



EUROPEAN  
STATISTICAL  
SYSTEM

## **IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS LITHUANIA**



STATISTICS LITHUANIA  
STATE DATA AGENCY

**PEER REVIEWER'S RECOMMENDATIONS  
AND IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS OF THE  
NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM OF  
LITHUANIA IN RESPONSE TO THE  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

## 1. Recommendation

Statistics Lithuania should facilitate the use of its standard tools for data processing for Other National Authorities; monitor compliance with standards and guidelines in the national statistical system with regard to metadata reports and dissemination; and develop quality assurance guidelines for administrative and other types of data from new sources for the national statistical system. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1bis.2 and 4.2).

Current situation:

The national statistical system in Lithuania is built on a strong legal basis, which is also supported by a well-structured and carefully considered quality framework, comprising, among others, the Official Statistics Work Programme, the Statistics Lithuania's Methodology Commission, the Official Statistics Portal, as well as standards and guidelines on various aspects required for the production of official statistics.

**Improvement sub-action 1.1:** Conduct a self-assessment of statistical surveys by Other National Authorities (by completing a questionnaire or performing statistical survey audit).

Analysis of ONAs processes and identification areas for improvement.

**Deadline:** Q4 2025

**Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 1.1:** Statistics Lithuania, all ONAs

**Improvement sub-action 1.2:** Supplement the existing quality assurance guidelines and procedures for validation, editing and imputation of statistical data for administrative and other types of data with guidance for ONAs.

The guidelines and procedures for ensuring quality in statistical production when using administrative and other types of data, which exist in Statistics Lithuania and are used in the office to ensure quality of production, will be adjusted for the purposes of the ONAs and their production processes.

**Deadline:** Q4 2024

**Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 1.2:** Statistics Lithuania

**Improvement sub-action 1.3:** Promote the use of standard analytical tools of the State Data Governance Information System by ONAs.

Statistics Lithuania will organize seminars and provide consultations to ONAs to promote using its standard analytical tools for the production processes in the ONAs. The main programming and analytical tools of the State Data Governance platform, the possibilities of their use in analytical environments created for the ONAs ("sandboxes"), as well as navigations and documentation of the platform, will be presented.

**Deadline:** Q4 2023

**Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 1.3:** Statistics Lithuania

**Improvement sub-action 1.4:** Prepare monitoring indicators for the implementation of Official statistics production and dissemination guidelines by ONAs.

Statistics Lithuania will prepare monitoring indicators to follow-up and monitor the implementation of Official statistics production and dissemination guidelines by all ONAs.

<b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2024
<b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 1.4:</b> Statistics Lithuania
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 1.5:</b> Implement and monitor the application of Official statistics production and dissemination guidelines by ONAs.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will implement a regular procedure for monitoring the application and implementation of the Official statistics production and dissemination guidelines, as developed by Statistics Lithuania, by all ONAs as well.</p>
<b>Deadline:</b> Q1 2025
<b>Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 1.5:</b> Statistics Lithuania, all ONAs
<p><b>2. Recommendation</b></p> <p><i>Statistics Lithuania should further develop its expertise in estimating the quality of statistics based on administrative and other types of data, by developing partnerships internationally and with academia. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 8.7, 12.2 and 1bis.3).</i></p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>Conditions for producing statistics are rapidly changing, with reduced response rates and new possibilities provided by administrative data and other emerging data sources. The “Description of procedures for Assessment of the quality of administrative data sources” recommends qualitative and quantitative indicators to assess the quality of administrative data and frames, constructed from administrative sources. Following the procedures for receiving, use and storage of administrative data sources at Statistics Lithuania, the quality of administrative data is analysed by the survey managers and methodologists. The quality aspects (timeliness, coverage, validation rules used by the data holder, also purposes for which the data is collected) and the way of data transfer are thoroughly discussed with the data holders. In case data errors are detected during data validation procedures at Statistics Lithuania, they are immediately reported to the administrative data holder.</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 2.1:</b> Establish a permanent working group of representatives of Statistics Lithuania, the scientific community and managers of administrative sources to examine quality issues of administrative and other data sources used for statistics.</p> <p>A working group of experts will be set-up involving the scientific community and institutions holding administrative data with the aim of discussing improvements of data quality.</p>
<b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2026
<b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 2.1:</b> Statistics Lithuania
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 2.2:</b> Produce a report on the quality of administrative data and publish it on the website.</p> <p>The expert working group will meet regularly and discuss quality issues of administrative data. As an output of these discussions, Statistics Lithuania will produce a report on issues identified and solutions found, once a year and publish it on its website</p>
<b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2027 (first report, regularly every year afterwards)
<b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 2.2:</b> Statistics Lithuania
<b>3. Recommendation</b>

