



20  **statistični  
statistical  
dnevi  
days**

# Twenty Statistical Days in Radenci:

## Development of Statistics and Slovenia, 1987–2010

Ljubljana 2011



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and Slovenia, 1987–2010

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## **Twenty Statistical Days in Radenci: Development of Statistics and Slovenia, 1987–2010**

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## Foreword

*In November 2010 the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia and the Statistical Society of Slovenia prepared the 20<sup>th</sup> Statistical Days conference in Radenci. The time from the first conference in 1987 to the 20<sup>th</sup> in 2010 was for official statistics in Slovenia very dynamic, active and full of changes, which have completely redesigned its image: from local republic statistical service subject to the Federal Statistical Office in Belgrade to an independent national statistical service which is part of the European Statistical System, professionally and institutionally independent and opened to the world and the national environment.*

*In this process of transformation of official statistics, Statistical Days played a very important role. Our professional gatherings have always been the forum where representatives of official statistics from Slovenia and abroad could in dialogue with colleagues from the academic community and other institutions as well as with users and data providers verify their ideas and achievements, obtain new ideas and initiatives and new knowledge. Statistical Days have enriched us professionally and enabled more humane and friendly professional cooperation.*

*With the publication “Twenty Statistical Days in Radenci” we try to present the importance of these conferences for official statistics in Slovenia in three ways: by an expert overview and analysis of contents, by documentary material (lists of all papers, round tables and presentations, including photo documentation) and by memories, anecdotes and views of some of the conference participants.*

*Of course, it is not possible to present very extensive documentary material of more than 8,000 pages in a single publication, which is why we are very pleased that we managed to make the “base of knowledge from Radenci” with more than 900 papers in conference proceedings and other documents of 20 conferences more available to statisticians, researchers and the general public by including them into the cooperative online bibliographic base COBIB. I believe that this will contribute to better knowledge of official statistics and further research and development of this area.*

*I would like to thank everyone who participated in collecting and editing this material and in writing and producing this publication.*

*On this occasion, I would also like to thank all participants from Slovenia and abroad, organisers, especially the Statistical Society of Slovenia, kind hosts at Hotel Radin and especially all authors of papers and everyone who participated in discussions, round tables and presentations at all our statistical conferences. It is due to your commitment and professionalism that we are able to celebrate 20 years of Statistical Days.*



Irena Križman  
Director-General

Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

Ljubljana, October 2011



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## Abbreviations

AJPES	Agencija of the Republic of Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Related Services	IMAD	Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development
AMELI	Advanced Methodology for European Laeken Indicators	IMF	International Monetary Fund
AMRADS	Accompanying Measures to R&D in Statistics	ISCO	International Standard Classification of Occupation
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	JRC	Joint Research Center
BLUE-ETS	BLUE Enterprise and Trade statistics	NACE	Nomenclature des activités économiques dans la Communauté européenne
CEIES	Comité Consultatif Européen de l' Information Statistiques dans les domaines Economiques et Sociales	NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics
CRP	Central Population Register	OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
ECB	European Central Bank	PECO	Pays d'Europe Centrales et Occidentales
EDA	Exploratory data analysis	PEEI	Principal European Economic Indicators
EDISENT	Electronic Data Interchange between Statistics and Enterprises	PPP	Purchasing Power Parities
EMU	Economic and Monetary Union	PRS	Business Register of Slovenia
ERO	Register of Establishments	RISQ	Representativity Indicators for Survey Quality
ESA	European System of Accounts	ROS	Register of Organisations and Associations
ESAC	European Statistical Advisory Committee	SAJPI	Common Administrative Kernel of Linked Identifiers
ESS	European Statistical System	SAM	Social Accounting Matrix
ESSPROS	European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics	SILC	Survey on Income and Living Conditions
EU	European Union	SKTE	Statistical Classifications of Territorial Units
FATS	Foreign Affiliates Trade in Services	SNA	System of National Accounts
GIS	Geographic Information System	TQM	Total Quality Management
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies	UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



## How it all began ...

### Introduction



In November 2010 statisticians from Slovenia and abroad gathered for the twentieth time in Radenci. Almost a quarter of a century has passed since experts of the then Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Statistics and colleagues from the University of Ljubljana, who cooperated in the Statistical Society of Slovenia, got an idea to take more time for a serious discussion on the effects of the Yugoslav economic crisis on statistics than allowed by everyday commitments. We selected the hospitable health resort of Radenci, which was at that time for most of us almost at the end of the world, since travelling from Ljubljana on bad and crowded roads usually took at least four hours. But the distance to Radenci was the guarantee that during the conference participants will not be burdened by regular commitments, leaving the conference hall and running from a meeting to a meeting. And spare time after the official programme could be used wisely for making professional contacts, for discussions and for socialising; and last but not least, to do something useful for one's health. How we were spending spare time in Radenci, how the conference was organised, and what is it that makes us select Radenci as a venue for our statistical conferences over and over again will probably be clear to you when you read the memories of participants, when you see the photos and when you browse other parts of this chronicle.

This part of the chronicle is actually an attempt to make a *professional inventory* of everything that statistical conferences in Radenci brought to the statistical profession in Slovenia and abroad; perhaps, slightly more ambitiously, to examine whether the importance of these conferences reaches beyond statistics. Statistics, of course, means many things. At Statistical Days *official or national statistics* was at the forefront. This is statistics that provides to the government, enterprises, individuals and the media high-quality statistical data on the most important status and trends in the society. The content of this overview is thus official (national) statistics, as official (national) statistics was the central theme of statistical conferences in Radenci entitled "Statistical Days".

As regards selecting the theme of the first conference in Radenci, there was absolutely no dilemma: in the second half of the 1980s, when the economic crisis started to become worse, hyperinflation was the most destructive and obvious manifestation of this crisis, which also distorted national statistics data. From the very beginning the conferences in Radenci were designed so that they enable and encourage the *dialogue between producers, users of statistical data and data providers*, i.e. between statisticians from national statistical offices and other institutions authorised for collecting statistical data, researchers, analysts, the university, experts from abroad, representatives of enterprises and others who are in any way interested in statistics. The first Statistical Days in Radenci had a very wide professional response, which was a proper incentive for us to organise the next meeting, which took place in the early summer of 1989.

The breakup of Yugoslavia, the extreme situation, problems with travelling and the amount of work at the start of transition were the main reasons for not organising conferences between 1990 and 1992. In

independent Slovenia the first conference was organised in 1993, again in late autumn. It turned out that autumn is not at all a bad time to organise such an event as this is the period of relative calm and the opportunity to focus on the statistical profession for a few days. Since then we have been meeting in Radenci every year.

How do we select the themes for our conferences in Radenci? The first proposals of the central theme of the next conference are collected already during the previous conference, whereas the final decision about the theme of the next conference is taken after professional discussions by the management of the Statistical Office in cooperation with the members of the Programme Committee and the Statistical Society of Slovenia. The themes of each statistical conference were always carefully selected and focused on stimulating professional discussions on and searching solutions to – *from a statistical point of view* – the most topical, relevant, social issues that occupied the entire country.

Today Statistical Days in Radenci are an example of a high-quality professional conference and a pleasant social event not only for us locals but also for statisticians and other experts from abroad. I would say that Statistical Days in Radenci are one of the most recognised features of Slovene statistics.

### Some telling facts about Statistical Days

The central organisational scheme of Statistical Days has not been changed. The conferences – which last for two and a half days and are usually attended by 150-200 people – have always been organised by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia and the Statistical Society of Slovenia. The principal characteristic of the conference is a large share of active participants, since about 40% of all participants prepare papers and presentations. Until 2006 the



## How it all began ...

organisers published full papers in a printed proceedings volume; in 2007 the paper versions were replaced by web versions of full papers and a paper version of abstracts.

Statistical Days are also characterised by the participation of distinguished foreign and Slovene guests. The organisers are therefore justly proud that they have been able to provide participation of the most competent foreign and Slovene experts, that three out of four Directors-General of Eurostat in the 1987–2010 period were active participants at the conferences as were most of the directors of national statistical offices from Europe and some other parts of the world (e.g. Australia) and that Statistical Days were regularly attended by representatives of international institutions such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the European Central Bank (ECB), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), etc.

What are the achievements of the 19 Statistical Days organised so far in Radenci? Achievements in terms of contents are presented in the extensive central part of this publication, so let us take a look at those achievements that can be presented in figures:

Nineteen Statistical Days in the 1987–2009 period are characterised by:

- 8,091 pages of text in proceedings volumes
- 884 papers published (papers without documented entries either in the printed proceedings volume or online were not taken into account)
- 1,203 authors
- 40 round tables (the first one was organised in 1994, and since 1996 they have been a regular feature of the conferences)
- 63 poster sessions (they became part of the conference in 1997)

Statistical Days have two peaks. The first one was in 1994 when the declaration on cooperation between Slovene statistics and Eurostat was signed. At the 1994 conference many problems and tasks were presented that needed to be implemented in the field of statistics by Slovenia before it could become a member of the European Union. The second peak was

in 2000 at the jubilee tenth Statistical Days with many foreign guests and a broad theme of cooperation for better network of statistics in Europe. The graphical overview of conferences clearly shows three stages in the dynamics of Statistical Days, which reflect the development of official statistics in Slovenia in this period: rapid growth by 2000, when

### Overview of Statistical Days, Radenci, 1987–2010

Year	Title	President of the Programme Committee
1987	Statistics and Inflation	No president
1989	Role of Statistics in Social Development	Anuška Ferligoj
1993	Statistics and Records for the Needs of an Open Market Economy	No president
1994	Slovenia, Statistics, European Union	Nina Prešern
1995	Statistics of Labour, Working and Living Conditions	Lea Bregar
1996	Economy, Slovenia, European Union	Janez Potočnik
1997	New Statistical Findings, Financial Statistics, Globalisation	Marko Kranjec
1998	Statistical Support to Accession Negotiations and Structural Funds	Igor Strmšnik
1999	Electronic Commerce and Statistics	Franc Košir
2000	Network of Statistics for Better European Compliance and Quality of Operation	Janez Potočnik
2001	A New Millennium - New Phenomena: Have Statisticians been Able to Understand and Measure Them	Ivan Svetlik
2002	Integration of Statistics in the Information Society	Jožko Čuk
2003	Statistics as a Tool and Source for Users' Knowledge Creation	Dušan Mramor
2004	Statistical Monitoring of Globalisation and Services – a Challenge and Necessity	France Križanič
2005	Communication with Statistical Data Providers and Users and Support for the EMU and the Lisbon Strategy	Jure Zupan
2006	Measurement of the Development Role and Efficiency of the Public Sector and Policies	Janez Šušteršič
2007	Reducing Administrative Burdens of Data Collection in Statistical Surveys	Janez Šušteršič
2008	Intergenerational Solidarity – the Challenge Facing Modern Societies	Janez Šušteršič
2009	The Roles of Statistics, Analyses and Forecasts in Managing the Global Economic Crisis	Anuška Ferligoj
2010	Measuring the Well-Being and the Progress of Society	Tine Stanovnik

## How it all began ...

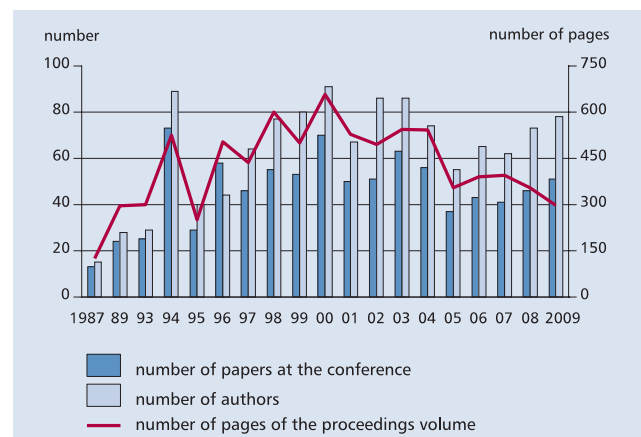
most of the adjustment of Slovene statistics with *acquis communautaire* was done, was followed by a rather stable activity at a relatively high level until Slovenia entered the EU in 2004 and the last period of slight decline to about 40 papers per year.

The content of 20 statistical conferences preserved in proceedings volumes and other documents represents a unique statement of more than 20 years of statistical development and is at the same time a mirror of larger social development. Such a “knowledge database” is a remarkable achievement even in the world and calls for research!

### How did we start to prepare this overview?

The content of 20 statistical conferences can be presented from various aspects: from the aspect of the development of statistical profession in Slovenia and at international level, by more narrowly or widely determined fields of official statistics, by the interdisciplinary character and inclusion of other

### Overview of Statistical Day conferences, Radenci, 1987–2009



branches of statistics and other professional disciplines into the activities of official statistics, by the inter-institutional cooperation, international cooperation, informatisation, etc.

With this overview we wish to present the importance of statistical conferences in Radenci for the *development of national statistics* in Slovenia and to evaluate the possible *wider effects* (on the development of official statistics in the society and on social developments in Slovenia). The overview is prepared chronologically, so as to present as clearly as possible the development of national statistics in Slovenia. The starting point of the overview is the content of several interrelated papers usually covered in a certain conference session. We attempted to evaluate the importance of each such content entity in light of the development of national statistics in Slovenia and/or show its possible wider importance.

The conferences until 1996 and from 2007 on are characterised by the fact that they were clearly structured with the *content of the programme* divided into sessions determined in advance. In the interim (between 1997 and 2006) the main theme of the conferences was supplemented with a session entitled *Development Achievements*. The introduction of this session into the conference programme provided comprehensive information about the progress in other areas that were not included in the central theme of the conference. Due to a very dynamic development of statistics in this period, which included practically every field of statistics, the *Development Achievements* session was usually very extensive and diverse and can not be treated uniformly. If it included several papers related in terms of content, we separated them and treated them together. If, however, these were individual papers that were related to topics

discussed in other conference sessions, we joined them to these specific sessions.

In preparing the overview we used all available printed and Internet sources related to Statistical Days, e.g. proceedings volumes, conference programmes, conclusions, as well as some other sources of information, such as the publication “60 Years of National Statistics in Slovenia”.

In view of the characteristic features of the time when the conferences were held, we divided them into *three periods*.

In the first years (1987–1993) the conferences were more *locally* oriented and reflected specific problems faced by official statistics in the former Yugoslavia and the new Slovenia. In the mid-1990s (1994–2000) the themes reached across Slovene borders, especially into *Europe*. In the last period (2001–2010) problems discussed in Radenci are mostly *global*.

It is clear that the overview could not cover every one of the almost 900 papers in the twenty years of our statistical conferences. A comprehensive documentation of work done is therefore given in annexes with lists of all papers, round tables and presentations at the end of this publication.





The first period:  
1987–2003

## Transition from the old to the new

The first part of the overview includes three conferences that took place in very different social circumstances and were also very different in terms of themes discussed; however, they are linked by the fact that this was a period and these were the conferences at which we – on the basis of experience and development work already made – searched for, discussed and set up the concept of a modern national statistical service in Slovenia.





## In the middle of the crisis and before the breakup of Yugoslavia

The first period (1987–2003) • Transition from the old to the new

### 1<sup>st</sup> conference: 1987 Statistics and Inflation



The first conference in 1987 was marked by the serious economic crisis in the former Yugoslavia, which manifested itself in a head-spinning inflation. The annual inflation rate in Slovenia measured with the growth of retail prices 1987/1986 stood at 178% (Statistical Yearbook 2009, p. 269). Such a high growth of prices – according to professional criteria dubbed hyperinflation – had a number of negative effects on the economy, such as loss of function of the national currency, a drop in productivity, a rise in the share of speculative and socially unproductive activities, redistribution of income and growth of social differences.

Inflation also distorts the picture of the situation in the economy, since traditional methods of data dissemination (including statistical) are no longer satisfactory.

The first Statistical Days conference was held in the form of a plenary session. At the conference 15 authors presented 13 papers; they were mostly statisticians from statistical offices of Yugoslav republics and the Federal Institute for Statistics of Yugoslavia and professors from the University of Ljubljana.

The economic background of inflation and the ways how to master it were presented by Maks Tajnikar. He treated the inflation as a typical macroeconomic problem that can be mastered only by macroeconomic measures. According to Mr Tajnikar, it would therefore

not be reasonable to think that the inflation could be stopped by people employed in enterprises with their short-term decisions about limiting the growth of wages. Inflation is the result of the economic system and the economic policy; without changing them economic agents will not behave anti-inflationary.

The conference identified the most neuralgic areas that hyperinflation causes for statistics. The hottest topic was the impact of the *accounting system* on statistical measurement. With constant adjustments the accounting system tried to mitigate the impact of high inflation, which caused accounting data to be the increasingly less appropriate basis for calculating the then aggregate measure of production the so-called *social product*. As was pointed out by Professor Ivo Lavrač of the Faculty of Economics in his analysis of the impact of inflation on calculating the aggregates, most of the problems were caused by compulsory revalorisation measures, which had a different effect on individual components of aggregate production measure. Due to unrealistic valuation of stocks, the official data on the social product were overestimated.

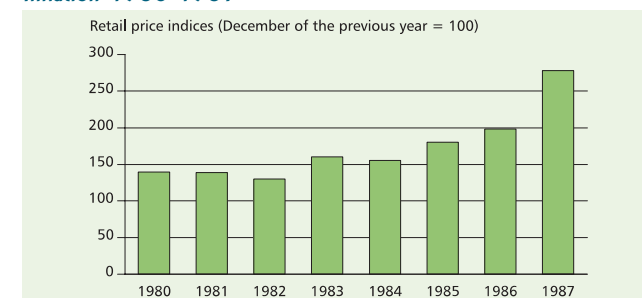
One of the key issues was the question of the *relevance of price indices* on which the so-called revaluation coefficients were based, and which were also used for measuring the inflation rate. Without any expert arguments and analyses, the Federal Institute for Statistics of Yugoslavia defended the relevance of the valid system of price indices, which was at the time one of the rare comprehensive systems of price statistics in socialist states. Every month price indices for agriculture, industrial goods, import and export, wholesale and retail, and living costs were published for the entire country and for the republics. The reliability and applicability of these indices was not questioned. So for the first conference in Radenci a detailed analysis was

prepared of the methodological features of price indices in the Yugoslav statistical practice. The main factors influencing the quality of these indices were identified and the limitations of the price index as the official indicator of the inflation rate were pointed out (L. Bregar).

Several papers discussed the impact of unstable exchange rate of the dinar, the Yugoslav currency, on statistical data on external trade flows and import and export price indices. Professor Jože Mencinger of the Law Faculty pointed out that in the conditions of high inflation it is only reasonable to monitor external trade flows in a foreign currency, even though this brings new problems, which are manifested by unfavourable statistical effects and by the effects of modifying the purchasing power. The selection of the US dollar together with the currency policy of reducing the value of the dollar seemingly improved the external trade balance but at the same time due to a lower purchasing power it also caused problems for domestic producers in purchasing raw materials on the domestic and foreign (European) markets.

Besides, the discussion on the professional aspects of inflation extended to a general discussion on a number of methodological, organisational and institutional problems of the Yugoslav statistical system.

#### Inflation 1980-1987





## 1987 – In the middle of the crisis and before the breakup of Yugoslavia

The first period (1987–2003) • Transition from the old to the new

Statisticians outside the Federal Institute for Statistics strived for *professional independence* and international comparability of statistics, while official statistical circles in the country admitted certain problems brought by the difficult economic situation but did not agree with any departure from the stated orientation of Yugoslav statistics. For example, Professor Miodrag Nikolić of the Faculty of Economics in Belgrade, who was also an advisor at the Federal Institute for Statistics, pointed out as problematic areas of Yugoslav statistics only: investment statistics, services statistics and non-coverage of non-serial production in manufacturing industry.

A specially notable and critical was the discussion by Tomaž Banovec, the then Director of the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Statistics, about the Social Information System Act, which was adopted in 1982. This act stipulated that the programme of statistical

surveys is one of the common bases of the social information system and for achieving the uniformity of this system it foresaw the use of common standards and methodologies. The Act was very slowly implemented in Yugoslavia, but in Slovenia it stimulated a rather rapid development of a register-based statistics and the establishment and standardisation of records. Mr Banovec pointed out that despite the planned decentralisation the monopoly of the Federal Institute for Statistics over the development

and methodological function of national statistics had been kept and pointed out the problem of ignoring international comparability of Yugoslav statistics and the need for the independence of statistics and professional competence in developing national statistics in Yugoslavia.

The conference about statistics and inflation was a unique example in the former Yugoslavia of an open professional dialogue between the users of data and national statistics about the reliability and quality of data. In this dialogue Slovene statisticians presented their ideas about the future development of national statistics.

### Interview

#### Mr Tomaž Banovec,

Director-General  
of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia  
in the 1981–2003 period



Where did the idea to organise the first conference come from? Was public discussion about statistical monitoring dictated by the needs? Did you follow the example of Slovenia's western neighbours?

Inflation in former Yugoslavia was the reason to organise the first conference. As a basic statistical aggregate, inflation was linked with the calculation of the then social product and thus also the basis for monetary flows between the federal units. These units – as is now the case with the European Union – sometimes “window dressed” their data in order to obtain a better position as regards contributions and division of resources. Slovenia's delegates in the Chamber of Republics and Provinces demanded explanations, comparable and correct data for their professional political activity. This was supported by presidents of our executive councils. Inflation as a professional problem was the professional beginning which our colleagues in Belgrade could not prevent. The real reasons were the financial and different position of Slovenia in the federation. The leadership of the Republic of Slovenia was aware of the importance of statistics in a federal state and that the statistical institution must not only implement the common Yugoslav program but also its own one. Furthermore, it has to interpret the methods and products of the federation, have methodological impact on them to be able to control and repeat them. Unfortunately, in this administrative vertical there was no space for our proposals and needs, so we followed the path of social initiative.

