statistical publications,
- j) organizes and provides project and programme preparation of processing the statistical surveys and determines the method of collection and technologies of processing the statistical data for statistical surveys conducted by the Office,
- k) manages, regulates and oversees collection and processing of statistical data at national level,
- l) comments on methodology of production, content and structure of statistical data and statistical information acquired by ministries and state organizations in performing their activities,
- m) obtains and collects external statistical information for purposes of comparison the situation and development of the SR economy with foreign countries and
- n) fulfils other tasks set by the act.

A specific task of the SO SR is preparation and processing of election results to the National Council of the SR², bodies of municipal self-governments², bodies of regional self-government², and processing of results from the presidential election², referendum² and elections to the European Parliament² and the population and housing census³.

¹ Act No 540/2001 Coll. on State statistics in wording of later regulations

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

³ Act No 263/2008 Coll. on the Population and Housing Census in 2011 amending the Act No 5/2004 on employment services and amendments of some acts in wording of later regulations

We continued in deepening the QMS of the SO SR and implementing the 2017 Strategy and Vision of the ESS until 2020

In 2015, within the Development Strategy of the SO SR until 2017 (hereinafter “Strategy 2017”) the deepening of the SO SR’s QMS was focused on the **promotion of the intentional integrated look at the production process of statistical outputs**, i.e. value creation for customer, by taking into account the internationally recognised Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) and links with the Integrated Statistical Information System (ISIS) in process descriptions. Besides, works regarding the further development of the system continued with a particular emphasis on the areas discussed and recommended within the successful peer review focusing on the review of implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice in the SO SR. Specific activities were mainly related to the coordination of the national statistical system by enhancing involvement of data providers and customers and communicating the results of the customer satisfaction survey.

Last year’s works on the implementation of further action programmes of the 2017 Strategy were continued. Within the environment of limited sources, in which the SO SR operates, attention was focused mainly on the implementation of programmes contributing to increasing the Office’s efficiency. It included programmes focusing on the support of industrialization of the statistical output production by means of modularization, integration and standardization, uptake of the appropriate existing external data sources for the creation of the efficient database, development of user-friendly portal as well as the implementation of the routine operation of the ISIS contributing to the statistical production with low transition time.

The selected programmes of the Strategy 2017 are also part of the **implementation projects of the Vision of the European Statistical System until 2020** (hereinafter referred to as “Vision”) aimed at improving the efficiency and robustness of statistical production, use of new data sources, increasing the level of quality management, better identification of users’ needs and cooperation with the parties involved, as well as raising the public visibility of European statistics. Last year, specific activities of the SO SR were focused mainly on the first three areas specified. Moreover, the SO SR was engaged in works related to the Vision Implementation Network which promotes the management structure of the European Statistical System (ESS)- Vision Implementation Group.

For the support of decision-making based on facts, the Information system for monitoring hours worked (ISSOĆ) has been used. The system outputs were used in optimization management of statistical surveys, their outputs and grant projects. Moreover, the SO SR participated in activities related to the issue of sources at ESS level. In the previous period, it participated in the Eurostat’s initiative to monitor and manage the costs for the European Statistical Programme (ESP), taking part in creating the unified methodology for cost setting and benefits of ESP projects, decision-making in its prioritisation and further direction.

The level of quality management system was examined by **internal audits** which tested conformity of the system with the requirements of the ISO 9001:2008 standard and the requirements of the SO SR. Methodological audits were mostly focused on verification of implementing specific statistics with the requirements of particular regulations. The overall QMS of the SO SR has been evaluated in the Annual Report of the evaluation of the quality management system of the SO SR.

In October 2015, the third **surveillance audit** performed by the monitoring organization Bureau Veritas Slovakia, spol. s.r.o. The positive audit result reaffirmed the SO SR's ability to provide statistical products and services consistently fulfilling the needs of customers, respective regulations as well as the SO SR itself, as one of the primary precondition for the perception of the Office as a reliable institution and its products and services as credible outputs. The system so aimed represents a sound basis for its further development according to the ISO 9001:2015 standards.

What the last year brought in methodology

In line with the modernisation activities within the European Statistical System (ESS), the statistical office continued in **modernisation of statistics in Slovakia in the field of standardisation of the production process and integration tools** (registers, classifications, code lists), data collection from the point of their sources, methods and forms, data processing, production and dissemination of statistical outputs. In order to improve the statistical processes and reduce the respondent burden, we are looking for opportunities for gradual transition from the statistical outputs production based strictly on statistical surveys to the production of statistical outputs based on models and multisource statistics.

We proposed and implemented a **new method of survey weights for incomes and living conditions of households (EU SILC)** which was presented also within the mission at the State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia as well as to the employees of the Statistical Office of Montenegro. Its integral part is the use of our own constantly improving calibration tool Calif, presented at various foreign events and it has been used beyond the SO SR.

In the field of **confidentiality of statistical data** and microdata provision for scientific purposes, work has been progressing on the improvement of procedures and harmonisation of the methodology for the confidentiality of statistical data in three various types of outputs. The SO SR actively participated both in the Eurostat working and expert groups on statistical confidentiality. It took part in the improvement of procedures in providing confidential microdata to research organizations for scientific and research purposes, while it has been preparing new protected databases enabling the researchers to carry out high-quality analyses without threatening respondent confidentiality. In 2015, the internal training for employees in the field of confidential statistical data, weight calibration and seasonal analysis of time series has been continued. These trainings have been reviewed as the most popular by the employees of the Office.

In the field of **seasonal analysis of time series**, the harmonisation of procedures in the ESS can be considered as the most important activity. From 2015, this will use the Demetra+ software package, supported by Eurostat, consisting of two implemented methods of seasonal adjustments: X-12-ARIMA and TRAMO/SEATS. Moreover, the latest version of the programme JDemetra+ has been tested by the Office which besides the original functions also supports “plug-ins” and thus enabling their applications’ functionality without changing the original code. Within the training activities, a simple user’s guide has been developed to this tool. In order to ensure a full and trouble-free transition to the latest version of the JDemetra+ which is recommended by Eurostat as the most suitable for the seasonal adjustment of time series, an internal training for selected employees of the Office was conducted, in December.

During the last year, the Office continued also in the conduct of **methodological audits**. The realized audit focused on conformity testing of procedures used in the Survey on the use of information and communication technologies in enterprises, with requirements imposed on the respective survey focusing on the use of the proper methodology and within it to further quality enhancement of surveys and improving the efficiency of deploying resources.

Within the **methodology for the production of sample files**, the Office started to prepare the innovation of the methodology of samples in business statistics which should take into account two differing requirements – the required quality of outputs and minimisation of the administrative burden of respondents.

In 2015, the SO SR extended cooperation with ministries and state organizations producing **administrative data sources**. The cooperation aimed to enhance the use of the existing data sources and information in order to reduce the respondent burden of statistical surveys, improve the quality of official statistics and reduce its cost. In 2015, the SO SR signed 13 agreements on data provision with the managers of the administrative data sources (ADS), while at the end of 2015, it concluded agreements with 30 institutions.

The cooperation with the administrators of the ADS has been extended also in terms of the SO SR's intention to carry out the 2021 Population and Housing Census by means of a so-called combined method during which the existing data and information stored in administrative sources would be used. As the census preparation and the change of its conduct is a complex and long-term process, a special attention should be given to it within a reasonable time. During this preparation, the SO SR has become involved in the European grant project focused on improving the level of the use of ADS.

In 2015, the obtained ADS enabled the enhancement of outputs of official statistics and also facilitated the updating of the statistical register of organizations.

In 2015, the SO SR established cooperation with a commercial entity in order to test the possibilities for its data on prices of purchased goods for price statistics and establish the harmonised index of consumer prices. In this field it has also become involved in the European project solving.

In the field of electronization and digitization of state administration (within the project of Informatization of Society) which enables a more effective functioning and implementation of standards for statistical data exchange in the information systems of state and public administration, the **method of electronic data collection has been optimised** by the SO SR. By means of high-quality, customer-oriented electronic services, the information value, availability and transparency of statistical data and information has been increased with the help of product-oriented approach emphasizing the reduction of the respondent burden. From 2014, the reporting units are allowed to complete the statistical forms in an electronic form, in the integrated statistical information system (ISIS).

In the course of 2015, respondents of the SO SR were given the opportunity to submit the statistical forms not only in paper but also in electronic form by means of the ISIS data collection application. Submission of the electronic statistical forms has been voluntary and 63 800 reporting units has shown interest in activation of the electronic services. 59 surveys were available electronically, representing 104 statistical forms.

The Act No 326/2014 Coll. amending the Act No 540/2001 Coll. on state statistics, as amended, has introduced a compulsory electronic data collection with effect from 1 January 2016. An amendment to the Act on state statistics introduced a new obligation for the businesses, i.e. to submit the statistical forms in electronic form. The SO SR has sought to

contribute to the smooth implementation of the compulsory electronic data collection and to bring the respondents concrete benefits.

These activities also included the design and implementation of the **targeted website** enabling our users to find their feet in the particular situation and prepared them for the changes in data provision. The guidance available at the website was prepared by means of interactive visuals (Infographics).

In 2015, the development of **statistical classifications and code lists** continued, in accordance with the legally binding acts of the European Union, international norms and international standards.

For the needs of the tripartite project national Occupational Framework, backed by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR, the revised version of the International Standard Classification of Occupations SK ISCO-08 was issued by the Decree of the SO SR No 385/2015 Coll., reflecting the current situation in the labour market, fully harmonised by the applicable international standards.

In the field of **statistical registers**, activities have been focused on the development and improvement of the statistical register of businesses and the register of enterprises as basic registers for the application of the methodology of enterprise profiling.

In cooperation with Eurostat, work continued on the development of the register of multinational enterprise groups, managed by Eurostat in EuroGroups Register (EGR). The outcome of this cooperation is the final EGR 2013 population which was completed and made accessible by Eurostat for statistical purposes, at the beginning of 2015. In order to map the relationships between enterprises, in the greatest possible context, a new external data source has been obtained which will be fully utilized in the production of the EGR for the reference year 2014.

Within the project *Quality improvement of national registries and testing enterprise profiling*, active preparation has continued, aimed at addressing organizational and factual aspects of specifying the statistical unit of (multinational) enterprise in line with the Notification of the BSDG and DMES on the proposed consistent implementation of the Council Regulation (EEC) No 696/93 on the statistical units, adopted at the business statistics and macro-economic statistics directors' meeting of June 2015 in Eurostat. The main outcome of project works, finalised in December 2015, was the obtaining of practical knowledge, experiences and skills in applying the European profiling methodology. Equally important outcomes were concrete profiles of 4 multinational enterprise groups with a decision-making centre at the territory of the Slovak Republic and more than 30 profiles of groups with decision-making centres abroad.

The indicators on fast-growing innovative enterprises in the SR for the year 2014 have been processed and submitted to the European Commission, and quarterly indicators on bankruptcy and restructuring of enterprises for the reference period July 2014-June 2015 in order to monitor activities concerning the **EU 2020 strategy**.

In order to monitor the quality of business environment in individual regions of the European Union and further production of strategies on the way of funds allocation from the Cohesion

Fund, indicators on regional demography of enterprises for the reference years 2011-2013 have been processed and submitted to the European Commission.

At the end of 2015, the project **Register of legal Entities and Entrepreneurs and Public Authorities (RILE)** was successfully completed. For achieving a complex and effective solution of the management of the RILE and the Organizations Register, new structures and functions have been developed, tested and installed in the statistical information system, enabling collective updating of the entities of Organizations Register from one source only.

Production of cost-optimal database in NSS and ESS

The **National Statistical System** (NSS) and its functioning is defined by the Act on State statistics No 540/2001 Coll., as amended, with effect from 1 January 2015. The NSS consists of SO SR, ministries and other central government authorities, which carry on the European statistical programme or the Programme of state statistical surveys. These documents shall be adopted for certain period of time which means that except the SO SR, partly ministries and other central government authorities shall be involved in the performance of these tasks. Therefore the act imposed the SO SR to publish at their website a list of authorities which make up the NSS.

The SO SR revised and updated its approach to management of the NSS, in order to strengthen the confidence in the NSS and to implement the national and international standards including quality standards of the European Statistical System (ESS) and the requirements deriving from the European legislation in the field of statistics. In 2015, the Office elaborated and adopted the Concept of coordination of the NSS in order to “create a consistent and coherent NSS and ensure the production of official statistics in line with customer requirements and the related regulations”.

The up-to-date list of authorities (as of 31 December 2015) comprising the national statistical system is as follows:

1. Statistical Office of the SR
2. Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the SR
3. Ministry of Culture
4. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR
5. Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR
6. Ministry of Education, Research, Science and Sport of the SR
7. Ministry of Interior of the SR
8. Ministry of Health of the SR
9. Ministry of Environment of the SR
10. Government Office of the SR
11. Administration of State Material Reserves of the SR
12. Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communications and Postal Services
13. Institute of Informatics and Statistics

The European statistics are developed, produced and disseminated by the **European Statistical System** (ESS). The ESS is a partnership between the EU’s statistical authority (Eurostat), national statistical institutes (NSIs) and other national authorities in each Member State in charge of the development, production and dissemination of the European statistics. The list of these institutions is managed and published by Eurostat. It includes the following list of institutions for the SR:

- Statistical Office of the SR in the position of national statistical institution and other national authorities:
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR
- Ministry of Education, Research, Science and Sport of the SR
- Ministry of Interior of the SR
- Ministry of Environment of the SR
- Administration of State Material Reserves of the SR
- Institute of Informatics and Statistics (INFOSTAT)

2015 was the first year of fulfilling the **Programme of state statistical surveys** (“the Programme”) for 2015-2017, harmonized with the ESP for 2013-2017 and the follow-up Annual Statistical Work Programme for 2015. The ESP includes established methods, main areas and objectives of the operations for a fixed period and the statistical requirements from the perspective of the EU policy needs are also incorporated in it.

The Programme constitutes a precondition for the production of the cost optimal database, as the drafts of statistical forms included in the Programme are annually assessed by all stakeholders. Account shall also be taken to the compliance with the principles of the Act on state statistics, in such a way that the important and necessary surveys are to be undertaken cost-effectively, without duplicates at a high-quality and comparable level. In this context, in 2014, within the internal and inter resort comment processing of state statistical surveys planned for 2015-2017, the following points were identified and discussed:

- Surveys to be cancelled, reduced or simplified,
- Emerging new needs with particular focus on ensuring prior data for the production of European statistics,
- Surveys which shall be fully or partially supplemented with data from administrative sources.