<p><i>Statistics Lithuania should study and develop ways of measuring the systematic component in the various sources of error, with the aim of increasing the overall quality of statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 12.2).</i></p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania relies heavily on measuring a sampling error for computation of its general accuracy criteria. Other measurements have to be determined to measure non-sampling errors and particularly to check for any systematic components that may exist.</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 3.1:</b> Define additional indicators that would allow calculating the accuracy and reliability (completeness) of the indicators.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will develop additional indicators and evaluate them, and the accuracy and reliability of the indicators will be assessed regularly.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2023</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 3.1:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 3.2:</b> Add information about the accuracy and reliability of statistical indicators in metadata descriptions.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will provide more detailed information on the accuracy and reliability of statistical indicators in the standard metadata descriptions/reports.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2024</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 3.2:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>4. Recommendation</b></p> <p><i>Statistics Lithuania should move forward on the improvement actions that followed the quality audit on metadata reports performed in 2020 and which were endorsed by the Statistical Council in 2021. Statistics Lithuania should update the templates for metadata and quality reports with the European Statistical System standard, SIMS 2.0, guidelines for which are in the European Statistical System handbook for quality and metadata reports, 2020 edition. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 15.6 and 15.5).</i></p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>The Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS) - an ESS standard - is used to compile the structure of the national metadata descriptions. The recommendations for filling in metadata descriptions are prepared in accordance with the ESS Handbook for Quality and Metadata Reports. However, the information in the metadata description is often provided in incomplete and abstract manner.</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 4.1:</b> Revise and update the templates for metadata and quality reports to the SIMS 2.0 standard.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will revise the template for the Metadata and quality reports and define them in accordance with the SIMS 2.0 structure.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2024</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-actions 4.1:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 4.2:</b> Implement and publish revised metadata and quality reports.</p>

<p>Statistics Lithuania will apply the revised template for metadata and quality reports to all statistical domains and publish the revised metadata and quality reports.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2025</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 4.2:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>5. Recommendation</b></p> <p><i>Statistics Lithuania should review the methodological documents from a wider user perspective, with the aim of facilitating their accessibility, also in English. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 15.6).</i></p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>The description of the methodology of all statistical processes is provided in the statistical work (survey) methodologies and Metadata reports, which are prepared and published following procedures. Accessibility to methodological documents is insufficient, in particular for international users.</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 5.1:</b> Review statistical surveys methodologies.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will identify missing statistical survey methodologies for all its processes/outputs, also including those in English.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2023</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 5.1:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 5.2:</b> Prepare and publish the most relevant statistical surveys methodologies in English.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will improve and complete those survey methodologies that are missing or incomplete. Furthermore, relevant survey methodologies will be translated and all of them will be published on the website of Statistics Lithuania.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q2 2025</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 5.2:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>6. Recommendation</b></p> <p><i>Statistics Lithuania should strengthen the possibilities for users to find data through all channels available for official statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 15.2).</i></p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania's dissemination and communication practices are generally appreciated by users from different categories with a variety of needs. Although there is a high level of credibility of statistics, there is a need to further facilitate and improve accessibility to official statistics, namely in the search capabilities and other functionalities of the Official Statistics Portal. A more user-friendly database in terms of functionality and integration of metadata is also needed.</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 6.1:</b> Visibly expand the statistical information (dashboards, infographics, GIS applications) and dissemination in social networks (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn) to special user groups.</p>