At that time we were calculating to so-called “social product” – which was based on the material product system (MPS) – for each federal unit and even for some communes. The social product of Maribor was, for example, larger than the social product of the entire Montenegro. The MPS did not cover a large part of services. Comparability with the System of National Accounts (SNA) was only mathematical. Among all prices only the prices of services were monitored according to the SNA, but production itself was not valued (MPS). Hungarian statistics was already calculating according to both the SNA and the MPS. We did not succeed at formal meetings. Serbian statisticians and academics from Belgrade resisted any change. When with the help of the OECD our experts were visiting other western statistical institutions (Norway, Germany), the idea and initiative matured that we should do this in Yugoslavia. But it was not to be. Everybody was incredibly negative about it. The Yugoslav Statistical Society was in the hands of others. No ideas from the republics were recognised. And later on we had an enormous inflation, and republic and common national measure for inflation. In principle the measure was OK, but its implementation in the MPS and elsewhere was not correct. We decided that due to the strengthening of domestic knowledge and preparation of transition (SNA, EFTA and the European Community) we should organise special conferences called “Statistical Days” via our statistical society. The objectives were not as clear as can be seen and understood today. At that time Yugoslavia had a cooperation agreement with the Community and OECD assistance to this end; but little was done. The Statistics Act of the Republic of Slovenia enforced independent international cooperation. This was very annoying for the federal statistical office since they thought that we are only one of the reporting units.

Were the central themes of conferences more a reflection of current events in the statistical profession or more a reflection of the events in the society or perhaps both?

Mostly, one or two sessions or round tables were dealing with the topical central theme of each conference, while other sessions and round tables were dedicated to reporting about professional achievements from the programme of statistical surveys and by some of our user institutions. I think I only missed one conference. The conference is dedicated to both, but sometimes national contribution is more interesting. Perhaps a special conference should be dedicated to determining the needs for new and abandoning of old surveys. Events in the society point out that many people do not understand the purpose and content, advantages and limitations of the public statistical system, but this can not be solved by such a (and only one) conference of like-minded people of almost the same professional background. In this period statistical literacy more likely decreased than increased, which is a pity especially because public statistics measures, defines and describes the national system and government operations in a sufficiently formal way. Sometimes information science replaced statistics and there are no longer any statisticians in ministries.

15 XII 1987  
**REKLI SO**

#### Nedorečenost zvezne statistične metodologije

MARJAN ŠIFTAR, predsednik republiškega komiteja za informiranje, na posvetovanju »Statistika in inflacija« v Radencih:



»Kot moramo zavrčati pogoste apriorne ocene in aktivnosti, ki zamenujejo, podcenjujejo ali celo zlorabljajo statistiko oziroma se jo zavestno uporablja kot ‚dekloracijo vse‘, kot uporabno fasado za skrivanje različnih pomankljivosti pa tudi za prikrivanje

Newspaper Delo,  
15 December 1987

“Federal Statistical Methodology  
Unresolved”



## A farewell to Yugoslavia – a look ahead

The first period (1987–2003) • Transition from the old to the new

### 2<sup>nd</sup> conference: 1989 Role of Statistics in Social Development



The second conference took place at the end of May 1989. In addition to the Statistical Society of Slovenia and the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Statistics, the co-organiser of the conference was the Association of Statistical Societies of Yugoslavia.

During the deepest economic crisis at the end of the 1990s, Slovene statisticians already focused their attention into the future – by discussing the role of statistics in social development. With the participation of competent Slovene and Yugoslav researchers and statisticians, the broad scope of the conference topics contributed to the fact that the conference *opened up some key questions of statistical development* in Slovenia in the next two decades.

The problems of social development in relation to statistics were discussed in depth since the presented papers highlighted social development comprehensively, from various aspects: philosophical, sociological, economic and information. Specific methodological questions related to the measurement of social development and designing the models for studying social and economic development in Yugoslavia also came to the fore.

The discussion on *general conceptual issues of measuring social development* brought substantial and broadly relevant conclusions which are still very topical for statistics.

The discussion stemmed from the assumption that social and economic development is a complex concept composed of different dimensions and that this inevitably causes problems in its operationalisation and statistical measurement. The selection of indicators and the related methods have a direct impact on the results of the measurement and carry with them a subjective mark of the researcher since they are based on researcher's theoretical argumentations or are simply adjusted to political or ideological needs (Z. Mlinar). Measuring social development opens up the still topical dilemma to what extent is statistics as a scientific discipline for quantitative measurement of mass phenomena competent to disseminate quality aspects of the studied phenomena.

The advocates of the "Yugoslav" line of national statistics continued to hold the position that it is the task of statistics (with appropriate theoretical and methodological support) to quantitatively measure mass phenomena. It is thus necessary that a phenomenon is sufficiently developed to be able to be a subject of theoretical and other cognitive processes. Only then it's the turn for statistics. Such a view of statistics presumes a focus on a large number of homogenous, mutually comparable units and actually denies the responsibility for statistical treatment of non-homogenous phenomena. The very questions about the role of statistics in measuring social development of statistics in conditions of differentiation, globalisation and individualisation of social phenomena were at the centre of attention of researchers in Slovenia (V. Vehovar, E. Pintar) who were boldly opening conceptual and methodological dilemmas of measuring phenomena that are by nature unique, non-homogenous and elusive to classical statistical instruments, such as knowledge and innovation. In the following decades the statistical

profession focused a lot of attention on the development of these very areas.

From the point of view of the development of statistics, another important feature of this conference was the discussion about the methods and ways of obtaining data, since it was obvious that with the traditional approach to conducting official statistical surveys it was not possible to provide the data on some of the social phenomena. Official statistics was criticised for neglecting the problem of hidden economy, while changes in the labour market demanded more comprehensive statistical monitoring, such that takes into account as units of observation not only enterprises and legal persons but also individuals. The advocates of the official line defended the existing approaches to measuring by stating that statistics is "naturally" based on the legal and national, institutional system. Statistics is seeking information that runs through official communication channels (L. Madjar), and other sources except official are not relevant. The paper prepared by Ms Kukar of the Institute for Economic Research on the measurement of hidden economy presented clearly alternative approaches that can be used for getting a statistical image of phenomena that elude official information channels. The paper by Ivan Svetlik and Vojko Antončič, researchers from the Faculty of Social

#### **From the social chronicle:**

*Several years ago my colleague Mr Kramberger and I stood at the bar when he was ordering coffee also for our female colleagues from Macedonia. And he says: "One of them asked me to order a "gorka kava" (in Serbian gorka means bitter, in this case with no sugar, while in Slovene it means hot) hot coffee (☹) and I don't know if the other one wanted a cold one."*

*Andrej Blejcek, President of the Statistical Society of Slovenia*

## 1989 – A farewell to Yugoslavia – a look ahead

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Sciences, presented the advantages of the sample Survey on Human Resources, which was designed according to international standards and which was the precursor of the present-day Labour Force Survey. It has to be mentioned that at that time a *sample* survey as a data collection method was practically not used in the Yugoslav statistics.

For the first time the conference discussed the *quality of statistical data*, which years later – in the first decade of the new millennium – became the central theme of official statistics. Croatian statisticians Ksenija and Srdjan Dumičić draw attention to the importance of accuracy of statistical data for users, especially from the point of view of international comparability. They pointed out the importance of the mainly overlooked non-sampling error and proposed that with the help of standard reports statistical offices should provide to their users appropriate information about data quality. As we know this was put into practice in the European Statistical System (ESS) after 2005.

At the conference Irena Križman presented *strategic ideas* of the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Statistics about the strategic orientation of national statistics in Yugoslavia and about its priorities. The starting points for the conception of this development were integration processes in Europe, the establishment of the Single European Market and the implications of these processes at all key areas of statistics. In view of the established trends in Europe and in view of the situation in Yugoslav statistics, the paper proposed that Yugoslav statistics embark on a revision of the official programme of statistical surveys by adopting the System of National Accounts - SNA concept of social product, by introducing registers and standard classifications (of activities, occupations), by modernising some standard fields of statistics

(agriculture, transport, industry) and by developing uncovered areas (services, environment, science, research). The justification for revision of Yugoslav statistics, particularly in terms of compliance with international standards, was presented by Andrej Flajs in his paper on the system of social accounts. Mr Flajs showed that due to uncritical compilation of the social product using annual financial statements of enterprises in conditions of inflation reliable data on the volume and structure of the social product can not be obtained. He advocated the establishment of an independent national accounts department at the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Statistics, which would speed up the introduction of SNA methodology in the calculation of macroeconomic aggregates for Slovenia.

The Yugoslav authorities never accepted the proposal for revising the programme of statistical surveys, but this proposal became the starting point for the strategy of developing national statistics in independent Slovenia.

### Interview

**Irena Križman,**

Director-General  
of the Statistical Office  
of the Republic of Slovenia



#### What was the interest of foreign statisticians to attend the conference?

Our conference became an international event in 1993, when Radenci hosted an expert on national and regional accounts from Statistics Austria. At that time Slovenia was already a member of the United Nations and was preparing to enter European integrations. In

1994 the Slovene statistical office signed a formal agreement on professional cooperation with Eurostat and the number of international participants increased further. The conference became international and bilingual (Slovene, English) and this standard has been kept ever since.

For Statistical Days it has always been characteristic that they knew how to draw attention of distinguished guests both from Slovenia and abroad. The 16<sup>th</sup> conference entitled Measurement of the Development Role and Efficiency of the Public Sector and Policies actually hosted the very top of European and global official statistics. The conference was attended by Eurostat Director General and his deputy, Director of the OECD Statistics Directorate, ECB Director General Statistics and Deputy Director of UNECE Statistical Division. International participation has always been diverse; from experts for individual fields to Directors General of international institutions and statistical offices. For example, we hosted Australia's first statistician, distinguished professors from the USA and France, and, of course, distinguished experts from Slovenia. Their participation has made Radenci a synonym for an interesting conference, which is rather unique in the EU and the world, since in other countries such conferences are mostly attended by statisticians only.

**The conference of statisticians soon became a conference of statisticians, data providers and users of statistical data. How do open discussions of all stakeholders influence work of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia?**

In addition to statisticians from statistical offices, our conferences have been also inviting users, researchers, analysts and forecasters, and later on also data providers. Discussions were usually summarised in conference conclusions. For us statisticians they were important because they reflected an outside view. Our conferences, which have always been prepared together with the Statistical Society of Slovenia and a few times also in cooperation with the Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development, improved our partnership. 'Radenci', as we call our conferences in short, also improved cooperation with other institutions and colleagues from the academic community; through professional work as well as social events. I believe that the tradition will be continued.

## What will have to be done for statistics in an independent country?

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### 3<sup>rd</sup> conference: 1993 Statistics and Records for the Needs of an Open Market Economy



After a break of four years, we met once again in Radenci in 1993, for the first time in independent Slovenia and for the first time with international, albeit modest, participation. At that time Slovenia was already a member of the United Nations and consequently also of the UNECE and was preparing to enter European integrations. The institutional system adjusted to independent, market-oriented country was being intensively prepared. In this dynamic period of establishing independent Slovenia national statistics played a rather important role and had much work and many commitments. This is reflected in the content of the conference entitled *Statistics and Records for the Needs of an Open Market Economy*, which opened up a number of content-related, organisational and institutional questions related to the new situation in Slovene statistics in view of the statehood of Slovenia and in view of the market economy.

For statistics, Slovenia's independence brought about secession from Belgrade and independence from current politics and other influences. At the same time it had to be realised that in the international environment national statistics is not professionally independent but is integrated into it by means of common principles of operation, membership of organisations and adoption of

statistical standards and commitments. The emerging European Statistical System (ESS) demanded much adjustment, most of the resources being allocated to the introduction of classifications and development of registers, providing data at regional level and national accounts.

The development of various segments of *national accounts* was actually the central theme of this conference. Methodological development work within the GDP estimate for the 1985–1992 period was presented, especially from the point of view of the possibility to develop the system of government accounts within national accounts (A. Flajs). Upon the proposal of the then Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Statistics, in 1989 Slovenia introduced the calculation of gross domestic product according to the System of National Accounts. For a number of years the Institute provided parallel calculation according to the so-called material production concept. This presented a double burden for the Institute, but was also a strategically important advantage due to methodological readiness and competences. In addition, Slovenian obtained internationally comparable data on main economic aggregates.

At the conference the first *international comparisons* of GDP by the Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development (IMAD) were presented (T. Česen). These comparisons derived from national statistics data, but in the opinion of IMAD's analysts the set of data was relatively modest, so they completed it with their own estimates. The comparisons were based on a special approach developed by IMAD for its analytical needs (projections) and differed from national accounts statistics in accuracy, updating, delay, data sources and coherence requirements (I. Lavrač, I. Strmšnik). This approach stimulated a discussion on the status of official

data and estimates and the competence of various institutions.

The conference informed the participants with the then rather new problem of calculating gross domestic product (GDP) in so-called *purchasing power parities* (PPP), which eliminate the impact of differences in price levels on the GDP level among countries. Zdenka Repotočnik presented the first estimate produced by the Statistical Office regarding the internationally comparable GDP in PPP for Slovenia. The discussion about the complex problems of national accounts were rounded by two papers about the data sources for statistical input-output tables for 1990 and the estimate of the possibility to prepare annual input-output tables (I. Zakotnik). The paper on the statistics of the environment and natural resources (J. Seljak) informed the participants just how demanding this area, which had so far not been in the focus of statistical attention, really is.

With individual review papers the conference in 1993 identified a number of fields of statistics that had not been developed or had just started to be developed in Slovenia or had not been comparable with European statistical standards. These papers, such as on Slovene labour statistics (T. Smrekar), on short-term indicators (L. Bregar), on statistical monitoring of external trade (M. Žebre), on the balance of payments (A. Jerkič), on the farm register (I. Orešnik) and on the regionalisation of statistics (S. Kukar, L. Gosar), evaluated the situation in Slovenia and pointed to the necessary activities for producing quality and comparable statistics.

The themes identified at this conference were the subject of research and development work of statisticians and discussions at Statistical Days in the coming years, which focused on the preparations for and accession to the EU and on intensifying globalisation processes.



The second period:  
1994–2000

## Preparations for EU accession and globalisation

The second period started with the adoption of a formal agreement on professional cooperation between the Slovene statistical office and Eurostat in 1994 and finished with the turn of the century. The period is marked by a content-rich intensive development of national statistics in Slovenia due to preparations for EU accession. In this period the harmonisation of statistical systems with EU legislation was characteristic also for other countries, both transition countries and old EU Member States. For Slovene statisticians and their colleagues from other European countries Statistical Days in Radenci presented a welcome opportunity to exchange experience, for professional discussions, for agreements on cooperation and for getting new ideas and new energy.

Even though Slovene national statistics together with other candidates for accession to the EU formally finished the process of harmonisation with *acquis communautaire* in 2002, in the overview this period is finished two years earlier, in 2000. Our division of periods is based on content-related criteria, and from this point of view the conferences in 2001 and 2002 already mainly focused on global topics of the third millennium.







## Entering the world and new tasks

The second period (1994–2000) • Preparations for EU accession and globalisation

### 4<sup>th</sup> conference: 1994 Slovenia, Statistics, European Union



For Slovene statistics 1994 was an important year as the Declaration on Statistical Cooperation with Eurostat was signed. Conditions were determined that national statistics had to meet before Slovenia could become a member of the EU: provision of accurate, reliable, politically independent and transparent statistical data, development of efficient statistical service and harmonisation of methods, standards and classifications with international and EU standards on the basis of appropriate institutional regulation (60 Years of National Statistics in Slovenia, p. 64). International cooperation of Slovene statisticians was intensified, especially within the Phare programme.

Strengthening of international cooperation by projects and training programmes reflected in Statistical Days 1994. The conference entitled Slovenia, Statistics, European Union was in many ways exceptional, groundbreaking and special. It was the first conference attended by a large number of distinguished international experts and leaders of international statistical organisations, and the number of papers was record-breaking. In no other conference more papers were presented.

In the invited papers distinguished representatives of the international statistical community – among them head of the UNECE statistical division and a high representative of Eurostat, and directors of national

statistical offices of Germany, Switzerland and Austria – presented from the point of view of their institutions a view of the development of modern statistical services in conditions of international integration and support from information technology. These papers were a sound basis for deliberation on the strategic orientation of national statistics in Slovenia, which was presented by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia. Some of the introductory papers were the starting point for discussing specific subjects such as the applicability of administrative data (H. Bruengger) and the regionalisation of statistics (E. Bader).

Alain Chantraine, which as Eurostat's Director for International Cooperation played a key role in integrating candidate countries into the European Statistical System (ESS), pointed out the increased role of statistical services in modern societies; statistics has to be capable of *anticipating the development of society* and to organise their operations with limited resources so that it is capable of providing quality information for formulating, monitoring and evaluating relevant national policies. At the same time it must provide statistical data for protecting vulnerable and socially excluded groups of population, for efficient participation of citizens in the democratic process and for the business community. The market system does not provide these data by itself, so modern countries must provide statistical services as *public goods*. The fulfilment of these tasks in transition countries is especially difficult due to the elimination of traditional data sources, so careful planning and use of resources are necessary.

On the basis of strategic orientations of *Slovene national statistics* (i.e. institutional arrangement and cooperation with users, register-based statistics, Europeanization of Slovene statistics), the Statistical Office presented priorities for the 1995–2002 period (I.

Križman). These partly referred to infrastructure tasks: harmonisation of statistical classifications, updating of registers, introduction of sampling and other modern data collection techniques, completing the data in the geographic information system, and introduction of information technology. At the same time development priorities were determined by fields of statistics: price statistics, balance of payments statistics, revision of agriculture statistics and the farm register, national accounts, short-term indicators and qualitative business surveys, energy statistics, Labour Force Survey, statistics of working and living conditions, demography statistics and environment statistics. The basic condition for fulfilling these policies was independence of national statistics from the point of view of professional

### Deklaracija o sodelovanju z evropsko statistiko

LJUBLJANA, 21. marca – Nekajletno uspešno sodelovanje Slovenije z evropsko statistiko se je danes utrdilo še s podpisom skupne deklaracije o sodelovanju v statistiki. Skupno izjavo sta v Cankarjevem domu podpisala Alain Chantraine, direktor področja za mednarodno sodelovanje Eurostat, ter Tomaž Banovec, direktor statističnega urada (zavoda) republike Slovenije. Kot je dejal direktor Chantraine, naj bi današnji sporazum pospešil sodelovanje med uradoma in prispeval k razvoju takšne statistične ureditve v Sloveniji, ki bo zagotavljala zanesljive, nepristranske, pravočasne in iskane podatke, ki spodbujajo vodilo statistične zaupnosti. Letos naj bi se ukvarjali z devetimi vprašanji, namreč z nacionalnimi računi in cenami, s poslovnim registrom, statistiko podjetij, klasifikacijami, kmetijstvom, socialno statistiko, statistiko okolja, statističnimi računi ipd. Sodelovanje obsega zagotovitev tehnične pomoči in izobraževanja ter izmenjavo statističnih podatkov, metodologij in zakonodaje. (I.P., foto: Igor Modic)



Newspaper Delo, 21 March 1994  
"Declaration on Statistical Cooperation with European Statistics"



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methodology, organisation (legal status) and finance as well as personal independence of the management. A special paper outlined the features of the new National Statistics Act, which were based on internationally adopted principles of official statistics and good practice of modern and efficient statistical services in other countries. Some dilemmas and threats that could jeopardise the fulfilment of these principles were also emphasised (S. Dujič).

The conference was additionally enriched by numerous papers that clearly and comprehensively presented the situation by individual fields of statistics and the way forward.

One of the central themes of this conference was *registers and classifications*. From the point of view of development, reflections on institutional, legislative and organisational aspects of registers as one of the key

infrastructural pillars of Slovene national statistics were especially interesting, especially the dilemmas regarding the division between administrative and statistical registers. At the conference the concept of the new Business Register of Slovenia (PRS), which was set up on the basis of the previous Register of Organisations and Associations (ROS) and the Register of Establishments (ERO) and European recommendations and experiences of some other European countries that were developing business registers in this period, was presented (L. Djordjevič).

Setting up the Business Register was very important for the development of Slovene national statistics since as the basis for sampling frames the register enabled the collection of data with sample surveys, which substituted the outdated system of statistical surveys on the basis of full coverage of few units in socialist economies. Even then the need was clearly expressed that the business register for statistical purposes should be separated from the administrative part which is publicly available (M. Blejec).

The basic characteristics of the Central Population Register (CRP) were also presented. An initiative was launched that – following the example of Nordic registers and in line with the standard definition of population – the CRP should contain in addition to citizens of the Republic of Slovenia with permanent residence in Slovenia also other categories of permanent population. Participants were informed about some ideas and dilemmas regarding the setting up of the statistical/administrative register of farms (I. Orešnik).

At the conference the topic of classifications was limited to the discussion of the classification of occupations. Procedures were described for taking over the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) in Slovenia and the basic characteristics of the

Slovene version. Different views were presented about the level of breakdown of the Slovene version compared to the international classification.

The 1994 conference opened up a discussion about data protection and confidentiality, which with rapid development of information technology and amended methods of data collection, processing and dissemination became a very topical issue. The Statistical Office presented the basic concepts related to personal data protection and confidentiality, the role and importance of protection and providing the confidentiality of personal data for national statistical services, the valid legislation and new developments stipulated in the National Statistics Act which was in the process of adoption. The most discussed issue was the planned solution of access to microdata for research purposes, since researchers strived for as simple access as possible without any special technical limitations (M. Babič) and presented some ways how to reduce the risk of disclosure of individual data (M. Macur).

The conference could not avoid discussing the quality of statistics. The issue of *quality* was discussed from aspects that were the most topical in view of the current development phase of Slovene national statistics. First, providing data comparability in time series at the time of intensive social and economic changes – when the content of phenomena and the conditions of statistical coverage are changing and methodological improvements and standards are being introduced – was discussed. The question of quality was also discussed from the point of view of survey methodology, which was increasingly replacing the outdated method of full coverage of the statistical population. At that time, the national statistical office was preparing for the regular (at that time annual) implementation of the Labour Force Survey. Within



Slovene newspapers about the 1994 Statistical Days  
 “Statistical Data are the Basis for Decision”  
 “Making European Statistics is a Model”

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these activities, the office designed the proposal of a new sampling plan, which was based on considering theoretical basis of sampling and practical aspects of implementation (M. Zaletel, V. Vehovar). Another paper discussed the problem of sampling errors and pointed out the problem of inappropriate or inconsistent informing of users about sampling errors, and proposed some solutions for standardised reporting about the precision of estimates (M. Arnež et al).

As at all the previous conferences, at this conference too participants could not avoid the issue of national accounts and statistical monitoring of external trade. At the forefront of interest of national accounts were hidden economy and the estimate of its contribution to GDP (A. Flajs, S. Kukar). At this conference *quarterly national accounts* were presented in terms of their importance, basic approaches to their compilation and the assessment of the feasibility of their introduction in Slovenia (T. Česen).