As a result of this evaluation, in 2015, the SO SR included 78 statistical surveys in the Programme. Ministries and state organizations included the total of 108 statistical surveys. In 2015 compared with 2014, the SO SR continued all its annual surveys, except the Dop 2-01 Annual survey on transport of dangerous goods which has been supplemented by other statistical survey. Changes were made in statistical forms whose list was modified and their number was raised to 135 due to various reasons, in particular due to reduction of response burden and transition from paper-based surveys to online surveys. In the part of the Programme concerning surveys of ministries and state organizations, three new annual culture surveys were included. In the field of transport, two new surveys were added, in the field of health and culture one survey was cancelled and all surveys in the field of education and environment have been dropped as they will be conducted outside the Programme. The third part of the Programme related to the use of administrative data sources has also been updated. Administrative data sources used by the ministries for the production of statistical outputs, were added in the pertinent annex of the Programme.

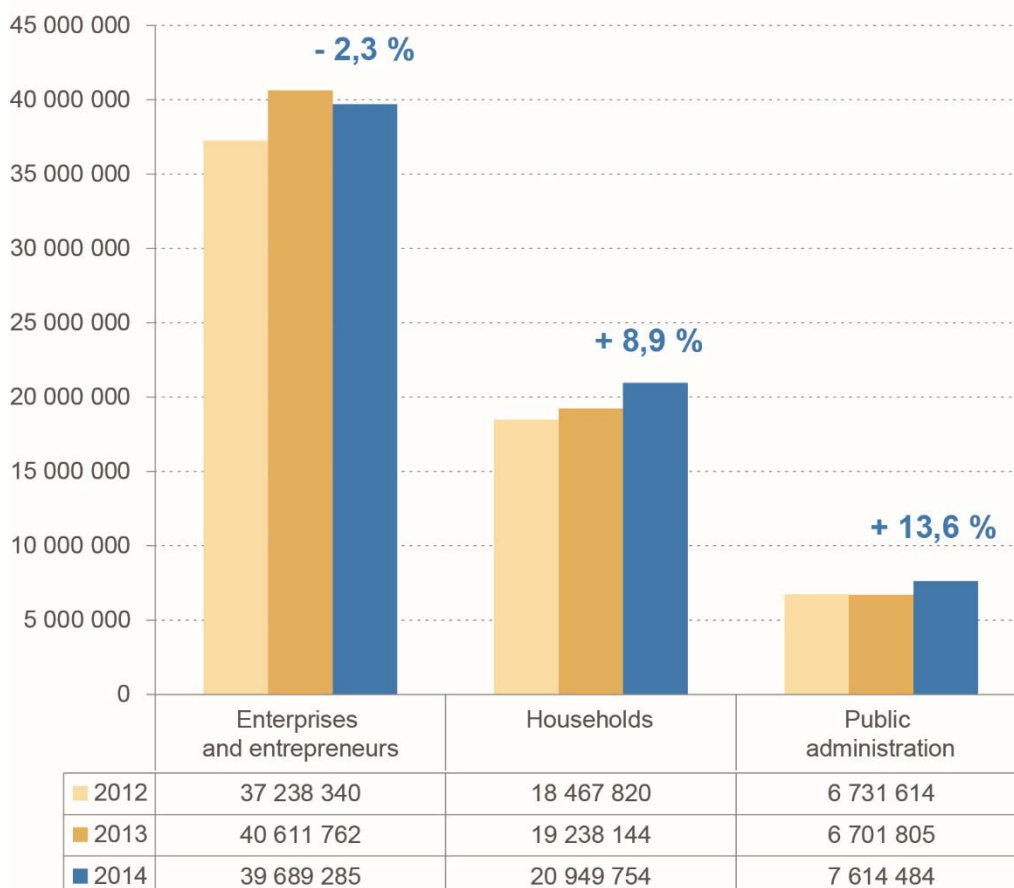
The criterion of burden is also taken into account in the **production of cost-optimal database**. Response burden should adequately meet the users’ needs and should not be excessive for respondents. Since 2008, the burden measurement is based on obtaining data

on the time required for the completion of a statistical form and on evaluation of items in forms (the number of items of individual forms is multiplied by the survey periodicity and by the number of reporting units).

The objective of reducing the response burden until 2012 by 25% was fulfilled, compared with the situation in 2008. In 2012 compared with 2008, a decrease by 35,17% was recorded and the decrease in the number of items in forms by 25,67%. The new strategy 2017 aims to achieve a non-growing burden trend. 2012 was the base year for the burden comparison. At the end of the year, comparisons between the years 2012-2014 were available.

Between 2014-2013, the total response burden, increased by 2,6% after module and multi-annual survey adjustment, the NI increased by 2,2%, compared with the previous year. When comparing the year 2014 to 2012, the NI increased by 9,3% for all surveys and by 6,9% for surveys on a regular basis. The positive change has been the disconnection of multi-annual modules in the questionnaire Roč 1-01 Annual questionnaire on business statistics allowing the year-on-year decrease of NI in enterprises and in the subdomain Business statistics by 11,5%. The adjusted number of items increased year-on-year, although it didn't reach the value of 2012 and it was lower by 2,1%. The number of reporting

Number of items by the RU's area all surveys

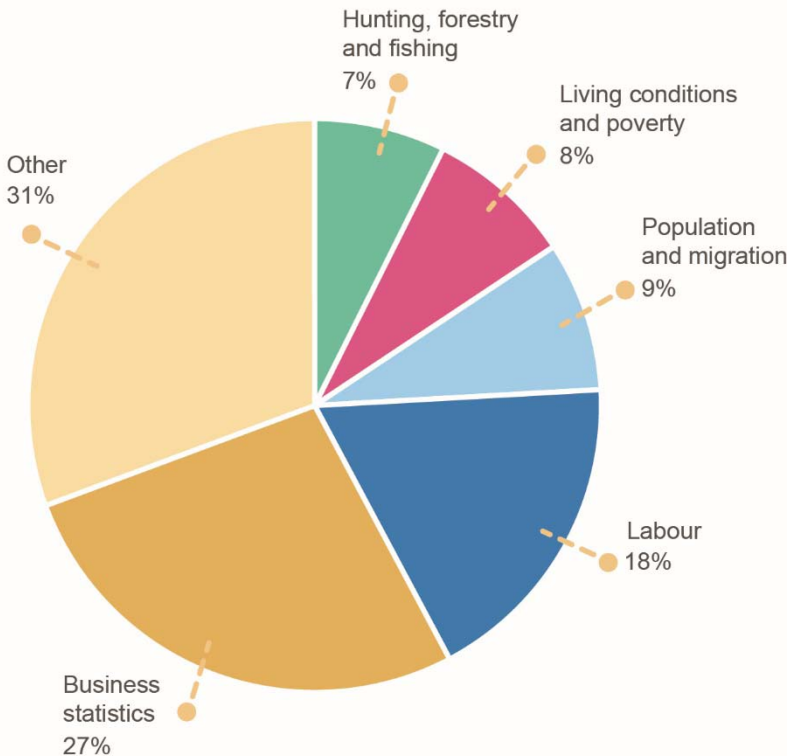


units of enterprises decreased by 4,7%, year-on-year. Between 2014 and 2013, the number of items in forms in the SO SR decreased by 7,7%. After module and multi-annual survey adjustment, when comparing the year 2014 to 2013, the NI increased by 2,7%. Compared with 2012, the number of adjusted items decreased by 2,1%.

The global non-growing trend of the NI was not fulfilled, however the increasing NI by 2,7% (after adjustment by repeating fluctuations) and the number of reporting units (in total by 2500 but in the Obyv 5-12 Report on Migration – 10 468 reports) were adequately justified in terms of meeting the needs of the statistical users, natural increase of statistical reports and the real possibilities of data replacement from statistical surveys by data from the administrative sources.

In 2014 compared with 2013, the response burden measured by the total survey completion time increased by 0,97%. In 2014 compared with 2013, the average survey completion time decreased in 52 cases and it increased in 32 cases and the average time remained unchanged in 6 cases. Compared with 2013, the total response burden was favourably affected by the decrease of the average periodicity and the decreased number of reporting units.

Share of particular subdomains on the total NI, 2014



Not only the optimization of statistical surveys and statistical forms contributed to the reduction of administrative burden but also the modernisation of statistical production, associated mainly with the standardisation of statistical procedures and the selection of

appropriate methods, forms and data collection methods. In this connection, in 2015 the SO SR issued an amendment to the regulation consolidating the Programme for 2015-2017, which sets out the detailed arrangements for the reporting units regarding compulsory electronic data collection from 1 January 2016. It shall be passed-in progressively and for 2016, 12 exceptions were provided for paper-based data provision. In this sense, it was possible to grant a period for data provision by a reporting unit in electronic form that it has been harmonised with the preparation of the accounts for the purpose of tax returns. It can be presumed that, in 2016, the extension of deadline will have a positive impact on survey completion time and the quality of data as reporting units will be freed from data estimation.

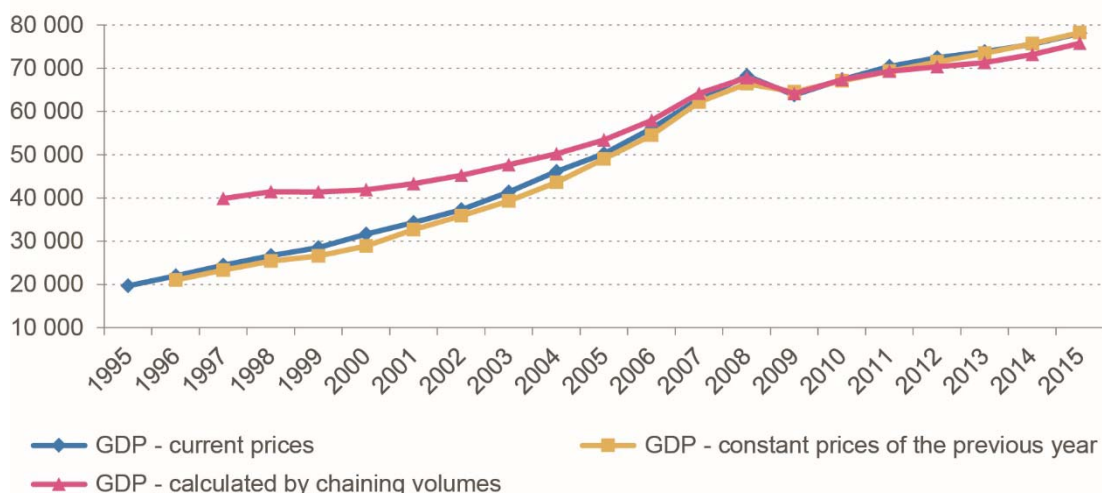
Macroeconomic statistics

National accounts comprise a compatible framework for systematic and detailed description of the entire economy as well as of individual sectors and subsectors where all levels of the economic process (production, creation and division of incomes, their usage, accumulation and financial transactions) are recorded. They are compiled according to the methodology of the European System of National and Regional Accounts 2010 (ESA 2010). The development of the national accounts system is in compliance with the new EU regulations and directives as one of the main objectives of macroeconomic statistics. External Trade Statistics provide important input data for the construction of key macro-economic aggregates.

In the field of the **System of national accounts**, the annual sector accounts for 2013, regional data for 2012 and 2013, input-output tables (TDP) and symmetric input-output tables (SIOT) for 2011, in the full range of the transmission programme pursuant to the Eurostat requirements, have been compiled based on the information of statistical reporting, administrative data sources and additional information as well. The standard autumn revision of data for the years 2013 and 2014 was conducted and released in compliance with the revision policy available at the website of the SO SR. Besides the standard revision, a data revision was realized in the annual national accounts due to sectoral reclassification of units based in the whole time series, starting from 1997 and due to incorporation of specific and cross-sectional reservations of Eurostat in a time series starting from 2002.

Current annual data on GDP development in time series 1995-2014

GDP in mil. EUR



Note:

- Methodology of ESA 2010
- constant prices calculated by chaining volumes with the use of the reference year 2010
- the year 2015 is a quarterly estimate (sum of quarters per year)

Deadlines for the transmission of national accounts to Eurostat were met, pursuant to the ESA 2010 Transmission Programme. Flash GDP and employment estimates were provided regularly within 45 days once the reference quarter ended. Quarterly national accounts data were compiled fully in compliance with the ESA 2010 Transmission Programme. Data of quarterly accounts are seasonally adjusted pursuant to the regulations and directions.

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

GDP year-on-year development increases in %



Note:

- Methodology of ESA 2010
- CPLY – corresponding period last year
- constant prices calculated by chaining volumes with the use of the reference year 2010
- the year 2015 is a quarterly estimate (sum of quarters per year)

EU Member States are required to provide data on gross national income and data on VAT. The Directorate of Macroeconomic Statistics prepared standardly for the MF SR a draft of gross national income (GNI) estimates and data on compensation for small companies exempted from VAT and data on weighted average VAT rate. At the same time, through the permanent mission in Brussels, a questionnaire was sent to the Eurostat containing data on transition from GDP to GNP, including the quality report with all information on changes and supplements for methodological approaches for compiling the final GDP/GNP data. The solutions of cross-cutting and particular reservations made against the Slovak Republic in January 2012 were sent to Eurostat. They were based on the results of two Eurostat missions regarding the problems of the Sources and Methods for the Compilation of the Gross National Income (GNI Inventory-SK) and the subsequent comparison of the mission results for all EU Member States. In the second quarter of 2015, the resolution procedures

proposed by the SO SR were accepted by the European Commission and for the Slovak Republic and it withdraw its reservations in the context 4 for GNI-based own resource purposes.

In the first half of 2015, an audit of the Ministry of Finance of the SR was carried out, in order to verify the control system for the levies of own resources of the European Communities in the Slovak Republic (3. VAT-based own resources and 4. GNI-based own resources).

Except the routine tasks of individual statistical themes, the employees of the National Accounts Department were dealing with works related to the grant project GP 01-15 *Sources and methods for the compilation of the gross national income* based on ESA 2010. In cooperation with the Price Statistics department, we were also participating on the project GP 02-12 *Provision of Basic Information on Purchasing Power Parities*.

In 2015, several working meetings were organized with colleagues from the Czech Statistical Office. An exchange of experience concerning ESA 2010 implementation has been discussed during these meetings. Besides the scheduled tasks, the employees of national accounts participated in solving current issues within interministry working groups. The completion of various questionnaires for international organizations (CMFB, Eurostat, ILO, OECD, UNECE etc.) required a great deal of work similarly as the preparation of materials for economic analyses of ministries and state institutions (IFP, MFSR, NBS, MHSR etc).

In the field of **External Trade Statistics**, new and updated data on import and export of goods and data on price indices in foreign trade were released with monthly periodicity. This department also managed and updated the Register of Foreign Trade Subjects.

Besides the routine monthly release of data, efforts have been made to the Simstat project finalisation and evaluation. Within the project, an international grant project has been completed for the preparation of pilot testing of microdata exchange between the EU Member States. Consequently, the External Statistics Department became involved in the project under which the testing of microdata exchange itself was realized in 2015. Besides these significant activities, we cooperated extensively on the technical maintenance of the domestic IT environment for testing exchange.