<p>Statistics Lithuania will provide more information through various forms and channels specifically designed to the needs of different categories of users and promote these activities actively to the specific user categories.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2024</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 6.1:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 6.2:</b> Improve the Official Statistics Portal search and navigation functionality.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will make its database on the Official Statistics Portal more user-friendly by improving search and navigation functions as well as by adding metadata, where necessary.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2023</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 6.2:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 6.3:</b> Develop an application for the Database of Indicators for mobile devices.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will develop an application that makes the database of indicators available in a user-friendly format on mobile devices and hence improve the accessibility to data for users.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2023</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 6.3:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>7. Recommendation</b></p> <p><i>Statistics Lithuania should further improve its dissemination, including its provision of open data. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 15.2).</i></p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>Further improvements are also possible to broaden Statistics Lithuania’s dissemination practices. In some cases, this would involve developing more advanced methods and tools in georeferenced statistics. In other cases, this would involve the provision of more detailed statistics and possibilities for other breakdowns (for example, with respect to demographic aspects), using an open data approach.</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 7.1:</b> Prepare and publish georeferenced data based on administrative sources a in the Open Data Portal.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will prepare georeferenced administrative data and publish them in the Open Data Portal so as to satisfy new user needs and increase the level of user satisfaction.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q2 2022 (annually afterwards)</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 7.1:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 7.2:</b> Prepare and publish statistical survey data in the Open Data Portal.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will better satisfy the need of users for statistical information by offering the possibility to access open data through the Official Statistics Portal. This open data will consist of anonymised records prepared in such a way that a statistical unit cannot be identified, whether directly or indirectly.</p>

<b>Deadline:</b> Q2 2022 (annually afterwards)
<b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 7.2:</b> Statistics Lithuania



<p><b>8. Recommendation</b></p> <p><i>Statistics Lithuania should strengthen its efforts to target different categories of user groups by the most appropriate channels when disseminating official statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 11.1, 15.1 and 15.2).</i></p>	<p><b>9. Recommendation</b></p> <p><i>Statistics Lithuania should diversify its communication towards different categories of users, to ensure better awareness and understanding of the value of official statistics, to inform about the availability of official statistics and to facilitate the use of the Official Statistics Portal. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 15.1 and 15.2).</i></p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>For the dissemination of statistical information in the different forms, Statistics Lithuania uses the modern website – Official Statistics Portal. The website is updated regularly. Modern means for producing statistical information are also used (dashboards, infographics, GIS applications, Database of Indicators with self-tabulation possibilities). The mentioned portal is the main mean for disseminating statistical information in the most appropriate formats. Furthermore, statistical and other information is available on social media, e.g. Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.</p>	<p>Current situation:</p> <p>Statistical outputs (e.g. press releases, ready-made tables, charts, maps connected to statistics, infographics, videos) and metadata are disseminated on the Official Statistics Portal using tools and formats that facilitate re-dissemination by the media or any other users. On the Official Statistics Portal, free access to statistical information is available via different means, namely press releases, publications, Database of Indicators, predefined tables, infographics, GIS applications, interactive calendar. Most of information is bilingual (in Lithuanian and in English). The Official Statistics Portal provides the society with user-friendly access to all official statistics, expands possibilities to analyse and present statistical indicators.</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-actions 8.1 and 9.1:</b> Organise Statistics breakfast for journalists.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will organise thematic sessions on selected statistical topics and/or compilations to better explain relevant subject areas and statistical outputs to media representatives.</p>	
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2022 (once a quarter afterwards)</p>	
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-actions 8.1 and 9.1:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>	
<p><b>Improvement sub-actions 8.2 and 9.2:</b> Organise remote training sessions for separate groups of users.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will organise remote training sessions for different categories of users to promote better awareness on the value of official statistics and better knowledge on what data are available and how to use them.</p>	
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2022 (once a quarter afterwards)</p>	
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-actions 8.2 and 9.2:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>	