External trade focused on trade in services. Compared to external trade in general, statistical monitoring of *external trade in services* draws much less attention. The methods of data collection by types of services for the needs of the balance of payments were

*Of all the conferences the one organised in 1994 is considered to be one of the most important as it offered a large discussion about methodological harmonisation with the EU. However, we also remember this conference for an organisational error, now with large smiles on our faces. The conference was namely already international and simultaneous interpretation into English was announced. We had our earphones but we forgot to hire interpreters. The problem was quickly solved by statisticians who are proficient in English whispering translations into the ears of colleagues from abroad.*

presented and proposals for methodological improvements were prepared in accordance with recommendations by the International Monetary Fund (V. Zorc Rems). Differences between the IMF methodology and national accounts (SNA), on which the statistical measurement of services at the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia is based, were analysed. The needs for data brought by the liberalisation of services in the European Union were discussed in a special paper as was statistical monitoring of direct investment.

In this session the issue of eliminating the impact of currency changes and changes in the structure of export and import in different currencies from value data on external trade in the case of export and import flows was again discussed (F. Cimperman, A. Kožar). Even though the tolar exchange rate was much more stable in comparison with other currencies, the effect of exchange rate fluctuations on the value of commodity flows in the first half of the 1990s was still considerable.

The 1994 conference in Radenci presented business *opinion surveys*, which were in terms of contents and methodology a new issue in Slovenia. The Economic Outlook and Policy Service at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (M. Šiško Debeljak, N. Prešern) and the national statistical office started to implement business surveys in the first half of the 1990s. These two institutions used different methodological approaches: the Chamber of Commerce and Industry tackled the task from the point of view of the needs of Slovene economy, following the example of some other chambers of commerce and industry, so the methodology was not internationally comparable, while the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia conducted business surveys in line with the harmonised approach valid in the ESS.

As regards fields of statistics, at the conference most of the attention was focused on *agriculture statistics*. The existing system of statistical surveys, which was designed in different social circumstances, when private and state agriculture were strictly separate, could not meet information needs brought by intensive changes of production and market structures in agriculture and EU accession. The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia presented the situation by fields of agriculture and planned activities for better and internationally comparable agriculture statistics; among them the special role of the farm register was pointed out. At the same time the Statistical Office presented first results of cooperation in the project of collecting data on agriculture with satellite methods, which took place under the auspices of European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC). At the conference results of the methodological study on availability and quality of information on price and quantity trends on some selected agricultural product markets in Slovenia were exposed (E. Erjavec, M. Kniepert). As measures for



Nina Prešern

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improving the situation in agriculture statistics, setting up a farm typology and farm accounting were proposed (T. Cunder, N. Pajntar). The picture of the situation in this area was completed by the analysis of the situation in forestry statistics; with changed organisation of forestry the records on tree cutting in private forests and on the sale of forest assortments, which used to be the main source of information for statistical surveys on forestry, were namely abolished (M. Hlavaty).

The statistical conference in 1994 could not avoid the issue of statistical coverage of *road goods transport* in Slovenia; at that time due to insufficient coverage of private road transport operators this issue was particularly important.

The very diverse conference programme included also a paper about the development of *statistics of renewable sources* in the EU and Slovenia's possibilities for developing this very important and promising field; prior to 1994 only hydroelectric energy was adequately statistically monitored (I. Eržen).

The 1994 conference was characterised by the fact that for the first time more attention was focused on *social statistics*, especially labour market statistics and poverty measurement. The conference informed participants about some of the key statistical concepts and measurements in the field of unemployment, such as registered and survey unemployment (I. Domadenik), and pointed out some gaps in labour statistics in terms of international standards, e.g. lack of data on labour costs and labour costs indices (T. Smrekar). At the conference the first attempt to measure poverty was presented; this subject was much talked about even then, but without a real empirical support. The analysis was performed based on the 1993 Household Budget Survey data (G. Ružič). Papers from the field of social statistics were rounded up by the empirical study

produced by the Employment Service of Slovenia on the readiness of unemployed persons to migrate (A. Jakoš).

There was another novelty compared to the previous conferences: an organised discussion about selected topics in the form of round tables. The first round table was dedicated to *statistical training*. For discussion as many as 15 papers on the position of statistics in educational programs of faculties and other higher education institutions in Ljubljana and Maribor were prepared. Special papers described the situation in elementary and upper secondary education. The introductory paper discussed the question which statistical competences should be part of a person's general education and proposed a preparation of an appropriate review within the statistical profession. The final paper summarised the situation in the field of statistical education and training in Slovenia and pointed out some common problems of teaching statistics at the mentioned levels of education. .

### Interview

#### Franta Komel,

Director of the Institute  
of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia for Statistics  
in the 1967-1981 period,

Director of the Federal Institute for Statistics  
in the 1981-1985 period



#### What is in your opinion the importance of statistical conferences in Radenci for Slovene national statistics?

I have always understood Statistical Days as meetings of statisticians, at which they would discuss individual topics in

terms of the quality and organisation of the statistical system, offering or providing good basis for highlighting the problems that are subject of discussion. Such was my view of the discussion about the topic of the first conference entitled Statistics and Inflation. The statistical system must provide data on prices and their movement so that there are no doubts about their correctness. An example is the monitoring of retail prices in Slovenia. There was much talk whether four places for monitoring retail prices are enough for Slovenia.

With its program of statistical surveys, national statistics represents an agreed and harmonised system of data collection and processing, the results of which are used by a wide circle of users who are in various ways obliged to cooperate or who cooperate in managing the country. Statistical Days in Radenci are one of the ways that organisers, users, analysts and data providers can meet and in mutual exchange of experience, opinions, proposals, etc., improve the system of surveys.

With international participation the participants obtained information about how things are done in other countries or international organisations. Thus we can compare our situation regarding solutions, quality and possibilities with others.

The statistical system has many open issues so there is no need to fear that in the future there will not be enough material for Statistical Days to discuss. We have to know that legislative and as a result administrative authorities adopt acts and implementing regulations daily, which demands appropriate monitoring.

We only have to remember the discussion whether it is enough for a country to prepare results about a problem on the basis of a sample or should full coverage be applied. Or the discussion on the use of administrative sources, etc.

I think that Statistical Days are a good form of professional improvement for statisticians. If memory serves me right, I have been attending them since 1998.



## First impetus for social statistics

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### 5<sup>th</sup> conference: 1995 Statistics of Labour, Working and Living Conditions



In 1995 the National Statistics Act was adopted, which was based on international principles of official statistics and took into account good practice of other, mostly Nordic countries. This act determined the basic conditions and methods of operation of national statistics and thus significantly directed the development of national statistics.

However, the new National Statistics Act was not a subject of the fifth Statistical Days. In contrast to the previous two conferences, this one was much more narrowly conceived. It focused on the issue of the statistics of labour, working and living conditions. The narrowing of the main conference theme was partly the consequence of the achievements of the previous conferences, which crystallised the basic development fields of statistics in Slovenia, and partly the consequence of the situation in Slovenia with over 120,000 unemployed persons and the fact that compared to economic statistics and national accounts by then the development of social statistics had been pushed into the background. The conference attracted experts dealing with this topic from various aspects, from researchers, public administration officials, representatives of the public sector, university and also the private sector. Several experts from abroad participated in the conference, for the first time with

contributed papers and not only with invited papers. This fact confirmed that the conference was becoming recognised in the wider international statistical community.

Conference participants were professionally and institutionally very diverse, which resulted in a diverse mix of content and methodological issues discussed at the conference. The papers formed a rather comprehensive picture of the situation in the field of the statistics of labour, working and living conditions and at the same time outlined a rather unanimous description of the extent and characteristics of socio-economically endangered groups in Slovenia.

The discussion about data sources and contents of empirical studies presented at the conference (S. Kukar, T. Stanovnik and N. Stropnik, E. Žnidaršič) showed that in addition to income inequality the income status of the population should be monitored and the system of social indicators that will cover other non-economic dimensions of the social situation of the population, especially social exclusion, should be developed.

The idea how to develop social statistics in Slovenia was supplemented by papers on the orientation of the European Union in the field of social statistics (D. Ramprakash, I. Križman, M. Klinar, A. Franz). These papers presented the ESSPROS, which is the harmonised European system of integrated social protection statistics, and the panel household survey. Also presented were some fresh approaches to how better use the existing administrative sources for setting up databases from the field of social statistics (D. Kidrič, J. Barba et al).

The collected papers on the issues related to labour market and labour force statistics presented an integrated outline of this field of statistics both from the theoretical aspect, current state and development of the

methodology as well as from the aspect of empirical research.

Among these papers the paper presented by Swiss statisticians (B. Buhmann et al) on the development of labour accounts should be pointed out. In their paper the authors presented labour accounting as an efficient tool for consistent linking of data on various aspects of the labour market, which are obtained from various, methodologically incomparable sources (e.g. population statistics, wage statistics, population registers, labour force surveys, labour cost surveys). The advantage of labour accounts is that they are coherent with national accounts. At the same time labour accounts can be used for estimating the quality of individual sources. The paper pointed out early on the possibility of linking various data sources, which is the approach that became a promising method of *rationalising data collection* more than a decade later.

For Slovenia this was a period of *intensive development of labour market statistics* (T. Smrekar). Slovenia started to regularly conduct the Labour Force Survey (in 1994), and in 1995 the pilot Labour Cost Survey was conducted (A. Letinič Štempihar). Two classifications harmonised with international standards – i.e. activity classification NACE Rev. 1 and occupation classification ISCO-88 – started to be introduced. Experience and problems presented by statisticians from other countries showed that this is a period of transition also for statistics in traditional market economies, since they also require large adjustments to the demands of the single statistical system. The paper presented by the United Kingdom (P. J. Stibbard) showed that some statistical solutions, e.g. two methods of measuring unemployment, cause problems and misunderstanding by the wider professional public elsewhere in Europe and not only in Slovenia.

## 1995 – First impetus for social statistics

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The development of labour market statistics and other areas brought about additional costs not only to statistics itself but also to reporting units. For labour statistics too one of the possible strategies was to replace new statistical surveys with already existing administrative data sources. For this purpose, researchers from the Faculty of Economics studied the applicability of statistical data from annual financial statements for analysing labour costs and on the basis of results of this study proposed that data on labour costs should be collected with a combination of annual financial statements and occasional Labour Cost Surveys.

One of the dimensions of the labour market is *working conditions*. The conference highlighted some wider aspects of working conditions, such as safety at work and labour costs (M. Tekavčič) and the impact of ergonomics on workers' health (T. Gazvoda, J. Horvat). The model of estimating the number of accidents at work was also presented (J. Šrekl, P. Gspan). The unregulated situation in terms of content and organisation in reporting on occupational diseases was also pointed out, which is one of the key segments in statistics of working conditions and health statistics in general (M. Križaj).

The fifth Statistical Days brought *one of the first warnings about long-term effects of declining fertility on the labour market* and related categories (T. Kraigher). The estimate of the development of basic labour market categories, produced with the help of socio-demographic accounts, pointed to limited possibilities to reduce unemployment in the next 15 years, especially with the low GDP growth, and that due to population ageing the ratio between dependent people and persons in employment will be significantly worsened and that around 2015 a distinct lack of domestic labour force will

set in. The presented topic of labour market statistics was rounded by the paper presented by a representative of the International Labour Organisation, who presented the methodology for collecting data on imbalances in the demand for labour (E. Hoffman).

The conference was enriched by two papers that were not related to the central theme: the results of the statistical analysis of data from the Central Population Register on name fashion, which later on received much public attention and large publicity on one of the most frequently visited page on Statistical Office's website "How frequent are your first name and family name?", was presented for the first time. The other thing was the presentation of EDA (Exploratory Data Analysis), which was the first step towards popularising the currently widely used tool for *graphical analysis of statistical data*.

At the conference the research results of the group for studying the quality of life at the Institute of Social Sciences led by Dr. Ivan Svetlik were presented.

### Interview

**Prof. Dr. Janez Malačič,**

University of Ljubljana,  
Faculty of Economics



**Do you think that the central themes of Statistical Days followed sufficiently the events in the society? Did you perhaps attend all 19 conferences?**

In the new century the international component of the conferences was strengthened, which increased the interest in the conferences as well as their professional relevance. Slovenia's membership of the

EU and SORS's inclusion in Eurostat contributed a lot. The central themes followed the events in the society, even though it was sometimes difficult to provide sufficient subject-matter consistency of papers with the central themes.

I attended more than half of conferences and was more active in the last ten years.

**In the field of social statistics the conferences opened several topical issues; in 1995 and 2008 social issues were the central theme. Did the conferences sufficiently present the problems regarding social statistics?**

As regards the content, social statistics have been appropriately presented at the conferences in Radenci. This is even truer if one takes into account their integration with economic and other statistics. A typical example is labour market statistics, which is eminently interdisciplinary, even though statistical offices prefer to think of it as part of social statistics and we economists think of it more as part of economic statistics. In the past 20 years Statistical Days enabled not only the presentation but also frequently controversial and interdisciplinary discussions among various authorised institutions, academic circles and other users of statistical data.

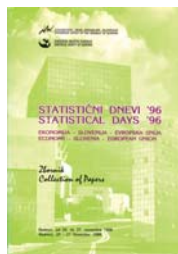
**What is in your opinion the importance of these conferences for Slovene national statistics?**

Statistical conferences in Radenci have upgraded the former professional meetings of statisticians within the former Yugoslav federation and in many ways surpassed them. The international and European component is especially important and thus inclusion into the wider European environment. Statistical Days have importantly contributed to the education and improvement of every participant. Among the most important contributions one should mention the rich professional literature, which is available in extensive proceedings volumes of Statistical Days and which we would not have without these conferences."

## How far (close) is the EU according to Maastricht criteria?

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### 6<sup>th</sup> conference: 1996 Economy, Slovenia, European Union



The mid-1990s were a period of intensive changes in Europe, especially the composition of its economy. Accession of new Member States (Austria, Finland and Sweden) and the related expansion of the single European market, measures related to the preparations to introduce a single currency and a new wave of enlargement, as well as the increasingly fierce competition with the US and Japan in the conditions of globalisation fundamentally changed the conditions of conducting business and put in front of national statisticians demands for quality, timely and comparable statistical data. The changed conditions of conducting business demanded a revision of business statistics, since with traditional statistical topics limited mostly to the traditional activities of the industrial society at annual level they no longer met the demands of the dynamic global market.

All this clearly reflected in the 1996 conference, which highlighted the problem of *macroeconomic and business statistics* from various aspects (depending on the current state and development tasks). The conference included two other subjects: *forecasting, modelling and data analysis* as important aspects of the use of macroeconomic statistics, and *registers, samples and classifications* as general infrastructural bases for statistics. A round table on regions in Slovenia was also organised.

The main topic of this conference was definitely *meeting the Maastricht (convergence) criteria* in Slovenia. Maastricht criteria – inflation rate, interest rate, exchange rate, government deficit, and government debt – are intended for estimating how an individual country is prepared in economic terms to enter the European Union and the EMU. It is clear that statistics plays a key role in providing the data for assessing the level of meeting these criteria. In the introductory paper economists Ivo Lavrač and Vladimir Lavrač prepared a comprehensive methodological analysis of availability and quality of data with which Slovenia proved its fulfilment of the mentioned criteria. They found gaps in data and methodology for both fiscal criteria.

Almost a decade after it was opened at the first conference on inflation and statistics, the paper on the *measurement of inflation* (Z. Repotočnik) again stimulated discussion about the measurement of inflation. At the first conference an initiative was launched to replace the retail price index with the consumer price index in order to provide international comparability. In 1996 any dilemma which is the better measure of inflation was blown away by the announcement that the harmonised measure of inflation in the EU will be based on the consumer price index, and a year later the consumer price index became the official measure of inflation in Slovenia.

*National accounts* were again in the focus of statisticians' attention not only due to direct relevance for the calculation of the convergence criteria but also due to the revisions of methodological bases of national accounts in the first half of the 1990s. In 1993 a new version of the United Nations System of National Accounts was published and two years later its European version called ESA 95 (*European System of Accounts*). The Statistical Office presented the calculation

of two new aggregates: real gross domestic product and real net national disposable income introduced by SNA 1993 (A. Flajs). Changes brought by the new methodology in measuring household final consumption expenditure were also presented. After a number of affirmative discussions how to best measure GDP, the conference initiated a discussion about the limitations of GDP as an indicator of human welfare (J. Seljak). The problem of GDP being an appropriate indicator of human welfare became the top professional and political subject more than a decade later, i.e. in 2009 when the European Commission published its famous report *GDP and Beyond*.

Presenting the *economic accounts for agriculture*, the 1996 conference started the discussion about *satellite accounts* as the integral part of national accounts. Participants pointed out that the new version of SNA 93 also does not satisfactorily solve the question of the concept and role of satellite accounts in the system of national accounts and that the compilation of satellite accounts in the world greatly lags behind the needs also

## Razdrobljene upravne enote

Vprašanje je, je dejal direktor slovenskega statističnega urada na statističnih dnevih v Radencih, ali je statistika pripravljena na novo regionalizacijo v Sloveniji

**RADENCI, 25. novembra** – Z obravnavanjem nacionalnih računov so se tudi danes začeli tridnevni 'statistični dnevi '96', ki se jih udeležuje 148 udeležencev. Po teh makroekonomskih statistikah bodo obravnavali še statistiko, ki se ukvarja s podjetji in regijami.

Vprašanje je, je dejal direktor slovenskega statističnega urada **Tomaž Banovec**, ali je statistika s podatki pripravljena na novo regionalizacijo v Sloveniji. Pokrajine pri nas še niso urejene, in kaže, da kmalu tudi ne bodo, čeprav jih ustava predvideva. Zdajšnje upravne enote so v ta namen nekoliko preveč razdrobljene.

in to ne več strokovno usposobljeni delavci SDK, saj zdaj to ščitirajo kar sami izpolnjevalci plačilnih nalogov ter prihaja do drugačnih rezultatov. Tudi vodja oddelka za države v prehodu pri OECD **Anne Harrison** je priznala, da je slovenska statistika resnično kar dobra, še zlasti, če je primerjamo z drugimi gospodarstvi v prehodu, čeprav ni tako dobra kot je v drugih državah OECD. Ste pa v prednosti, ker ste majhno gospodarstvo, takšnega pa je lažje meriti. Sicer pa je opo-

Newspaper Delo, 25 November 1996

"Fragmented Administrative Units"



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due to unprepared theoretical frameworks (environmental accounts, social accounts).

At the conference the issue of calculating *quarterly national accounts* was comprehensively discussed for the first time. Quarterly national accounts are an important addition to annual national accounts. The main problem of their calculation is the conflict between the demand for timely results and their quality; data available in short time are less reliable. At the time the development of quarterly accounts in Slovenia was in the experimental phase: they were developed by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia and the Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development. First quarterly data were published by SORS in mid-1995 and by the Institute in its Spring Report the same year. It is interesting that the representatives of these two institutions limited the discussion to the use of quarterly national accounts in macroeconomic analysis and forecasting (T. Česen) and to some specific methodological issues (reconciliation, seasonal adjustment and revision) of these accounts (K. Hren), but did not discuss actual methodological problems of the compilation. However, experts developing quarterly national accounts did get useful information about how to further develop this tool in the paper describing good practice in the United Kingdom (G. Jenkinson) and in the paper about the conceptual appropriateness and practical applicability of substitute indicators for estimating real value added as the element of national accounts (L. Bregar).

Providing data for calculating convergence criteria, especially fiscal and monetary, pushed to the forefront the issue of *financial and monetary statistics*, which had thus far been more or less the subject of interest of banking institutions. At the conference the practice of the Bank of Slovenia was presented regarding the

monitoring of financial flows following the example of the USA, which, however, did not follow the SNA methodology (F. Drenovec). The situation in the system of monetary balances that the Bank of Slovenia started to develop in line with the recommendations of the International Monetary Fund right after Slovenia's independence – in October 1991 – was also described (M. Noč). For further development of financial statistics in Slovenia, the presentation by the financial expert Mr D. Glatzel on financial accounts in the ESA 95 was very welcome; compared to the previous edition ESA 79 they are designed much more comprehensively and enable a more in-depth analysis. It was therefore expected that the interest in this instrument will increase and accelerate its development. Financial accounts are also the adequate data basis for calculating fiscal convergence criteria and later on proved to be an indispensable tool for exercising control over the functioning of the Economic and Monetary Union.

The conference showed the progress achieved in individual fields presented at previous conferences. So the Bank of Slovenia presented first estimates of the international investment position in Slovenia, the methodological basis of which was presented at the 1991 conference (A. Jerkič). Also presented was the improved methodology of the measurement of Slovenia's external trade in terms of quantity and prices with the use of more up-to-date data and pointing out methodological problems caused by calculating indices of import and export prices as unit value indices (F. Cimperman et al).

Macroeconomic statistics are essential for preparing *economic models for forecasting and analyses*. Economic models were indispensable for anticipating the effects of the necessary changes in Slovenia in the period of harmonisation and after Slovenia's accession to the EU. Using these models recommendations were prepared for

government bodies about the effects of various strategies (scenarios) of possible measures for meeting the objectives. Analysts at the Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development and the Institute for Economic Research presented their achievements in this field. The high applicability of the general equilibrium model in Slovenia's accession negotiations, which was based on the social accounting matrix (SAM) for 1993, broken down to 24 key sectors of NACE classification, was pointed out (J. Potočnik).

The framework for the discussion about the situation and necessary development of business statistics was presented by Berthold Feldmann, who presented the legal background for the *development of business statistics*. In the EU it has been set in recent years with the adoption of several regulations from the field of statistical infrastructure (classifications, statistical units, harmonisation of business registers, treatment of confidential data) and regulations for individual fields of statistics (Intrastat, Prodcum, structural statistics, short-term statistics). Mr Feldmann presented the regulation



Left to right: Berthold Feldmann and Niko Schlamberger



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on short-term statistics and agreed that the fulfilment of these regulations can present problems for statistical offices since it demands publication of short-term indicators with high frequency (quarterly or even monthly), at very detailed levels, within short deadlines and for units which in practice due to difficulties with data can hardly count (e.g. kind of activity units).