At the end of the year, Eurostat has launched a project entitled Redesign of INTRASTAT, involving the member states. Its aim is to evaluate the possibilities of simplifying INTRASTAT and reducing the response burden of reporting units. During 2015, discussions and evaluations of the simplification alternatives were realized. The proposed alternatives were evaluated in terms of quality, timeliness and burden and last but not least of financial burden. In 2016, a decision will be made on the most appropriate alternative of Intrastat simplification, based on the analyses of all EU Member States.

Code lists and the guide for reporting units were updated in accordance with the legislation in force. During the year, reporting units were given 5 seminars attended by 107 persons. Besides the basic information on INTRASTAT-SK, the seminars provided an overview of the latest changes as well as answers to specific questions of participants. Meetings with the reporting units having difficulties with the quality and timeliness of data transmission were organized and individual telephone and email consultations were provided on a continuous

basis through the Help Desk in order to meet their needs with utmost care. Completion of various questionnaires for international organizations (Eurostat, United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) etc) similarly as the preparation of materials for economic analyses of ministries and state institutions (MFSR, NBS, MHSR etc.)

Business statistics

In business **short-term statistics**, works were focused on the transmission of short-term data, pursuant to the agreed timetable of Eurostat data transmissions by means of the eDAMIS web portal, as well as on the dissemination of statistical outputs of national users in standard form according to the catalogue of Publications of the SO SR. The process of questionnaire validation with metadata in a new NRME structure and their integration into ESS Metadata Handler has been continued. In the overall compatibility evaluation concerning the regulation on short-term statistics, the SO SR was ranked among the first category of member states with the best level of compatibility.

In 2015, the preparation works regarding the calculation of index of services production began, concerning tasks resulting from future changes to the FRIBS regulation (Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics) in the Short-term business statistics package. Works were focused on the calculation of price deflators for wholesale, retail sale and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, calculation of the index of services production, expressing the production index in services compared with the base year when eliminating the impact of price changes. At the same time, there was a draft of the methodology for the calculation of reliable and representative price indices of services of publishing activities and services of travel agencies

In the field of annual **structural statistics** the sets of the final indicators for 2013 for the financial and non-financial sector were compiled and transmitted on time. Data files for 2013 on domestic and non-domestic affiliates were compiled and transmitted. Structured quality reports of data for 2012 were prepared for all the fields required. The quality report on structural statistics was elaborated for the first time in the European Statistical System Metadata Handler environment. The report on domestic and non-domestic affiliates was compiled by means of this instrument for the second time. Data validation of structural and business statistics and statistics of non-domestic affiliates was capacity demanding and time-consuming. Eurostat expressed exceptional satisfaction with the provided data in terms of respecting the technical format of transmission and controls. Also in this field, the SO SR was included in the first category of member states with the best level of compatibility with the regulation on structural statistics.

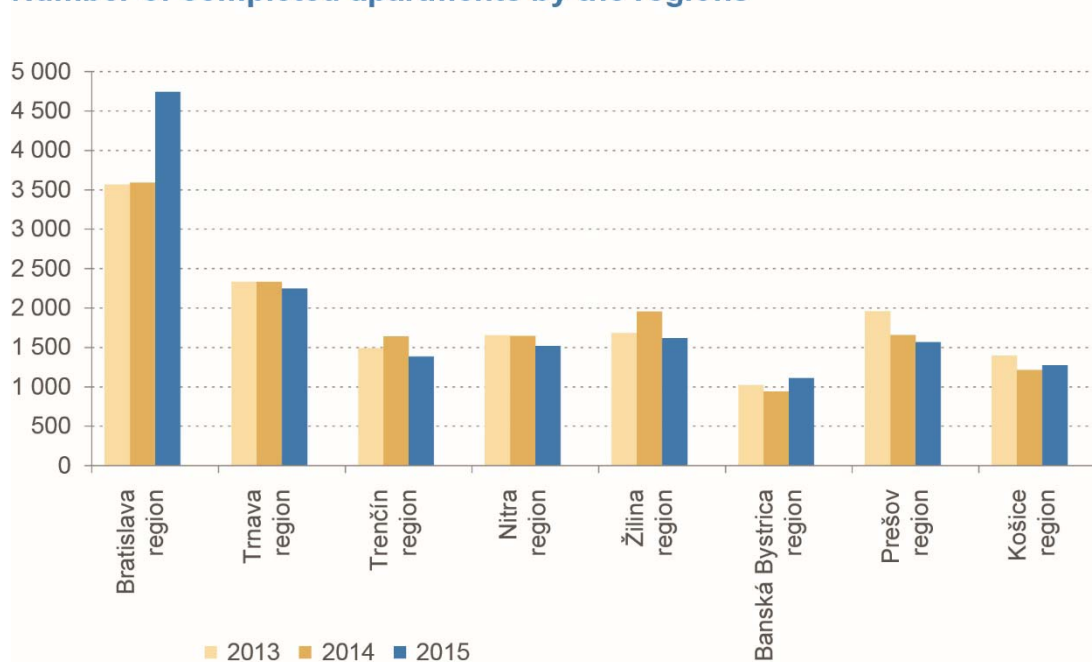
In statistics of **industry**, given its crucial importance in the calculation of gross domestic product in the economy of the SR, works were further oriented on analysing data from statistical surveys conducted with short-term and long-term periodicity. The requirements for statistical outputs defined by international and national institutions from the field of production or research have been met. From the beginning of 2016, a new PRODSLOV list of industrial goods will come into force which was updated based on information from employer organizations, chambers of commerce, trade associations and reporting units.

In the second half of 2015, work has started on the Eurostat project focusing on the field of industrial products and provision of industrial services based on the PRODSLOV list. This project aims to increase the share of data published in the field of production statistics and the sale of goods expressed in the natural measuring unit, subject to the agreement of individual enterprises. The project completion is scheduled for September 2016.

In the field of **agricultural statistics** the Farm Structure Survey 2013 has been completed. All the outputs required by Eurostat for the purposes of the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union (EU) and the national methodological report completed in the ESS-Metadata Handler were submitted. Complex results together with the operating results primary agricultural production were submitted in April 2015. The final results of the Economic Account for Agriculture of the SR for 2014 were released in September 2015. Works to ensure and process the Economic Account for Agriculture of the SR, the national account's satellite account, were carried out in cooperation with the National Agricultural and Food Centre-Research Institute of Agriculture and Food. Based on the evaluation of the availability, accuracy and completeness of data sent to Eurostat for the field of statistics of livestock production, the SO SR belongs among the 4 member states submitting data in a prescribed structure within set time limits. Work continued regarding the commenting the proposal for an integrated farm statistics regulation and proposal for a regulation on agricultural inputs and outputs should be in force from 2020 and 2022.

In business statistics of **construction, housing, trade and services**, in the past year, attention was paid to the quality enhancement of the database and quality of statistical outputs provided by users at national and international level, in the past year. Work was focused also on the analysis of time series of priority indicators describing the short-term development in line with the optimization process of statistical reporting. In the field of housing construction, activities were focused on providing information on dwelling units started, completed and under construction, in line with the standard and non-standard user requirements. Based on negotiations with the representatives of the Construction Department of the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the SR, the short-term statistical survey has been modified in order to provide the sector with the necessary information for fulfilling the tasks of the Residential and Non-residential Building Stock Renovation Strategy in the Slovak Republic.

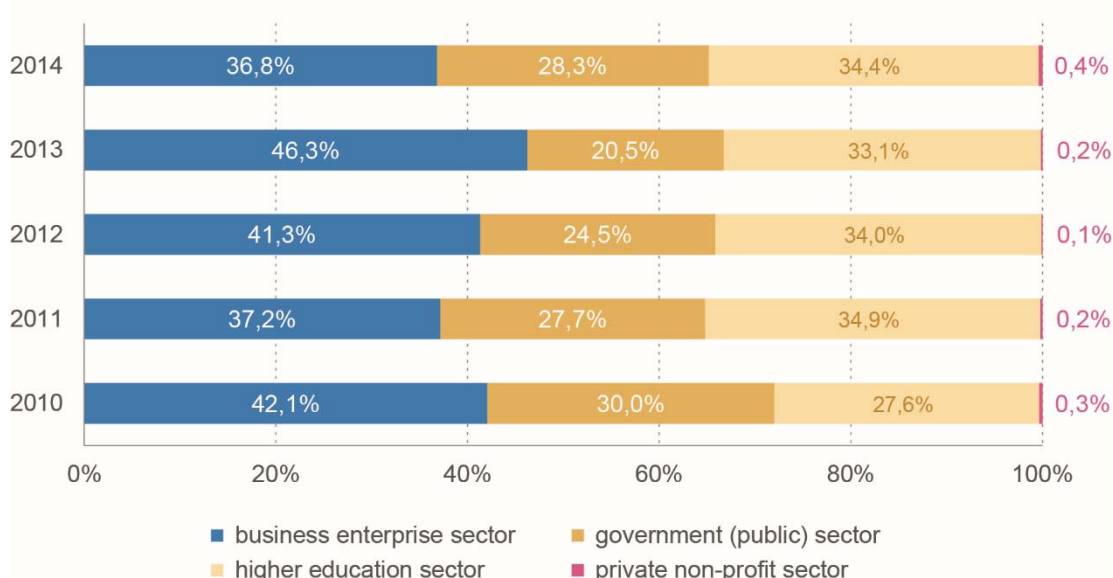
Number of completed apartments by the regions



In the field of **transport, information, communication and information society statistics**, changes have been made in aviation, as required by Eurostat. There was an ongoing preparation of the proposed changes in revised regulations in rail and inland waterway transport. In 2015, the SO SR participated again in the joint survey programme of the EU countries on the usage of information and communication technologies in enterprises, organized by Eurostat. Data file, interim, analytical and quality reports were sent to Eurostat pursuant to the requirements defined.

In the field of statistics of **science, technology and innovations**, the Office in cooperation with the international institutions completed the review process of the Frascati manual, issued in November 2015. Pursuant to regulation (EC) No 995/2012, quality reports on research and development statistics for individual sectors were elaborated. Based on the international organizations' requirements, the completion of methodological, monothematic

Structure of expenditure for RD by the sectorial classification of organizations



and regular questionnaires was ensured by the Office. For the field of innovations, another harmonised survey on innovations was carried out, within the joint project of EU Member States - Community Innovation Survey- CIS 2014, including the implementation of new indicators and amendments of the Eurostat sample questionnaire.

In **energy** statistics, the SO SR actively participated in commenting the regulation under preparation replacing the Directive on electricity and natural gas prices for final customers. In the second half of 2015, works started on the grant project aimed at pilot compilation of supply-use and input-output tables and their use in physical energy flows account. The works are realized in cooperation with the environment statistics and will also be continued in 2016.

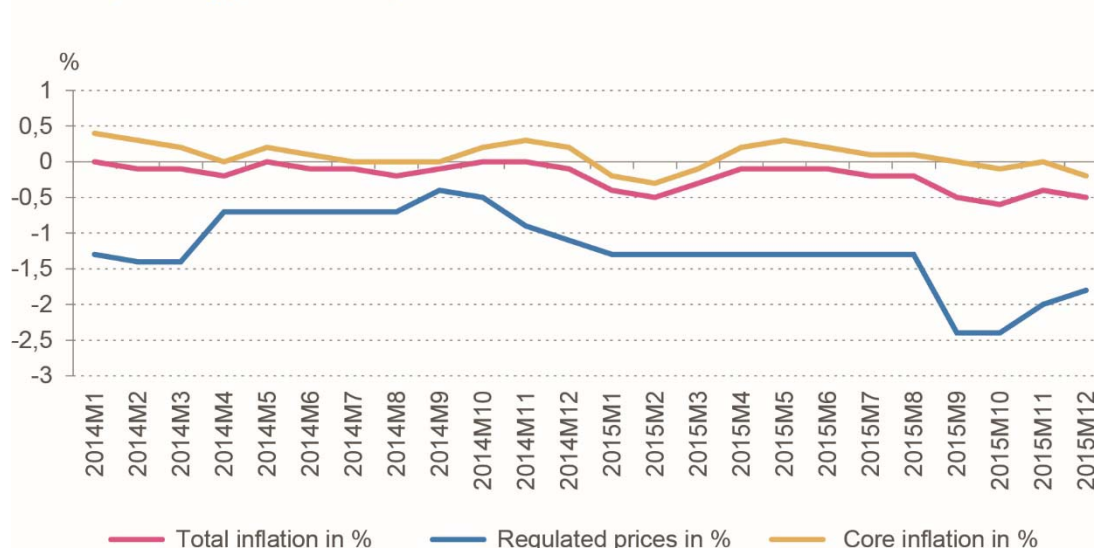
The statistics of **environment**, continued its work within the development of three new modules of environmental accounts- the Environmental Protection Expenditure Accounts, the

Environmental Goods and Services Sector Accounts, the Physical Energy Flow Accounts, as required by new Regulation (EU) No 538/2014 amending the Regulation (EU) No 691/2011 on European environmental economic accounts. All the reporting obligations resulting from EU regulations in the field of environment statistics and agro-environmental statistics, including the preparation and submission of reports, were fulfilled.

In the field of **tourism statistics**, works were finalised regarding the completion of time series of tourism satellite accounts for 2013. In 2015, a survey with three-year periodicity was conducted – Survey on upgrading tourism accommodation facilities. Municipalities were required to submit questionnaires providing information on accommodation facilities. Subsequently, on the basis of results, an updating of the Register of Accommodation Facilities took place.

The last year witnessed a change in data collection of consumer **price** statistics. A new data collection technology- a tablet-based one- was put into practice aiming to simplify, accelerate and streamline the processes regarding field data collection. In the field of production statistics, works were concentrated mainly on the electronic data collection in the integrated statistical information system. In real estate statistics, attention was paid to the development of indicators describing the development of housing prices. There were also preparatory works concerning the extension of price dissemination of fuel prices by prices of CNG which will be released at the website of the SO SR from 1 January 2016.

CPI inflation (national methodology) – headline, core, net
corresponding period last year = 100



Note:

- indices based on the previous year

Within the project of **Business and Consumer Surveys** which is part of the international project of Business and Consumer Surveys organized by the European Commission, prescribed tasks were fulfilled during the first year of implementation of the 6-year framework

agreement. In Business Surveys, increased efforts were paid to the new samples design of individual branches for a further two-year period and to the retrospective calculation of time series, clarification of harmonized questions and supplementing of further metadata into business surveys results according to new EC requirements. In Consumer Surveys, works were oriented to ensuring a new method of information gathering on the mood, expectations and investment plans of the SR population via the network of field workers of the Section of Industrial Data Collection and Processing and Field Surveys in Banská Bystrica and a new data processing method in the BLAISE software application. The compiled business consumer surveys data for the sectors of industry, construction, retail trade, services, investments in industry and consumer survey were submitted to the EC in monthly periodicity and in a prescribed structure. At national and international level, data are used for calculation of business composite indicators and the synthetic composite indicator of economic sentiment describing the expected short-term development of business environment in respective fields and are a basis for short-term predictions of future development of basic economic indicators including the quarterly flash estimated of GDP.