<p><b>10. Recommendation</b></p> <p>Statistics Lithuania should make its pre-release practice compliant with the ES CoP by limiting the number of persons who are entitled to a pre-release with no granting of exceptions, publicising a suitable justification and reducing the extent of the pre-release time period, so that it is proportional to the justification. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicator 6.7).</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>Early access to statistical information is strictly limited. Statistics Lithuania provides early access to certain statistical releases for the President and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania and their advisors, the Ministers of Finance, Economy and Innovation, and Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania, or other persons authorised by them, one day prior (till 5 p.m.) to the official release (at 9 a.m.). This involves releases on gross domestic product (GDP), inflation and the unemployment rate, as well as other press releases on topical, social and economic phenomena. In exceptional cases, external experts and researchers/scientists also have the right to receive statistical information in advance of the publication date.</p>
<p><b>Improvement action 10:</b> Amend the existing practice for the pre-release of statistical information.</p> <p>The Rules for Statistics Dissemination and Communication will be amended by limiting the number of persons who are entitled to a pre-release to a minimum, or completely abandoning the provision of any early access to statistical releases</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q1 2025</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement action 10:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>11. Recommendation</b></p> <p><i>The other national authorities reviewed should follow similar rules and procedures to Statistics Lithuania regarding the principle of equal access to statistical releases and publicise them on their websites in order to display uniform pre-release practices and guidelines within the national statistical system. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicator 6.7).</i></p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>State Enterprise Agricultural Information and Rural Business Centre (now State Enterprise Agricultural Data Centre) states that all users have equal access to statistical releases at the same time, after the information is published. Preliminary pre-release access to the statistics is granted to the Lithuanian Ministry of Agriculture, but it is clearly stated that information is preliminary.</p> <p>As data collected by the Institute of Hygiene is used not only for national and international statistics, but also for administration of health care and making necessary decisions in the field of health, for the Ministry of Health some information could be presented earlier: such as, data resources and activities of health care institutions, morbidity and mortality by selected diseases.</p> <p>Environmental Protection Agency states that they ensure equal access for all users to the statistics disseminated at the same time - statistical information is published on the Agency's website. Final statistical information shall not be provided to applicants prior to its publication on the Agency's website.</p>
<p><b>Improvement action 11:</b></p> <p>ONAs amend their existing or develop new rules and procedures for pre-release and publish them on the websites.</p>

<p>Statistics Lithuania will share its adjusted rules and procedures regarding the principle of equal access to statistical releases with the ONAs and then ONAs will amend their existing or develop new rules and procedures for pre-release and publish them on their websites.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2025</p>
<p><b>Responsible institutions for improvement action 11:</b> State Enterprise Agricultural Data Centre, Institute of Hygiene, Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>12. Recommendation</b></p> <p><i>Statistics Lithuania should develop a communication strategy targeting different categories of data providers, in order to strengthen its credibility in producing official statistics. In addition, Statistics Lithuania should further engage with data provider groups to secure a better understanding of the role they play and their importance to society as data providers. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 8.7 and 9.2).</i></p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania's good experience in applying communication strategies towards users is an advantage and an excellent basis for applying new approaches to other target groups. As this approach has already earned Statistics Lithuania credibility and trust amongst its stakeholders, similar communication practices should also target data providers, ensuring better awareness of respondents' roles and preventing doubts regarding the increasing response burden.</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 12.1:</b> Update the communication strategy, adding different categories of data providers.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will prepare a revised version of its communication strategy and publicise it to inform data providers.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2025</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 12.1:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 12.2:</b> Develop the cooperation with administrative data providers.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will set-up a permanent working group comprised of representatives from Statistics Lithuania, the scientific community, and managers of administrative data sources. The working group will examine quality issues of administrative and other data sources used for statistics and propose improvements for data quality to the holders of administrative data sources. A report on the quality of administrative data is prepared once a year, reviewed by the working group and published.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2027</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 12.2:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 12.3:</b> Strengthen the representation of business institutions in decision-making.</p> <p>The composition of the Statistical Board, advisory body performing the functions of Statistical Council, will be supplemented with representatives of business respondents.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q1 2023</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 12.3:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>