At the conference the two-year progress in developing *business tendency surveys* in manufacturing was presented. Participants were informed about the planned first steps in improving road goods transport statistics, i.e. the pilot project to be implemented in 1997. The main novelty of the pilot project was the introduction of the weekly cycle of observations with quarterly changes in the sample.

The sixth Statistical Days already discussed the subjects that gained great social interest at the turn of the century, i.e. subjects related to the information society and knowledge society. Participants were informed about the introduction of international standards (Frascati Manual, Oslo Manual) in the field of *research and development and innovation* in Slovenia (T. Škrbec) and the attempt to develop a national classification of science in Slovenia (D. Bole Kosmač). With the presentation of methodological problems of Internet usage in Slovenia, which was given by the Institute of Informatics at the Faculty of Social Sciences, *information society statistics* was for the first time on the conference agenda.

A new subject was also *enterprise demography*. The development of this field of business statistics took place within the PECO Project (Pays d'Europe Centrales et Occidentales), which in addition to Slovenia included 10 Central and Eastern European countries.

At the conference much professional attention was dedicated to developing infrastructural bases for

statistics, especially statistical registers. The *strategy of distinguishing between statistical and administrative registers* was implemented in the Register of Territorial Units and the Central Population Register, while for the Business Register of Slovenia a clear proposal how to set up its statistical part as an independent data collection was presented at this conference (N. Schlamberger). Quite some time passed before this idea was actually implemented. The project of setting up the statistical register was namely implemented in 2003–2004 (A. Lešnjek, 2005).

The introduction of ESA 95 brought large changes in *institutional classification of units*, which is one of the units' attributes in the Business Register. Distribution of units by institutional sectors (institutional sectorisation) was implemented on the basis of special rules and procedures prepared by the intersectoral working group (S. Marn). A special approach and care was demanded by the classification of financial intermediaries (J. Fabjan) and units under foreign control (T. Bregar).

The conference pointed out the importance of the register orientation of national statistics for preparing *high-quality sampling frames*. In conditions when sample surveys are the prevalent method of data collection, samples are one of the key factors of data quality. As shown by the example of designing sample units from census districts, the linking of register-based databases (Central Population Register, census data, geographic information system, etc.) enables more rapid and efficient planning of samples and achieving substantial savings (M. Arnež et al). The survey conducted by methodologists on the applicability of various sampling frames for business surveys pointed out that better quality of the sampling frame is brought by a combination of the

business register and other, commercial sources. However, due to the amount of time it takes and due to additional costs, this approach is only justified at multiple uses or at panel surveys (D. Kocjanc et al).

The round table on *regionalisation* praised the possibility of statistical support in designing regions in Slovenia, since with the help of centroids determined for every house number, statistical data can be transferred to different functional levels or regions. Municipalities must be treated as record-keeping and statistical building blocks (units) of regional integration. A proposal was supported to introduce the classification of territorial units for statistics as a national standard.

After several years of intensive work on statistical harmonisation, Slovenia and other countries included in this process gained first knowledge about the achievements and problems of harmonised statistics. In a special study on the comparability of data needed by Slovenia to enter the EU, SORS pointed out as the most critical the fields of financial and regional statistics and agriculture statistics (J. Klep). Experts from abroad pointed out (A. Franz, B. Feldmann) that taking into account international statistical standards and regulations does not guarantee comparability of statistical data in terms of contents, since this is influenced by the difference in the structure of compared data, technologies, institutional organisation and last but not least the looseness of some regulations.

Without any doubt the most striking and for statistics the most substantial message was that of the OECD expert Anne Harrison about the overlooked or at least not sufficiently considered *approaches by statisticians in transition countries* regarding the needs and characteristics of market economies. The areas that in her opinion demand more attention in transition countries are: non-sampling errors, questionnaire design

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taking into account the possibilities of reporting units to report, examination of basic data for calculating aggregates, possibilities of correcting basic data on the basis of validation procedures or due to adjustment of book-keeping categories to economic and statistical concepts, use of procedures for estimating missing values, reconciliation of estimates obtained with various methods, revision as a legitimate method of improving the data quality, pilot surveys, providing methodological consistency of time series, disseminating numerical data in context together with text explanation.

In subsequent years these approaches were included in EU programmes of statistical surveys and appropriate implementation of these approaches was one of the important factors of quality operation of statistical offices.



### Interview

Prof. Dr. Lea Bregar



**You were among the organisers of the first statistical conference. What do you remember most?**

It would perhaps be interesting to mention how I remember the atmosphere at the discussions about the initiatives of Slovene statisticians that Yugoslav statistics should be modernised, that we should open up to the world and provide greater role for republic statistical institutes. We were explaining our ideas (about introducing GDP instead of the social product, about introducing national accounts, about replacing useless Yugoslav classification of activities with the then new NACE classification, about modernising business statistics, about the accelerated development of registers, etc.) whenever we had an opportunity. Of course, we thoroughly exploited the statistical conferences organised in Slovenia in 1987 and 1989, even though it was not very friendly of us as hosts to vigorously address the sensitive issues of Yugoslav statistics. However, it has to be said that discussions never involved any heavy or offensive words from either side.

As far as we are concerned, these were heated professional debates based on our research and development work. Our colleagues from the Federal Statistical Institute watched our presentations with lenience; almost as older people watch how younger people jump over a ditch even though there is a perfectly good bridge there. They tried to curb our enthusiasm by explaining that self-governed Yugoslavia is something so exceptional and special in the world that it is “so unique that it can not be covered by any statistical standard”.

**You have brought many young statisticians from the academic community to the conferences. Were university researchers sufficiently interested in the statistical conference?**

I will limit my reflection to the Faculty of Economics, which – similar to the Faculty of Social Sciences – plays a dual role in Radenci. On the one hand, about half of members of the faculty chair for statistics deal with issues directly related to official statistics. For us the statistical conferences in Radenci are among the rare professional conferences in the field of official statistics at which we can present our achievements and we, of course, actively participate in the event. In the mid-1990s the older generation of statisticians was joined by younger colleagues. After the introduction of the interdisciplinary postgraduate university studies in statistics in 2002, statistical conferences have been regularly attended by students with the best research papers prepared within the Official Statistics seminar.

On the other hand, statistical conferences in Radenci are also interesting for colleagues dealing with economic analysis. They appear in the role of qualified users of statistical data; for them these conferences are an opportunity to present results of their economic analyses and models and to discuss with producers of statistical data the issues of data basis for their research. I am glad that these colleagues are also ever more frequently taking part in statistical conferences in Radenci.

In any case, the interest in Statistical Days would be even greater at the Faculty of Economics and in the academic community in general if conference papers had appropriate weight according to the valid habilitation criteria, since according to these criteria what counts is only publication in appropriately indexed magazines. The possibility that authors could publish the best papers in a relevant scientific magazine should therefore be considered, similarly as is the case with some other conferences, such as the annual international conference Applied Statistics, which is held in Ribno pri Bledu and is also organised by the Statistical Society of Slovenia.

Financial statistics – development for Slovenia, the EU and the EMU

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7<sup>th</sup> conference: 1997  
New Statistical Findings,  
Financial Statistics,  
Globalisation



As predicted by the main findings of the previous Statistical Days, the central theme of the 1997 conference was financial statistics. At that time this field of statistics only started to be developed in Slovenia and the need for data was large, not only due to demands dictated by activities preceding Slovenia's accession to the EU. As was pointed out in the introduction by Marko Kranjec, President of the Programme Committee, Slovenia needs financial statistics for various economic policy-making purposes, e.g. for fiscal policy-making (integral budget, subsidies, government debt and wealth), for monitoring balance of payment flows in which the issues of portfolio and direct investment are coming to the forefront, for the capital market and money, and interest rates and new methods of payment (credit cards, electronic payment).

At the conference 19 papers comprehensively presented the situation in various areas of financial statistics. Most of these areas only started to be developed in accordance with the transformation and emergence of new financial institutions.

Some of the areas of financial statistics had already been fairly standard in statistical practice, but their relevance and reliability were questionable (e.g. balance

of payments, national debt and deficit). Conference papers identified those areas of financial statistics that need to be improved first and harmonised with international standards to a larger extent.

The *inconsistency of government finance statistics and the public sector* with international standards as well as of public finance accounting were pointed out (D. Murn). This reflected in the unreliable statistics on subsidies (A. Murn). All this had impact on other fields of statistics, especially national accounts and international trade in goods and services. For high-quality public finance statistics (especially for calculating government deficit and debt) as well as for national accounts and the balance of payments, sectorisation of some public institutions, government funds and agencies is of great



France Arhar



Slovene newspapers about the 1997 Statistical Days  
"Not Only Data Recording"  
"Figures Determine Decision-Making"  
"Financial Statistics is Only at the Beginning"

importance. The conference confirmed solutions proposed by the Statistical Office and the Ministry of Finance regarding the sectorisation of extrabudgetary funds and some agencies in the Business Register of Slovenia (S. Marn, S. Vencelj).

Conference participants were informed about statistical requirements of the European Monetary Union as predicted by the European Monetary Institute; these requirements include monetary statistics, balance



## 1997 – Financial statistics – development for Slovenia, the EU and the EMU

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of payments and other financial statistics, price statistics and costs, and other basic economic statistics (P. Bull). Slovenia had to focus on these requirements in planning the development of statistics.

One of the central messages of this conference was that it is necessary to strengthen *interinstitutional cooperation* (Bank of Slovenia, Statistical Office, Ministry of Finance, Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development) in order to meet the needs for financial statistics in Slovenia and for efficient adjustment to international standards (particularly of the International Monetary Fund for the field of statistical data dissemination), especially with the expected changes of the status of the Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Payments. At the same time the introduction of ICT and electronic commerce should modernise the process of collecting, processing and disseminating financial data.

Seventh Statistical Days were enriched by more than 20 papers presenting development achievements in very

different and almost all areas of official statistics: macroeconomic statistics (quarterly estimates of value added in financial intermediation, harmonisation of the consumer price index in Slovenia, short-term monitoring of investment), labour market statistics (introduction of continuous labour force survey), business surveys and financial indicators of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia, agriculture statistics and information society statistics, infrastructural bases for statistics, etc.

operating in public interest and the co-organisation of Statistical Days surely contributed to the Society receiving this status.

**Are the conference themes sufficiently broad and interesting for those members of the Statistical Society who are not engaged in official statistics?**

Personally, I can tell you that I am always surprised by how topical the themes of Statistical Days are. Even though I work in natural science, there is always something interesting to reflect on. In recent years, some Society members who are not engaged in official statistics have cooperated in preparing the conference program as well as their colleagues from abroad, and they have also always been impressed by the conference. It is, perhaps, true that I would be even more pleased if participants in conferences organised by the Statistical Society of Slovenia came from more diverse walks of life.

**What do in your opinion the conferences in Radenci, which have been international since 1994, mean for national statistics in Slovenia?**

Statistical conferences in Radenci are surely one of the most internationally known activities of Slovene national statistics, which brings great reputation to the Statistical Office as the main producer of national statistics in the country. Slovene official statistics is well-known in Europe and the world not only because of its high level of professionalism but also because of conferences attended by distinguished guests from other national statistical institutes. The conference is the venue where new professional networks emerge, which enables effective cooperation and flow of information and experience in the professional public. I attended a conference of representatives of European statistical institutes, which took place in Paris, France, on the occasion of 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Statistical Society of France. I was very pleased that many participants knew well their colleagues from the Slovene statistical office and the level of national statistics in Slovenia.

### Interview

**Prof. Dr. Andrej Blejec,**

President of the Statistical Society of Slovenia



**The Statistical Society of Slovenia has been the co-organiser of Statistical Days since the beginning. What is the importance of this conference for the Statistical Society?**

Statistical Days are an important part of the Society's activity. The Society is very proud of its role of the link between the official and so-called academic statistics, since this is not very common in the world. This role reflects in the organisation of two annual international conferences: Applied Statistics and Statistical Days. It is, however, true that we are more involved in the Statistical Days conference. Without dedicated work of Slovenian Statistical Office's employees, many of whom are members of the Statistical Society, the conference could not be organised neither in terms of content nor in terms of execution. Recently, the Society received the permanent status of a society



Left to right: Boris Tkačik, Andreja Hočevar, Slavko Šutar

## In the EU waiting room

The second period (1994–2000) • Preparations for EU accession and globalisation

### 8<sup>th</sup> conference: 1998 Statistical Support to Accession Negotiations and Structural Funds



In 1998 Slovenia signed the accession agreement and started accession negotiations with the EU. The eighth Statistical Days took place at the time when public servants and negotiators in Slovenia were examining the harmonisation of Slovenia's legislation with the EU's *acquis communautaire*. One of the areas under review was statistics. In these activities statistics had a special role; as Yves Franchet, the then Eurostat Director General, pointed out during the visit to Slovenia in April of that year, *statistics was not a subject of negotiations*. Appropriate statistical support was the basis for a candidate country to start negotiations. The topic of this conference thus clearly followed the then topical social moment: the estimate of *statistical support to accession negotiations* and the fulfilment of EU's *structural policy* on which the EU development aid is based. Such a framework of the conference pushed to the forefront the issue of *regionalisation* in Slovenia and the issue of *financial statistics*.

A round table was organised on electronic data exchange between reporting units, enterprises and statistical offices with the help of EDISENT (Electronic Data Interchange between Statistics and Enterprises) software and first experience in using this

tool in Slovenia and the Netherlands. New developments such as results of the pilot population census planned for 2001 and the pilot survey on time use, introduction of ESA 95 methodology in national accounts in Slovenia and information society indicators were also discussed.

The eighth Statistical Days, which attracted a large circle of highly competent participants, were an excellent forum for discussing the *strategy of fulfilling Slovenia's negotiating position* for the field of statistics. The bases for discussion were two papers prepared by the Slovenian Statistical Office: on results of the screening of Slovene legislation from the field of statistics (B. Jemec Zalar) and on the statistical part of the national program for the adoption of the *acquis* (T. Banovec). The essential characteristic of Slovenia's negotiating position in the field of statistics was that it did not request any transition period since due to its own needs Slovenia was interested in national



Press conference

Left to right: Katarina Košmelj, Janez Potočnik, Tomaž Banovec, Rado Genorio, Andreja Hočevar

### Dnevnik 24.11.1998 Evropeizacija statistik za potrebe pogajanj **Statistična pot v EU** Brez analitikov in statistike pomoči ne bo

**RADENCI, 24.** – »Statistična podpora pogajanjem Republike Slovenije z Evropsko unijo« je naziv letošnjega tridnevnega mednarodnega srečanja statistikov. Delovno srečanje statistikov, ki ima v tem okolju devetletno tradicijo, v času, ko naši državni uradniki in pogajalci usklajujejo slovensko zakonodajo s tisto v Evropski uniji, kaže še večji pomen statistike za uveljavljanje nacionalnih interesov ob vstopanju v širši e

Po besedah dr. J. makroekonomske a je večji del poslo pri uresničevanju n približevanje evrop

Letošnji statistični dnevi

### 24.11.1998 Podpora statistike pogajanjem z EU

Blizu 200 udeležencev o novostih v stroki  
V banki že 25 milijonov podatkov

Radenci – Včeraj so se v hotelu Radin v Radencih začeli letošnji statistični dnevi, ki jih že tradicionalno pripravlja republiški statistični urad in republiško statistično društvo. Blizu dvesto udeležencev, ki pribajajo tudi iz tujine, bo tri dni govorilo o novostih v statistični stroki in predvsem o letošnji nosilni temi posvetovanja, statistični podpori pogajanjem Slovenije z Evropsko unijo in o strukturnih skladih.

Slovene newspapers about the 1998 Statistical Days

"Statistical Road to the EU"

"Statistical Support to EU Negotiations"

statistics becoming as soon as possible harmonised with international standards.

Conference participants supported the initiative to *change the 1995 National Statistics Act* so that it would enable more flexible adoption of the national program of statistical surveys, increased use of administrative sources for statistical purposes and greater independence of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia. Participants also supported strengthening of cooperation





## 1998 – In the EU waiting room

The second period (1994–2000) • Preparations for EU accession and globalisation

determined at these levels (I. Strmšnik). Researchers pointed out that the absence of the regional level between the country as a whole and municipalities is frequently an obstacle in designing and implementing efficient regional policy, especially in designing measures for accelerating more balanced development of Slovenia (D. Kavaš, S. Kukar). Papers at this conference discussed the problem of regionalisation of Slovenia from various aspects: political, spatial, economic and legal. The conclusion was that regionalisation can not happen without appropriate statistical support. At the conference statistical support of the Statistical Office was presented as the basis for planning regional development of Slovenia and for using EU's structural funds. Statistical data enabled breakdown of georeferenced data even at NUTS 5 level. Methodological bases of the system of regional accounts in Slovenia (A. Franz, B. Mavec) and four decades of experience of Statistics Netherlands in preparing regional accounts (B. De Vet) were also presented. Participants supported the initiative that Slovenia should implement as soon as possible the territorial breakdown up to NUTS 3 level.

The eighth Statistical Days were in general characterised by active participation of all participants and their willingness to cooperate, which was confirmed by a large number of constructive proposals and initiatives that to a large extent turned into negotiating positions.



### Interview

**Dr. Janez Potočnik,**

European Commissioner for the Environment



**In the 1990s you were Director of the Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development and participated in a number of statistical conferences in Radenci. Why is cooperation with statisticians useful and necessary for analysts and researchers?**

Good analyses and correct scientific results can only be based on good data. Many wrong analytical and research conclusions and bad political decisions have been made in good faith that the data are reliable. Striving of analysts and researchers as well as politicians for development of statistics and for recognising the importance of statistical work is therefore also investment in own development and own credibility – a good investment for a country.

**Importance of statistics was growing particularly in the process of Slovenia's accession to the EU and three statistical conferences were dedicated to the harmonisation of Slovene statistics with European statistics. How do you evaluate the development of Slovene statistics in this period?**

The period of harmonisation of Slovene statistics with European statistics was a very fertile period for the quality of statistical work and for your institution. Slovenia had to be harmonised with the EU's *acquis communautaire* in many areas, including statistics. I have never doubted that you could perform this task, since I was closely monitoring your efforts for quality and international harmonisation and was well aware of them, even before we started to implement procedures for harmonisation with the Community *acquis*.

**In your opinion, what is the importance of conferences in Radenci for Slovene national statistics?**

For me statistical conferences in Radenci were and are a tradition in the true sense of the word. They are a confirmation and consolidation of good work of statisticians, a celebration of friendship in the environment which is known for its openness. I am only sorry that I can not be with you this time.



## On the threshold of the information society

The second period (1994–2000) • Preparations for EU accession and globalisation

### 9<sup>th</sup> conference: 1999 Electronic Commerce and Statistics



The phenomenon of information society was the central theme of the conference at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Even though individual aspects of information society had already been discussed at the previous conferences, this was the first time that the information society was comprehensively discussed as a phenomenon the roots of which are technological but which has numerous implications for individuals, enterprises, the government sector and public administration, and manifests in new goods and services, new forms of organisation and cooperation. And this changes the content and method of work of statistical institutions, brings new statistical services and tools, which demands appropriate qualification of users, changes in the field of education and improvement in statistical literacy.

In the opening discussion participants mostly agreed that *information society* is a multifaceted phenomenon with many dimensions, so it would be more appropriate to describe it with partial definitions and seek for elements that are common to various aspects of the phenomenon. Attempts at statistical measurement of such complex phenomena as electronic commerce in the Netherlands (J. Kardaun) and Slovenia (V. Vehovar) pointed out that the phenomenon should be defined on the basis of its components and that statistical

measurement should be based on this. It is essential to predict the development of information phenomena and related statistical needs.

However, as regards contents, at that time national statistical systems did not follow the rapid development of information society since at the turn of the millennium this field was not yet integrated into the regular activity of statistical services in Europe and Slovenia.

More encouraging was the evaluation of the state in terms of technological infrastructure and network cooperation both in public administration and enterprises (private sector). In his paper Franc Košir, President of the Programme Committee and Director of the Customs Administration of Slovenia, boldly claimed that at the turn of the millennium electronic commerce had already been realised. “Electronic commerce is a reality. The technology is mature. The possibilities are limitless.” Slovenia had already started to implement some of these possibilities, e.g. introduction of electronic commerce with the health insurance card. At the conference Slovenian national statistics was evaluated as an important development factor in promoting



Left to right: Irena Križman, Tomaž Banovec, Francka Gabron, Franc Košir



Slovene newspapers about the 1999 Statistical Days  
“Statistics and Requirements”  
“Open Issues of Measuring the Information Society”  
“Informatisation can not be Held Back”

electronic commerce in public administration, especially with the system of registers: the Central Population Register, the Business Register of Slovenia, the Register of Territorial Units and the informatised land cadastre. The system of registers was also the basis for designing the SAJPI (Common Administrative Kernel of Linked Identifiers) model. The model should enable the takeover of data from various administrative sources using linked identifiers of individual units in different databases intended for storing, searching and exchanging data and for transmitting data to authorised users (T. Banovec).

The conference presented interesting examples of how ICT can help innovate the activity of statistical services in different stages. Participants learned about the possibility of collecting data with the EDIFIN

## 1999 – On the threshold of the information society

The second period (1994–2000) • Preparations for EU accession and globalisation

electronic questionnaire (N. Gorjan, K. Hren), using the Internet for surveying (M. Podlogar, A. Pucihar), and using web robots in statistics (U. Škufca). Papers about the users of Slovenian Statistical Office's website (A. Može) and the quality of websites of statistical data providers (M. Bavdaž et al) were presented.

Conference participants pointed out that various ideas about electronic commerce cannot be successfully implemented without *different culture* between all parties involved in electronic commerce; this has to be based on the principle of cooperation, of course providing appropriate data protection (M. Kajić et al).

Thinking about future generations of users of statistical and other data, Denise Lievesley, Director of UNESCO Institute for Statistics, started an interesting



Denise Lievesley

discussion about the unsolved problem of *archiving* electronic data.

