

STATISTIČNI URAD REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE  
STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA



# THE SLOVENIAN NATIONAL STATISTICS

TRUSTWORTHY AND USER- ORIENTED

LJUBLJANA, 2004

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*Mission of the Slovenian national statistics*

*National statistics provides to the public administration bodies and organizations, the economy and public data, that are of good quality, timely and comparable in time, space and internationally, on the status and trends in the economic, demographic and social fields, as well as in the fields of environment and natural resources.*

*Data for national needs and international dissemination are provided at minimal costs.*

*By respecting statistical confidentiality the trust of the users and professional independence are strengthened.*

Dear users of statistical data and information,

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia is the central institution in Slovenia that is authorized and responsible for the implementation of the activities of national statistics. We are fully aware of this huge responsibility for the quality and the independence of our activity, which is the basis for adoption of various policies which have influence on the level of living and operation of the population and business subjects. We shall keep developing the professionalism and maintain our professional independence. We are convinced that this is the foundation upon which we shall maintain your trust.

Ljubljana, July 2004

*Križman*

Mag. Irena Križman  
Director-General

Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

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## Abbreviations used in the text:

SORS	Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia
AJPES	Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public and Legal Records and Services
EU	European Union
CRP	Central Population Register
RTU	Register of Territorial Units
IT	information technology
ICT	information and communication technology
B2G	business to government
C2G	citizen to government
R&D	research and development
IMF	International Monetary Fund
TACO	Technical Administration Co-operation
PUMA	Public Management
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
UN	United Nations
OJ RS	Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia

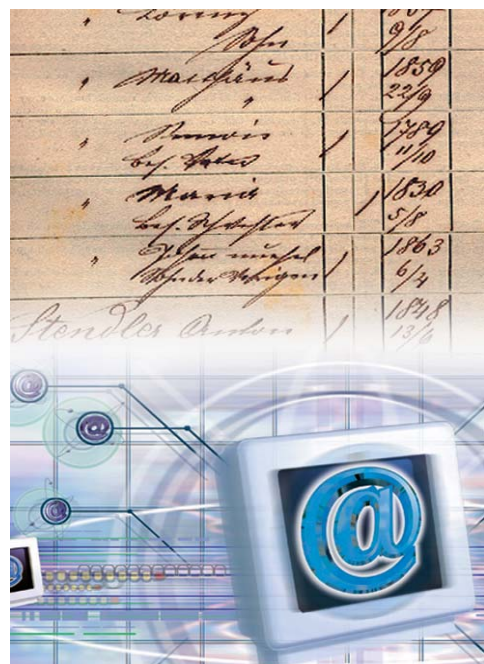


## MILESTONES IN THE SLOVENIAN NATIONAL STATISTICS

### Short history until 1991

The history of national statistics goes back to 1754 when the first population census was implemented on the territory which today belongs to Slovenia.

In the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1863 the first independent statistical service - the Royal Imperial Statistical Central Commission - was established in Vienna, covering the predominant part of the territory of Slovenia.



After the disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Slovenia became part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. The central statistical office of this state was the General National Statistics in Belgrade. As its constituent part, a special Statistics Department operated in Slovenia between 1919 and 1924.

In 1944, the Slovenian National Liberation Council set up the Office for Statistics of Slovenia which operated during World War II. In 1945, within the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Slovenian Statistics became part of the federal state authority.

In 1956, the Programme of Statistical Surveys was for the first time defined for Slovenia by a national, i.e. Slovenian law. In those times, the Statistical Office played the leading role in developing the Central Population Register (1970), the Register of Business Subjects and Their Constituent Parts (1976) and the Register of Territorial Units (1981).

In 1981, the Social Information System Act in Slovenia offered the opportunity to start building registers with uniform identification numbers for administrative as well as for statistical purposes.

### National statistics in the independent Slovenia

In 1991, the Slovenian Statistical Office operated within the Ministry for Planning. In 1992, the Slovenian Statistical Office became member of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) which in the same year adopted the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. This largely contributed to the process of preparing new legislation in the field of national statistics in Slovenia.

In 1994, the Common Declaration of Statistical Co-operation between SORS and the Statistical Office of the European Communities - Eurostat was signed, enabling official participation of the Slovenes in European statistical system.

In 1995, the Slovenian Parliament adopted the National Statistics Act, with which the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SORS) became a professionally independent government service. It introduced vital provisions on national statistics (e.g. mission, the Statistical Council of the Republic of Slovenia and Statistical Advisory Committees, independence, confidentiality, dissemination, obligation for reporting units, access to administrative sources at micro level with ID numbers, and the rules on budgeting).