<p><b>Improvement sub-action 12.4:</b> Regular meetings with business respondents</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will organise regular meetings with associations of business representatives to discuss topical issues.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2024 (annually afterwards)</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 12.4:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 12.5:</b> Develop motivational measures for participation in population surveys.</p> <p>Once the new Law on Official Statistics and State Data Governance comes into force, it will enable the promotion of respondents to participate in statistical surveys on a voluntary basis. Statistics Lithuania will design the motivational measures and how to implement them.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2023</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 12.5:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>13. Recommendation</b></p> <p><i>For the sake of transparency and professional independence, the other national authorities reviewed should carefully delineate the different uses of their data in their work procedures, whether they are used for official statistics or for other purposes. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1.1 and 8.4).</i></p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>The reviewed ONAs collect data not only for statistical purposes, but also for administrative purposes. Although the distinction between statistical and administrative functions performed by the other national authorities is reflected in their legal framework, this separation is also being explained in the current working procedures (new versions of the procedures are currently being developed and appropriate corrective actions are being carried out).</p>
<p><b>Improvement action 13:</b> ONAs revise their working procedures (in consultation with Statistics Lithuania) and publish them internally</p> <p>The working procedures of ONAs will be revised to state clearly which of their work is for statistical purposes and what principles they need to follow – and what part of their work is for administrative purposes.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2024</p>
<p><b>Responsible institutions for improvement action 13:</b> State Enterprise Agricultural Data Centre, Institute of Hygiene, Environmental Protection Agency</p>

<p><b>14. Recommendation</b></p> <p><i>Statistics Lithuania, together with the other national authorities reviewed should undertake a detailed assessment of the possible inadequacy of resources (financial, human, technological and infrastructural) in the Lithuanian statistical system. This exercise should include assessing the adequacy of the remuneration package needed to attract and retain adequate competencies. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 3.1, 1bis.1 and 2.4).</i></p>	<p><b>22. Recommendation</b></p> <p><i>Statistics Lithuania should assess the current and future capability gaps and should devise a comprehensive plan to address them, identifying key partners. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 3.1).</i></p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>In order to address some of the gaps and possible risks of further developing official statistics in the national statistical system, Statistics Lithuania has to assess the financial and other resources needed for the entire Lithuanian statistical system, including the ones needed by the other national authorities reviewed to fulfil their tasks. Although the funding of Statistics Lithuania is sufficient, it does not always ensure the recruitment of skilled staff to meet new statistical challenges.</p> <p>Institute of Hygiene states that they are working with very low resources, especially regarding the salaries (they are below the average salary level in the country), buying new equipment and keeping information systems, as well as high-level specialists (especially IT specialists). At the Environmental Protection Agency, although the financial and information technology resources are sufficient to meet statistical needs, more human resources are needed to develop new statistical information. State Enterprise Agricultural Information and Rural Business Centre (now State Enterprise Agricultural Data Centre) defines that available and additional resources received annually are sufficient to ensure statistical needs.</p>	
<p><b>Improvement sub-actions 14.1 and 22.1:</b> Design the procedure for assessing the resources (financial, human, technological and infrastructural) of the national statistical system.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will design a self-assessment questionnaire for all members of the statistical system to assess their resource situation and possible gaps and risks. Furthermore, Statistics Lithuania will develop a tool to perform resources assessments by the prepared procedure.</p>	
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2025</p>	
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-actions 14.1 and 22.1:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>	
<p><b>Improvement sub-actions 14.2 and 22.2:</b> Evaluate the availability and gaps of resources for the Lithuanian statistical system.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania, together with the other members of the Lithuanian statistical system, and based on the results of the self-assessments provided by all members of the Lithuanian statistical system, will evaluate the resource situation in the Lithuanian statistical system and document their availability and gaps, including elements of the remuneration package to attract and retain adequate competences. The document will also include possible actions to address resource gaps in the Lithuanian statistical system and measures to attract and retain staff with needed qualifications and skills.</p>	
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2026</p>	
<p><b>Responsible institutions for improvement sub-actions 14.2 and 22.2:</b> Statistics Lithuania, all ONAs</p>	