Even though it was primarily dedicated to electronic commerce, this conference also could not avoid evaluating the success of Slovenia on its way to adopt by 2002 at the latest appropriate statistical legislation without transition periods and adjust individual fields of statistics with EU statistical standards. This was the time of preparing legislation for the field of infrastructural classifications, preparing censuses of population and agricultural holdings, amending the National Statistics Act and the act on linking administrative registers, and preparing the program of statistical surveys on the basis of the medium-term statistical program of the European Union 1998–2002. The picture of Slovenia (I. Križman et al) was completed by presentations about the situation in the Czech Republic (J. Fischer, Z. Vesely) and Estonia (U. Randaru, V. Buttei). In the discussion participants agreed that for candidate countries the key for successful implementation of demands in the field of statistics in addition to appropriate institutional organisation supported by appropriate legislation it is also necessary to establish statistical information infrastructure, introduce new statistical methods, focus on users of statistical data, introduce modern management and improve the coordination role of national statistical offices.

As regards harmonisation with EU legislation and EU institutional structure, reform of payment systems was presented within which banks took over the monitoring of payment transactions from the then Agency for Payments. For Slovene statistics it was very important how to maintain the *statistical information function of the Agency for Payments*. At the conference the Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public Legal



Simultaneous interpretation

Records and Related Services (AJPES) was presented, which should take over the statistical function and management of the administrative Business Register of Slovenia (M. Jančar-Vidmar).

Within the 1999 Statistical Days two round tables were organised: on experience and vision of Statistics Netherlands regarding electronic commerce and on administrative data available at AJPES.

Participants again had the opportunity to present their latest achievements and lessons learned. Within the session on new statistical findings and general achievements the Statistical Office presented planned changes in the statistical monitoring of employment and wages (the survey should be replaced by administrative sources), activities for more comprehensive measurement of GDP by including illegal economy and taking into account the imputed value of housing services for owner occupied dwellings, harmonisation of energy statistics and surveys on tourism travels of domestic population, and the pilot census of innovation activity in manufacturing.

## Cooperation rules!

The second period (1994–2000) • Preparations for EU accession and globalisation

### 10<sup>th</sup> conference: 2000 Network of Statistics for Better European Compliance and Quality of Operation



The 2000 Statistical Days was in many ways a record-breaking conference: the highest number of authors (91) with 70 papers, the most extensive proceedings volume (657 pages), and the highest active foreign participation of 30 experts from 16 countries. This was surely the result of the broad topic discussed and the reputation that the jubilee 10<sup>th</sup> Statistical Days acquired in expert circles in Slovenia and abroad. The central theme of this conference was *assessing progress made in fulfilling negotiation commitments and the strategy of ESS development, network cooperation and organisational issues of ESS operation and international statistics, and the quality of national statistics* (in terms of processes and results). A special session was dedicated to territorial, regional, environmental and agricultural statistics. Papers on development achievements included papers from the field of data dissemination, social statistics, and macroeconomic, financial and business statistics.

The starting points for discussing these topics were invited papers prepared by Eurostat representatives on their experience with the EU enlargement process and providing statistical support to the emerging EMU. Eurostat's expert pointed out that the large burden of

harmonising national statistics in candidate countries is justified by the fact that high-quality and comparable data are indispensable for EU's operation. For efficient planning and implementation of national economic and other policies, these data are also necessary in Member States. Without any doubt financial assistance via the Phare program played a large role in accelerated adjustment of statistics; without it Slovenia and other countries could not manage to make this development leap in such a short time. It is also true that efficient use of these funds was helped by the well-designed strategy and coordinated and committed cooperation between Eurostat and recipients of these funds. At the conference many strategies and organisational solutions used by other countries – transition countries (Slovenia, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Romania) and EU Member States (Finland, United Kingdom) – were presented. A review of their findings brought a message that there is *no single recipe* how democratic statistical systems should be designed. Countries should find their own strategies but should not discard the policies of international organisations and should not neglect cooperation and taking into account good practices of other countries. Slovenia has successfully built on its advantages, which were noticed by foreign experts: the first initiatives and development work in the field of adjusting statistics to market demands and obtaining international experience and knowledge before the transition started, professional expertise of human resources and good knowledge of foreign languages, sufficient resources and comprehensive approach to registers and other administrative sources (N. Wurm).

In Slovenia's accession to the EU *statistics related to space* – i.e. agricultural, environmental and regional statistics – were especially important. As regards EU demands, these statistics were rather deficient. The 10<sup>th</sup>



Participants of the 2000 Statistical Days



Timo Relander

Statistical Days thus dedicated a special session to *spatial statistics*.

In preparing Slovenia's negotiating position for the field of agriculture, special attention was dedicated to agricultural statistics. The bases for harmonising Slovene statistics were set up in 1993 with the development of



## 2000 – Cooperation rules!

The second period (1994–2000) • Preparations for EU accession and globalisation

the statistical farm register and several new statistical surveys. In preparations for accession it turned out that there are still many gaps in agricultural statistics: problems were caused by incomparable and deficient time series and inappropriate data for certain areas, such as milk production and wine growing. Hungarian experience in using agricultural statistics in accession negotiations was presented.

The discussion in this session mostly focused on regional statistics. In 2000 Slovenia was in the midst of lively discussions about what exactly the concept of regions in the EU is and what regions in Slovenia are. In 2000 Slovenia adopted the Statistical Classification of Territorial Units (SKTE). At the conference first experience of Macedonia in developing the geographic



Special issue of Statistical Messages at the jubilee 10<sup>th</sup> Statistical Days in Radenci

information system (GIS) was presented as well as further development of GIS in Slovenia with satellite collection of land cover data.

The Statistical Office presented the situation and possibilities for improving environmental expenditure statistics as well as environmental satellite accounts and plans for developing this area. Greenhouse gas accounts were also presented.

With several papers on quality

in national statistics the tenth Statistical Days anticipated that the strategy of improving quality in statistics will become the main promoter of development and enforcement of national statistics. At the same time the conference predicted the penetration of managerial philosophy and managerial approaches in management of statistical processes. At the conference the representative of the state Statistical Office of Macedonia Ljubinka Popovska presented Eurostat's multidimensional concept of quality from 1996 and critically evaluated the TQM (total quality management) concept as an approach to fulfilling the concept of quality in practice. She argued that due to exclusive orientation towards users and market principles of



Left to right: Anton Kramberger, Irena Tršinar, Niko Schlamberger, Tomaž Banovec

operation this concept is not suitable for small countries in transition. The German statistician and the current Director of Eurostat Mr Walter Radermacher presented the experience in implementing TQM in German statistics, which is based in accordance with Eurostat's recommendations on the European Foundation for Quality model.

Representatives of the Slovenian Statistical Office showed how it could be possible to assess the quality of the business register, while a representative of the University of Macedonia highlighted in theory and practice the poorly addressed problem of the impact of questionnaire on the quality of collected data.

The issue of introducing total quality management in national statistics was also the subject of a round table. Two additional round tables were organised on the information society and statistical tasks in 2001 and on education, training and statistical literacy. These round tables clearly predicted where the focus of professional attention of statistical conferences in the first decade of the new millennium will be.

### DELO 14.11.2000

#### Slovenska statistika evropsko razvita

Radenci – Včeraj so se v Radencih Statistični dnevi, tridnevno mednarodno udeležencev.

V Radencih desetletni jubilejni Statistični dnevi 2000 Slovenija v statistiki uspešna država

#### Statistični dnevi 2000 v Radencih

### O približevanju slovenske statistike statistiki EU

Mednarodno posvetovanje je privabilo skoraj dvesto udeležencev

Radenci so na teden gostili in devet posvetovanj Statistični dnevi 2000 v radenci Statistična svetovna konferenca, na kateri so evropski udeleženci in takrat ostale države, ki sta na

Slovene newspapers about the 2000 Statistical Days  
 "Slovene Statistics as Developed as European Statistics"  
 "Slovenia a Successful Country in Terms of Statistics"  
 "Harmonisation of Slovene Statistics with EU Statistics"

#### From the social chronicle:

Three people go deer hunting. One of them is a statistician. The first one fires a shot and misses by a metre to the left. The second one fires a shot and missed by a metre to the right. The third one – the statistician – says: "We got him!!!"

Janez Stare,  
former President of the Statistical Society of Slovenia



## The third period: 2001–2009

# Statistics in a third millennium society

The start of the new millennium brought numerous changes in the society, economy and politics. Now statisticians no longer faced the dilemma whether they should calmly wait for subject-matter (content) experts to describe and explain a new phenomenon or wait for the new phenomenon to be sufficiently “statistically developed”, i.e. frequent. Expectations of the society towards statisticians are now different: in cooperation with other experts, statisticians must know how to gain information about probable social development and anticipate which phenomena will be characteristics and predominant, what will thus be the probable needs for statistical data. Or as was written by the President of the Programme Committee of 2010 Statistical Days Dr. Ivan Svetlik: “One would expect from statistics to be able to anticipate things or at least provide the data platform for producing development forecasts.”

At the turn of the millennium the main development trends of the first decade had already been evident: the increasing impact of ICT on all layers of social life and new competences, accelerated globalisation and the emergence of new centres of development, the increasing competitiveness and gaining advantages through knowledge, commitment to quality, population ageing and economic, social and other consequences of population ageing. Actually, in subsequent years all these topics have found their place at Statistical Days in Radenci. The only thing that most of us did not envisage was the deep economic crisis at the end of the first decade of the third millennium. This was the subject of the 19<sup>th</sup> conference in 2009.







## A new millennium, new topics

The third period (2001–2009) • Statistics in a third millennium society

### 11<sup>th</sup> conference: 2001 A New Millennium - New Phenomena: Have Statisticians been Able to Understand and Measure Them



The 2001 Statistical Days opened new topics which statisticians had not discussed at previous conferences or which were not in focus and were discussed only by individual papers. Radenci 2001 thus focused on the following topics: assessing future needs for statistical data and statistical cooperation, quality of statistical services, statistical culture, education and statistical literacy, and monitoring the development of a knowledge-based society.

Assessing future needs for statistical data demands appropriate organisational approaches and methodologies of anticipating statistical needs.

The possibilities for such organisation of national statistics that would support the assessment of future needs of national statistics in Slovenia were improved with amendments to the National Statistics Act that were adopted in 2001. In the framework of the organisational setup of national statistics in Slovenia in terms of assessing statistical needs for a number of years a special role has been played by *statistical advisory committees*. Together with other authorised institutions, the Slovenian Statistical Office has developed an

innovative concept of statistical advisory committees, which have a long tradition in Slovene national statistics as they started to operate before they were formally stipulated by the National Statistics Act in 1995. Members of statistical advisory committees are representatives of users and producers of statistical surveys, experts from individual areas, the interested public, and providers of various statistical services. Statistical advisory committees are thus *institutional forums that enable the identification of needs*, encourage cooperation and contribute to greater transparency of available data sources, especially administrative. Agreements on future work of national statistics – i.e. on which needs for statistical data will be covered and in what way – are formalised by annual and medium-term statistical programmes of statistical surveys.

Cooperation between users and producers of statistical data *at the EU level* was organised via the European Advisory Committee on Statistical Information in the Economic and Social Spheres, CEIES (*Fr. Comité Consultatif Européen de l'Information*



Left to right: Irena Križman, Lars Thygesen, Eivind Hoffman

*Statistiques dans les domaines Economique et Social*). Joachim Lamel, CEIES President, presented work done by this committee. CEIES members – two from each EU Member State and representatives of the European Commission – met once a year at plenary sessions, while professional discussions were held in subcommittees and at seminars. However, work of this committee was made more difficult by the large number of members and by its advisory character. Therefore, the committee could not really effectively fulfil its main mission, which is supporting the European Council and the Commission in harmonising the community objectives in the field of statistical information policy, especially in terms of user needs and response burden of reporting units. CEIES was abolished in 2009 with the new regulation on European statistics and was replaced by the European Statistical Advisory Committee (ESAC).

Conference participants agreed that adjustment to new information and statistical needs is even more challenging due to the extraordinary *dynamics of social changes* that are intensified by unexpected global events,



Left to right: Andrej Blejec, Ivan Svetlik

## 2001 – A new millennium, new topics

The third period (2001–2009) • Statistics in a third millennium society

such as 11 September 2001. At that time statistical requirements of the EU and other international institutions were constantly increasing. For example, monitoring the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy required several dozens of internationally harmonised indicators, and the demands for rapid development of environmental statistics and information society statistics were becoming increasingly acute. Integration of administrative sources and understanding the relationships between reporting units and the government as a condition for multipurpose reporting became a necessity (T. Banovec). At the same time national statistics increasingly asserted itself as one of the most powerful and internationally recognised *tools for communication* and the basis for various negotiations as well as for identifying economic and other obligations and for allocating EU funds.



Len Cook

determined by user needs. The strategy of implementing quality demands a change in the corporate culture, management support and cooperation of all employees. Implementation of the quality strategy is the most frequently based on the concept of total quality management (TQM); however, the Danish paper showed that other ways are possible, e.g. quality projects each focusing on one statistical area (L. Thygesen). The key factor of all quality dimensions in modern statistical systems is ICT. Mr Cook pointed out the crucial importance of *Internet technology* for quality of statistical services, especially in terms of their *accessibility*, since it revolutionises the conditions and possibilities to access statistical data. New circumstances of obtaining statistical data bring new tasks for producers and users related especially to data protection and to information and qualification of users for professionally appropriate use of statistical data.

*Metadata* are of key importance for informing users about the content of statistical data. Metadata driven

### FINANCE 27.11.2001 Statistiki za novo tisočletje

Slovenski statistični sistem je s svojimi dosedanjimi povezovalji podatkov in z administrativnimi registri državni administraciji zagotovil dobre podlage za urejanje razmer v državi, zaradi česar je dobil relativno ugodno oceno tudi v poročilu Evropske komisije o napredku Slovenije v pridružitvenem procesu, je včeraj ob odprtju 11. statističnih dnevov v Radencih dejal direktor Statističnega urada Republike Slovenije (SURS) Tomaž Banovec. Na osrednjem strokovnem srečanju slovenskih statističnih strokovnjakov, ki ga vsako leto pripravi Statistično društvo Slovenije in SURS, se je letos zbralo več kot 150 udeležencev iz Slovenije in tujine. Tri dni bodo razpravljali o pripravljenosti statistike na razumevanje in merjenje novih pojavov v novem tisočletju.

STA

Newspaper Finance about the 2001 Statistical Days  
"Statisticians for a new millenium"

Such an important social role of official statistics pushed to the forefront the issue of the quality of its services. The issue of *quality in statistics*, a topic that had been explicitly discussed at previous statistical conferences only by a few papers, was the central topic of the eleventh conference. This topic was treated in depth in the introductory paper presented by Len Cook, Director of the UK Office for National Statistics, and then in a special session. The conceptual starting point for the discussion on quality in statistics was Eurostat's multidimensional concept of the quality of statistical services, which is determined by relevance, accuracy, comparability and coherence of results, accessibility and clarity. The mentioned quality dimensions are



Left to right: Carlo Malaguerra, Janez Šuštaršič



## 2001 – A new millennium, new topics

The third period (2001–2009) • Statistics in a third millennium society

processing in statistical services was discussed at a special round table. The Slovenian Statistical Office presented the concept of the corporate metadata repository METIS, which enables automatic and integrated processing of metadata through the work process with central control of this process (R. Jensterle et al).

The session on statistical culture, education and statistical literacy was seeking to answer the question what the qualification of users for professional appropriate use of statistical data means in a modern society. The papers and the discussion showed that in the conditions of wide accessibility of statistics enabled by online data dissemination it is not enough to only provide websites with metadata. What is needed is a higher level of statistical literacy and a focus on lifelong learning. Creative use of the possibilities offered by ICT, such as design of a website or a data warehouse as a learning tool (G. Barbieri) or introduction of comprehensive e-learning in teaching statistics (L.



Participants of the 2001 Statistical Days during a break

Bregar), pointed to the fact that for statistics a new era in education and training has arrived.

The 2001 Statistical Days launched a new topic – *statistics and the knowledge-based society*. Papers at this conference dealt less with conceptual definitions of a knowledge-based society and more with studying what are statistical possibilities for assessing human (J. Malačič) and social (J. Štebe) capital as key determinants of a knowledge-based society. The basic picture of statistical bases for studying a knowledge-based society was presented by papers on the situation of education statistics in Macedonia (B. Novkovska) and on education and training statistics in the context of lifelong learning in Slovenia (T. Škrbec, M. Medvešek Milošević). Special attention was paid to the results of the longitudinal analysis of the study efficiency of the 1992/92 cohort of students and to the methodology of this study which was based on the available statistical and administrative data (M. Bevc, B. Ložar). The analysis of the spatial mobility of graduates (D. Dolenc) pointed out the problem of internal brain drain in Slovenia and proved to be an example of effective linking of various administrative and statistical sources. In light of the current significant changes in the labour market and tertiary education, a rather interesting (and telling) was the estimate of the need for formal education of adults in Slovenia in the next ten-year period by 2010.

In addition to the issue of metadata, the round tables at this conference pushed to the forefront two large statistical actions: Agriculture Census carried out in 2000 and the Census of Population, Households and Housing planned for 2002.

The presentation of development achievements at this conference focused on business statistics, financial statistics and external trade. Among the



Left to right: Tatjana Šeremet, Andreja Arnič, Julija Kutin, Milan Katič, Matjaž Jug, Joža Klep

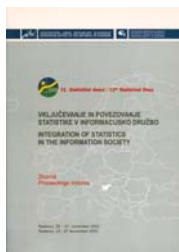
papers from the field of business statistics one worth mentioning is the presentation of the new field of business statistics, namely *structural business statistics*, which was introduced in the ESS in order to provide as much as possible and as detailed as possible information on performance and economic characteristics of business entities. Statistical Office's paper presented the results of the project on the development of this new area in Slovenia (N. Gorjan). Participants were also informed about methodological developments in the field of monitoring intra EU trade (Intrastat) and the preparations to implement Intrastat in Slovenia. The Ministry of Finance presented the results of a detailed survey on possible improvements in compilation of government deficit and debt.



## What should statistics be like in an information society?

The third period (2001–2009) • Statistics in a third millennium society

### 12<sup>th</sup> conference: 2002 Integration of Statistics in the Information Society



In terms of the central themes, the 12<sup>th</sup> conference was the continuation of conferences organised in the previous three or four years; the common denominator of these conferences was how official statistics should fulfil its mission in a modern information society. On one hand, there are increasingly more phenomena that should be monitored by official statistics in information society and they are more diverse, complex and global. On the other hand, the need for regional data is becoming more detailed and the demands for high-quality and especially timely data are becoming ever greater.

Statistical services in EU candidate countries were additionally burdened by the fulfilment of commitments to harmonise their legislations with the *acquis communautaire* by 2002.

In this respect 2002 was a turning point because at the conference in Radenci we knew that all candidate countries had successfully passed the exam; Slovenia passed it with flying colours. However, there was no time to rest on the laurels. The five-year programme of statistical surveys for the 2003–2007 period had already been prepared. It was clear that what is needed for understanding new, complex phenomena and for high-quality statistical monitoring which should serve as support to policies and as a mirror of the society are

multidisciplinary knowledge and new methodological approaches in all phases of statistical work and more intensive and innovative forms of cooperation with users, especially in knowledge creation and transfer. Such thinking was at the centre of the 12<sup>th</sup> Statistical Days with a selection of the following topics: research and development in the field of statistics; integration of national and international needs; challenges and opportunities of the ESS and national statistical institutes within e-government initiatives; censuses of population, dwellings and buildings.

At the conference round tables were organised on Intrastat, public finance statistics and metadata.

A precondition for successful cooperation in development and research in official statistics and for efficient knowledge transfer is a certain level of *statistical and information literacy*, definite professional competence and appropriate infrastructure (L. Biggeri). We are witnessing a paradox and a challenge of the information society, namely that the use of data does not follow the increased production and availability of data (L. Bregar,



Left to right: Milena Zemljich, Ljubica Djordjevic



Left to right: Irena Križman, Tomaž Banovec

M. Bavdaž). One of the possible approaches is to improve users' knowledge by providing appropriate statistical literacy training. As a result of long and successful work, in 2002 *postgraduate programme in statistics* was organised for the first time in Slovenia. Participants were informed about the content of this programme at the round table led by its initiator Anuška Ferligoj of the Faculty of Social Sciences. The postgraduate programme contained the compulsory seminar Official Statistics. Statistical Office cooperated in implementing this seminar by providing lectures on topical subjects of official statistics. Many interesting seminar papers prepared by students as part of their studies were presented as independent papers at Statistical Days.

Conference participants agreed that *research results* in the field of official statistics are generally stopped behind the doors of research institutions and there are no mechanisms for the transfer of knowledge and technology into practice. Participants were informed about the AMRADS (Accompanying Measures to R&D in Statistics) project, the purpose of which was to



## 2002– What should statistics be like in an information society?

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develop an effective mechanism for transferring research results into the work of statistical offices (J. Lamb, D. Ramprakash).

The topic of integrating national and international needs first opened the issue of ESS development and the role of national statistics after candidate countries join the EU.

Under conditions of increasing competition, especially from the United States of America, the ESS was faced with pressures to increase its flexibility; this should contribute to greater timeliness of data release, similar to that in the United States. To this end the ESS announced the introduction of priority release of monetary and financial indicators at the EU level (*Europe First*) and the so-called *European sampling*. In collecting data on the basis of European samples, data from small countries would not be needed. Participants agreed that national statistics in Slovenia does not exist only to cover European needs but that the needs and interests of *national users* should be respected and that due to own interests this part of statistics should be supported,



Participants of the 2002 Statistical Days



Left to right: Enrico Giovannini, Gerrit de Bolster, Irena Križman, Jana Meliskova, Joško Čuk

including some detailed data collections. The idea of European samples should thus not impoverish national statistics. Joško Čuk, President of the Programme Committee of the 12<sup>th</sup> Statistical Days, pointed out that “statistics in small countries is relatively expensive and labour intensive, and requires larger (and therefore more expensive) statistical samples.” In solving this predicament, *register-based statistics* and further *development of the administrative environment* can be most helpful, especially cooperation of statistics in determining administrative contents and in standardisation processes.

Cooperation of national and international institutions is also necessary in the use of statistical data in political and strategic documents about policies in different areas within the EU as well as in the use of financial resources. In these documents statistical data are used as indicators in determining target values or as criteria for achieving the targets. N. Maher and I. Lavrač pointed out the necessity of cooperation and coordination of institutions in selecting indicators that

must be justified in terms of contents, methodologically relevant, properly disseminated and supported by appropriate metadata.