### Slovenian national statistics as part of the European Statistical System

In 1998 with the Accession Partnership Agreement and Screening of the statistical Acquis Communautaire, the Slovenian National Statistics committed itself to achieve full compliance with the EU legislation in the field of statistics by 2002 at the latest. As part of that process, Amendments and Supplements to the National Statistics Act were adopted in 2001 in order to allow the preparation and adoption of the Programmes of Statistical Surveys to be more flexible, to improve statistical confidentiality, to deepen the independence of the institution (SORS) and to clearly define the role of authorised producers of statistics.

In June 2003 the Government of the Republic of Slovenia established that its national statistics is fully prepared for the accession of Slovenia to the EU.

On 1 May 2004 Slovenian national statistics became part of the European statistical system. This has facilitated her in exerting influence – via Working Groups and Sectoral Groups and the SPC at the European Commission and Working Groups at the Council – when preparing the Acquis Communautaire of the EU.

## THE SLOVENIAN NATIONAL STATISTICS

National statistics is a professionally independent activity of performing statistical surveys. SORS is the main producer and coordinator of the activity. In the implementation of Programmes of Statistical Surveys, other authorized producers, determined by the medium-term programmes, are also of vital importance. In the medium-term period 2003-2007, the activity of national statistics in determined fields of statistics is being carrying out by SORS as well as by:

- Bank of Slovenia (balance of payments, financial and monetary statistics),
- Ministry of Finance (general government deficit and debt, public finance statistics),
- Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public and Legal Records and Services – AJPES (partly economic statistics),
- Institute of Public Health (health statistics),
- Pension and Disability Insurance Institute (pension statistics),
- Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia (social security statistics) and
- Employment Service of Slovenia (partly employment and unemployment statistics).



The National Statistics Act demands that the authorised producers of national statistics organise statistical activities separately from other activities and fully respect the fundamental principles of official statistics, especially that of statistical confidentiality.

## THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF THE SLOVENIAN NATIONAL STATISTICS



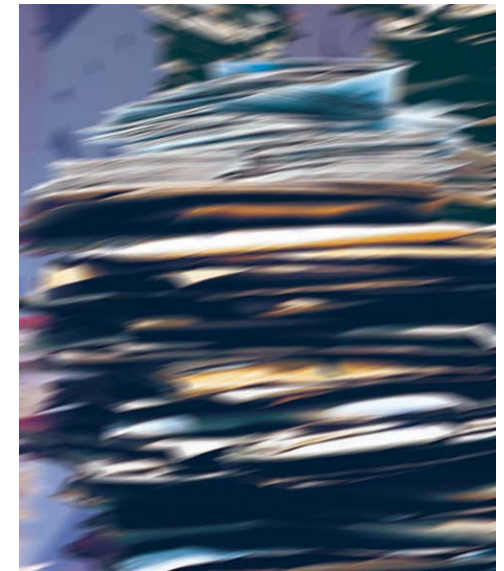
The legal framework of the Slovenian national statistics is one of the most modern ones. It has been prepared in line with the basic principles of official statistics and also the best practices in world statistics, especially those in the Nordic countries where similar register-based statistics has been developed.

### The principal legislation

- National Statistics Act (OJ RS 45/1995, 9/2001)
- Annual Programme of Statistical Surveys 2004 (OJ RS 7/2004)
- Medium-term Programme of Statistical Surveys 2003-2007 (OJ RS 10/2003)

The National Statistics Act determines:

- basic principles of national statistics,
- organisation and position of performing activities of national statistics,
- programming of statistical surveys,
- methodological bases of statistical surveys,
- obligation of institutions keeping registers and data collections,
- data collection,
- data processing and storage,
- data protection, use and transmission,
- international statistical co-operation.







## Censuses

The National Statistics Act provides that in case of very large surveys like censuses, special acts be adopted.

Two such latest acts were:

- 2000 Census of Agricultural Holdings Act (OJ RS 99/1999)
- Census of Population, Households and Housing in the Republic of Slovenia in 2001 Act (OJ RS 66/2000, 26/2001)

Censuses focus on the entire target population. This enables presentation of statistical data at the lowest levels of classifications (territorial ones, socio-economic ones, etc.)

Censuses are extremely demanding in view of their organization and financing, therefore they are carried out occasionally, i.e. after longer periods of time.





