Trying to keep up with users’ needs

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Outline

- General information on SE
- Strategy 2008–2011
- Existing information systems and information systems under development of SE
- Conclusion
Producers of official statistics

1. Statistics Estonia
2. Bank of Estonia

In order to obtain and publish monetary, financial and balance of payments statistics, necessary for performance of its functions, taking account of the competence of the European Central Bank and of the European System of Central Banks, the Bank of Estonia shall collect data on the basis and pursuant to the procedure provided by the Official Statistics Act. (*Bank of Estonia Act, §34(1)*)
Current law is fourth

1922  Statutes of Central Bureau for Statistics
1938  Act on Central Bureau for Statistics
1990  Statistics Act
1997  Official Statistics Act
2010  Official Statistics Act

In 2010 fourth law on official statistics in Estonia was adopted.
Why new law?

- Integration of three laws (official statistics act, agricultural census act, population census act)
- Better harmonisation with other laws (personal data protection act, act regulating state registers, etc.)
- Recommendations of peer review of Estonian official statistics system on the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice held in 2006
- Compliance with EC regulation 223/2009
- New law is more detailed (includes 62 articles instead of 14 of previous version) — as a result of public debate

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What is new?

- Official statistics advisory council was established to improve cooperation with stakeholders.
- Statistical programme became output based instead of input describing.
- Statistical programme includes costs by statistical activities to improve budget planning.
- Statistical programme is adopted for five years, each year only changes will be proceeded.
- Role and responsibilities of Director General are described.
Gains of stakeholders (I)

- Users — output describing statistical programme helps to understand what they get from the system. Better quality of statistics via obligation to establish statistical registers.

- Research sector — wider dissemination of micro-data with stronger means of statistical confidentiality
  - Remote execution (planned to introduce)
  - Remote access (legally possible, but under discussion)

- Educational sector — making public use files
Gains of stakeholders (II)

- Data suppliers — emphasized focus on register based statistics
- State as owner — transparency via more detailed calculation of costs
- Producer — clarity and better working relationship
Historic background of SE

- on 1 March 1921, the State Statistical Central Bureau of the Republic of Estonia was established
- 1940–1992 Soviet period
- 1993, extensive reorganisation took place, in the course of which a new structure was built up and the main functions of the agency were brought into accordance with the needs of the independent state and international requirements
- since 2004, a part of the EU statistical system
General information about SE

- a government agency operating in the area of the Ministry of Finance
- ca 245 statistical activities per year, of which of more than 90% are guided by the EU legal acts
- 398,5 employees, incl. 104 interviewers (01.01.2011)
- annual budget ca 5,5 million euros, excl. preparatory work for the population census of 2011 and excl. preparatory work for the register based population census for 2020
The budget

![Bar chart showing budget for years 2004 to 2011. The chart indicates budget in million euros with different colors representing IT-investments, economic costs, and expenses on personnel.](image)

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The budget

Million euros

Years

2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 included REL 2010 included REL, REG-REL 2011 included REL, REG-REL

- IT-investments
- Economic costs
- Expenses on personnel

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Generic Statistical Business Process Model

1. Specify Needs
   1.1 Determine needs for information
   1.2 Consult & confirm needs
   1.3 Establish output objectives
   1.4 Identify concepts
   1.5 Check data availability
   1.6 Prepare business case

2. Design
   2.1 Design outputs
   2.2 Design variable descriptions
   2.3 Design data collection methodology
   2.4 Design frame & sample methodology

3. Build
   3.1 Build data collection instrument
   3.2 Build or enhance process components
   3.3 Configure workflows
   3.4 Test production system
   3.5 Test statistical business process
   2.6 Design production systems & workflow

4. Collect
   4.1 Select sample
   4.2 Set up collection
   4.3 Run collection
   4.4 Finalize collection

5. Process
   5.1 Integrate data
   5.2 Classify & code
   5.3 Review, Validate & edit
   5.4 Impute
   5.5 Derive new variables & statistical units
   5.6 Calculate weights
   5.7 Calculate aggregates
   5.8 Finalize data files

6. Analyse
   6.1 Prepare draft outputs
   6.2 Validate outputs
   6.3 Scrutinize & explain
   6.4 Apply disclosure control
   6.5 Finalize outputs

7. Disseminate
   7.1 Update output systems
   7.2 Produce dissemination products
   7.3 Manage release of dissemination products
   7.4 Promote dissemination products
   7.5 Manage user support

8. Archive
   8.1 Define archive rules
   8.2 Manage archive repository
   8.3 Preserve data & associated metadata
   8.4 Dispose of data & associated metadata