Papers in the session on the challenges of national statistics within *e-government initiatives* illustrated how much progress has been made compared to the situation three years ago when Statistical Days were dedicated to electronic commerce and statistics. The discussion and papers on the informatisation of national statistics in Romania, Lithuania, Bulgaria and Slovenia showed that in 2002 technology was no longer the main limiting factor. More rapid introduction of e-commerce was hindered by *inefficient agreement* about common technical solutions, models and rules for data exchange, insufficient metadata and some undefined rules how to deal with confidential data.

The twelfth Statistical Days were also an opportunity for national statistical offices (Serbia, Yugoslavia, Croatia, Austria, Italy, Slovenia) to present their experience in preparing and conducting *population censuses* in 2002 or a year earlier. The most thoroughly



Left to right: Jan Fischer, Jakub Fischer



## 2002– What should statistics be like in an information society?

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discussed was the population census in Slovenia. Differences between the number of population on the basis of the Central Population Register and censuses conducted in the 1953–2002 period were also analysed.

Participants supported the initiative of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia to *exchange census data* between countries in the region. In the future data sharing could stimulate cooperation also in the field of metadata and harmonisation of methodological bases. This area of interregional harmonisation is insufficiently covered by international institutions. It was expected that the importance of comparable statistical data between regions will increase after Slovenia's accession to the EU.

Even though the twelfth Statistical Days focused more on *institutional and organisational aspects* of statistical services in new conditions of information society, the session on development achievements again offered a number of interesting information on the progress in developing individual fields of statistics or the use of new and improved methods. The Slovenian Statistical Office presented the methodological study of the possibility to measure telework, the use of the imputation method of estimating expenditure in the survey on travels of domestic population and the regional statistics data warehouse. The Bank of Slovenia informed the participants about the revised seasonal adjustment system and the harmonised monetary aggregates for Slovenia calculated in line with the latest ECB requirements. Representatives of other countries (Croatia – five papers, the Czech Republic, Macedonia and the United Kingdom) also participated in this session.

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### Interview

**Prof. Dr. Anuška Ferligoj,**

University of Ljubljana,  
Faculty of Social Sciences



**Statistical conferences opened up a discussion between producers of official statistics, data providers and users of statistical data; statistics professors were frequently among the latter. What is the role of the academic community in developing the statistical profession?**

The role of the academic community is definitely very important for the development of the statistical profession, and vice versa. University professors and researchers from the field of statistics educate future teachers and researchers from the field of statistics who usually cooperate with producers of official statistics, with data providers and with users of statistical data or become employees of the Statistical Office and other institutions. I am convinced that cooperation between the academic community and official statistics is to the benefit of both.

Slovenia has developed excellent cooperation between statisticians in both these environments; in other countries this is not very frequently the case. All these years this excellent cooperation has been proven at statistical conferences in Radenci. Statistics professors participate in these conferences with papers, organising round tables and discussions. In discussions we sometimes present different views of the discussed statistical issues and propose different solutions. Anyway, the meeting of different views and the discussion are to the benefit of both the academic community and official statistics.

**Young statisticians often present their research papers at the Statistical Days conference. How would you evaluate their efforts to find innovative solutions indicated by these papers?**

As you know, I was among the initiators of the university postgraduate studies in statistics at the University of Ljubljana. I strive to make the program and its implementation as good as possible. This program was among the first in the world to include the module Official Statistics. In the seminar Official Statistics led by Prof. Dr. Lea Bregar students have to prepare seminar papers. Several times the best of these papers have been presented in the form of conference papers for Statistical Days. As a rule, students' papers have been very well received and evaluated, which makes me very proud. At these conferences parts of master's and doctoral theses of our statistics students have also been often presented. The response of producers of official statistics, data providers and users of statistical data to solutions presented by our students can be very valuable for their future work.

**In your opinion, what is the importance of statistical conferences in Radenci for national statistics in Slovenia?**

I have always understood professional and scientific conferences as excellent opportunities to exchange experience, views and knowledge. Therefore, statistical conferences are extremely important for the development of the statistical profession in Slovenia and the world. If that were not the case, the conferences would not be attended by so many distinguished experts from the fields of official and academic statistics from Slovenia, European countries and the world. The organisers of statistical conferences in Radenci can only be congratulated and wished many successful conferences in the future.

## Statistics – a bridge between the information society and the knowledge society

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### 13<sup>th</sup> conference: 2003 Statistics as a Tool and Source for Users' Knowledge Creation



2003 was a year of expectations, focused into the future. For statistics preparations to join the EU had mostly been finished, what lay ahead were new tasks based on full membership of Slovenia in the EU in which Slovenia as an active Member State would fulfil its national objectives. With the new role of Slovenia the responsibility of national statistics to detect future statistical needs for socially relevant data, for quality and timeliness, for data protection and for reducing the response burden of reporting units became even greater. National statistics sought the way towards efficient and successful dealing with these challenges in discussions at Statistical Days in Radenci. Previous conferences, especially the one organised in 2002, pointed out that further development is paved with constant education and training of statisticians and users, with readiness for innovation in production and dissemination of statistical data, and with systematic introduction of new technologies supported by appropriate organisational solutions.

The thirteenth Statistical Days were a new opportunity for an even more in-depth discussion about these issues. The conference focused on users' training and statistical indicators, the subjects that stirred up a

lot of interest and left open a number of issues at the previous conference.

In a special session dedicated to national accounts this conference offered an overview of achievements in adjustment to statistical requirements for economic policy-making in the EU and for entering the EMU.

The conference also opened the “number one” issue of the coming years and decades, i.e. *population ageing and its economic and social consequences*.

Innovative aspects of national statistics were discussed at four round tables: statistical dissemination on the Internet; Internet as an unstructured source of information for the needs of national statistics; “trade off” between statistical confidentiality and data dissemination; and e-government and statistics. In 2003 the session presenting development achievements was especially rich in terms of contents as it covered several issues: quality in statistics, environmental statistics, external trade in goods statistics – Intrastat, and

statistics of labour, earnings and living conditions. Some papers within this session, e.g. on globalisation and real estate statistics, pointed to the topics of the future conferences.

Let us examine what was brought by the topics that marked the 13<sup>th</sup> Statistical Days.

In the year before the planned accession to the EU the time was right to comprehensively present and discuss what level of compliance with international requirements had been achieved. The basis for the discussion was Statistical Office's paper which assessed the situation in Slovenia in terms of the basic statistical requirements of the EU and presented the action plan for Slovenia (S. Marn). Statistical requirements were determined by four basic documents: the EU Council Regulation concerning short-term statistics (1998), principal European economic indicators (2001), the action plan on economic, monetary and financial statistics for acceding countries (2002) and the action plan on EMU statistical requirements. A review of compliance in the field of quarterly national accounts was also presented (K. Hren).

The prepared material confirmed that as regards economic, business and financial statistics Slovenia is *well prepared* to enter European integrations and pointed to the areas where there are still some discrepancies or *deficiencies*. A comparison with the EMU action plan thus pointed out that all institutions must accelerate their work in introducing ESA 95, especially as regards deadlines for sending the data and the development of financial statistics (short-term financial statistics, government debt and deficit statistics, and financial accounts statistics). A comparison of achievements with EMU action plan requirements also pointed out the partial lag of labour market statistics (especially in providing data on hours worked and on labour cost



Keynote speakers:

John Pullinger, Staša Baloh Plahutnik, Genovefa Ružič, Teresa Dickinson, Slaven Micković, Lea Bregar

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indices), manufacturing statistics and construction statistics, and especially the slow development of service statistics.

In the discussion conference participants pointed to the experience of other countries. Good practice of the most developed statistical offices showed that *interinstitutional cooperation* is necessary, especially in



Left to right: Janja Kalin, Karmen Hren, Janez Košak, Hilikka Vahavainen, Stane Marn



Presentation of development achievements

*preparing national accounts*. To improve the quality of national accounts statistics, authorised institutions must develop coordination of those data that are covered by various producers of statistics, so as to achieve the long-term improvement of the quality of data coverage, reduction of reporting errors, reduction of reporting burden and in the end greater consistency of macroeconomic statistics. Special attention must be focused on sectorisation, consistently taking into account ESA 95 criteria, especially in determining the government sector.

Although in terms of topical social issues discussed at the conference the central role was that of the harmonisation of Slovene statistics with EU and EMU requirements, much professional attention was focused on the topics of the future, i.e. *the role of statistics in a knowledge-based society and population ageing*.

Statistics has a special place in the *knowledge-based society* since with appropriate use of statistical tools *new knowledge can be created*. A condition for that is statistical literacy, which is the ability to use and communicate statistical information in professionally relevant and socially appropriate way. *Statistical literacy* encourages a creative dialogue and builds trust among producers and users of statistical data. In the information society statistical literacy is closely associated with *information literacy*, which is necessary for effective collection and processing of relevant statistical data and for appropriate use of data with the help of ICT.

The conference opened the issue of incorporating minimum standards of information literacy into the educational system. Due to knowledge constantly becoming obsolete and due to dynamic technical development, participants also discussed the possibility of increasing statistical and information literacy through *lifelong learning*. Exchange of experience and good

practice between producers of statistical surveys and data users is also important (I. Orešnik, M. Suvorov and I. Križman, G. Ružič). Presentations (D. Trewin; L. Bregar and M. Bavdaž) and the discussion showed that in designing measures to improve statistical literacy the differences between needs and competencies between different groups of users must be taken into account. Raising statistical literacy is not only in the interest of statistical offices and the task of educational institutions; this process requires the cooperation of representatives of the civil society, especially statistical societies, qualified users and other groups of users, such as the media.

The problem of population ageing and other socio-economic consequences of declining fertility in the past two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century were pointed out already at the 1994 conference. Almost a decade later the phenomenon of population ageing at last received much greater social attention encouraged by undeniable empirical results that no longer permitted any doubt. Population projections for Slovenia for the



Round table: statistical dissemination on the Internet



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2001–2036 period namely warned about rapid population ageing which migration could only slightly offset (J. Malačič).

Research presented at the conference predicted that with already started reforms it will be relatively easier to control the costs of pension and disability insurance, but that the costs of health care, which increase with age, will be much harder to control (T. Kraigher). Generational accounts as the method of supplementing basic fiscal indicators (budget deficit and public debt) proved that intertemporal budget balance is not assured and that the reasons for the alarming situation are first and foremost demographic. By delaying the measures, the necessity of changes would drastically increase (J. Sambt).

Low fertility is a key factor of rapid population ageing in Slovenia. The regional geographical analysis showed that there are practically no reservoirs of young population in Slovenia. At the same time, the analysis showed that the phenomenon of fertility behaviour can not be explained simply by economic factors. The demographic policy should focus on people as individuals and on the way they act.

Conference participants agreed that due to urgently needed changes and reforms policy-makers must be provided with *good data basis*, including *microdata for research purposes* and longer time series. For more comprehensive analyses, it will be necessary to link individual characteristics of people with characteristics of a wider environment in which these people live. International surveys, such as panel surveys on fertility behaviour, which are conducted under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, have already taken this into account. Slovenia participated in the survey on fertility behaviour for 1995; however, researchers (M. Černič Istenič et al)



Left to right: Metka Zaletel, Mojca Suvorov

pointed out that due to financial problems it is highly unlikely that Slovenia will participate in this survey in the future despite great social importance and usefulness of such surveys.

The thirteenth Statistical Days continued the discussion on *statistical indicators* started a year before. Examples of using statistical indicators in various areas (labour market, environmental development, regional development, sustainable development, monitoring EU structural policies and monitoring business performance) were presented. Participants pointed out the importance of training and cooperation between data users and producers, which is the only thing that can provide correct use of data. Users must namely know the content-related and methodological limitations of indicators and take into account that an explanation of a certain indicator (in the sense of good and bad) depends on a specific context of use. We must also be aware of the danger of biased selection of indicators adjusted to political objectives and needs for specific interpretation of reality (M. Ward).

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Globalisation – much work for statistics

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14th conference: 2004 Statistical Monitoring of Globalisation and Services – a Challenge and Necessity



On 1 May 2004 Slovenia became a full member of the European Union. And in August of that year we celebrated 60 years of official statistics in Slovenia. Despite the anniversary, the Statistical Days conference was as always hard-working and with a selection of two central themes – globalisation statistics and services statistics – forward oriented.

As always, the session on development achievements covered the newest and the most diverse reports on development and research work in statistical offices and other government institutions, universities and research

institutes in Slovenia and abroad. In parallel with the sessions five round tables were organised: record-keeping and statistical monitoring of real estate; cooperation of government institutions in the process of accession to the EMU; role and importance of information and communication technology in modernising the processes of data collection, processing and dissemination; statistical support to regionalisation and cross-border integration of regions; and protection and transmission of statistical data for research and analytical purposes.

At the start of the new millennium globalisation became an increasingly important phenomenon of the global economy, which reflected in integrated international production, changes in sources of competitiveness, creation of new centres of development and enhanced outsourcing of services. Globalisation brings a number of problems, such as unequal distribution of income, wealth and knowledge and the loss of jobs. To prepare effective strategies and policies for exploiting the opportunities and mitigating negative effects, countries need proper information, especially information on the internationalisation of their economies and the complex relations within multinational companies. International production is gaining importance over export and import data. Statistics is thus faced with a new task: how to provide data for monitoring international production, i.e. activities of affiliates of domestic companies abroad and of foreign companies in the domestic economy.

The papers and the discussion treated some main content-related and methodological problems of statistical monitoring of globalisation. Experts on the economics of international trade pointed out that monitoring of globalisation involves various economic relations within companies as well as among them and interactions between companies and the government (M. Svetličič). This increases the importance of so-called

soft indicators, which, however, are usually outside the domain of official statistics (R. Korez Vide).

Researchers pointed out that companies' data on international business must be used carefully (J. Fischer). Frequent changes in accounting standards and additional demands posed by multinational companies to their affiliates as regards reporting prevent national comparisons in terms of time and contents. International comparisons of individual trends thus have a very limited analytical value. The existing macroeconomic approaches to monitoring foreign direct investment and activities of multinational companies are not enough for the analysis of determinants and results of foreign direct investment and operation of multinational companies (A. Jaklič, M. Rojec).

Especially important for each individual country are the effects of globalisation on the national economy and comparability of these effects among countries. A large step towards the development of internationally comparable globalisation statistics is the OECD Handbook on Economic Globalisation Indicators, which was



Marjan Svetličič



Slovene newspapers about the 2004 Statistical Days "Many can not Function without Statistics" "Global Statistics is not Topical"



## 2004 – Globalisation – much work for statistics

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at the time of the conference just about to be published. Statistical offices of individual countries were introducing, on a pilot basis, the monitoring of economic activities of international companies (*FATS statistics – Foreign Affiliates Trade in Services*). First experience of the Statistical Office indicated that due to availability of data and integrating various databases it is easier to monitor the activities of foreign companies in Slovenia than Slovene companies abroad and pointed out that a special *register of enterprise groups* is needed as the infrastructural basis for high-quality globalisation statistics.

*International trade in services* also belongs to the context of globalisation. Results of the survey presented at the conference showed that in the light of globalisation the traditional treatment of services within the balance of payments does not enable the identification of actual trends and the measurement of the economic importance of services in international trade.

*Service statistics* was the central theme of the conference. In the history of Statistical Days this was the first time that service statistics received so much attention, except in 1994 when services were discussed in the context of international trade. The delay is the result of the fact that the development of service statistics is very demanding and that Eurostat neglected it for quite some time. As regards service statistics, Slovenia inherited very little from Yugoslav statistics. Statistical monitoring of services is methodologically difficult since it demands different, innovative approaches to data collection and development of methodologies that take into account the specific nature of services (in view of their complexity, problems in identifying the unit of services, producers, reporting units, etc.). Studying of service statistics has intensified

in recent years also due to EU's legislative requirements.

The complexity of services and the diversity of statistical approaches to developing service statistics were illustrated by Dennis Trewin, Head of the Australian Bureau of Statistics, who discussed the development of service statistics from the following aspects: statistics of individual services, new approaches to presenting service statistics such as satellite accounts for households, non-profit institutions and sport and recreation, statistics of international trade in services, globalisation statistics, knowledge-based economy and society statistics, measuring the output of services, price statistics for services and productivity of service activities.

This overview offered a consistent framework for discussing other papers on service statistics. Most of the papers discussed methodological problems of individual service activities, e.g. ICT sector, health services, non-financial services. The regulation on short-term business statistics was also discussed, which covers trade statistics, statistics on hotels and restaurants, and various other services such as transport, postal services, travel agencies, etc. It was also assessed to what extent Slovenia fulfils the requirements of this regulation.

Presented were also the data possibilities and methodological bases for calculating various service price indices, e.g. for services within the consumer price index (J. Auer; E. Mišič). Particularly interesting was the paper about the calculation of the aggregate asset price index, which had for several years been calculated by the Bank for International Settlements for about twenty countries.

The session on service statistics presented a clear picture of the complexity of this rather poorly developed field of statistics. It revealed the areas that required priority development due to unfulfilled EU requirements, e.g. statistics of some service activities and

producer price indices for services. It also indicated the possible methodological approaches for areas where Slovenia needs high-quality statistical information, such as the development of satellite accounts for health care and tourism, and the real estate price indices.

### Interview

**Dr. France Križanič,**

Minister of Finance  
in the 2008-2011 period



**As an expert on statistical data you have cooperated in preparing Statistical Days in 2004 and 2007. What do such conferences offer to the most demanding users of statistical data?**

Statistical Days are a recognised way of establishing contacts between users and producers of statistics and they also give voice to those who are obliged to report for statistical surveys.

**Measurement of new phenomena and new methodologies for monitoring them are challenges facing statistics in the future. Does Slovene statistics follow the needs of users appropriately?**

Slovene statistics definitely follows the needs of users appropriately. Statistical Office's analyses are conducted professionally and reliably and its analysts are constantly improving their knowledge and are in constant contacts with their colleagues from abroad, especially Eurostat's experts, as well as colleagues at the Faculty of Economics. Via statistical conferences Slovene science is included in preparation of statistical surveys.

I believe that statistical conferences in Radenci are professional as well as social gatherings at which the Slovene statistical office gets basic information for solving the problems with which analysts are faced in their everyday tasks.

## The user is the king ...

The third period (2001–2009) • Statistics in a third millennium society

### 15<sup>th</sup> conference: 2005 Communication with Statistical Data Providers and Users and Support for the EMU and the Lisbon Strategy



The title of the 15<sup>th</sup> Statistical Days – at first glance a bit complicated – briefly summarises the social moment in mid-first decade of the new millennium in the EU and Slovenia and the role of statistics in it. This was the time of new EU Member States joining the European Monetary Union, the time when the European Central Bank became a very demanding user of statistics in relation to national banks, to Eurostat and to national statistical offices. By discovering that the Greeks were hiding real fiscal statistics, the statistical profession and the users emphasised their demands for effective verification of the quality of statistical data. Such events accelerated the preparation of the European Statistics Code of Practice and the statistical legislation in the EU. One of the central political and professional issues at that time was the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy, with which the EU attempted to catch up with development trends in the US. The mechanisms for implementing the Lisbon Strategy, which was followed by national development strategies, were the growth of competitiveness and productivity, sustainable development and greater social inclusion.

EMU enlargement and the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy generated new tasks for national statistics. Faced by new demands, limited resources and increasing burden of reporting units, national statistical services were trying to find new ways and strategies how to fulfil their missions as effectively as possible. They were mostly seeking their opportunities in introducing modern approaches to data collection, reducing the burden of reporting units and introducing various activities for better communication with users.

The fifteenth Statistical Days covered topical social issues related to statistics in four sessions: challenges of measurement in the fields of competition and productivity, support to the Lisbon Strategy, decreasing the respondent burden, and communication with data users. The session on development achievements focused on *health statistics and real estate statistics*. Round tables discussed the problems of statistical aspects of the balance of payments, reform of agriculture statistics, and Internet services for dissemination of statistical data.

The starting point for the discussion about the basic themes of this conference was invited papers, which mostly focused on the issue of whether the ESS is institutionally and organisationally capable of fulfilling demands related to the EMU.

Invited papers and the discussion showed that the ESS has no mechanism for *priority setting*, especially as regards negative priorities. The policy of adding new requirements to the existing stock of ongoing activities is no longer in line with the resources available in national statistical offices and in Eurostat; the reporting burden, especially for businesses, is another limiting factor. Hence, there are problems with timely provision of key economic and monetary indicators, which are the basis for designing appropriate measures and policies in the EU. Often this was only a late reaction to measures



Left to right: Janez Fabjan, Andrej Flajs, Janez Košak



Left to right: Heinrich Brunnger, Klaus Reeh, Werner Bier, Martti Hetemaki, Andrej Rant



Left to right: Irena Križman, Genovefa Ružič

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Janez Stare



Left to right: Pavle Kozjek, Matjaž Jug



Left to right: Martti Hetemaki, Enrico Giovannini

prepared by the United States on the basis of data that were available earlier.

New methods for efficient and timely provision of monthly and quarterly principal European economic indicators (PEEI) were proposed as well as estimating European aggregates on the basis of the 80% coverage, using European samples for business surveys and differentiated data reporting policy regarding the size of countries. As one of the most important measures for improving EU statistics the introduction of the European Statistics Code of Practice was pointed out (K. Reeh; W. Bier).

Andrej Rant, Vice-Governor of the Bank of Slovenia, informed the participants about the progress of Slovenia's preparations to join the euro area and the role of statistics in this process. At the time of the currency change, statistics must primarily provide the conversion of time series, closely monitor price changes and provide methodological assistance to the Slovene Consumers' Association in preparing the "price watch" campaign.

The problem of *measuring competitiveness and productivity* was discussed from three aspects: labour market, productivity measurement, and growing importance of services in the economy. The Lisbon Strategy and the strategy of Slovenia's development assume labour market flexibility and security as one of the key conditions for achieving greater productivity and competitiveness. The paper presented by Alenka Kajzer focused on various measures of labour market flexibility and showed the possibilities of calculating these measures for Slovenia. At the conference the analysis of the Dutch researcher van Ark was presented on the impact of ICT on the growth of factor productivity in transition countries as well as the attempt to calculate factor productivity for Slovenia on the basis of official statistical data (B. Kodrič). Again a lot of emphasis was

put on the importance of service statistics for high-quality business and macroeconomic statistics. Unreliable or biased results do not only distort the picture of this sector but due to a large share also influence the calculation of aggregate data. The use of inappropriate services producer price indices as deflators can influence the calculation of GDP at constant prices and thus also productivity (K. Krishnan).