## Standard classifications

Use of standard classifications in administrative databases is obligatory and influences the quality and coherence of data in administrative records. Such data represent an excellent source for satisfying the requirements of implementing national statistics and her international comparability.

Standard classifications are adopted by the Government in the form of Decrees. Valid Decrees from this field are:

- Decree on the Introduction and Use of the Standard Classification of Institutional Sectors (OJ RS 56/1998)
- Decree on the Standard Classification of Territorial Units (OJ RS 28/2000)
- Decree on the Introduction and Use of the Standard Classification of Occupations (OJ RS 28/1997, 26/2000)
- Decree on the Introduction and Use of the Classification of Products by Activity (OJ RS 70/2000)
- Decree on the Introduction and Use of the Standard Classification of Activities (OJ RS 2/2002)
- Decree on the Introduction and Use of the Classification of Types of Constructions and Determination of Constructions of National Importance (OJ RS 33/2003).

Besides classifications which are enforced by governmental Decrees, national statistics makes use of several other classifications which are determined to be used as statistical standards.

Better transparency and usage of classifications have been provided by SORS when SORS has developed a technical solution in the classification server named KLASJE, which is accessible via the Internet: [www.stat.si/classifications](http://www.stat.si/classifications)



## GOVERNANCE IN THE SLOVENIAN NATIONAL STATISTICS

**Relationship between SORS and authorized producers of national statistics**

The National Statistics Act defines the role and co-operation of SORS with the authorised producers of activities of national statistics concerning:

- the organisation, preparation, implementation and also reporting on activities on the Programmes of Statistical Surveys; respect of the fundamental principles of official statistics; data dissemination and international co-operation.

**The Statistical Council of the Republic of Slovenia and the Statistical Advisory Committees**

The Statistical Council is a professional methodological advisory body for strategic and development questions of national statistics and the highest representative of users and the professional public. Eventhough its role is of advisory nature, it has to be very much respected due to the high authority of its members. These are representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, the National Council, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, the Bank of Slovenia, employers and employees, the judiciary, statistical experts and representatives from SORS. The current President of the Statistical Council is a member of the Slovenian Parliament, Mr. Rudolf Moge. The Director-General of SORS cannot be President of the Statistical Council.

The main tasks of the Statistical Council are: to discuss and adopt opinions on the Medium-term and

Annual Programmes of Statistical Surveys and their implementation; to discuss proposals of acts and other regulations; to propose the methodological bases, rationalization and modernization of statistical surveys; to provide initiatives and proposals for international statistical co-operation; and to propose classifications which shall be used as national standards. To obtain more information on the Statistical Council of the Republic of Slovenia please see: [www.stat.si/council](http://www.stat.si/council)

SORS has established Statistical Advisory Committees for individual fields of national statistics. These have a long tradition in the national statistics in Slovenia since they had been established long before they were formally introduced by the National Statistics Act in 1995. Their work has a significant impact on the development of national statistics in Slovenia at expert level



and on the co-operation of institutions in common efforts to provide quality, timely and relevant statistics.

Currently there are 26 Statistical Advisory Committees for different fields of statistics, comprising 412 outside members and 98 members from SORS. The members of the Statistical Advisory Committees are appointed by the heads of individual institutions upon the request of SORS.

The President of a Statistical Advisory Committee is always the person from other institution, while the Vice-president and the Secretary are usually members from SORS.

To obtain more information on the Statistical Advisory Committee of the Republic of Slovenia please see: [www.stat.si/sac](http://www.stat.si/sac)

## Participation of SORS in the work of the Slovenian Government

The Director-General of SORS is a regular member of the Committee of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Economy. The main purpose of such cooperation in the said Committee and in other bodies of the Government is to discuss the future needs of the data users, which arise from the proposed national legislation.



Proposals of legal acts that are prepared by Ministries and Governmental services are namely not always readily available to SORS in draft form before the time when the governmental procedure has officially started. Therefore this cooperation in governmental bodies is vital and useful for timely understanding of the statistical consequences and adequate statistical support to the decisions of the Government.

### Linkage of national and international needs with Statistical Programmes and determination of priority tasks

Programmes of Statistical Surveys are documents describing statistical requirements for national and international needs.



Programmes are medium-term ones (adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia upon the proposal of SORS and usually valid for the period of five years) and annual ones (determined by the Director-General of SORS in consent with authorized producers of national statistics).