<p><b>Improvement sub-actions 14.3 and 22.3:</b> Implement the actions designed on the basis of the resource assessment of the Lithuanian statistical system.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will implement the actions identified on the basis of the resource assessment of the Lithuanian statistical system. Actions may include measures within the authority of Statistics Lithuania, such as the ones on the remuneration package and other measures for which approval of other authorities needs to be sought, such as the reorganisation of the organisational structure of Statistics Lithuania, the transfer of statistical functions from ONAs to Statistics Lithuania.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2027</p>
<p><b>Responsible institutions for improvement sub-actions 14.3 and 22.2:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>15. Recommendation</b></p> <p><i>Statistics Lithuania should draw from its valuable experience with the other national authorities to ensure that statistical confidentiality and data protection standards are met in the foreseen cooperation with private data holders. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 8.7, 9.5 and 2.4).</i></p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>Cooperation with other, mainly private, data providers has already commenced, and usage of scanner data is already in place. Meetings with private data holders at both management and operational level are organized. During the meetings, all necessary information is given to private data holders by explaining the mission of official statistics, the reasons why privately held data is needed, available legislation, data protection, confidentiality, other technical issues related to data delivery etc. Moreover, all necessary information regarding data confidentiality and protection is clearly stated in the agreements with private data holders.</p>
<p><b>Improvement action 15:</b> Seminar/workshop on data confidentiality and data protection for holders of privately held data.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will organise a seminar/workshop for those holders of privately held data whose data Statistics Lithuania is using - to raise awareness among them about the principle of statistical confidentiality and data protection.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q2 2025 (annually afterwards)</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement action 15:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>16. Recommendation</b></p> <p><i>Statistics Lithuania should liaise with the relevant authorities to propose a legal framework for its extended role to ensure full compliance with the principles of the ES CoP and to preserve its position in the national statistical system in upholding trust in official statistics. Furthermore, Statistics Lithuania should make arrangements to clearly separate its 'dual' role as a producer of official statistics on the one hand and a provider of data services for the government on the other. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1.1. and 1bis.1).</i></p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>A stronger framework to support Statistics Lithuania's new mandate is critical to ensure the sustainability of recent progress. Statistics Lithuania was assigned new responsibilities in 2020, resulting in a new 'dual' mandate – to remain a trusted producer of official statistics and to become a data service provider supporting evidence-based public policies. The latter is based on the development of the new State Data Governance Information System, which builds on</p>

<p>comprehensive public sector data collection and integration capabilities and has the potential to enable a modern platform for delivering more timely and granular official statistics. This transition has huge potential for improvements, but also entails risks with respect to Statistics Lithuania's reputation as an independent and trusted provider of official statistics that need to be managed.</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 16.1:</b> Prepare the amendment to the Law on Official Statistics.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will prepare an amendment to the Law on Official Statistics laying down the right to perform two functions – produce and coordinate the official statistics and manage the state data.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2022</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 16.1:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 16.2:</b> Adopt the amendments to the Law on Official Statistics.</p> <p>The Law on Official Statistics and State Data Governance will be adopted by the Parliament upon approval by the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2022</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 16.2:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 16.3:</b> Implement the two roles of Statistics Lithuania in the programming of the activities.</p> <p>In order to illustrate the differences between the two functions assigned to Statistics Lithuania, Statistics Lithuania will prepare 2 programmes: 1) part I of the Official Statistics Programme containing all official statistics to be produced by the Lithuanian statistical system and ensuring the compliance with the ES CoP for all official statistics and 2) the State Data Governance Programme containing data to be produced in the function of the State Data Agency</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2023 (annually afterwards)</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 16.3:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>17. Recommendation</b></p> <p><i>Statistics Lithuania should engage with key public and private sector stakeholders to ensure an open discussion around its new mandate, harnessing consensus and sustained buy-in on their part. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1.1).</i></p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania has been given new tasks and roles by the government over the last two years and has accelerated towards a new 'dual' mandate, for example, during the COVID-19 pandemic. The new mandate entails continuing as a trusted producer of official statistics as well as becoming a state data service provider to support evidence-based government policies. Thus, the consensus and understanding by stakeholders of Statistics Lithuania's new 'dual' role is critical for maintaining trust. Engaging with key public and private sector stakeholders is also critical for generating awareness and ensuring an open discussion around Statistics Lithuania's new mandate.</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 17.1:</b> Raise awareness of key public and private stakeholders on the new role of Statistics Lithuania</p>