Within the **cooperation with the international organizations**, the Business Statistics Directorate became involved in the ongoing written commenting procedure and intensive discussions to the proposal of a framework regulation integrating business statistics (FRIBS) on defining the requested indicators, classifications, proposals for implementing regulations etc. Within the second round of impact assessment of the new FRIBS requirements, a questionnaire – FRIBS Impact Assessment has been completed, in cooperation with other SO SR departments and with the active collaboration with the National Bank of Slovakia. In the context of this extensive document, we managed to estimate the cost, from the perspective of burden of statistical outputs producers and of reporting units and submit it to Eurostat within the appointed time limits.

In May 2015, a consulting meeting on statistics of trade, food service activities and accommodation took place, in the framework of long-standing cooperation with colleagues from the Czech Statistical Office. The meeting was focused on exchange of experiences in the field of creation of the reporting units' files, including sample files, processing chain including grossing-up, publication of results, ensuring the outputs for Eurostat and requirements for another external and internal users.

Demography and Social Statistics

In 2015, in the field of **population statistics**, the data processing and dissemination system was further developed. Primary data on population movement was completely processed in a new environment of the integrated statistical information system. A development was recorded also in data dissemination, when releasing the standard demographic indicators extended from the level of Slovak Republic to the level of municipalities, in the DATAcube system.

Demographic population development in context of 2014 was a main topic of the press conference of the SO SR in June 2015.

Likewise, a different perspective was recorded on the population development by two new series of publications. The issue – We in Numbers – is oriented on the timely data publishing from the actual reference period in the form of tables and charts. In 2015, within this series, the Department of Population Statistics published several independent publications – Population Movement 2014, Culture 2014, Criminality 2014 and International Migration 2014. The second series – Statistics in Contexts – is focused analytically. In 2015, 3 particular consequential publications were published within this series – Main Trends of Population Development in the SR in 2014 (part A), Main Trends of Population Development in Regions of the SR in 2014 (part B), Main Trends of Population Development in the SR and their International Comparison (part C). This series also contains the cross-sectional analytical publication – Marital Behaviour of the Slovak Population. The publication points out the most important development aspects of these phenomena in terms of demographical changes, living conditions of the families and their social protection. Both series can be earmarked as the modern form of the statistics on population results presentation and propagation, and as the another step towards the users of the statistical data.

In 2015, working group of the President of the SO SR for the preparation of Population and Housing Census 2021 has begun its activities. Its main priority is to propose an optimal concept of the next census conduct, taking into account the European and national legislation and minimizing the respondents' administrative burden. One of the main working group outputs is to define an objective of the Census 2021, assuming to obtain linked, reliable, comparable, unique data and information about society status, demographic, socio-economic and cultural structures, population living condition and housing. The working group analysed the Population and Housing Census 2011 and proposed recommendations on the next census. It seems that it may not be possible to carry out the Census 2021 in the current mode, owing to actual societal development due to a rapid development of the information and communication technologies and continuing pressure on the reduction of an administrative burden of respondents. Therefore, the working group began to identify administrative data sources, which can be potentially used for the census purposes.

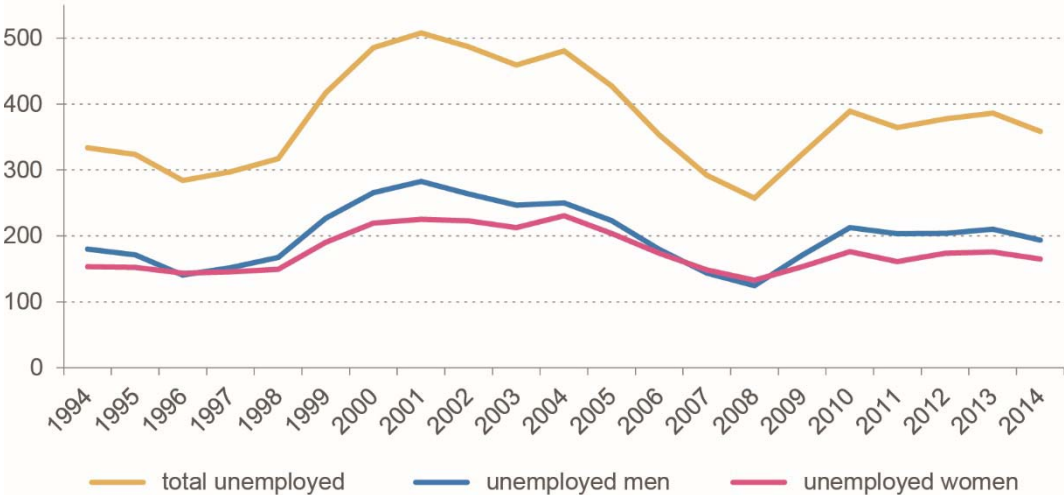
In 2015, in social protection statistics, the Office participated in a pilot project of Eurostat, to which a module, concerning the numbers of pensioners, in the SDMX (Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange) format was provided.

Cooperation smoothly continued between the SO SR and the Ministries of Interior, Justice and Culture, from which internationally comparable data about on crime and culture are obtained and processed.

Special attention needs to be paid to the activities focused on defining the outcomes of culture satellite account compilation and creative industries.

In **labour statistics**, information on short-term development of employment, unemployment and economic inactivity was provided via the quarterly Labour Force Survey in households (LFS). Simultaneously, preparatory works started on the LFS ad hoc module on the entry of young people into the labour market which will be conducted in 2016. Within the European Statistic System, activities related to comments on the proposals for the upcoming framework regulation of the Integrated European Social Statistics (IESS) were conducted, in the light of the needs and possibilities of the LFS on the national level. Our active participation continued in activities of the Eurostat's working group on the measurement of sickness absence and working time, supported by completing a project on testing working time. We also manage to complete a project dealing with testing the LFS complementary survey on self-employment for 2017. The accessibility of the quarterly and annual data of the employed persons, job vacancies and hours worked was ensured via the enterprise reporting.

Development of the unemployed in the period 1994 – 2014
(in thous. pers.)



In the field of **statistics on wages**, data were calculated based on the development of average monthly nominal wage and real wage in the economy of the SR, to be broken down by the economic activity, region and size groups of enterprises. The annual data on wages from enterprise reporting was supplemented by information of the regional level of earnings according to workplace. On the basis of particular records of remunerations in enterprises, most requested annual data were processed, on the median wage, data structure of wages according to personal characteristics or on the other detailed information about the labour

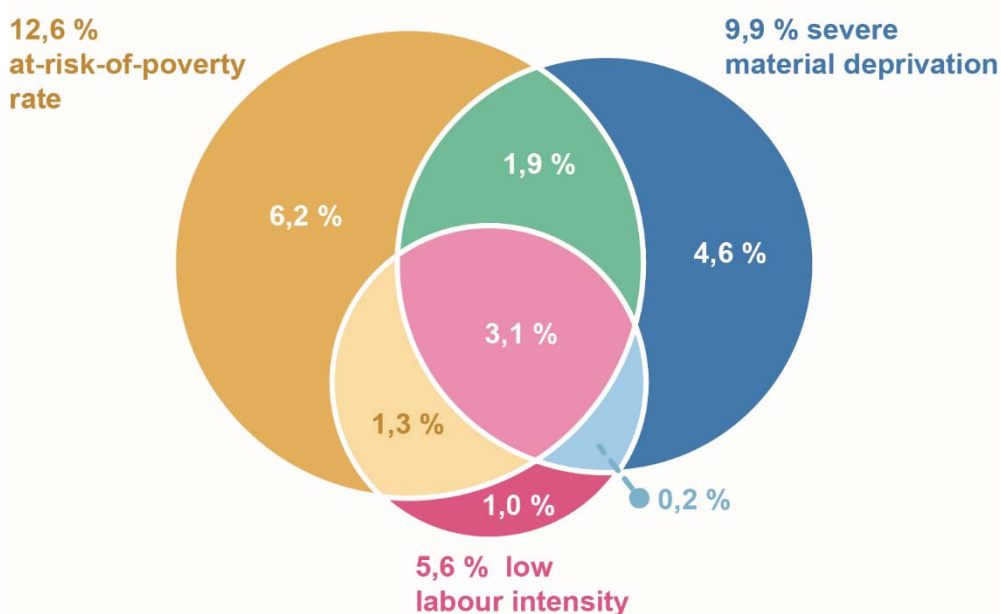
income. Annual overview of wage statistics was completed by information about the total cost of labour incurred by the employers.

In **education statistics**, preparatory, conceptual, organizational and methodological works were initiated on the international Adult Education Survey (AES) and on the Continuing Vocational Training Survey (CVTS), which will be carried out in 2016.

The year 2015 was a reference year for data collection of **households account statistics** for Eurostat. The survey on income, expenditure, consumption and household composition in the SR took place at full extent and in a new design, which was prepared in 2014.

The sample **Survey on Income and Living Conditions of Households (EU SILC)** is a main source of data, reporting a complex summary of poverty, social exclusion and living conditions, and is regularly organized by the SO SR since 2005. Processed microdata and indicators from the EU SILC 2014 survey were sent to Eurostat. Based on the standard requests, as well as on the ad hoc requests, the anonymised microdata were provided to external users on scientific and research purposes. Data were presented in two publications: EU SILC 2014 – Survey on Income and Living Conditions of Households in the SR and EU SILC 2014 – Indicators of Poverty and Social Exclusion. The most sophisticated was an analytical publication EU SILC – Development of poverty and living conditions in the Slovak Republic 2009-2014, which provided the basis for the detailed analysis of the social situation of the households and individuals in Slovakia during the years 2009-2014. Recently, a production and analyses of the main indicator of poverty and social exclusion on the strategy EU 2020 for the SR is mainly emphasised. According to the EU SILC 2014 results, the Slovak population at risk of the poverty or the social exclusion was 18,4%. Regarding the modernisation needs of European social statistics, the SO SR participated in the project

18,4 % - Indicator of poverty and social exclusion (EU SILC 2014 - SR)



Action Plan to EU SILC Survey Improve, which is focused on data timeliness of the EU SILC – gradual improvement of the data timeliness, so that data could be available to the end of implementation year of the EU SILC survey, or in January next year, and testing related to the preparation of the EU SILC revision – testing and preparation of the implementation of some planned changes for the EU SILC survey revision.

Survey on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Usage in households for the first quarter of 2015 was carried out in April-May 2015. In that year, an increased attention was paid to security of personal information while using the Internet for private purposes (Security and Trust of the ICT). The SO SR released the survey results as a publication – Survey on Information and Communication Technology Usage in Households 2015 – in the electronic form on the Office's website.

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

Election statistics

In 2015, the SO SR ensured processing of results of the elections to the bodies of municipal self-governments (by-elections to the bodies of municipal / local and city councils) and mainly the referendum 2015.

Based on the citizen petition received on 27th August 2014, the President of the Slovak Republic by his Decision No 320/2014 Coll. declared a **referendum** to be held and its date has been set for Saturday, 7th February 2015. The referendum was held in accordance with the Act No 564/1992 Coll. on the method of holding referendum as amended.

The following questions were raised for the decision of the citizens:

Question n. 1

Do you agree that only a bond between one man and one woman can be called marriage?

Question n. 2

Do you agree that same-sex couples or groups should not be allowed to adopt and raise children?

Question n. 3

Do you agree that schools cannot require children to participate in education on the sexual behaviour or euthanasia if the children or their parents do not agree?

Final results of the referendum for the Slovak Republic

Number of eligible citizens registered to vote:	4 411 529
Number of eligible citizens, who obtained ballot papers:	944 674
Number of submitted ballot papers:	944 209
Number of submitted valid ballot papers:	938 135
Number of submitted invalid ballot papers:	6 074
Turnout:	21,41 %

The referendum is valid, if turnout is higher than half of eligible voters and decision is approved by more than half of referendum participants.

The referendum has been declared invalid.

The speaker of the National Council of the Slovak Republic declared **new elections to the bodies of communal self-government** (by elections to bodies of municipal / local and city councils) on 7th March 2015, 13th June 2015 and 24th October 2015. In all three dates, the new elections were held in 46 municipalities. In total, 27 new mayors and 48 new deputies were elected.

Throughout the year 2015, the integrated election information system was used for the processing referendum results and new elections results not only by the Office's staff but also by all, who were interested in it.

Employees of the Regional Offices of the SO SR significantly participated in all tasks in the field of election statistics.

Cooperation with the Institute of Informatics and Statistics

The Institute of Informatics and Statistics (INFOSTAT), as a research and development workplace of the state statistics, cooperates with the SO SR on tackling R&D tasks in the field of the state statistics. The cooperation between the SO SR and INFOSTAT is based on a contract concluded between two organisations for the relevant year and in compliance with the Government Resolution. In the contract, the priorities of statistical activities of the Office and actual needs resulting from customer requirements are taken into account.

In 2015, INFOSTAT was dealing with 24 research and development tasks composed of 83 partial outputs, focusing mostly on:

- **innovation and development** – BLAISE software and elaboration of the new transcoding software for transmission of labour force sample survey database into Eurostat codification and for domestic and outbound tourism, visualisation of individual statistical processes and information objects using appropriate modelling language;
- **methodological solutions** - of Culture Satellite Account or creative industry of the SR; technological procedure for the compilation of the agricultural account; proposed solutions for methodological issues for the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA); programming solutions for energy statistics; methodology for obtaining and processing of vital statistics data based on place of usual residence;
- **updating and development** - of software for processing business consumer surveys and demographic statistics in the integrated statistical information system (ISIS); changes in processing price statistics with monthly and quarterly periodicity;
- **calculations and constructions** – monthly processing of demographic statistics in the ISIS for the period of 1996-2000; specific outputs of demographic statistics on divorces in the ISIS; monthly processing of demographic statistics in the ISIS;
- **analyses, studies and prognoses** – revision of supply and use tables and symmetric I/O tables due to the implementation of methodological changes ESA 2010 in 2000-2009 time series, incorporating other revision changes of national accounts and cooperation on the balance of supply and use tables for 2012 in the SNA_NT system; analysis and forecast of the business cycle in the SR economy in 2015; surveys on active tourism; analysis of the possibilities of electronic data downloading from accounting systems;
- **analytical outputs** – life tables; population movement and educational structure of the SR population, sample surveys in households; microsimulation model of census households in the SR; impacts of shadow economy in the SR on gross domestic products during 2012-2016;

Within the cooperation with INFOSTAT, it is especially worth mentioning the work of the **Demographic Research Centre (DRC)** which was participating in resolving five tasks assigned by the SO SR under the contract, resulting in analytical and methodological

materials. In case of Sampling frame for household sample surveys- quality and updating, these were the following:

- analysis and quality assessment of the current sampling basis of the 2011 Population and Housing Census for household sample surveys
- updating of the sampling basis of the 2011 Census for household sample surveys
- alternative options of sampling bases emphasizing quality, updating and general conditions within the European Statistical System
- construction model for census families based on sample surveys on incomes and living conditions of households (EU SILC) and the Labour force sample survey (LFSS) (alternative possibilities of families constructions for the needs of household sample surveys and the 2021 Census)

Another publication called Methodology for obtaining and processing of vital statistics data of the population based on usual residence analyses the experiences of selected countries in this field and underlines the possibilities of their use in the SR. The examples of concrete databases of administrative sources highlight the possible uses of reporting data on population and vital events based on the usual residence.