The Medium-term Programme of Statistical Surveys determines certain long-term tasks, with which the Slovenian national statistics covers the national requirements for data, adopted in strategies and national programmes, and other general needs of the statistical data users and international obligations.

Besides rationalization and technological modernization of organizational and methodological tasks, the limited sources of financing demand that a selection of the priority tasks be made – and even of those tasks that can be discontinued. Implementation of the statistical Acquis Communautaire of the EU is a priority task of the Slovenian national statistics.

National statistics has certain influence on the shaping of the statistical legislation of the EU via Working Groups /Sectoral groups and the Statistical Programme Committee at the European Commission and Working Groups at the Council.



## Reporting on the activity of national statistics in Slovenia

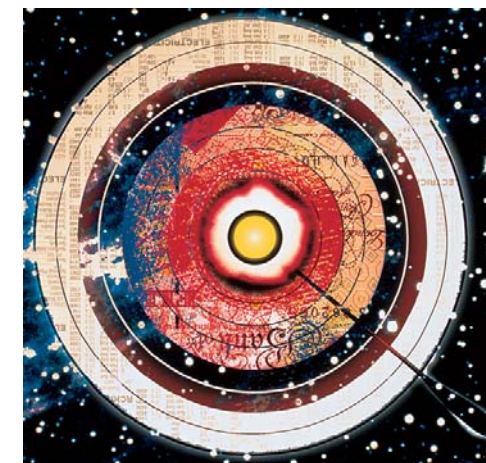
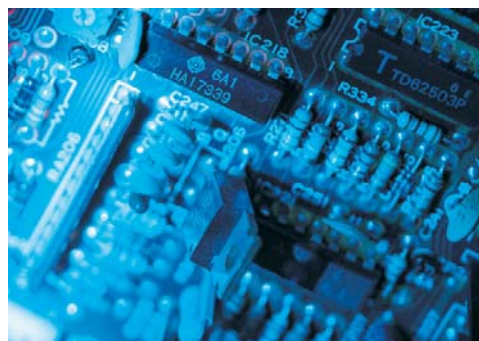
In 2002 the Report on the Execution of the Programme of Statistical Surveys for 2001 was prepared for the first time. It concentrated on the entire statistical system and was linked to the Programme of Statistical Surveys in a very transparent and user-friendly way.

Annual Reports and also Interim Reports submitted upon the third year of implementation of the Medium-term Programme of Statistical Surveys are discussed by the Statistical Council of the Republic of Slovenia. At the end of the period, covered by the Medium-term Programme of Statistical Surveys, the Report on the Execution of the Medium-term Programme is submitted to the Government of the Republic of Slovenia.

The said Reports are accessible on:  
[www.stat.si/programs](http://www.stat.si/programs)

## Register-oriented statistics

In close co-operation with the Nordic countries SORS has during the last 30 years been working on the development of the register-based statistical environment which is based on registers, especially on building infrastructural administrative registers and uniform identification numbers (personal identification number, business identification number, centroid). Even at present SORS plays an important role in the development projects in the field of administrative records. The possibility to influence on the introduction of statistical classifications as a national standard, preservation of uniform identifications, giving proposals to methodological bases and access of the subjects of national statistics to administrative records at micro level remain the priority long-term objectives of the Slovenian national statistics also in the medium term period 2003-2007.



SORS has developed the basic administrative registers and then transferred them to the Slovenian administrative authorities. Following the transfer of the Register of Territorial Units (RTU) to the Geodesic Administration of the Republic of Slovenia in 1995, the Central Population Register (CRP) was transferred to the Ministry of the Interior in 1998. In 2002, the Business Register of Slovenia was the last one that was transferred by SORS to the Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public and Legal Records and Services.



## The fundamental principles of official statistics

The National Statistics Act sets down the following fundamental principles:

- expert (professional) and institutional independence,
- statistical confidentiality,
- availability and clarity of information,
- international comparability,
- transparency of methodological bases,
- rational use of sources.



In its work the Slovenian national statistics respects not only the clearly defined legal principles, but also other principles that are adopted in the international statistical community, such as:

- relevance of statistical concepts for users,
- accuracy,
- timeliness and punctuality, coherence of disseminated statistical data,
- completeness of statistical capture of phenomena.

## Mission

National statistics provides to public administration bodies and organizations, the economy and the public data on the status and trends in the economic, demographic and social fields, as well as in the field of environment and natural resources. These data must be of adequate quality, timely and comparable in time, space and internationally.