The session on the *support to the Lisbon Strategy* mostly dealt with the issues of suitability of some indicators and preparing proposals for more comprehensive monitoring of specific fields. Researchers (M. Pavšič et al) focused on GDP per capita in purchasing power parities as a sustainable development indicator. The main problem is related to this indicator not being suitable in terms of content, since it ignores social and environmental components of sustainable development and covers the economic component too narrowly. Results of some projects for better monitoring of the development of some areas were presented, such as formal education (M. Bevc) and regional policies (S. Mesec). The issue of using indicators for monitoring the implementation of certain social objectives again – as at the 13<sup>th</sup> Statistical Days – raised the issue of training and qualification of users for appropriate use of these indicators and the related responsibility of educational institutions. An example is the Faculty of Economics, which with the course called Economic Statistics contributed a lot to greater statistical literacy and knowledge of faculty students and graduates. However, in the new Bologna curriculum this course was given a minor role of an elective course at second level (J. Malačič) thus practically pushing it out of the study programme.

The session on *decreasing the respondent burden* presented some instructive examples of how it is



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possible to reduce the burden of reporting units without compromising the quality of data. An example of rationalising data collection on the basis of interinstitutional cooperation with large savings both for reporting units and for institutions conducting statistical surveys is collecting data on wages with the joint Slovenian Statistical Office/AJPES questionnaire (M. Žavbi, T. Novak). Similar effects are expected from the cooperation between the Statistical Office and the Post of Slovenia in modernising and rationalising postal statistics in Slovenia (I. Hacin, D. Šaraš).

Interinstitutional cooperation between the Statistical Office and the Customs Administration produced excellent results with very high response rates in the introduction of intra EU trade (Intrastat) (S. Mikuž). The willingness of reporting units to cooperate also depends on whether a feedback mechanism of information is established as is shown by experience of the Bank for International Settlements in cooperating with central banks (S. Arthur). Rather telling was also information by an enterprise as a reporting unit about the problems it faced in completing environmental statistics reports (not knowing environmental legislation, employees not being aware of the importance of collected data, burden at a wrong time, low penalties, no checking of the accuracy of sent data) (A. Grubešič).

Without any doubt the fifteenth Statistical Days pushed *users* to the forefront of statisticians' interest. The new paradigm of the relationship towards the users is best described by the simple question how to create appropriate conditions (dissemination) so that users will be satisfied with statistical services. Creating these conditions is actually described by the new concept called "communication with data users". As was shown by the session on this topic, in communicating with

users national statistical offices (Poland, Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, Bulgaria, Slovenia) use various approaches and methods as well as various possible ways of determining user satisfaction. Communication methods also depend on institutional, technological, financial, personnel and other conditions of statistical operations. A change in the communication strategy – which to a large extent depends on ICT development – influences the change of communication with users. The use of databases that offer new possibilities to users as regards the methods of viewing data is gaining importance as are portals that enable access to a multitude of data from a single point. At the conference the Statistical Office presented the upgrading of the SI-STAT database into a data portal and the strategy of further development of this portal (K. Šnuderl, S. Pehlič).

*Promotion* of statistics to the widest circle of users and for special user groups such as librarians is also important (D. Dolenc). A precondition for efficient communication with users is trust in the quality of statistical work. An important instrument for increasing trust is the European Statistics Code of Practice, the adoption of which in 2004 was a logical consequence of the ever greater role of statistics and cooperation of statistical institutions authorised for collecting statistical data at the national and EU level.

### Interview

Dr. Alenka Kajzer,

IMAD



**The conference of statisticians, data providers and users – researchers and analysts belong to the latter group – enables exchange of opinions, experience and good practice. Which advantages does such a conference have for you as a researcher?**

I have been attending Statistical Days for a number of years as a representative of a large user of statistical data for which detailed knowledge of the content and methodology of collection and dissemination of data published by the Statistical Office is very important. Statistical Days are therefore an important direct opportunity to learn about the methodologies and content of data that I and my colleagues use in our work as well as for making personal contacts with people preparing the data and other data users.

**Which conference do you remember most fondly and why?**

Because the topics discussed in the 20 years have been very diverse and interesting, it is difficult for me to point out only one conference that I remember most. However, as one never forgets the first one, I would point out the 1996 conference, which was my first time attending Statistical Days. Participation in the conference gave me much new knowledge and many personal contacts.

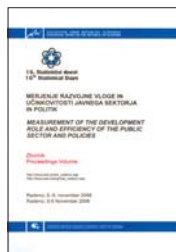
In my opinion such conferences are important primarily because they are international and present a good opportunity for statisticians to exchange experience, while users of data frequently obtain relevant information about the future development of statistics within the EU (Eurostat) and available data and analyses in other countries.



## Government in light of statistics

The third period (2001–2009) • Statistics in a third millennium society

### 16<sup>th</sup> conference: 2006 Measurement of the Development Role and Efficiency of the Public Sector and Policies



It was typical of Statistical Days that they always managed to ensure participation of very distinguished guests, especially from abroad. The 16<sup>th</sup> conference hosted top officials (‘*žreme de la creme*’) of the official European and world statistics, e.g. Eurostat Director-General Hervé Carré and his Deputy Marie Bohata, Director of the OECD Statistics Directorate Enrico Giovannini, ECB Director General Statistics Steven Keuning, and Deputy Director of UNECE Statistical Division Lidia Bratanova. As will be seen, their visit was not a courtesy call or that they came to tell us how well prepared statistics is to join the EMU or that it became a permanent observer in the OECD Committee on Statistics. At the conference the distinguished guests cooperated as active participants with invited papers and in discussions thus significantly enriching the content of the conference.

The central theme of the 16<sup>th</sup> Statistical Days was measuring the development role and efficiency of the public sector and policies at two levels: the EU level and the level of individual countries.

At the EU level, the central issue is data support to the renewed Lisbon Strategy and the related necessary reforms in EU Member States directed primarily

towards providing structural indicators for direct measurement of the effects of this strategy, principal European economic indicators (PEEI) for analysing the euro area, monitoring knowledge economy (especially education and lifelong learning) and the service sector.

EU Member States had mostly integrated the renewed Lisbon Strategy targets into their national reform programs. For preparing appropriate measures and for simulating their effects, appropriate data basis had to be prepared, for some analyses and simulations also by linking *microdata*.



Press conference  
Left to right: Genovefa Ružič, Gregor Virant, Irena Križman, Enrico Giovannini, Steven Keuning

### [INTERVJU] Hervé Carré, Eurostat Skomine politike ostajajo neuslišane



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Novi izzivi merjenja učinkovitosti in razvojnost javnega sektorja so rdeča nit statističnih dni, ki so se v Radencih začeli včeraj. Gost konference je tudi generalni direktor statističnega urada EU Eurostat Hervé Carré.

**Kaj pričakujete od konference v Radencih?**  
Lotevamo se zapletenih vprašanj – merjenja razvojne vloge in učinkovitosti javnega sektorja. Politike, ki urejajo zdravstvo, izobraževanje, javno upravo, obrambo, so izredno pomembne, saj so dejavniki družbene blaginje. A so precej manj oprijemljive in težje merljive kot na primer merjenje BDP.

**Pred kakšnimi izzivi je Eurostat?**  
Harmoniziranemu kazalniku cen življenjskih potrebščin, ki ima še vedno velike težave pri izračunu.



»Če minister prosi, naj podatek objavimo dan pozneje, kot je napovedano, dobi nazaj zelo jasen ne,« pravi Hervé Carré.

za najrazličnejše politike. Ker imamo ob enem omejene zmogljivosti, bo treba namesto opuščanja merjenj poenostavljati, uporabljati druge baze podatkov in nove tehnologije.

**Kako velike se vam zdijo težave javnih financ dela članic EU?**  
Zelo so problematične. Kot veste, jih nadzorujemo le kot razliko med prihodi in izdatki javnih financ. Ob čemer pa vemo, kako zelo pomembna je tudi velikost

moremo preverjati korektnosti vsake posamezne številke. Ta pojav je bil zares zelo škodljiv za vse, saj je spodkopaval zaupanje in zanesljivost, ki sta temelja statistike in temelja EU.

**Kako pa je s poskusi vplivanja politike na neodvisno statistiko?**  
Skomine se pojavljajo povsod. Denimo, če minister prosi, naj podatek objavimo dan pozneje, kot je napovedano, dobi nazaj zelo jasen ne. Javnost podatek

Newspaper Finance, 7 November 2006:  
conversation with Eurostat Director General  
“Desire of Politics Remains Unfulfilled”

## 2006 – Government in light of statistics

The third period (2001–2009) • Statistics in a third millennium society

implementation of the revised classification of activities NACE Rev. 2, standards for transmission of data and metadata between institutions, population ageing and economic activity of population, and food safety were organised.

The issue of the *development function of government and role of statistics* was presented in the introductory speech by Gregor Virant, the then Minister of Public Administration. He presented the Slovene public sector policy of constant improvement, which should have impact on improving the records and sources for statistics. Slovenia's government is aware of the importance of statistical data as the basis for decision-making. In this context Mr Virant evaluated the situation in Slovene national statistics as excellent, but emphasised that statistics must be a part of efforts to reduce administrative barriers, even though statistical requirements for data reporting represent a smaller part of requirements towards enterprises and individuals. The Minister announced a more systematic approach to

measuring administrative burden by applying the Dutch Standard Cost Model, the aim of which is a 25% reduction in administrative burden and which was presented at the conference (W. Jansen).

In addition to measuring administrative burdens, it is also important to *measure the quality of public finance*. The quality of public finance is shown in efficient and successful public expenditure, which increases economic growth in the long run or brings other benefits for the society (e.g. employment growth, welfare growth). Of course, the main problem is how to measure the effects. The simplest approach – which, however, has many shortcomings – is to use indicators at the macro level (P. Sicherl, J. Fischer, J. Sixta). In social sciences various subjective indicators (e.g. understanding the role of government) are calculated on the basis of data collected with public opinion surveys (B. Malnar et al).

Other, more demanding approaches in terms of data and methodology are also possible, seeking to measure the effects of government more directly. One of them is the measurement of the effectiveness of industrial policies, an approach which had been known for quite some time but had been put into effect in recent years after the adoption of the Lisbon Strategy. The use of this approach in Slovenia is made more difficult due to insufficient records on industrial policy measures since only records on state aid are available (A. Murn). In addition, appropriate methodological tools have not been developed.

Within the development function of government special attention was focused on measuring the efficiency of the public sector in the *field of health*; the subject had not been discussed at Statistical Days within a special session. Population ageing namely demands ever more resources and the issue of effective and efficient use of these ever more limited



Newspaper Večer on the 2006 Statistical Days  
"Eurostat Encourages Cooperation"

resources can not be avoided. Designing an efficient health policy and reforms requires appropriate data and analytical support. This is why an intersectoral project is being conducted on preparing health accounts. First results for 2004 were presented at the conference. Also highlighted was the importance of these accounts for producing population projections (S. Marn et al).

After more than a decade when at the 1995 Statistical Days *statistics of working conditions* was discussed, conference participants again pointed out that Slovenia still does not fulfil all requirements in the field of health and health care, including indicators from the fields of health and safety at work.

At Statistical Days the Lisbon Strategy had been discussed several times before, especially in terms of indicators for monitoring its implementation. So this was continuity and a presentation of development of some of the less discussed areas, especially *knowledge*



Lidia Bratanova

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*society indicators.* Anyway, a new and more in-depth view of statistics and policy in a knowledge-based society was contributed by Enrico Giovannini, Director of the OECD Statistics Directorate. New achievements in the field of knowledge society were presented, e.g. the methodology and results of the survey on emigration of Slovenian researchers in the 1995-2004 period (M. Bevc et al), environmental indicators (N. Kovač et al; M. Čeranič), and indicators for monitoring the state of agriculture and environment in Slovenia. Particularly informative and worth emulating was the paper presented by Alwyn Pritchard on the measurement of output and productivity of the government sector in the United Kingdom. The famous Atkins report on the shortcomings of measuring the public sector stimulated the Office for National Statistics to measure output according to Atkins's recommendations, i.e. by volume of services and by taking into account quality. The new methodology significantly changed the picture of GDP growth and productivity in the UK.



Social evening

In the introductory speech Eurostat Director-General Hervé Carré presented the role of the *European Statistics Code of Practice* in the ESS as part of broader efforts to improve the ESS governance structure. In his opinion some of the main measures to improve the operation of the ESS are strengthening the cooperation between national statistical offices and Eurostat, simplifying and reducing administrative burdens, especially through increased exploitation of administrative records, better programming processes and identifying user needs, and reduction of operating costs of the entire statistical system taking into account the economies of scale.

Marie Bohata, Eurostat Deputy Director-General, explained in detail the origin and content of the Code of Practice, which derives from the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 1994, taking into account some elements of the EU's *acquis communautaire*, such as confidentiality. The Code is based on the common definition of quality and comprises 15 principles referring to institutional environment, statistical processes and statistical results. However, the Code is only a recommendation for Member States and not an obligation.

Statistical Office explained how it tackled the implementation of the Code's principles. The basis for this was a specially prepared total quality management strategy, which integrates the Code with the Medium-Term Programme of Statistical Surveys and is based on five strategic objectives, which are defined by sub-objectives and activities. The document is in practice being implemented with specific (operative) tasks of employees related to quality and by appropriate control (M. Zaletel). A similar strategic program of introducing quality into the work of a statistical office was also adopted in Hungary (K. Szep).

At the conference the model of measuring time use at the Statistical Office of Serbia was also presented (Z. Jančić, D. Vukmirović), which could be a good tool for assessing the costs of a statistical office.



### Interview

Ann Harrison,

OECD  
National accounts expert



Many statistical offices invite users to listen to new developments in the office and ask for feedback but the genius of Statistical Days goes far beyond that. It engages users both from within government and outside by asking them to contribute papers as well as listen to those from the statistical office. This two-way process was particularly valuable in the early days as Slovenia started to adopt the statistical practices of the rest of Western Europe but the continuing participation from outside the office testifies to its on-going value.

The fact that the conference takes place over several days in a relaxed, residential atmosphere allows informal contacts to flourish and is an excellent opportunity for great entertainment, a feat that the statistical office manages with the same success as their statistics. I send my best wishes for this and future Statistical Days, hoping they continue to foster fruitful collaboration between the statistical office of Slovenia and users who through these conferences become also friends and colleagues.



## Is statistics really only a burden?

The third period (2001–2009) • Statistics in a third millennium society

### 17<sup>th</sup> conference: 2007

## Reducing Administrative Burdens of Data Collection in Statistical Surveys



The seventeenth Statistical Days brought some novelties. The traditional organisers – the Slovenian Statistical Office and the Statistical Society of Slovenia – were joined by the Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development. We stopped publishing the printed Proceedings Volume. Sixteen extensive publications, with almost 8,000 pages in total, occupy quite a lot of space on our library shelves and enable comfortable browsing through two decades of development of official statistics. In 2007 the traditional method of printing the papers was substituted by web dissemination: from 2003 on, the documents can be found on the website <http://www.stat.si/statisticnidnevi/>. Instead of vast proceedings volumes only books of abstracts are printed.

2007 will be remembered by the fact that the national currency tolar was replaced by the single European currency the euro. *Slovenia's accession to the European Monetary Union* was not without consequences for statistics, but most of the work had been done before the accession. 17<sup>th</sup> Statistical Days focused on euro changeover with two invited papers presented by Marko Kranjec, Governor of the Bank of Slovenia, and Inna

Šteinbuka, Director of the Directorate for Economic and Regional Statistics at Eurostat. Kranjec praised considerable development of the statistical function of the euro system in the first decade of existence of the European currency, which is shown by a wide set of harmonised and quality statistics. In this process the Bank of Slovenia played an important role in cooperation with other institutions such as the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, the Ministry of Finance and AJPES. Ms Šteinbuka presented the results of the analysis of the harmonised index of consumer prices for Slovenia, which was prepared by Eurostat for 2006 and 2007. The analysis showed that the impact of the euro changeover on inflation in Slovenia was similar as in other countries that adopted the euro before Slovenia. The analysis highlighted the importance of cooperation of statistical offices with other institutions and the importance of informing the public about price effects in the period after currency



Press conference  
Left to right: Janez Šuštaršič, Rainer Muthmann, Irena Križman, Marko Kranjec, Andrej Blejčec

Statistični dnevi

## Kako olajšati breme zbiranja podatkov

V Radencih tudi dr. Marko Kranjec in gostje iz Eurostata – Guvernerja BS skrbi inflacija

RADENCI – Statistiki, dajalci in uporabniki statističnih podatkov so se večeraj v Radencih zbrali na sedemnajstem mednarodnem posvetovanju Statistični dnevi, ki sta ga pripravila Statistični urad RS in Statistično društvo Slovenije. Približno dvesto udeležencev, med njimi okrog trideset predstavnikov tujih statističnih uradov, mednarodnih statističnih agencij in univerz, se bo tri dni ukvarjalo z letošnjo nosilno temo posveta, zmanjševanjem administrativnih bremen zbiranja podatkov v statističnih raziskovanjih.

Tema letošnjega posvetovanja je zelo aktualna, pravi generalna direktorica Statističnega urada RS Irena Križman, saj je EU pred kratkim sprejela sklep o zmanjšanju administrativnih ovir za 25 odstotkov. Slovenija se je zmanjševanja teh ovir po njenih besedah lotila zelo sistematično, Statistični urad RS pa je zgradil sistem, s katerim ugotavljajo, katere podatke je mogoče pridobiti iz obstoječih podatkovnih zbirk, da dajal-



Guverner Banke Slovenije dr. Marko Kranjec je večeraj na

Newspaper Delo on the 2007 Statistical Days  
"How to Ease the Burden of Data Collection"

changeover; this can contribute to lower inflation expectations and the reduction of the gap between actual and perceived inflation.

The central theme of this conference was the *reduction of administrative burdens of data collection* in statistical surveys. For conference participants this was not a new topic since the issue how to obtain the data the most economically had been discussed from this or that aspect before. In January 2007 this issue gained political weight as the European Commission determined that by 2012 administrative burdens in the EU must be reduced by a quarter.

The 2007 Statistical Days were thus almost entirely dedicated to the issue how to reduce the burden of data



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collection in statistical surveys. The conference namely no longer included the session on development achievements, which had been part of Statistical Days since 1997. The other topic covered at the conference was the use of statistical data for modelling, but even this topic was indirectly linked to the central theme.

The central theme of the conference bound together the presentations given by keynote speakers, the panel discussion on the conflict of interest in statistical reporting and the sessions on the reduction of administrative burdens, on quality of statistical surveys, on administrative records, on linking statistical and administrative sources, on modernisation of statistical processes and standardisation, and on the use of records for official and sectoral statistics.



Inna Šteinbuka

The starting point of the conference was the panel discussion which brought together Samo Hribar Milič, the Director General of the Slovenian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Renata Zatler, the representative of the Ministry of Public Administration, Nataša Pirc Musar, the Information Commissioner, and France Križanič, then the Director of the Economic Institute of the Faculty of Law. The discussion highlighted the fundamental contradiction between the low level of understanding and willingness to report and the inevitability of reporting in certain circumstances. Reporting is generally understood as an unnecessary administrative burden, while collection of individual information is seen as a threat to privacy. It tends to be forgotten that a certain amount of reporting is necessary for providing quality information about events in the society and the economy needed to make decisions at different levels. It is also often overlooked that data collection is necessary for efficient operation of supervisory institutions.

The findings of the panel discussion were expanded by keynote speeches and other papers.

Director-General of the Slovenian Statistical Office Irena Križman pointed out that entities providing data for statistical analyses are also users of these data. Their dissatisfaction with reporting would be smaller if they were aware of the usefulness of information they provide. Ms Križman presented Statistical Office's active policy of reducing administrative burdens, which is part of the new Medium-Term Programme of Statistical Surveys 2008-2012. However, the policy of reducing the burdens is not a new thing for the Statistical Office or a response to political demands of the European Commission as such a policy had been in place even before. This is shown by several successful examples of replacing

statistical surveys with administrative sources or combining the use of both (e.g. wage statistics, EU-SILC, turnover in retail trade).

Director of Eurostat's Directorate for Statistical Methods, Tools and Dissemination Pedro Diaz Muñoz pointed out the problem of a large *gap between the extent of collected and published statistical data* and the differences in dissemination policy among EU Member States. He said that statistical offices should offer to interested researchers detailed macro and micro data in so-called safe rooms or via safe remote access facilities. Mr Kranjec pointed out the problem of the abundance of useful but unused data that government bodies such as ministries have but that are not available.

By discussing examples of good practice, presenting innovative approaches and some theoretical papers, conference participants sought methods and tools for *rational statistical data collection* as possible without compromising their quality. The discussion paid particular attention to the practice of access to



Discussion: Modernisation of statistical processes and standardisation

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statistically protected data at the Statistical Office and the role of the Data Protection Committee.

The papers and the discussion showed that the reporting burden can be reduced in several ways but that two of them are the most important. The most effective way is when statistical data collection is not needed since the necessary information can be obtained from already collected administrative data. However, if administrative data are not available, it is necessary to improve data collection tools, and to introduce electronic alternatives, new technical solutions and other ways to reduce the burden in individual surveys, e.g. raise the awareness of reporting units about the usefulness of their reports (M. Bavdaž).

As demonstrated by the presented papers, the current administrative records enable large savings and simplification of work in individual areas, such as recording and monitoring of data on implementing regional policy, integration of data on illegal drugs without revealing the person's identity, comprehensive monitoring of data on the usage of drugs, modernisation of the information system and introduction of the data warehouse at the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute. These improvements contribute to better data sources also for national statistics (e.g. comprehensive monitoring of data on the use of drugs is of high relevance for satellite health accounts).

A special challenge for the reduction of administrative burdens is *administrative records for official and sectoral statistics*. Various institutions, among them especially authorised producers of statistics, keep many data collections which are used for statistical purposes. In these data collections quite often at least part of data that appear in other data collections and various official records are kept. Participants agreed that it would be possible to reduce the costs of data collection and

increase the usefulness of collected data if a uniform methodological approach were designed for content-related administrative records; this would simplify the integration of data in these records.