<p>Statistics Lithuania will organise workshops and seminars with key stakeholders to present the dual role and the new mandate for Statistics Lithuania.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2023</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 17.1:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 17.2:</b> Discuss the State Data Governance Programme with key public and private stakeholders.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will discuss the State Data Governance Programme with key public and private sector stakeholders. It will organise meetings and workshops to discuss the components of the programme and receive comments and inputs. A written consultation on the programme will be launched.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2023 (annually afterwards)</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 17.2:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 17.3:</b> Provide directions (objectives) for the implementation of new mandate in the Strategy of Statistics Lithuania for 2023-2027.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will include objectives on its new mandate into the Strategy of Statistics Lithuania 2023-2027</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2023</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 17.3:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>18. Recommendation</b></p> <p><i>Statistics Lithuania should devise a risk management plan, with specific actions to manage the transition to the new production system. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 7.1 and 5.5).</i></p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>New platform for producing official statistics was introduced in Statistics Lithuania, on the basis whereof the State Data Governance Information System was created. It enables access to different data sources, their collection, integration, standardization, classification of administrative data or other data for statistical and other purposes, as well as production of statistical information.</p>
<p><b>Improvement action 18:</b> Supplement the annual activity plan of Statistics Lithuania with risks related to the performance of the State Data Governance Information System functions.</p> <p>Risks are managed at institutional and process/survey level. List of risks and risk treatment actions, regarding the State Data Governance Information System are deployed into the annual action plans including management of the transition to the new production system.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2023 (annually afterwards)</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement action 18:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>19. Recommendation</b></p> <p><i>Statistics Lithuania should continue to invest in the development of a secure data infrastructure and secure operation services, taking into account data protection and confidentiality concerns. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 5.5).</i></p>



<p>Current situation:</p> <p>In line with the established information security policy, Statistics Lithuania has appropriate physical and logical security measures and processes in place to check that data security is ensured throughout the statistical processes to prevent data breaches and violation of statistical confidentiality and integrity.</p> <p>Information security officer to manage the security of the organisation's information systems has been appointed; regular and systematic security audits, penetration tests on the data security system, assessments of risks and data protection impact of information systems are carried out; storage of data in the room with higher safety requirements and limited access is ensured; any access to data repositories and transmission channels is strictly monitored and recorded; etc.</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 19.1:</b> Update the IT architecture.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will revise and update its IT architecture, including the architecture of the Integrated Data Warehouse, taking into account data protection and confidentiality concerns.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2024</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 19.1:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 19.2:</b> Identify the need for the necessary resources to ensure data protection and confidentiality.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will identify the quality and quantity of the resources necessary to fully ensure data protection and confidentiality.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2025</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 19.2:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 19.3:</b> Allocation of the necessary resources.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will provide the Data protection division with the resources necessary to fully ensure statistical confidentiality and data protection.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2025</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 19.3:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 19.4:</b> Raise the competence of the Statistics Lithuania's employees in matters of data security.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will organise training sessions on data security to raise awareness and improve the competences of Statistics Lithuania's employees on issues related to data security.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2025</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 19.4:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>20. Recommendation</b></p> <p><i>Building on the process-mapping results and the use of statistical standards (for example, the Generic Statistical Information Model), Statistics Lithuania should further develop a set of reusable and generic building blocks to support the automation of the production system. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 10.4).</i></p>

<p>Current situation:</p> <p>An Integrated statistics information system is developed, which uses metadata-driven approach based on the GSIM. This system has almost all components of the architecture of the GSIM including some national requirements. The metadata-driven approach covers the data management system, functioning through a model consisting of a series of objects, attributes, relationships, rules, frequency of execution, metadata, collection and registration of outcomes, etc.</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 20.1:</b> Design a plan for automation of statistical processes according to GSIM.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will develop tools for automating the statistical production processes according to GSIM.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2023</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 20.1:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 20.2:</b> Implement the automation tools for statistical processes.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will implement the tools according to the automation plan for statistical processes, according to GSIM.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2025</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement action sub-action 20.2:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>21. Recommendation</b></p> <p><i>Statistics Lithuania should continue to invest in the development and dissemination of 'experimental' statistical products to accelerate the delivery of innovative statistical information. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 7.7 and 11.1).</i></p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>Recently, Statistics Lithuania has launched the development and dissemination of experimental statistics. The State Data Governance Information System (the new statistical production platform) has been introduced which enabled production of operatively and new statistical information, including development of experimental statistical products.</p> <p>The Official Statistics Portal provides users with a special section dedicated to the experimental statistical indicators produced by Statistics Lithuania.</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 21.1:</b> Develop the description of procedure for producing experimental statistics and the list of experimental statistical surveys.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will develop the description of procedure for producing experimental statistics and a list of statistical experimental surveys to be conducted.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q2 2024</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 21.1:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 21.2:</b> Present Experimental Statistics to the public.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will organise events/meetings to explain and present the context of experimental statistics and their advantages and shortcomings to the users.</p>