Based on the planned activities, the RDC has drawn up for the SO SR a balance of population by sex, age, the highest attained level of education and life table series. Moreover, it has participated in the construction of the Microsimulation model of households for Slovakia.

In addition, the DRC staff has been resolving tasks for the need of particular sectors, usually in the form of working documents, supporting documents, opinions and evaluations. A monograph the Population development in the Slovak Republic has also been issued by the DRC, referring to the previous complex DRC publications of similar nature. Its ultimate goal was the detailed mapping of the population development at national level over the past 15 years, concentrating particularly on the changes occurring between 2012 - 2014.

The DRC continued to develop its cooperation with national and international demographic institutions. Employees of the DRC were engaged in solving various projects and they prepared presentations at expert conferences and contributions to specialised journals. Within the project of Slovak Research and Development Agency (SRDA) – Human geographic and demographic interactions, nodes and contradictions in time-space network, DRC participated in developing of the Demographic Atlas of the SR. The DRC's employees were engaged in the pedagogical process at various faculties of the Comenius University- Faculty of Natural Sciences, Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Education and Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences where they were giving lectures.

The cooperation with the SO SR, activities of the INFOSTAT and the DRC in 2015 are well documented in the Annual Report of the institute for 2015 at the websites www.infostat.sk and www.inforstat.sk/vdc.

We serve customers

In terms of customer service provision, the SO SR continued to meet the tasks resulting from the strategic objectives of the Office. Activities carried out in accordance with the approved Marketing Plan of the SO SR for year 2015 were aimed at ensuring product portfolio for domestic and foreign organizations, satisfying the needs and expectations of users of statistical information as well as enhancing the knowledge level.

The SO SR provided data sets periodically to domestic and foreign customers, on the basis of the requirements, which have been included in the products portfolio. The Office processed and provided **525 products to national and international organizations** in the form of various questionnaires, data sets and pre-defined tables.

Among the domestic customers, it concerned above all legislative and executive authorities of the state administration, such as the National Bank of Slovakia (35%), the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR, the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the SR, the Ministry of Economy of the SR and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR. In total, **226 products** were provided to the Slovak national institutions in different periodicity. The obtained statistical information was used for management and decision-making processes, as well as for social-economic development analyses.

The sets for Eurostat represented the biggest share (77%) in portfolio of products regularly provided to the international and intergovernmental organizations. Other customers of the SO SR were the United Nations (UN), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Labour Office (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). **299 products** were provided for the international organizations during the year 2015.

In accordance with the approved Marketing Plan, the Office realized the **marketing activities** for 2015, promoting the deepening of good relations with different customer groups. The meetings with key customers were organized, focusing on providing information about the possibilities of the use of statistical products; expanding their knowledge in the field of statistics and finding out the expectations of customers. Operational meetings, presentations, lectures and discussions were organized by the individual specialized departments at the Central Office and Regional Offices of the SO SR. Those events were attended particularly by students and teachers from the secondary schools and universities; representatives of the central bodies of the state administration, local self-governments and financial institutions. In total, 54 events were held by the SO SR, with the participation of almost 1 600 existing or potential users. The statistical products and services, the forms of dissemination, and the potential uses of statistical information were presented to customers. A considerable part of the meetings was focused on the presentation of information structure at the Office's website, the databases STATdat and DATAcube and on acquiring skills with those databases, including a creation of one's own outputs. Customers acquired information about the methodology and the organization of statistical surveys, the electronic data collection and the processing of election results.

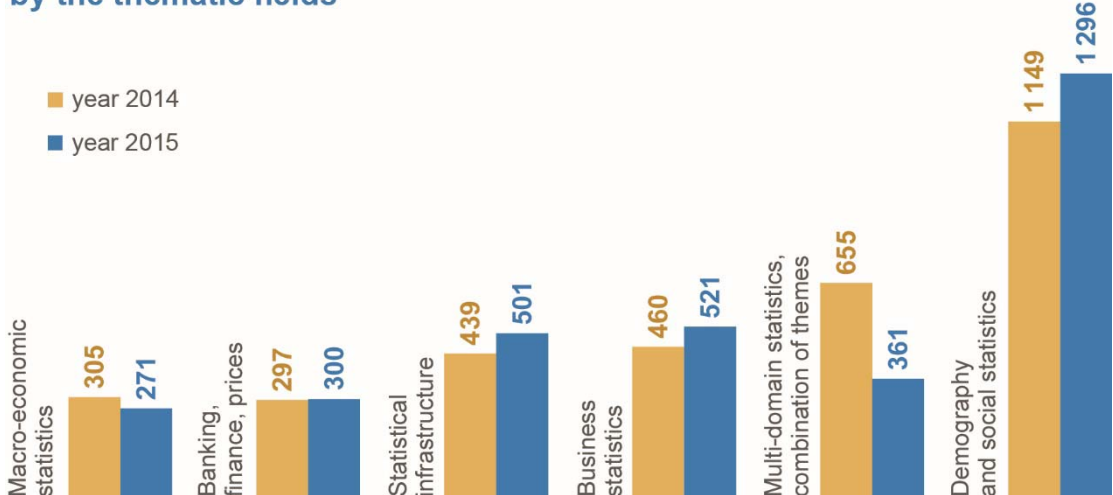
The **Open Doors Day** was organized by the Statistical Office of the SR in its Central Office and Regional Offices, on the occasion of the World Statistics Day, which the UN has designated at October 20th. **630 visitors** made use of this opportunity to get acquainted with tasks of statisticians. The purpose of this event was to present to the public the mission and the tasks of official statistics, as well as the achieved results of the SO SR. In order to promote this event, the website with invitation and promotional materials was established. At the date of the Open Doors Day, two press releases were prepared, published at the Office's website and in the media. During this event, visitors could obtain information about the Office's publications, get familiar with the content and the structure of website of the SO SR and the new databases DATAcube and STATdat. Moreover, the options of creating one's own data selection were presented as well. The Informational Services and the Office's library having current and also historical data, were available for participants. For those interested, another information were prepared in the form of short presentations from the field of macroeconomic, socio-demographic, business statistics, as well as from the field of creation and organization of statistical surveys.

In the Central Office, accompanying events of Open Doors Day were organized for the invited representatives of the media, academic and scientific communities, in the form of blocks of lectures on selected topics (such as Integrated Statistical Information System – ISIS, Integrated Electoral Information System – IEIS) which were very popular. The Office developed its cooperation with secondary schools and universities via meetings during which information about the activities of the SO SR, releasing the statistics, Office's website and online databases were presented.

Supporting the World Statistics Day celebration, the Office organized several accompanying events. One of them was a conference of the **project Electronic Services of the SO SR**. The conference was aimed at presenting to the professional public all parts of the national project Electronic Services of the SO SR. Basic information about the project, ISIS, IEIS and new Office's web portal were presented.

In the field of customer services, the Office provided statistical information from the various thematic areas. **5 413 requests** for statistical information were met by the **statistical**

Number of satisfied requests by the thematic fields

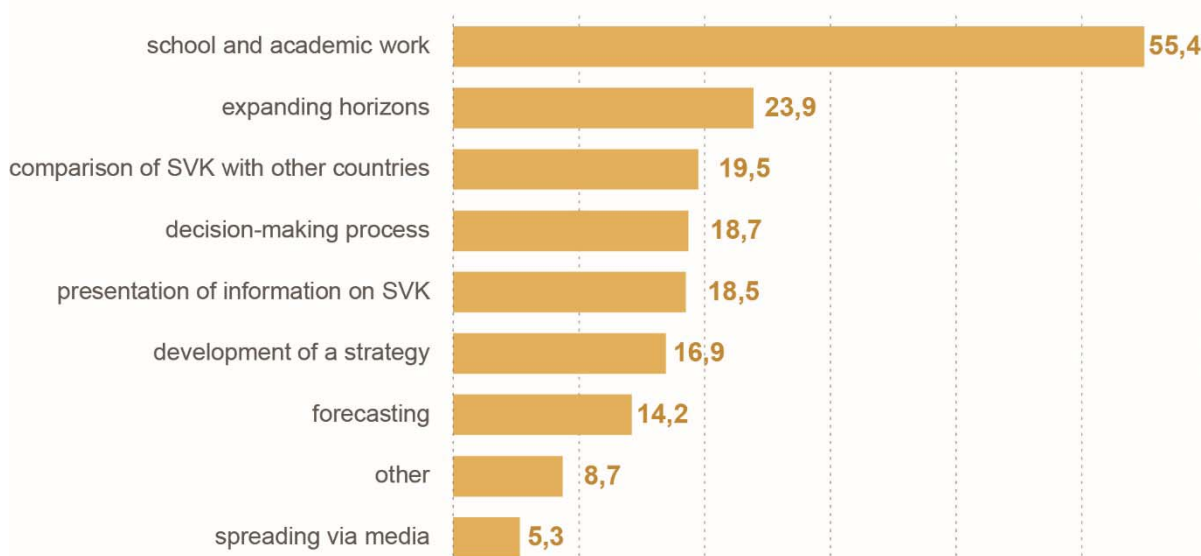


information providing departments at the Central Office and the Regional Offices of the SO SR, of which 2 163 were satisfied by the Regional Offices. During the year, the Department of Statistical Information provision at the Central Office handled 3 250 requests in total, of which 2 857 were for domestic and 393 for foreign customers. The highest share of requests was provided for the general public (23%), followed by enterprises, syndicates, associations and trade unions (22%), and students (19%). The lower interest was registered among financial institutions, science and research representatives. According to the thematic areas, similarly to previous years, there was a continued interest for the requests for information in the field of demography and social statistics, representing 40%. Furthermore, users were also interested in the business statistics and the organizational statistics. Demanding requests requiring individual processing at the responsible divisions, constituted approximately one quarter of all requests. Most of them were from the field of demography and social statistics, and business statistics. Difficult requests included also requests for provision of anonymised microdata for scientific purposes. During the year, seasonality was reflected also in the provision of statistical information. The highest interest was recorded in March, the lowest in August.

As a member of the international network – **European Statistical Data Support (ESDS)** established by Eurostat – the SO SR continued to provide information about the European statistics. This activity was realized on the basis of the gentleman’s agreement between the SO SR and the Eurostat. The European Statistical Data Support Centre at the Statistical Office provided advices with the Eurostat’s website browsing, searching data in the Eurostat’s databases and consulting the methodological issues. The Centre continuously updated information having already been released on the Office’s website in the **European statistics** section.

The Office continued to extend the scope and forms of the products disseminated on the web portal. During the year 2015, portal was visited by 1 005 944 customers, representing an

Use of statistics according to the purpose (in % of responses)



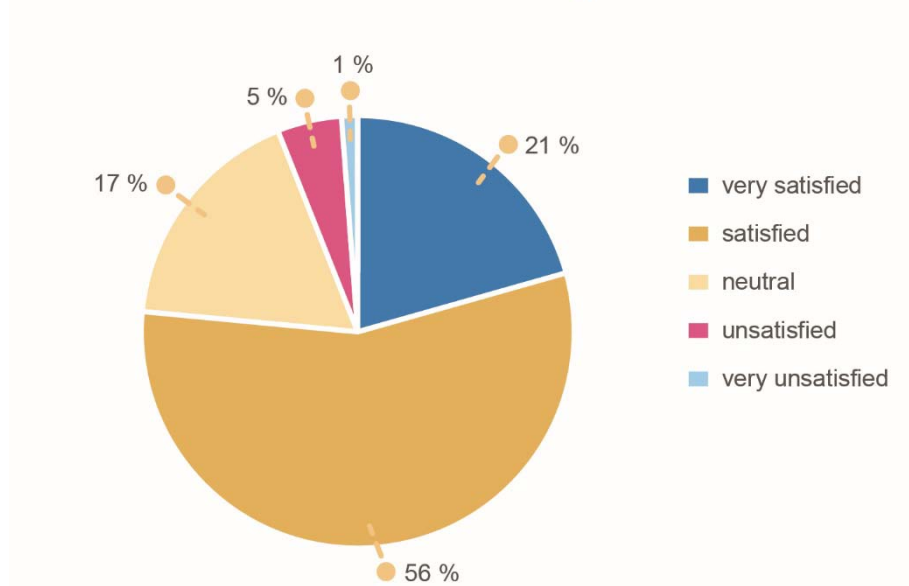
increase by 32% compared to last year. Total number of visitors viewing the website was 5 560 880, representing an increase by 19,6%, compared with the previous year. The significant progress has been achieved in the sphere of dissemination and provision of statistical information, after putting the **single uniform database – DATAcube.** into full operation which replaced tables of RegDat and Urban and Municipal Statistics databases. At the same time, the data range for the fields of demography and social statistics, business statistics was also extended. The DATAcube database was visited by 40 803 customers from 103 countries of the world, carrying out 53 597 relations and 725 503 data extractions, of which 80% was in Slovak language. The data from the field of demography and social statistics, labour market, sector and macroeconomic statistics were found the most interesting by users. During the year, database **SLOVSTAT** was visited by 8 436 registered users, who realised 141 108 data retrievals. The most interesting statistical fields for the users were indicators from quarterly national accounts, labour and wages, and demography. Expert and the lay public also used the STATdat database, which was visited by 182 979 users, who realized 837 636 data displays.

During the year, 586 data sets were released on the **Open Data Portal** <http://data.gov.sk/> of the **SO SR**. The Office took into account the importance, social and public demands for the most requested data.

The statistical publications, which are published in accordance with the **Catalogue of Publication 2015** form an integral part of the Office's outputs. During the year 2015, 92 publications were issued, of which 11 titles were published beyond the traditional scope of the Catalogue. The Catalogue included e.g.: *Understanding Population Health State and its Determinants in the SR* (results of EHIS 2014), *Expenditure and Incomes of Private Households in the SR* (simulated data) and publication *Facts about the Changes in the life of the Slovak Population Life Changes in the SR*, published separately for every region. Among the crucial, comprehensive and sectoral publications belonged: *Statistical Yearbook of the SR 2015*, *Regional Statistical Yearbook of Slovakia 2015*, yearbooks of industry, constructions, transport, posts and telecommunications, science and technology. In compliance with the strategic intent, the Office paid increased attention to the preparation of user-friendly publications with added value, such as: *Slovak Republic in figures 2015*, *Gender Equality 2015*, *Statistical Report on Basic Development Tendencies in Economy in the SR*, *EU SILC - Measurement of poverty and living conditions in the SR 2009 – 2014*, *Major Trends of Population Development in the SR in 2014 and their International Comparison*, *Family Behaviour of the Slovak Population*, *Impact of a Major Revision to the System of National Accounts of the SR*, *Slovakia in the EU 2015 – Environments*. Other interesting publications were: *Statistical Yearbook of the Capital of the SR Bratislava* and *Regional Capital City Košice 2014*. Furthermore, the Office published 19 informational and promotional materials from the different statistical spheres. All publications were published at the Office's website in the Portable Document Format (PDF).