Data for national needs and international dissemination are provided at minimal costs.

By respecting statistical confidentiality the users' trust is strengthened and by constant education and training the professional independence is built.

The keywords of the mission of SORS, such as statistical confidentiality, users' trust and professional independence describe the fundamental principles of official statistics, the respect of which enables provision of quality statistical data for the needs of users in Slovenia and for those of international users.



## Vision

Modern approach to total quality management, competent staff, up-to-date harmonization with the international environment, user-orientation, modernization of processes and improvement of working conditions shall also in future remain the most important activities which enable the Slovenian statistical system to complete its mission.

## Values

The values of SORS as well as those of the entire statistical system in Slovenia are being developed in the conditions of growing importance of official statistical data. The requests and importance of users are increasing, especially in case of key users in the EU (such as the European Central Bank and the European Commission) and in case of the national institutions, such as the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, the Bank of Slovenia and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, key enterprises, the research community and the general public.

Trust of all participants (data users, data providers and producers of statistics) is becoming essential. Independence of the institution and profession is a guaranty that this trust shall be maintained. Knowledge, experience, team work, respect for privacy, quality and user-friendliness towards data users are values that can importantly influence the satisfaction of data users and the staff of SORS.



## Building of trust and confidence of data users and data respondents

The trust and confidence of users and data providers are built through the strict application of statistical data protection principles and rules, including those on statistical confidentiality. Data collected with statistical reports can be used for statistical purposes only and data shown as aggregates, so that it is not possible to identify individual reporting units. Micro data with identifications obtained from reporting units or from administrative sources can be used for statistical purposes only. Anonymised micro data can be used for research purposes. For the purpose of surveying, the registered researchers and research institutions can obtain the name, address, year of birth, sex and occupation of an individual.

In this way SORS as a legally authorized institution for linking data at micro level prepares most samples for researchers in Slovenia. The Personal Data Protection Act (1999, 2001) very strictly defines the conditions for the treatment of personal data. Rules on technical, organizational as well as IT matters in handling the data are recorded in the internal Rules of Procedure of the institutions carrying out statistical surveys.

The Statistical Programmes (annual and medium-term ones), which are published in the Official Journal (OJ) of the Republic of Slovenia, present a transparent catalogue of all the requests for statistical data. Modern ICT offers the possibility of integrated and standardized approach to data collection (B2G and C2G), which has to be made the best use of. Reporting is not obligatory for all the statistical surveys stated in the Programme, as SORS has defined the criteria when reporting can be voluntary.

## The authority to collect data

For rational implementation of the activities of national statistics, SORS and authorized producers make use of individual data with identification from various official and other administrative databases of the public and private sector, kept on the basis of law or written consent of the individual. All data from public and private reporting units are free of charge. Institutions included in the Slovenian statistical system have the right to link the data from administrative databases and surveys to statistical registers and use them for statistical and research purposes.

When collecting data directly from reporting units, these must be acquainted with the:

- purpose, scope and mode of data collection,
- obligation (not) to report,
- rights and obligations of data collectors,

- meaning and contents of registry identifiers and other identification numbers,
- assurance on statistical confidentiality of collected data,
- possibility to obtain additional information on the purpose and importance of the statistical survey.

## International co-operation in the field of statistics

The international co-operation has started unofficially at the end of the 1960s when Slovenia took part in the international projects sponsored by OECD: the one on technical cooperation - TACO and the one on public management - PUMA. At that time all international contacts were held via the Federal Statistical Office in Belgrade. Participation in the projects has offered to SORS the opportunity to start co-



operation with the Nordic countries and Germany. In 1992 SORS was for the first time after having gained independence even officially included in the international statistical community in the Conference of European Statisticians.

At present the co-operation is held with the UN Statistical Commission, OECD and IMF; there

is regional co-operation (cross-border and Western Balkans) and bilateral co-operation (with the Nordic countries, the Netherlands, Germany).

The most important and the most extensive co-operation is held within the European Statistical System, where most of the co-operation has been organized by Eurostat and the European Central Bank. The tasks determined by the EU legislation and gentlemen's agreements are a constituent part of the statistical programmes. Problems that may appear in the future are linked to the probable increase in demands for timeliness and some new data collection directly for the EU. SORS and Slovenian national statistics expect that adequate and continued financial and human resource support shall be granted also in the future.



## THE STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

In the implementation of its activity, SORS is directly responsible to the Prime Minister. The Director-General of SORS is appointed by the Government for a period of five years with the possibility to be re-elected. SORS participates in budget discussions as an independent governmental institution.