**Deadline:** Q3 2023 (annually afterwards)

**Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 21.2:** Statistics Lithuania

<p><b>23. Recommendation</b></p> <p><i>Statistics Lithuania should review the financing model in place to ensure that it is adequately providing resources to operate in the modernised statistical production platform over the medium term. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 3.1).</i></p>	<p><b>25. Recommendation</b></p> <p><i>Statistics Lithuania needs to identify strategic partners and the appropriate engagement modalities. This should lead to the development and implementation of a strategic partnership action plan, with specific measures tailored to key stakeholders such as academia, holders of private data and the media. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1bis.3 and 15.6).</i></p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>Existing financing model of Statistics Lithuania is more oriented to ensure adequate resources over the period of one year. However, in order to ensure that adequate funding is available to invest in technical and methodological developments in line with strategic ambitions and to ensure the operations over the medium term, the financial sustainability of Statistics Lithuania’s operations should also be assessed.</p>	<p>Current situation:</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania has started the implementation of an ambitious forward-looking transformation agenda, which requires capabilities over the medium term for successful implementation of institutions strategic plans. Thus stronger partnerships with key stakeholders, such as providers of privately held data, public sector organisations, academia and the public at large, became critical for the achievement of desired success.</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-actions 23.1 and 25.1:</b> Develop the Strategy of Statistics Lithuania for 2023-2027.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will develop its Strategy for the period 2023-2027, including strategic directions and objectives, as well as identifying strategic partners. The need for resources supporting the implementation of the strategy will be defined in the 3-year rolling strategic action plan.</p>	
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2022</p>	
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-actions 23.1 and 25.1:</b> Statistics Lithuania</p>	
<p><b>Improvement sub-actions 23.2 and 25.2:</b> Develop annual plans for the implementation of the Strategy of Statistics Lithuania for 2023-2027.</p> <p>Statistics Lithuania will develop annual implementation plans for the Strategy 2023-2027, including resources for implementation and performance measurement. Part of the implementation plans will also be a strategic partnership action plan including specific measures for engagement with key stakeholders.</p>	
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2022 (annually afterwards)</p>	

<b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-actions 23.2 and 25.2:</b> Statistics Lithuania
<b>Improvement sub-actions 23.3 and 25.3:</b> Implement the Strategy of Statistics Lithuania for 2023-2027. Statistics Lithuania will implement its Strategy 2023-2027 through the annual implementation plans and report on its implementation.
<b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2027
<b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-actions 23.3 and 25.3:</b> Statistics Lithuania

## 24. Recommendation

*Statistics Lithuania should further develop reusable solutions and services and support their adoption in the national statistical system. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1bis.1).*

### Current situation:

The modernisation of the Integrated Statistical Information System with a New Technology Base undertaken in the past few years is a strategic investment that has strengthened Statistics Lithuania's capacity to fulfil new needs for official statistics. Reusable statistical and technical services such as data transfer tool for Official Statistical Portal, and tools for data analysis, data editing and validation are designed and developed in the production of official statistics. These innovation results can also be used beyond Statistics Lithuania to benefit the whole national statistical system.

**Improvement sub-action 24.1:** Develop a plan for the application of standardized statistical tools by the ONAs.

Statistics Lithuania will develop, in cooperation with the ONAs, a plan on which standardised tools are suitable and applicable for use by ONAs (e.g. data transfer to Official Statistics Portal tool, editing tools, etc.).

**Deadline:** Q4 2025

**Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 24.1:** Statistics Lithuania, all ONAs

**Improvement sub-action 24.2:** Implement the standardized tools by ONAs.

ONAs, defined in the abovementioned plan, will implement, with the support of Statistics Lithuania, if needed, the standardized tools (such as data transfer tool for the Official Statistics Portal, editing tools, etc.).

**Deadline:** Q1 2026

**Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 24.2:** ONAs, defined in the abovementioned plan, Statistics Lithuania