The **survey of customer satisfaction with the products and services of the SO SR** contribute to gathering feedback about the needs and expectations of users. The survey is realized through the on-line questionnaire in the biennial frequency. In 2015, the fourth survey was conducted, in accordance with the Office's Development Strategy. This has provided useful information and enabled to measure respondents' satisfaction and their opinion about the particular products and services provided by the Office. The average satisfaction rating reached **72,5 points** in total, corresponding with the customer satisfaction

Overall satisfaction with the SO SR's products and services



rate of the previous surveys. The most satisfied customer groups were associations, unions, non-profit organisations and the public sector. The highest level of satisfaction was recorded in the field of demography and, elections and referendums. Based on the evaluated 39 criteria, the greatest strengths of the Office were considered the services provided by the employees of the SO SR, particularly their responsiveness, willingness, professional competence, provision of information and consulting services. Similarly to the previous survey, accessibility of the required information and the satisfaction with website's user orientation and clarity were evaluated lowest. The comments and suggestions of respondents have brought valuable ideas which will be taken into account by the Office in the creation and dissemination of products and services in the future.

We publish the Journal *Slovak Statistics and Demography*

The scientific peer-reviewed Journal *Slovak Statistics and Demography* has been strengthening its position as a modern journal, and makes deliberately effort to perspective integration into the international citation databases.

In 2015, it has been 25 years since the release of first issue of *Slovak Statistics and Demography*. During the entire period, the journal was published quarterly without any changes in periodicity. Since 2014, all issues of the *Slovak Statistics and Demography* are available in full online versions, at the website of the Statistical Office of the SR www.statistics.sk, within 3 months after the printed version is released. The journal's online version, besides the printed one, was warmly welcomed by the readership.

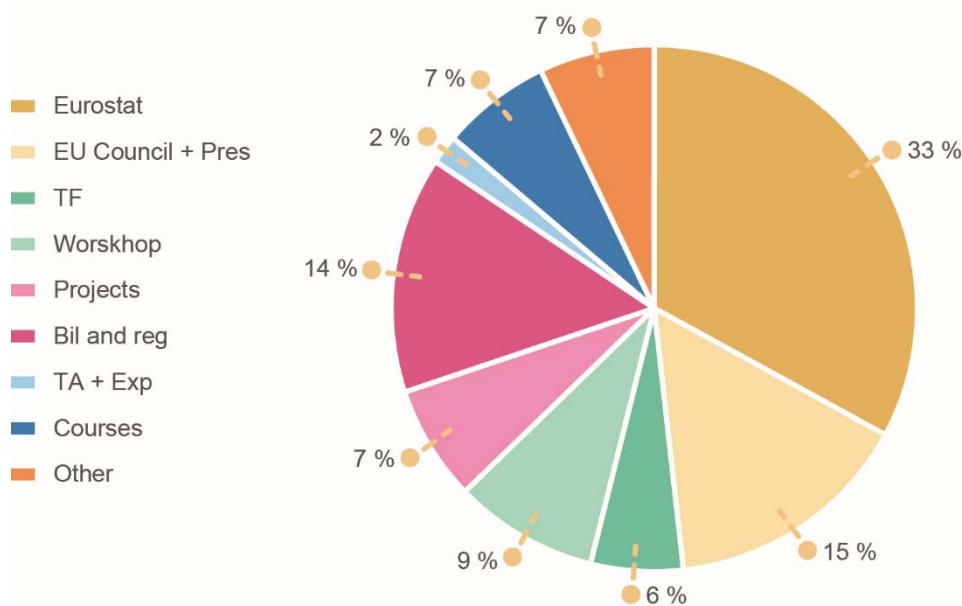
Since 2015, the journal is guided by the Principles of Publication Ethics, what is a key document approved by the editorial board. The Principles define the responsibilities of the publisher and the editorial board and implement an open and fair approach to cooperation with authors and reviewers. Another novelty of the journal are the international advisors – the statisticians and demographers from the prestigious institutions, such as the universities and colleges in the Czech Republic, Austria, Spain, Chile and the United Kingdom. It is expected, that these international experts will contribute by their recommendations to increasing the contentual and formal level of the *Slovak Statistics and Demography*.

We managed to prepare and publish another monothematic issue of the journal focusing at the issue of population ageing. There are many new authors and hopefully readers as well. A special attention is paid to the promotion of the scientific peer-reviewed *Slovak Statistics and Demography*. In order to attract readers, the content of each issue is indicated beforehand to the increasing number of potential readers. Although, we are aware of the fact that the effect will be visible only in the long term, but so far we have received encouraging comments.

International activities

The year 2015 was marked by an intensive preparation for the historical first Presidency of the Slovak Republic in the Council of the European Union (EU) in the second half of 2016. Educational activities were differentially oriented on the assumed positions of the individual team members at different levels. The main purpose was to get familiarized with the EU legislation adopting process, inter-institutional relations, agenda of the General Secretariat of the EU Council and last but not least to acquire negotiating, communication and presentation skills. Besides the centrally organized educational activities, the Office also provided a tailor-made training focused mainly on specialized statistical terminology, preparation of documents in English and on further extension of the acquired knowledge within the possibilities available and according to the needs of team members. During the last year, the core Presidency team was constituted. The team attended the meetings not only with TRIO partners (in the Netherlands and Malta), but also in the other countries, which presided over the EU Council in previous years and managed to gain valuable experiences. The purpose of

Participation on the BTA by the type of event



TRIO meetings was to harmonize the mutual cooperation and to clarify the common program. A significant attention was paid to the cooperation and establishment of the necessary contacts with the Permanent representation of the Slovak Republic to EU in

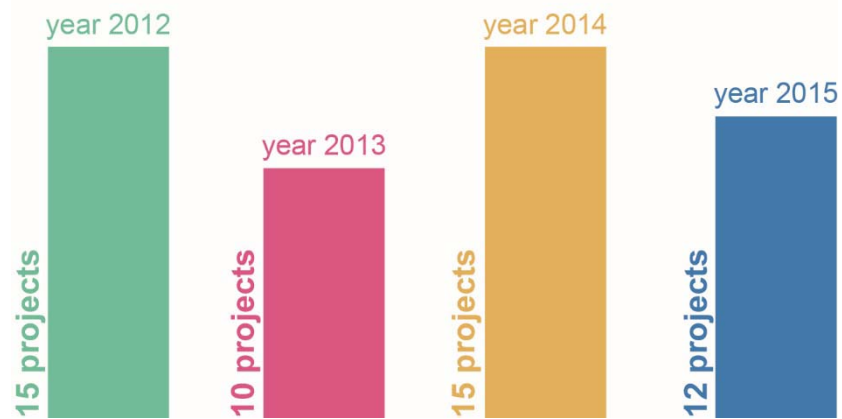
Brussels and with appropriate bodies of the European Commission. The President of the Office continued to attend the meetings of the Interministerial Coordination Board. The Personnel Office's director, the spokesman and members of the Presidency team took part in the Interministerial working groups, focused on the preparation of the Presidency from the administrative, organisational and content aspects. Moreover, the Presidency team focused on the detailed monitoring and elaboration of the legislative acts in details; the acts, which exceeded execution adapting to the period of the Slovak Presidency in the EU Council or the acts in approval process during the year 2015.

In April 2015, in the field of statistical legislation, the revision of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics was approved, as the framework regulation applicable to the whole sphere of statistics. The following new elements were introduced by this revision: strengthening a role of the Office towards other national institutions; facilitating access to administrative sources and their wider use for the statistical purposes; strengthening the professional independence of the National Statistical Institutions (NSI) and their Directors-General/Presidents; reinforcing the credibility and quality of the statistics via political commitment relating to the implementation of the statistical principles as developed in the European Statistics Code of Practice. Many new aspects of the regulation were reflected into the amendment to the Act on State Statistics which entered in force on 1 January, 2015.

The SO SR actively participated on the preparation of other legal acts, which were discussed at the level of EU Council, during the year 2015. This concerned mainly the new regulation on harmonized indices of consumer prices; the amendment of regulation on statistics concerning balance of payments, international trade in services and foreign direct investment; or the new regulation on European statistics on natural gas and electricity prices. The field of implementing rules was much more complicated for statistics. In the field of statistics, 66 implementing regulations were adopted altogether, in 2015.

During the year 2015, the Office's employees actively participated in international activities. In total, 188 foreign business trips were realized, representing 280 individual travels, with 282 attendances of the Office's representatives in 282 various events. The majority of these events were organized by Eurostat, the Directorate-General of the European Commission in Luxembourg, within the framework of the European Statistical System. The main purpose of these events was especially participation in the meetings of the working groups, so-called task forces, seminars and workshops. These meetings were aiming at the development of new methodology and tools, and their implementation in the field of statistics. In light of the forthcoming Presidency of the Slovak Republic in the EU Council, in the second half of 2016, the participation of the Office's employees increased significantly in the meetings of the EU Council Working Party on Statistics in Brussels. The educational activities organized within the European Statistic Training Program (ESTP) and working meetings forming part of the grant projects have also had a significant impact on it. It is worth highlighting the foreign business trips of the Office's experts contributing to increasing the level of statistics and its harmonization with the EU standards in the third countries. The bilateral and regional cooperation, particularly with the V4-countries has also been intensive. Moreover, the Office's representatives attended conferences and other events organized by international organizations such as the United Nations, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the International Monetary Fund or the European Central Bank. The chart below illustrates the percentages of various types of international events in percentage.

Number of new projects in the particular years

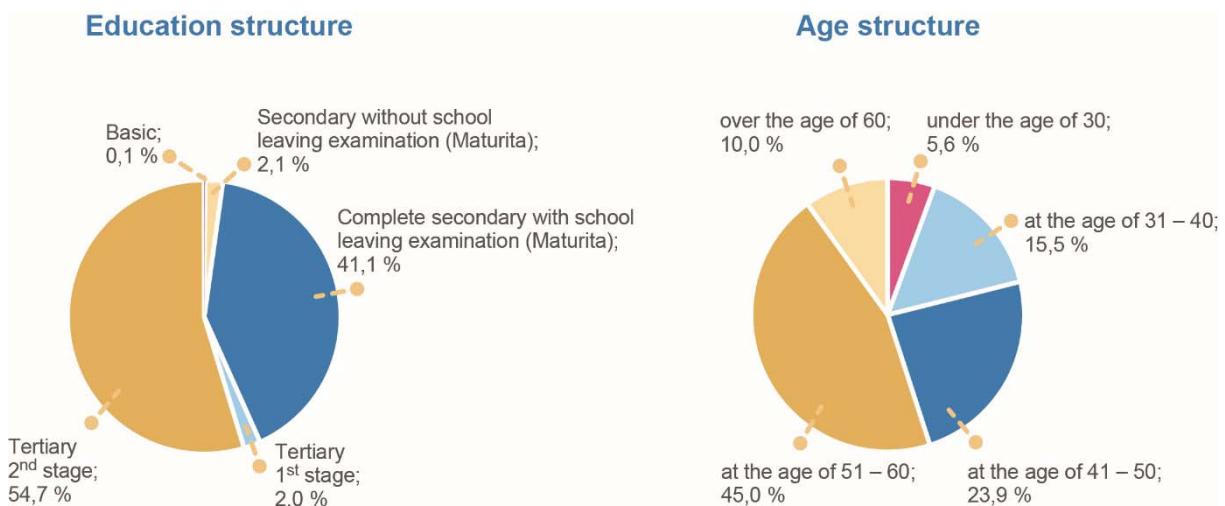


In 2015, the SO SR applied for 12 new EU grant projects and a total of 35 projects were implemented, together with the projects from the previous period. Their purpose was to introduce the new statistical methods and tools.

Human resources

In 2015, **816,4 employees (the average registered recalculated number)** were employed in the SO SR, of whom 304 at the headquarters and 512,4 employees at the Regional Offices of the SO SR (including the Section of Industrial Data Collection and Processing and Field Surveys in Banská Bystrica). Resulting from the government budget, in its chapter concerning the SO SR, the number of posts was curtailed to 826, while there was one post established at the headquarters, for the performance of tasks related to the Presidency of the Slovak Republic in the Council of the European Union (EU).

As of 31 December 2015, the **education and age structure** of the Office's staff is illustrated in these graphs:



78,3% women and 21,7% men worked for the Office. Out of 124 persons in managerial positions, there were 69% women and 31% men.

In 2015, the available budget of the SO SR was **EUR 9 341 142 for salary appropriations** (the sum also included salary appropriations intended for the Presidency of the SR in the EU Council in 2016, and for the referendum in 2015). For the period 1 – 12/2015, the expenditure was EUR 9 341 122, hence the indicator for a binding limit for the wages, salaries, remunerations, and other personal adjustment was complied, in 2015.

The **education of employees** was carried out according to the Educational Plan of Employees of the SO SR for 2015. The priorities of education were professional training and preparation for the Presidency of the SR in the EU Council in year 2016.

Educational activities in the sphere of professional education were focused particularly on the preparation, methods of collecting and processing of the statistical surveys, ensuring

processing of the results of the Referendum 2015 and preparation for the Parliamentary Elections 2016 results processing.

The Office's employees opted to take part in the 60 international events (conferences, seminars, workshops) where they could exchange their experiences and knowledge about the national and the European Statistical System, besides acquiring new professional knowledge. These also included participation in the 12 professional statistical courses realised within the European Statistical Training Programme.

The employees of the Office also participated in other educational activities in accordance with their expertise and legislative changes, in the fields such as IT, economy, accounting, national asset management, financial control and internal audit, public procurement, payroll, human resources management etc.

In the field of language training, the Office provided semi-intensive and intensive languages courses of English and German. These courses were focused mainly on the preparation of the Office's experts for the Presidency of the SR in the EU Council in 2016.

In total, **855 educational activities** were realized for **5 091 participants**, during the year 2015. The education of the Office's staff accounted for **EUR 51 026**.

In 2015, the **library of the SO SR** was enriched by **542 new volumes**, of which 471 were new publications issued by the Office. During the year, the library provided its services to **1 500 readers** (of whom 1 027 were external visitors and 473 staff of Office), within the total of 3 117 loans registered. In financial terms, the Office spent EUR 8 600 on purchase of literature, subscriptions to newspapers and magazines.