9. Evaluate
   9.1 Gather evaluation inputs
   9.2 Conduct evaluation
   9.3 Agree action plan

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Processes

Main process

- Preparation of production
- Data collection
- Processing and analysis
- Dissemination
- Archive

Supporting processes

- Development of information systems, IT support
- Development of methodology, quality management, methodol. support
- Development and management of personnel
- Planning, financial management, bookkeeping, international cooperation
- Management
Production process

Data collection department

Central function since 01.08.2004
(inquires of individuals and economic entities, registers)
https://estat.stat.ee
klienditugi@stat.ee
625 9100

Departments on statistical subject matters

Central function since 01.09.1993
(database, books, services)
http://www.stat.ee
stat@stat.ee
625 9300
Information centre

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Architecture of the information system

- Economic entities
- Persons
- Administrative registers

- iMETA
- VAIS
- eGeostat
- Statistical analysis

- Users
- PX-Web
- Census-HUB

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Environment

- imbalance between users’ expectations and resources
  - expectancy for more timely statistics
  - increasing variety of users’ needs
  - additional needs for European statistics
  - unsatisfied needs for regional statistics
  - scarcity of financial resources

- competition on specialists’ labour market

- respondents’ willingness of participating in surveys is decreasing

- respondents who are also users are more willing to participate in surveys
Possibilities

- automating of data collection and further processing
- harmonising the work processes and technical devices of subject areas
- harmonising the statistical programme with the needs of user
- Estonian e-governance
- cooperation with users and data suppliers
- working in the professional network contributes to the professionalism
Mission and vision

- The main task of Statistics Estonia is to provide the central government and local governments, business and research sectors, international organisations and individuals with a reliable and objective information service on the environmental, demographic, social and economic situation and trends in Estonia.

- Statistics Estonia is the leading producer in Estonia and an internationally recognised producer of qualitative and comparable statistics.
Strategy 2008–2011

“From data collector to information service provider”

I. Reputation, respectfulness and efficiency of official statistics
II. High-quality information service
III. Partnership with respondents
Reputation, respectfulness and efficiency of official statistics

1. Fulfil the statistical programme
2. Increase the coherence and comparability of statistics of different subject areas
3. Increase the volume of analytical products
4. Increase the volume of regional statistics
5. Simplify the use of anonymous individual data in the society
Media reflections, 2008–2010

Number of reflections

Year:
- 2008
- 2009
- 2010

Quarter:
- I
- II
- III
- IV
- V
- VI
- VII
- VIII
- IX
- X
- XI
- XII

Number of reflections:
- 0
- 100
- 200
- 300
- 400
- 500
- 600
- 700
- 800

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Visits of news releases on the web of SE, 2009–2010

Number of visitors

2009

2010

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Visitors of the blog of SE, 2010

Number of visitors

http://statistikaamet.wordpress.com/
http://twitter.com/REL2011
http://et-ee.facebook.com/Statistikaamet
http://www.slideshare.net/Statistikaamet

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Eesti Kvaliteediühing andis 17. märtsil Statistikaametile üle Eesti Juhtimiskvaliteedi auhinna innustustasandi tuntistuse "Edasipürgiv organisatsioon". Tunnistus kehtib kaks aastat.

Number of the reflections in the media by month, 2008–2010
Promotion of new dissemination channels

- Icons of Blog, Facebook and Twitter are presented on our website.
- Icons are included in the mail signatures of Statistics Estonia’s employees.
- Icons are added to promotional e-mails used for advertising statistical publications.
- Information about new blog posts are sent to journalists.
Future plans for dissemination

- dialogue with the users (user surveys etc.)
- providing more analyses
- improving statistical literacy (user trainings)
- modernisation of products (automatic updates)
- implementing different visualization tools
- promotion about population and housing census of 2011
High-quality information service

1. Respond faster to the needs of clients
2. Provide key clients with private service
3. Standardise the process of data processing
4. Separate product development and orders for information from production process
5. Increase the share of generalists in statistics
6. Develop the department-driven organisational culture into the institution-driven one
7. Create a modern working environment
Partnership with respondents

1. Make a wider use of administrative data
2. Reduce the average report fulfilment time
3. Improve the quality of questionnaires
4. Introduce the collection of indicators instead of the collection of reports

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Conclusion

- Our opportunities are
  - to create an automated production system which enables to make a variety of products for different needs
  - to create a capability to make timely tailor make products add-hoc

- More attention to
  - dissemination of micro data
  - wider use of registers
  - closer cooperation with stakeholders
  - increase in statistical literacy

- Variety of products for different needs
- Solid scientific and legal ground

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Thank you for your attention!

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kalmariki
netmurki
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