In July 2004 SORS had 392 employees. Their average age was 43 years and 10% of them were younger than 30 years. Over a half (54%) of staff had university education. Women represent 68% of all employees; in case of top management (i.e. 13 employees) women accounted for 62% and in case of middle management (i.e. 26 employees) women accounted for 85%. In 2003 labour costs represented 71% of total costs. The national budget

represents 94 % of the funding, EU funds 1% and the revenue from services and sale of publications accounts for less than 1% of all income.

SORS is a production process oriented institution. Statistical data production is organised via the input division (Collection and Processing of Statistical Data and keeping of Production Databases) and seven subject matter divisions (General Methodology and Standards; National Accounts; Prices and Satellite Accounts Statistics; Manufacturing and Services Statistics; Structural Statistics, Classifications and Enterprise Register; Demography and Social Statistics; Environment and Natural Resources Statistics, Regional Statistics and Geomatics).

The unit for Dissemination of Statistical Data and Methods works on the dissemination of the statistical data and information not only via the Internet and by editing publications in printed form, but also in direct contacts with users. Thus good relations are kept with the users, including the media.

The unit for International Co-operation and European Affairs is in charge for the co-operation of SORS with EU institutions, bilateral cooperation and the management and coordination of international projects.

The unit for EDP Infrastructure and Technology (ICT) provides for the development and maintainance of information systems within SORS.

The units for: Legal and Human Resource Matters; General Matters and Public Tenders; Financial Operations perform expert-technical tasks for SORS.







## Independence of SORS and the authority of Director-General

The National Statistics Act clearly determines that in professional and methodological issues related to operations of national statistics the Director-General of SORS is autonomous. Nobody is entitled to give to the Director-General of SORS binding instructions, in particular in relation to the:

- contents of methodological bases of statistical surveys;
- extent and kind of data which shall be collected, processed and disseminated on the basis of the Programmes of Statistical Surveys;
- preliminary dissemination of the results.

## The most important tasks of SORS as a co-ordinator of the activities of national statistics in Slovenia and internationally

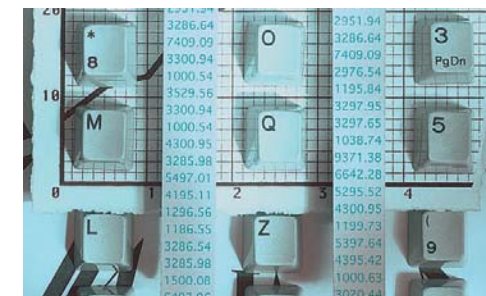
Coordination and linkage of the statistical system, international co-operation, setting of standards (methodological ones, classifications, administrative databases), anticipation of users' needs, collection of users' requirements and statements on their satisfaction with the statistical outputs, collection, processing and dissemination of statistical data, R&D in the field of official statistics and, lastly stated but not of least importance, very strong care for data confidentiality are the most important tasks defined by the National Statistics Act that are carried out via the Programmes of Statistical Surveys.

Apart from the implementation of these tasks, the National Statistics Act determines that SORS also has to provide for regular interpretation of collected and processed data and also respond in the events of

unintentional or deliberate wrongful use of statistics.

Co-operation of SORS with the Statistical Society of Slovenia and the R&D sphere has had a long tradition in Slovenia in developing statistical literacy, expanding the statistical culture and training of its users in the field of statistics. It has crucial influence on the quality of the statistical production and use of statistical data.

The Office shall ensure to the users that the conditions for regular interpretation of collected and processed data are fulfilled. It shall also respond in the events of unintentional or deliberate wrongful use of statistics, which could influence the public opinion.



## Planning and reporting

The Medium-term (5-year) and Annual Programmes of Statistical Surveys, which are proposed by SORS, are followed by detailed work plans for every activity in SORS. All employees are obliged to prepare monthly reports on their tasks.

Yearly reports on the execution of the Annual Programme of Statistical Surveys, which SORS submits to the Statistical Council, and Interim and Final Reports on the Execution of the Medium-term Programme of Statistical Surveys, which SORS submits to the Statistical Council and the Government, are important documents for the users and data providers as well as management tools for the entire system.



## The policy of dissemination of statistical data and related services

SORS has set the main strategic objectives: equal access to statistical results, professionalism and transparency of methodological solutions, user friendliness and access to statistical information on the Internet. In line with the users' needs, almost all SORS's publications are prepared bilingually in the Slovene language and in English.