Information systems and information and communication technologies

In 2015, the **sphere of informatics** was marked particularly by the preparations for the purely electronic collection of statistical data since 2016; closing the project of the Register and Identifier of Legal Entities, Entrepreneurs and Public Authorities (RLE), after the entry into force of the Act No. 272/2015 Coll., on the Register of Legal Entities, Entrepreneurs and Public Authorities and amending certain other acts; and by the Register putting into the service operation since 1 November 2015.

There were ongoing preparations for the exclusively electronic data collection within the Integrated Statistical Information System established within the project **Electronic Services of the SO SR**. This preparation referred to an extension of the user accounts' management functionalities of the reporting units (RU). The management of the user accounts enabled the RU to actively create users, grant the authorization for meeting statistical obligations, and also allowing its monitoring.

Simultaneously, the SO SR was preparing for an exclusively electronic communication via mailboxes of the Central Public Administration Portal, the so-called eDesk. This communication will consist of a standard notification included in the statistical survey; notification on launching of data collection to the corresponding period towards which the subject has a reporting ability; as well as notifications and reminders of unfulfilled reporting obligations. Under the Act No. 305/2013 Coll. all electronic mailboxes of legal entities will be activated as of 1 August 2016. The Statistical Office will predominantly use this communication channel for the communication with the RU, from that date.

The Statistical Office started to implement the project **Register and Identifier of Legal Entities and Entrepreneurs** in 2014. The RILE is one of the four core registers of the Integrated Public Administration Information System together with the Register of Natural Persons, the Register of Addresses and the Register of Spatial Information. The RILE replaces the submission of identification and contact information on legal entities to public authorities. Following the declaration of the register as referential, under the § 51 of Act No 305/2013 Coll. on the Electronic Form of Governance Conducted by Public Authorities, requiring the public authorities, to reference the identification and contact information, i.e. obtain the details from the referential register. The RILE represents a unique data source of legally binding details about the legal entities, entrepreneurs, public authorities and particular organizational units.

On 1 October 2015, the Register was successfully launched and since 1 November 2015 it was made public, in accordance with entering into force of the Act on RILE. At the end of 2015, the Register merged data from the 12 registers of the Ministry of Justice of the SR and the Ministry of Interior of the SR:

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

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

The Act No 272/2015 Coll. on the Register of Legal Entities, Entrepreneurs and Governmental Bodies introduced a transitional period of two years for entering data into the RILE. During this transitional period, all evidences and registers of legal entities in the SR will be integrated with the RILE.

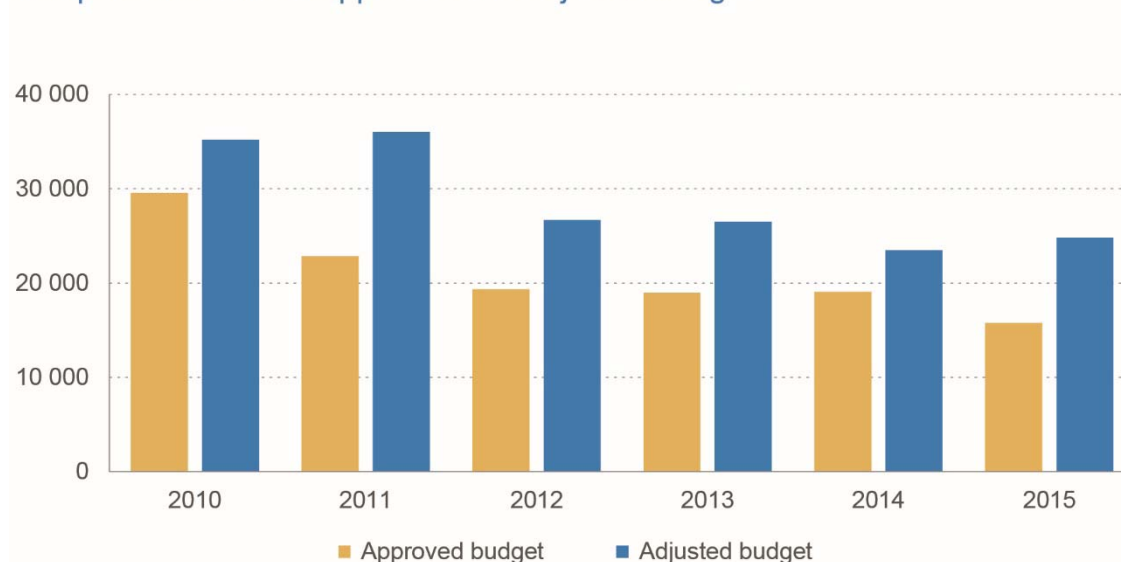
The Register will simplify the conditions for entrepreneurs during the submission of documents as public authorities will be able to retrieve data from the Register of Legal Entities. The implemented electronic services of the project will enhance the sophistication, quality and availability of services for the citizens and entrepreneurs.

The established Register is expected to deliver financial and economic benefits for business entities in the form of time-saving and cost reduction regarding documents handling. The Register will also significantly contribute to reducing the administrative burden for business entities. Furthermore, it should reduce time and financing costs during notification of business changes to public administration institutions, except the source evidence which has a legal responsibility for their evidence.

Financial results

By the Act No 385/2014 Coll. on the state budget, **expenditures** in the amount of EUR 15 760 764 were approved for the chapter the Statistical Office of the SR. During the year 2015, the budget of the Office was adjusted by 24 budgetary measures of the Ministry of Finance of the SR to EUR 24 812 759,55. The budget adjustment covered an increase of the capital expenditure limit by funds from the European Union and funds from the state budget earmarked for co-financing of joint programs of the SR and the EU in the total amount of EUR 7 318 726,19 earmarked for the project Register and Identifier of Legal Entities, Entrepreneurs and Public Authorities (RLE) (EUR 7 002 667,32) and for the refund of personal expenses for the project Electronic Services of the Statistical Office of the SR (EUR 316 098,87), in which the Office was involved as a co-participant of the Interdepartmental Operational Programme Information of Society. In terms of realization of the project RLE, from the total amount (EUR 7 002 667,32) EUR 2 222 473,32 were transferred to the project partners (Ministry of Justice of the SR and Ministry of Interior of the SR). Other adjustments related to increase the spending limit by funds were earmarked as the expenditures: on the preparation, realization and processing of the results of Referendum in 2015 (EUR 1 197 275); on the realisation of surveys connected with the production and completion of the Tourism Satellite Account (EUR 269 600); on ensuring the coverage of deficit personnel

Budget of expenditure of the SO SR in the years 2010 – 2015 in thous. €
Comparison between approved and adjusted budget



costs and valorisation of personal expenses (salaries and social contributions – in total EUR 1 766 643); on increasing the spending limit of current expenditure due to lack of appropriations for the routine Office maintenance (EUR 570 000); and on commitment of routine expenditure for the benefit of the chapter of the Ministry of Finance of the SR in terms of The Oracle License and Product Agreement (EUR 196 659,32).

The binding limit of **revenues** in the amount of EUR 180 000 was approved by the SO SR for the year 2015. In accordance with the budgetary measure of the Ministry of Finance of the SR the limit of revenues was reduced to EUR 107 350. The revenues de facto reached EUR 879 695, of which non-tax revenues constituted EUR 117 204 (including extra-budgetary revenues of EUR 8 088) and extra-budgetary revenues from the foreign grants in the amount of EUR 762 491 provided by the European Commission with the aim to implement new statistical surveys. A binding indicator - non-tax revenues – was exceeded by EUR 9 854 compared with the budget.

Adjusted **budget** of expenditures amounted to EUR 24 812 759,55 and it **was drawn** actually in the amount of EUR 25 582 930. The real drawing of expenditures constituted by budget expenditures in the amount of EUR 24 812 351 i.e. to 100% (of which funds of the European Union in the amount of EUR 3 837 989 and funds co-financed from the state budget in the amount of EUR 1 258 264, the sum of which is EUR 5 096 253 in total) and extra-budgetary expenditures in the amount of EUR 770 579, of which chapter was authorised to exceed the limit of expenditure, according to § 23 of the Act on the Budget Rules. The extra-budgetary expenditures cover funds from foreign grants in the amount of EUR 762 491 provided by the European Commission and funding obtained from the compensation insurance benefits in the amount of EUR 8 088.

Adjusted budget for salaries and wages was EUR 9 341 142,30 (without funds of the European Union and without funds co-financed from the state budget, in the amount of EUR 235 152,65 in total). This budget was drawn de facto in the amount of EUR 9 683 227, including the budgetary resources of EUR 9 341 122 (of which the sum of EUR 449 714 for the Referendum and the sum of EUR 142 499 for the Presidency of the SR in the Council of the European Union in 2016) and extra-budgetary resources in the amount of EUR 342 105.

EUR 3 576 239 was spent to cover insurance payments paid by the employer (without funds of the European Union and without funds co-financed from the state budget, in the amount of EUR 80 906,22 in total), of which EUR 167 817 for the Referendum; EUR 6 039 for the Presidency of the SR in the EU Council in the year 2016; and EUR 142 499 were used from the extra-budgetary resources.

In total, EUR 5 807 769 were used for goods and services (without funds of the European Union and without funds co-financed from the state budget, in the amount of EUR 118 194 in total), of which EUR 579 458 from the Referendum budget, EUR 1 588 347 from the funds of the financial claims for ensuring the sustainability of the results resulting from the projects of the Operational Programme Information of Society, EUR 70 660 from the funds for education and operation of training centre, EUR 29 156 from the budget for the Presidency of the SR in the EU Council in the year 2016 and EUR 285 975 were used from the extra-budgetary resources. EUR 3 254 109 were spent on the ordinary activities of the SO SR, mainly on the statistical surveys and processing of statistical information, the technical assistance services of the information communications technology, travel expenses, expenditures associated with the collection of statistical information, contribution to the social fund, and catering for employees. A substantial part was represented by expenditures on energies and communication, protection and security of buildings, maintenance of technical equipment and buildings, and operation of motor vehicles.

Current transfers were drawn in the amount of EUR 1 058 013, of which EUR 984 703 were assigned to the subsidised organisation - INFOSTAT. Other transfers were used on severance grant, severance payments and sickness benefits.

Capital expenditures (without funds of the European Union and without funds co-financed from the state budget, in the amount of EUR 4 662 000) were drawn in the amount of EUR 361 429. This amount was used for purchase of IT equipment, machinery and equipment operating, reconstruction and modernisation of software and buildings.

Special types of expenditures

Referendum

In total, EUR 1 196 988 were spent on the referendum in 2015. Expenditures incurred mainly for the overtime payments, remunerations and related insurance contributions of employees involved in the processing of the referendum results. Expenditures on goods and services were spent on material provision of expert summary units, telecommunication services, technical support services and on work performance agreement.

Financial claims for ensuring the sustainability of the results resulting from the OPIS projects

Funds in the amount of EUR 1 588 347 were spent, in accordance with the intended purpose used for technical support payments of the projects: Operational Programme Information of Society (OPIS) – Electronic services of the SO SR (EUR 1 544 000) and RILE (EUR 44 347).

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

In total, EUR 5 096 252,87 from the EU funds and state budget funds earmarked for co-financing of joint programmes of the SR and the EU, were spent for the financing sub-programme Electronization of public administration and development of electronic services at the central level of the Ministry of Finance of the SR – the SO SR, which the Statistical Office dealt with as a participant of the Interdepartmental Program OPIS. It contained EUR 3 837 988,48 from the EU funds and EUR 1 258 264,39 from the state budget funds for co-financing. The budget for the sub-programme was planned for two projects: the project RLE and the project Electronic Services of the Statistical Office of the SR.

Appropriations in the amount of EUR 4 780 194 were used for the project RLE. A bigger share in the amount EUR 4 662 000 was assigned for the capital expenditures and other share in the amount EUR 118 194 for goods and services. Appropriations were used for purchase of software, licenses and computing, for the propagation and advertising of the project and for employee trainings.

Appropriations in the amount of EUR 316 058,87 were used for reimbursement of the wage costs (EUR 235 152,65) and insurance (EUR 80 906,22), on the project Electronic Services

Priorities 2016

In a subsequent period, a development of the **Integrated Quality Management System** (QMS) will be focused on the gradual implementation of the new standard requirements of the ISO 9001:2015, with emphasis on the knowledge and understanding of the context, within which the SO SR operates; its stakeholders, their requirements and expectations, for the support of risk recognition, as well as the further development of procedural approach and implementation cycle of the PDCA (Plan – Do – Check - Act).

Furthermore, the system development will further concentrate on the continued implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice requirements into the Integrated QMS of the SO SR, focused on the other areas discussed and recommended by the peer review. In terms of implementation of the Vision of European Statistical System until 2020 (further: "Vision"), the most important activity under the key area of management quality will be the continued active participation in the tasks of the relevant working group on the level of the European Statistical System (ESS). Within management of the implementation of the Vision on the level of ESS, it will be participation in the tasks of the Vision Implementation Network.

In respect of assessing the level of implementation the QMS of the SO SR, the competition of system audit carried out by the certification body in October 2016 will be a priority.

Within the system development, a progress in implementation of the action programmes of the Development Strategy of the SO SR until the year 2017 will be a significant priority. Taking into account the limited sources, emphasis will continue to be on the implementation of projects contributing to the effectivity and economic efficiency of the SO SR i.e. on the implementation of modernisation projects, programmes focused on the standardization of statistical production, effectivity of inputs and outputs, similarly as the programmes supporting their realization. Particular attention will be paid again to the programmes supporting the implementation of the Vision.

In 2016, the SO SR is planning to implement the **Management Information System** for the costs management, enabling to automatize the data integration activities carried out so far from the particular information systems. Simultaneously, this system will set up conditions for the costs planning of particular statistical surveys, outputs and grant projects.

In the field of **methodology**, one of the key tasks will be the storage of all administrative data sources in the Integrated Statistical Information System (ISIS) for their effective use. The SO SR will be focused on initiation of the activities concerning data download from the accounting system of the reporting unit into the ISIS in an automated manner. It considers the burden reduction of the respondents of the statistical surveys and improving the quality of the statistical outputs. The SO SR will continue to develop the activities allowing the implementation of new principles into the production of samples. In the year 2016, the conduct of methodological audits will continue. For this time, it will be cross-section focused on the employment statistics. For the first time, the audit will be performed with the participation of an external expert.

In 2016, in the field of **classifications and code lists**, the main focus will be paid to ensuring their harmonization with the legally binding acts of the European Union (EU), international norms and standards.

In **statistical registers**, focus will be paid to the stabilization and development of the organizational aspects related to the application of profiling enterprises methodology in terms of Notification of intention the BSDG and the DMES on the consistent implementation of Council Regulation (EEC) No 696/93 on statistical units, approved by Eurostat at the meeting of the directors-generals of the business and macroeconomic statistics, in June 2015. As a result of these activities, the economically significant groups of enterprises with a decision-making centre at the territory of the Slovak Republic will be earmarked and profiled according to the uniform European methodology.