International dissemination is one of the basic tasks of SORS eventhough different bodies within EU Commission as well as other international organizations address their requests for statistical data also to other institutions in Slovenia. SORS plays the role of a coordinator, yet is not always successful in performing this task.

Demands for timeliness of short-term statistics have been growing in economic statistics as well as in other fields. Timely response from reporting units, use of already collected data in administrative and other sources and improvement of the processes within SORS are some of the conditions in line with which we meet those requirements.

An advance release calendar related to the publication of statistical data and publications is being prepared by SORS for a week in advance. It is available on the Internet. In future advance release calendars shall be available for the entire year and it shall be part of the implementation of the Programmes of Statistical Surveys.



Users are divided into seven groups: part of the public sector, jurisdiction, business subjects, science incl. R&D, the general public, media and foreign users. With a more detailed breakdown of these segments into 40 sub segments of users and by monitoring the needs and requests of the users for data, SORS shall in future prepare adequate approaches to individual categories of users. Thus SORS is planning that within its training program there shall be more training for users and since 2004 their satisfaction with the quality of data and services is being measured.

## Relations with the media

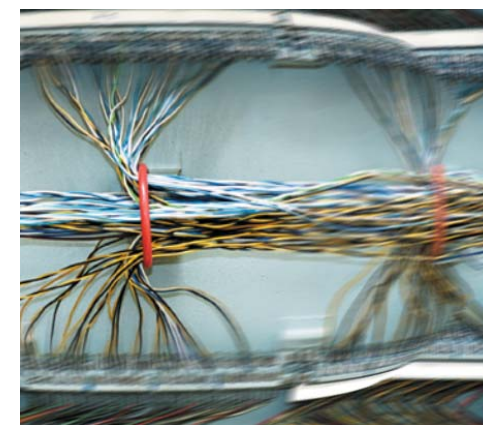


In order to meet the needs of the general public and build the trust and confidence in the statistical system, SORS has developed a good policy on relations with the media. Regular monthly press conferences are being organised and also those held at special occasions.

Press conferences are attended by the journalists and some users from Ministries and others. The first results of statistics are regularly published in daily newspapers. Press conferences offer an opportunity when statistical data are represented and also supplemented by methodological explanations.

With their reporting, media build the trust of users towards national statistics.

Media have, with their extremely positive orientation, largely contributed not only to the promotion and successful implementation of the 2002 Census of Population, Households and Housing in Slovenia but also to the informing of the public of these results.



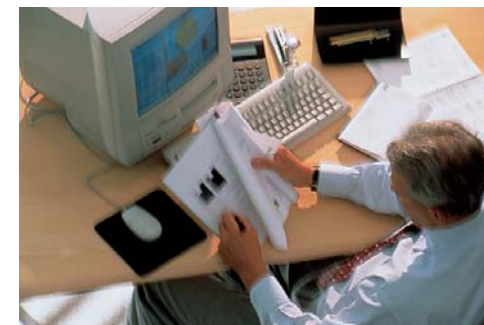
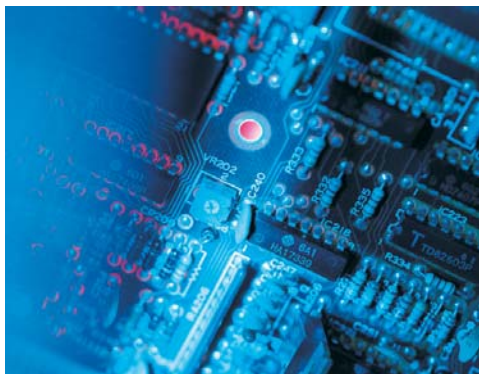


## The policy on quality

In the past, quality in national statistics was dealt with mostly in connection with data accuracy in the narrow sense.

In the recent years, national statistical systems in developed countries have been focusing their attention on the introduction of total quality management. SORS has already prepared a strategic policy in this area as well.

Thus, recommendations of the EU were taken into account, especially the recommendations of the Leadership Group on Quality. SORS treats the introduction of the quality policy as a corporate culture with four basic quality pillars, which are linked by modern management methods.



In this view all four quality pillars are determined and broken down in the Medium-term Programme of Statistical Surveys 2003-2007:

- data users and data providers,
- human resource development in national statistics,
- quality of statistical products and related services,
- process orientation and process management.

## THE SLOVENIAN NATIONAL STATISTICS FROM 2003 TO 2007

### Background

The development of the Slovenian National Statistics in 2003-2007 has been planned in line with the following assumptions:

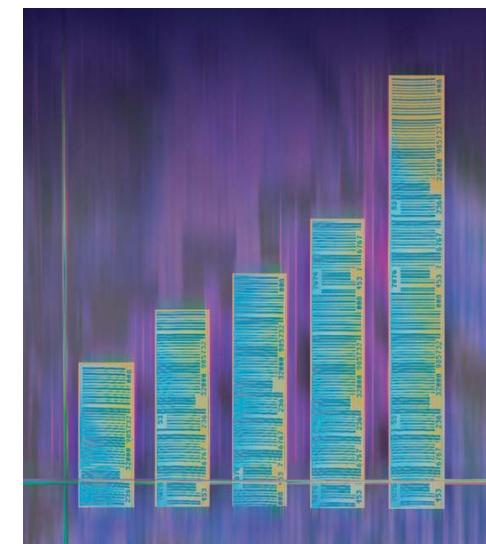
- EU membership and the removal of economic borders,
- statistical support to the new regionalisation in Slovenia,
- introduction of the Euro.

### Priority tasks

In order to meet the users' needs mainly focused on the enlargement process in the EU and producing national statistics as an EU Member State, certain main priorities have been proposed in the Draft Medium-term Programme of Statistical Surveys 2003-2007.

The main priorities are:

- preparation and co-ordination of the preparation of the structural indicators and other indicators (e.g. short-term indicators, sustainable development indicators, indicators of social cohesion, regional data),
- further development of the system, improvements in the quality and transparency of national accounts,
- structural business statistics,
- project Intrastat - trade between EU Member States,
- development and technical modernization of the mode of data dissemination, incl. the dissemination of the results of the 2002 Census of Population, Households and Housing,
- environment statistics and environment accounts,
- agriculture statistics,
- statistics of governmental services,

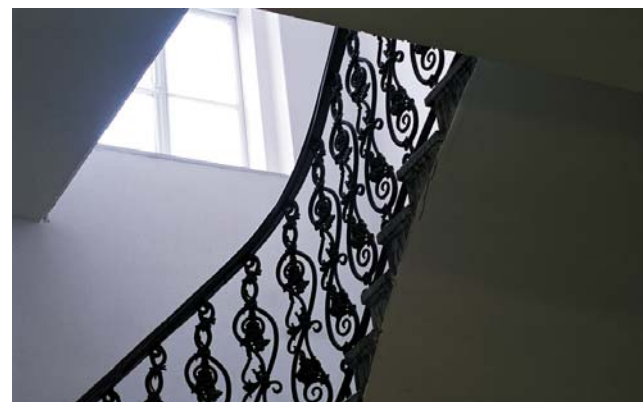


- information society statistics,
- life-long learning statistics,
- health statistics,
- institutional strengthening of the statistical system, incl. strengthening of the role of the Statistical Council of the Republic of Slovenia and the Statistical Advisory Committees.

## Long-term strategic objectives

The objective of the Slovenian national statistics in line with which it developed its main strategic objectives while taking into account the best practices in EU Member States in the field of statistics, are as follows:

- improvement of the quality (of statistical data and services, of human resources, processes, management),
- provision of EU and international compliance,
- maintenance of independence of SORS as well as of the entire statistical system,
- alliance with data users and data providers,
- development of the methods, knowledge and tools for data capture and utilising very large but “imperfect” data sets, esp. e-data sources,
- better knowledge on data sources,
- further improvement of the general methodology and statistical production processes (e. g. statistical registers, rules on data disclosure, organisational and process rules),
- enlarged use and certification of non-official statistical sources,
- co-operation and exploring the e-government opportunities.



## Some conditions required for operation of the Slovenian national statistics which shall facilitate long-term successfulness:

- further development of register orientation,
- active co-operation in the European statistical system,
- division of labour with authorized producers of activities of national statistics and other institutions in Slovenia (Customs Administration, Tax Administration, Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia, ministries, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia and others),
- timely inclusion of national statistics in preparation of legal acts,
- strengthening of the role of the Statistical Council of the Republic of Slovenia and of the Statistical Advisory Committees,
- total quality management in SORS and in the entire system,
- training of the SORS personnel and users,
- inclusion of experts from the fields of science and R&D in development projects and as assistance in implementation of training activities in SORS,
- improvement of working conditions and provision of required sources for operation.