One of the main strategic priorities, for the creation of cost-optimal **database** of the well-functioning and coherent National Statistical System (NSS), will be the fulfilment of objectives of the Concept of coordination NSS, via the approved action programmes.

During 2017, similarly as each year, a proper attention will be paid to the review of requirements of the National Statistical Surveys Programme, with the aim to provide important and necessary surveys without duplication and ensuring compliance with the principles of economy.

In the long term, the ambition of the Office will be to increase the effectivity and a decrease the cost-effectiveness of the SO SR database, by means of gradual data integration from the different sources into their production. It would aim to combine, fill or replace the internal statistical surveys with data from the external statistical surveys, administrative sources, supermarket chains and the enterprise accounting system.

In terms of **macroeconomic statistics** the primary focus will be on the completion of activities related to the grant project GP 01 – 15 Sources and Methods for the Compilation of the Gross National Income According to ESA 2010 and conduct of the activities of GP 09 – 14 on provision of basic information on the purchasing power parities. Preparation of the source documents for securing the data will be continued, for which derogations were granted to the SO SR, in the context of fulfilling the Transmission programme (TP) ESA 2010 and the preparation and ensuring of outputs of TP ESA 2010 in the new IT environment in context of SDMX (Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange) standards, similarly as a preparation for the Extrastat legislative changes. An attention will be also be paid to the analyses of the potential transformation of Intrastat within the Intrastat Redesign Project.

During 2016, essential task in the **sphere of business statistics** will be again the preparation of the new Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics (FRIBS). Another priority will be the ensuring the update of metadata questionnaires for 2015 in short-term statistics and the preparation of quality report in structural statistics and foreign affiliates statistics, for the first time, in environment of ESS-Metadata Handler. One of the main priorities of price statistics will be the transition of the survey of harmonised indices of consumer prices to a new base period – average of the year 2015 = 100. The weighting scheme for surveys of industrial products prices will also be revised. A significant attention will be also paid to the development of methodology for using data obtained from the supermarket chains in the field of consumer prices statistics. In the field of agriculture statistics, activities will be focused on the preparation of the Farm Structure Survey 2016. A

purpose of the structure surveys is to create a single framework for the production of comparable statistics within the EU, concerning the structure of agricultural holdings and agricultural production methods. The science, technology and innovation statistics will be focused on the preparation of implementation changes arising from the review of the Frascati Manual. In the field of innovation statistics, the prescribed outputs will be processed, their transfer to Eurostat will be implemented, results published and eventually the quality reports will be prepared. In the field of methodology, we will cooperate with the international institutions regarding the revision of the Oslo Manual. A continual progress on marking up prepared amendments in the new regulation annexes on energy statistics and consequently prepare implementation of changes, which arise from the prepared regulation on the electricity and natural gas prices, remains to be the main priority. Environment statistics will continue to deal with the project of physical power flows, which is planned to be finished in June 2016. Simultaneously, activities will begin for developing of environmental goods and service sector account.

In 2016, priorities in the sphere of **demography and social statistics** will be focused on the implementation of the international commitments arising from the Regulation on European statistics on demography. Activities on the feasibility study within the grant project of Eurostat will be terminated, aiming at the acceptance of defined term “habitual residence” for population status and vital statistics events.

In terms of preparation for the Population and Housing Census 2021 which will be part of the global program of population and housing censuses taking place worldwide around 2020, the finalization of mapping the available data sources used for this purpose, can be earmarked as one of the most important activities of the year 2016. The result is significant for the decision formulation on the conduct of the 2021 Population and Housing Census.

As regards interdepartmental activities, it is important to highlight the effort, for the intensive cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of the SR, in terms of analyses and basis description for a creation of the satellite account of culture and creative industries in the SR. From the current internal tasks, the definition of the methodological approaches will be a priority that will connect national accounts statistics with the European system of integrated social protection statistics (ESSPROS).

A further development of the data dissemination system and optimization is a priority towards data users. It aims to increase their availability and readability, since demographic statistics is not only voluminous in terms of data but it also belongs to the statistical domains requested by users. A special emphasis will be paid to the preparation and realization of the European Adult Education Survey (AES) and the Continuing Vocational Training Survey (CVTS).

Another crucial activity will be the finalization of activities regarding the grant project Action Plan the EU SILC improvements (Statistics on Income and Living Conditions). The grant project will be completed in August 2016 and its positive influences are expected on data processing and timeliness of the transmitted data from the EU SILC survey to Eurostat.

In 2016, a priority of the information and communication technologies (ICT) survey is to propose and prepare redesign of the ICT survey, for better quality and more accurate statistical data. For the first time, a priority in the field of healthcare expenditure will be to provide data concerning the healthcare expenditure for the SR, according to the

methodology of the System of Health Accounts, in accordance with the relevant EU Commission Regulation, for the reference year 2014.

A priority of **election statistics** will be the processing of the election results to the National Council of the Slovak Republic. The Chairman of the National Council declared the parliamentary election by his Decision No 307/2015 Coll. of 12th November 2015. The Election Day was scheduled on Saturday, 5th March 2016. The election was held in accordance with the Act No 180/2014 Coll. on Conditions of the Exercise of Voting Rights and on amendments to certain laws. Already at the end of the year 2015, the SO SR started to prepare a processing, timetable, guidance note, electoral materials and lists of candidates of the individual political subjects, for the needs of the State Commission for Elections and Control of Financing of Political Parties.

In **terms of the dissemination**, the SO SR focused on providing high-quality products and services in accordance with the overall development strategy and will continue enriching its content and dissemination forms at the Office's website. The Office will focus on developing a unified public database, which will gradually replace tables of the Slovstat databases and will improve user comfort with data. The consolidated statistical data in a modern and simple form will be provided by the Statistical Office of the SR to the lay and professional public, regarding the integration of public database into the web portal.

In accordance with the Marketing Plan 2016, building customer relationships will be more oriented towards the important domestic and foreign statistical users. The SO SR will focus on providing large-scale portfolio of products and services. It will also focus on meetings with key and potential partners, in order to detect their expectations, enhance their knowledge potential in the sphere of statistics, as well as to promote better interpretation and using of statistical products.

The main focus of publication activities will be on the publications with added value in the form of analytical texts and data visualization.

In 2016, in accordance with the Office's development strategy, the credibility survey of the SO SR will be conducted, providing an answer to the question: how the general public perceives our institution.

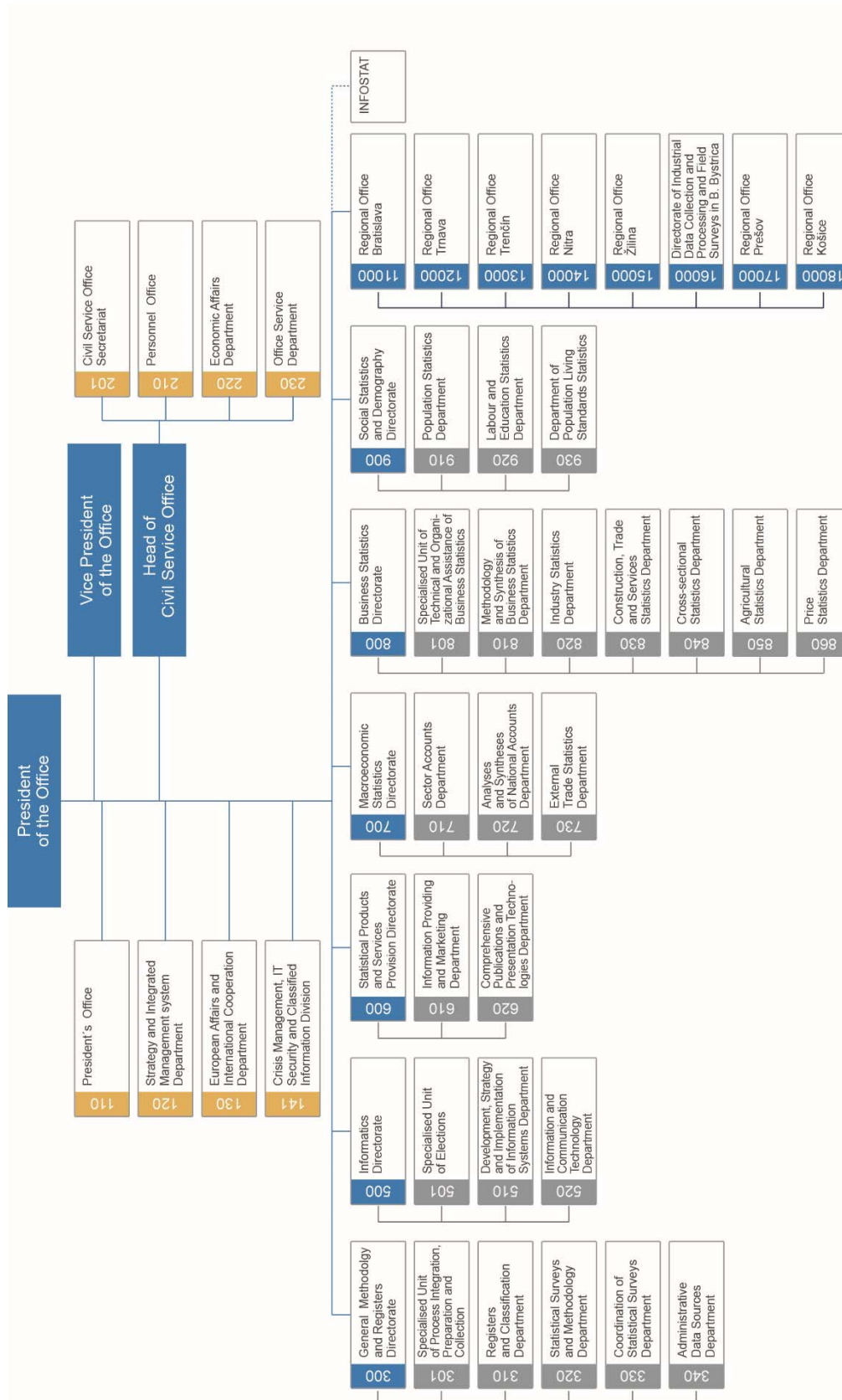
In the field of the **human resource** management, due to the limited financial and human resources, motivating the staff to the performance of high-quality tasks and to sufficiently meeting the needs of our customers will continue to be the main challenges. Under these difficult conditions, the Office will focus to do everything possible to prevent the important, efficient and active employees from leaving. A significant task will be the staffing to the elections National Council of the Slovak Republic and perform tasks related with the Presidency of the SR in the Council of the EU. An integral part of the Office's human resources management is the employees training, focusing on the preparation of the employees to fulfil the crucial and new tasks during 2016. As a priority remains the professional, communication and language training of the Office's experts for the tasks related with the Presidency of the SR in the Council of the EU in 2016. The Office will continue to develop a new education model on the basis of a competence matrix helping to increase the efficiency of the trainings for managers and experts in the field of official statistics.

A priority for 2016, in the sphere of **information systems and information-communication technologies** will be the support of the electronic collection within the ISIS, due to the transition towards the full electronic data collection. As for the information system called Register and Identifier of Legal Entities and Entrepreneurs (RLE), alongside with its continuous operation, we will preferentially focus on the continued integration of data registers, to be integrated within a transitional period of two years after the Act on RLE have entered into force.

In the field of the ICT, it is necessary to resolve the issue of migration of the ICT means and information systems into the state data centre – the CLOUD.

Organizational structure

as of Dec. 31 2015



Contacts

Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Miletičova 3
824 67 Bratislava
Telephone: +421-2-50236 211
Fax: +421-2-55561 350
E-mail: info@statistics.sk
Web: http://www.statistics.sk

Statistical Office of the SR – Regional Office Bratislava

Hanulova 5/c, P.O. BOX 18
840 00 Bratislava 4
Telephone: +421-2-69250 101, 2-69297 101
Fax: +421-2-64368 145
E-mail: ks.ba@statistics.sk

Statistical Office of the SR – Regional Office Trnava

Osvaldova 2
917 23 Trnava
Telephone: +421-33-5566 111
Fax: +421-33-5511 772
E-mail: trnava@statistics.sk

Statistical Office of the SR – Regional Office Trenčín

Kniežaťa Pribinu 28
911 54 Trenčín
Telephone: +421-32-7460 111
Fax: +421-32-7460 209
E-mail: pracovisko.tn@statistics.sk

Statistical Office of the SR – Regional Office Nitra

Rázusova 9, P.O.BOX 9B
949 55 Nitra
Telephone: +421-37-7752 200, 37-7752 201
Fax: +421-37-7722 035
E-mail: AdministratorNR@statistics.sk

Information Service and Store of the SO SR

Telephone: +421-2-50236 335
+421-2-50236 339
+421-2-50236 341
E-mail: info@statistics.sk
predajna@statistics.sk

Office hours:

Mo - Tu	8.30 – 12.00	13.00 – 14.30
Wed	8.30 – 12.00	13.00 – 16.00
Thur	8.30 – 12.00	13.00 – 14.30
Fr	8.30 – 13.00	

Institute of Informatics and Statistics - INFOSTAT

Leškova 16
817 95 Bratislava 15
Telephone: +421-2-59379 301
E-mail: infostat@infostat.sk
Web: http://www.infostat.sk

Statistical Office of the SR – Regional Office Žilina

Framborská 23
011 21 Žilina
Telephone: +421-41-5113 201, 41-5626 649
Fax: +421-41-5626 650
E-mail: administratorza@statistics.sk

Statistical Office of the SR – Section of Industrial Data Collection and Processing and Field Surveys in B. Bystrica

Trieda SNP 75
974 89 Banská Bystrica
Telephone: +421-48-4323 111
Fax: +421-48-4144 767
E-mail: info_bb@statistics.sk

Statistical Office of the SR – Regional Office Prešov

Plzenská 2, P.O.BOX 16
080 16 Prešov
Telephone: +421-51-7735 224
Fax: +421-51-7724 769
E-mail: admin.po@statistics.sk

Statistical Office of the SR – Regional Office Košice

Werferova 3
040 11 Košice
Telephone: +421-55-6410 200
Fax: +421-55-6410 227
E-mail: kosice@statistics.sk

Library

Telephone: +421-2-50236 768
E-mail: kniznica@statistics.sk

Office hours:

Mo - Tu	8.00 – 12.00	
Wed	8.00 – 12.00	13.00 – 15.00
Thur - Fr	8.00 – 12.00	

Registry

Telephone: +421-2-50236 475

Office hours:

Mo, Tu, Thur	8.30 – 10.00	14.00 – 15.00
Wed	8.30 – 10.00	14.00 – 16.00
Fr	8.30 – 10.00	13.00 – 14.00

Reception

Telephone: +421-2-50236 222



www.statistics.sk

Statistical Office of the SR
Miletičova 3
824 67 Bratislava
Slovak Republic

Phone: +421 2 502 36 111
Fax: +421 2 554 24 587
E-mail: info@statistics.sk