*Administrative registers* as a special form of administrative records are extremely important for official statistics. As the basis for sampling frames and the data source they can significantly contribute to reducing the burden of reporting units, increasing efficiency and quality of the statistical system in general. Experience in using the registers for statistical purposes in Slovenia (B. Trnovšek et al) and Norway (Ø. Olsen) showed that potentials (advantages) of registers can be realised only if financial, human, organisational, technological and legal conditions are met. The use of administrative registers and linking them with survey data is also a *challenge for statistical theory* since – in contrast to traditional statistical theory – it poses other research questions such as the study of non-sampling

errors, which must be followed by the development of harmonised methodologies (R. Muthmann).

At the conference several practical examples of integration of administrative and statistical sources from various fields at SORS were presented (e.g. use of various sources for producing the hedonic price index for residential real estate and building land in Slovenia, use of registers in agricultural statistics, possible use of records in education for statistical reporting, use of tax data for statistics on earnings of private employees). The common message conveyed by these papers was that one should first invest and re-engineer statistical processes and provide infrastructural conditions (e.g. institutional agreements, legislation, technological compatibility) and then a sustainable reduction of the administrative burden is feasible.

Administrative burden of reporting units can be significantly reduced; however, this can only happen after a period of fairly complex restructuring of processes and investment in modernising statistical methods and approaches. The basic condition for successful modernisation of statistical processes is the standardisation of procedures and equipment.

Efforts of producers of statistics to increase the quality of their products and services contribute to higher level of confidence in statistics, which in principle leads to increased use of statistical data. The perception of reporting burden for statistics is thus relatively smaller and the willingness to cooperate is improved. So *the quality of statistical services and the trust of users* are factors of high relevance when setting up measures to reduce the burden of reporting units. Of course, users have to be properly informed of the quality of data they can use on the websites. Some national statistical offices and international organisations (ECB, Eurostat) had already made first steps towards labelling the quality of

Delo

06.11.2007

### Statistični dnevi o zmanjševanju administrativnih bremen

V Radencih se je včeraj začelo 17. mednarodno posvetovanje Statistični dnevi, ki tokrat poteka pod naslovom Zmanjševanje administrativnih bremen zbiranja podatkov v statističnih raziskovanjih. Z izzivom zmanjševanja administrativnih ovir se spopadajo številni statistični uradi po svetu, tudi slovenski, in ob razvoju informacijsko-komunikacijske tehnologije nekateri že dosegajo dobre rezultate ter že lahko predstavijo zanimive rešitve.

Kot ie na novinarski konfe-

nost podatkov pa visoka. Na posvetovanju je izziv in razvoj statistike evrosistema predstavil guverner Banke Slovenije Marko Kranjec. Ta je na vprašanje o inflaciji v Sloveniji odgovoril, da ga skrbi, saj je visoka in kaže, da bo še nekaj časa ostala na tej ravni. V večjem delu gre za prehodne šoke, ki se kažejo v zunanjih vzrokih, kot je povišanje cen nafte in hrane, pa tudi za notranje vzroke, kar zadeva pregretja konjunktura in proračunskega položaja. Guverner pričakuje, da bo pri tem

Newspaper Delo on the 2007 Statistical Days

"Statistical Days on the Reduction of Administrative Burdens"

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statistical services. At the conference participants were informed about Statistical Office's idea to inform the users about the quality in three ways: describing the quality profile, quality labels (certificates), and standard quality reports (M. Zaletel).

Finally, the problems of *administrative burden and/or costs* of providing statistical data have to be judged comparatively regarding their usefulness as the basis for making socially important decisions and the related *social benefits*. Researchers from Norway, France and Slovenia presented successful examples of the creation of large databases of microdata from administrative sources as the basis for designing microsimulation models. However, the conference pointed out that such data bases require current updating and constant resources.



### Discussion during the break:

*Boris Tkačik, Slovenian Statistical Office: "Dr. Malačič, what is your profession?"*

*Dr. Janez Malačič: "Actually I don't know. I graduated from economics and geography."*

*Bogdan Grmek: "It is clear – you are an economist with geographical indication."*

### Interview

**Dr. Marko Kranjec,**

Governor of the Bank of Slovenia



**At the conference in 2007 entitled Reducing Administrative Burdens you presented Eurosystem statistics and large needs for statistical data. In your opinion, did institutions in the system of Slovene national statistics do enough to reduce the burden of data providers while providing enough data?**

At that time I was speaking of the strategy and vision of development of the statistical function of the Eurosystem, which was confirmed in twelve recommendations at the Governing Council of the ECB. This was actually the first strategy of development of any function of the Eurosystem and is today when we feel the results of the financial crisis very topical. The Bank of Slovenia actively participated in its formation. One of the central recommendations of the vision is that the data provided by reporting units should be covered so that they serve multiple purposes. I have to say that the Bank of Slovenia has always been active in implementing the adopted strategy, especially in relation to banks and financial intermediation institutions. We have developed an effective system of so-called matrix reporting, which provides accurate data for the needs of statistics, supervision and financial stability. The Eurosystem is very interested in our solutions. Together with the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia we are trying to centralise reporting for non-financial companies via AJPES, which takes care that the business register and other registers are up to date. Our task is to implement comprehensive and consistent sectoral accounts at quarterly level for supporting the economic policy-makers in making decisions.

**Can the traditional statistical conference in Radenci contribute to a more complementary work of institutions in producing official statistics?**

As an authorised producer of official statistics in Slovenia, the Bank of Slovenia sees in cooperation with the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia a special role in economic and financial areas. The Radenci conferences are opportunities to review towards the end of the year the realisation of agreed activities and cooperation and present the achievements. This can definitely be said about other authorised producers of official statistics. Especially important is also the aspect of the users of national statistics to be able to give their opinions, i.e. the academic community, institutes and individual analysts.

**What do in your opinion the conferences in Radenci, which have been international since 1994, mean for national statistics in Slovenia?**

These conferences are very important. The Bank of Slovenia is one of the conference sponsors. In this way we try to emphasise the importance of the statistical profession in the whole process from analysing phenomena to decision-making. The Eurosystem puts the statistical function alongside the basic functions (e.g. monetary policy) and does not consider it to be a supporting function. We wish to support such a role of statistics in Slovenia, too. Implementation of this function requires high professional expertise – interdisciplinary nature of knowledge as well as a lot of patience in working with large databases. Results are usually the result of long and persistent efforts, so it is right that once a year employees working in this important process gather in Radenci and present their achievements related to the central theme.



## Statistical support to building intergenerational solidarity

The third period (2001–2009) • Statistics in a third millennium society

### 18<sup>th</sup> conference: 2008 Intergenerational Solidarity – the Challenge Facing Modern Societies



Estimates and projections of changing demographic and social structures and related economic and social consequences had been the subject of serious discussions at Statistical Days several times before 2008. For example, at the conferences in 1995 and 2003 participants warned about economic consequences of population ageing. Due to low fertility and longer life expectancy, at the end of the first decade of the new millennium the issue of population ageing launched questions about the sustainability of the pension system, costs of health care and care for the elderly, social burden that does not enable appropriate economic growth to the very top of interest of politicians, experts, media and public.

Facing demographic trends of the growing share of old people and low fertility, it is not possible to avoid the issue of *intergenerational solidarity* in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Some social phenomena accompanying these demographic trends – e.g. slow integration of young people into the labour market and independent living, longer period of employment and ever more flexible employment, the increasing number of old people needing assistance – are already a part of our everyday

lives. Changed social circumstances require adjustments in education, health and social assistance systems. Of course, the issues discussed at this conference greatly exceed the scope of discussion on population ageing at previous conferences. For statisticians and analysts from statistical offices, research institutions and universities in Slovenia and other European countries, these problems bring a challenge to define conceptual and methodological bases on which one can tackle statistical monitoring of phenomena accompanying intergenerational solidarity and to identify which statistical data are needed for policy-making in new social circumstances. These are the questions that participants of the 18<sup>th</sup> Statistical Days tried to answer.

Work was organised in seven sessions: policies responsible for intergenerational solidarity, social security, data for support of policies, labour market, social-demography aspect, education and literacy, and health.

The first topic of the conference on the *policies responsible for intergenerational solidarity* highlighted conceptual issues of solidarity. According to Dušan Kidrič, economic and social analyst, in the economic sense solidarity is related to trade and redistribution. Trade means that people pay premiums and in return get insurance for specific risks, while redistribution is present when the commitment to pay premiums is not proportional to expected benefits but a person's income. When payers are not at the same time also recipients of benefits, we speak about intergenerational solidarity. Among policies related to intergenerational solidarity, demographic policy and insurance policy were discussed. According to Janez Malačič the demographic policy can significantly change the relationships between population groups and thus influence intergenerational solidarity. In the present conditions it is not entirely clear whether it will be possible to set up an effective system of solidarity and what role will be played by demographic policy. The insurance industry is clearly



Participants of the 2008 Statistical Days



Ali Žerdin, Newspaper Dnevnik



## 2008 – Statistical support to building intergenerational solidarity

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faced with substantial changes, since it will have to adjust its supply of insurance services to the needs of older people. Participants were informed about the methodology of estimating the impact of ageing populations on GDP growth and age-related public expenditure items. The methodology was developed by the Economic Policy Committee at the European Commission's Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs.

The session on *labour market* included seven papers, which highlighted many implications that population ageing has on the labour market using different methodological approaches and different statistical sources. The papers and the discussion confirmed the alarming situation in the labour market in Slovenia and the basic guidelines for improving the situation (the need to adjust the pension system by encouraging people to work longer, inclusion of older people into lifelong learning, introduction of multi-generational

management in enterprises) and showed that official statistics – especially with labour force surveys, the Statistical Register of Employment and the possibility to link databases – provides good data basis for in-depth analyses of the labour market. Of course, for some specific aspects of analysis researchers must collect primary data.

The question whether the available statistical data are in line with the needs of policies related to intergenerational solidarity was discussed in a special session.

The papers and the discussion brought a clear message that official and sectoral statistics do not follow enough the policy needs (T. Banovec). Problems with data appear both at the preparation of short-term strategies and at planning and monitoring the impact of various policies. The current system of national accounts presentation of pension schemes does not provide enough detailed information on government liabilities,



Round table:  
Collection, processing and dissemination of sensitive data

so in the new version of national accounts pension schemes will be treated differently (M. Klinar). Data availability was illustrated by papers on databases at the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute and special surveys of older people regarding help at home and young people spending free time. The discussion confirmed the usefulness of such surveys, especially panel surveys, because they enable longitudinal studies, of course, taking into account the appropriate methodological bases.

In addition to known facts, papers in the session on *socio-demographic aspects* presented some new views of intergenerational solidarity. Demographic and socioeconomic changes lead to social and demographic changes in families; these changes are expressed by the lower share of traditional families of parents with children on account of other, very diverse types of families. This certainly establishes new relationships in implementing intergenerational solidarity (P. Vertot).



Word cloud: The most frequent words from conference conclusions, 2001-2009

## 2008 – Statistical support to building intergenerational solidarity

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One of the factors of intergenerational solidarity is poverty, which is measured at the Statistical Office according to the harmonised methodology with the help of data collected with the Survey on Income and Living Conditions EU-SILC. A phenomenon interesting for the future is the growing number of centenarians, which has been increasing significantly since the mid-1990s (A. Oblak Flander). Papers in this session showed that there is a solid data resource for demographic analyses, which mostly consists of census data, data from the Central Population Register and EU-SILC data. A number of other specialised statistical surveys and administrative data sources are also available. Of course, quality and reliability of these data must be constantly checked, as was done with the number of centenarians by linking data from the Central Population Register and the record of people receiving pensions.

Papers in the session on *social security* clearly demonstrated which high-quality tools for monitoring social security – in terms of methodology and analysis – are already available in Slovenia. The Statistical Office collected data on expenditure and receipts of social protection schemes for the 1996–2006 period according to the harmonised European methodology ESSPROS. Within the system of health satellite accounts, the Statistical Office developed the methodology for

### From the social chronicle:

*With years of traditional competition at the dance evening “who will last longer” between the Statistical Office and the Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development (I was, of course, competing for SORS), we have come to an important strategic technique: the winner will be the one who at 3 a.m. has enough water in stock.*

*Dr. Andrej Blejec,  
President of the Statistical Society of Slovenia*



Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of Slovenia,  
poster presentation

estimating data on health services by patient's characteristics (sex, age and diseases). The Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development showed results of the model for estimating limits of various measures aimed at alleviating the consequences of population ageing in Slovenia. Researchers from the Faculty of Economics presented the microeconomic model of retirement in Slovenia during the transition. Conference participants agreed that the results of such studies must not remain behind the closed doors of research institutions but that they should be made available to the general public since this could contribute to a better social dialogue and solving social issues.

At the conference the first results of the survey on the indicator called “healthy life years” for the EU and Slovenia were presented on the basis of the Survey on Income and Living Conditions for 2005 (D. Moravec Berger et al). This indicator is one of the main indicators for monitoring the efficiency of policies aimed at providing quality ageing, especially health policies.

One of the key policies for establishing intergenerational solidarity is the *education policy* based on the concept of lifelong learning. With rapid technological development and with knowledge rapidly becoming obsolete, lifelong learning should enable social inclusion for all groups of people, including the elderly. *Lifelong learning* should facilitate the acquisition of key competences, especially digital competences or digital literacy and information competences or information literacy. The financial crisis exposed the importance of financial literacy. This issue was illustrated by a number of interesting papers about the intergenerational dimension in the EU and Slovenia, the role of statistics in financial literacy, the impact of ICT on independent living of older people, and changes in the educational level and the quality of these changes in transition countries.

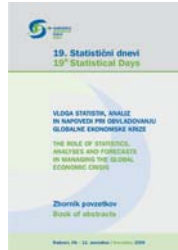
The conference offered the opportunity to exchange opinions about some other topical issues. Round tables dealt with the EU Marine Strategy and statistics, the problem of linking microdata for research purposes, and collection, processing and dissemination of sensitive data from statistical surveys. The topical issue of innovative approaches to communicating with various user groups was the subject of a panel discussion which involved distinguished European statisticians (Enrico Giovannini – Director of the OECD Statistics Directorate, Klaus Reeh – Adviser to the Director General of Eurostat, and Olav ten Bosch of Statistics Netherlands) and users of statistics (Žiga Turk – Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering and former Minister of Development, Marko Krevs of the Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana and Ali Žerdin of the daily newspaper Dnevnik) and representatives of the Statistical Office Ida Repovž Grabnar and Katja Šnuderl.



## Statistics in times of crisis: larger demands, less funds, where are the reserves?

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### 19<sup>th</sup> conference: 2009 The Roles of Statistics, Analyses and Forecasts in Managing the Global Economic Crisis



The global economic crisis led statisticians to think about quite a number of new issues. Was enough information available for correct forecasting of changes and measuring their consequences? Were the risks sufficiently well assessed? What are the so-called leading indicators which indicate early enough the development path and point out early enough the coming changes in a society? These were the issues the organisers of the 19<sup>th</sup> Statistical Days – Slovenian Statistical Office and the Statistical Society of Slovenia – used to attract participants.

The global economic crisis pushed official statistics into a difficult position as it had to assume part of the responsibility for inaccurate and late predictions of the worsening of the economic situation since most of these predictions are based to a large extent on short-term indicators produced by official statistics. At the same time the course of the crisis heralded the need for new indicators, even more detailed and more rapidly available. Such demands are, of course, in conflict with the desire to reduce the reporting burden and use the resources efficiently, which intensified in the period of crisis.

The consequences of the global economic crisis are not only felt by the financial and real sector; its effects

are shown via the labour market to the level of living and the quality of people's lives. During the financial, economic and social crisis the conditions for implementing long-term social goals in terms of providing sustainable development are becoming worse.

For statisticians, the global economic crisis therefore does not only aggravate the issue of the ability to provide high-quality short-term statistics but also requires consideration about the adaptability and flexibility of statistics to detect changes in a number of other areas and about the usefulness of statistical data for analyses and forecasting changes. The 19<sup>th</sup> Statistical Days discussed the issue of statistics in a crisis in eight sessions: responsiveness of the European Statistical System and the European System of Central Banks, measuring the effectiveness of policies, new statistical approaches, possibility of using household survey data, data in support of policies, recession in the global market, aspects of sustainable development, and new censuses.

In addition, two round tables were organised: data support for Slovenia's membership of the OECD, and



Participants of the 2009 Statistical Days



Lynne Billard

information security – presentation of good practice and open issues.

In the introductory speech Director-General of the Statistical Office Irena Krizman pointed out that some recently published documents, e.g. the Stieglitz Commission report on the measurement of social progress, and recent events anticipate essential changes in statistics in terms of moving even closer to the actual needs of users and strengthening the activities to increase the use of statistical data via intensive cooperation with the academic community, researchers and analysts. The recent Statistical Days (especially 2008 and 2009) were a step in this direction. Anuška Ferligoj, President of the Programme Committee of this conference and President of the Statistical Society of Slovenia, emphasised that *new statistical approaches*, which are based on the distribution of individual variables and on large bases of microdata, are the right incentive and challenge for enhanced cooperation between official statistics and researchers.

The topic of new statistical approaches was discussed in a special session in which two distinguished



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researches, Lynne Billard, Professor at the University of Georgia and President of the American Statistical Association, and Edwin Diday of the Université Paris Dauphine, presented the method of symbolic data analysis as an efficient tool for processing large databases. Achievements in the area of adjusting classical methods of multivariate analysis to the possibilities offered by large databases were also presented by researchers from the University of Ljubljana (S. Korenjak Černe et al). The Statistical Office tends to intensify its research activities as its statisticians cooperate in two projects of the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme (on quality indicators “ RISO and developing the methodology of Laeken social cohesion indicators “ AMELI). Together with the Faculty of Economics, the Statistical Office is included in the BLUE-ETS project, which is aimed at reducing the reporting burden of enterprises and improving the quality of business statistics.

The introductory reflections on the role of statistics in the economic crisis were contributed by Eurostat Director-General Walter Radermacher and the OECD



Tim Davis



Left to right: Timotej Jagrič, Karmen Hren, Janez Šušteršič, Boštjan Vasle

expert David Brackfield. Mr Radermacher highlighted the exceptional role of the ESS in planning and monitoring EU’s development since it masters most of the information on economic, environmental and social factors of social development. In this respect, the ESS has a special social responsibility for providing high-quality statistical services, especially in turbulent times of crisis. Mr Brackfield analysed in detail the implications of the economic crisis for statistics and outlined specific initiatives of international organisations such as the establishment of the so-called Horizontal Group, which is seeking solutions for more effective dissemination of available data.

A good basis for the discussion in sessions was offered by the panel discussion on forecasting economic trends and statistics.

The panel discussion brought together economists from three universities in Slovenia, the Slovenian Statistical Office, the Bank of Slovenia and the Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development. In their opinion two of the main problems for forecasting

economic trends are lack of a theory of business cycles and the uniqueness of events that can not be identified by historical data and described by uniform models. As regards cooperation with data producers, analysts pointed out the problem of data revision. The discussion highlighted the need for independence of forecasters and the need to offer more competitive forecasts. A proposal was given to design a synthetic indicator of economic activity at the monthly level, which is according to Statistical Office’s representative feasible. A similar indicator is being calculated by the Statistical Office of Serbia according to the OECD methodology for calculating composite indicators.

The session on the *responsiveness of the ESS and the ECB* to the economic crisis focused less on seeking the reasons for slow response to the crisis and more on the issue of which information is available, which is possible and which is necessary in times of crisis. The institutional system must also be robust to changes in the economy but at the same time also sufficiently

Delo 19.11.2009

Walter Radermacher, prvi statistik Evropske unije  
»Če so vaše številke pomembne, so pomembne tudi za politične odločitve«

**MIHA JENKO**  
»Z zdaj in glede na zdajšnje stanje krize smo statistiki storiли tisto, kar smo lahko. Kriza je nastala zaradi vredenosti v gospodarskem sektorju in se preselila v finančni svet, posledice pa zdaj najbolj občutijo v gospodarstvu, družbi, sociali. Kriza ima življenjski ciklus. Najprej smo imeli opozorila z vrednostmi nepremičnin, ki jih je težko predvideti. Nato se je nepremičninski trg zrušil, še posebno v ZDA. A take stvari se dogajajo tudi v vsakdanjem življenju.« nam je generalni direktor Eurostata Walter Radermacher (57) iz Nemčije odgovoril na vprašanje, kako kot glavni statistik Evropske unije ocenjuje recesijske razmere in ali so evropski statistiki v krizi dobro opravili svoje delo.  
»Vrednot, ceno premoženja je težko meriti. V stabilnih razmerah lahko ugotovimo, da se vrednost pogledate gospodarske cikle v povprečnem obdobju, je bilo v Evropi kakšnih pet kriz, vendar je to daleč najhujša. Če pa se ozrem nazaj – statistiki vredno gledamo v vrzeto ogledalo in ne delamo gospodarskih napovedi – bi se izognili napovedovanju. Občutujemo različne kazalnike, finančne trge, zaposelnost in opazimo, da so trgi še zelo odvisni od kapitalističnih impulzov in ukrepov vlád. Vprašanje je, ali se bodo okrepili mednarodni trgi in vplivali na domačo proizvodnjo in porabo.  
Kaj je kriza pokazala statistikom? Kaj ste se iz nje naučili? Pokazalo se je, da so bili naši kvalitativni podatki dobri. Manjhalo so podatki o vrednosti premoženja, ki jih je težko meriti, vendar bomo to postizili v prihodnje. V svetovnih okvirih bomo poskušali bolj komunicirati in izboljšati primerjave med podatki, denimo iz ZDA in Evrope. Izboljšali bomo dostop do podatkov za raziskovalce in tiste, ki in emisije CO<sub>2</sub>. Pozornost bomo preusmerili od produktivnosti dela in upoštevili multifaktorsko produktivnost.  
Nekateri deli sveta (Zahodna Evropa) je bolj zaveženi obremenitvi okolja, drugi (Kitajska, tudi ZDA) manj. Kako gledate na to – in na nove krize, ki so pred človeštvom?  
Poskusamo ločiti med kratkoročnimi interpretacijami in dolgoročnimi nalaganji družbene politike. Dolgoročna projekcija Združenih narodov je, da se bo svetovno prebivalstvo do leta 2050 povečalo na deset milijard. To bo začetna točka resnične velike krize. Tih deset milijard ljudi bo potrebovalo hrano, vodo – pa ju že zdaj nimamo dovolj. Uporabljali bodo energijo in druge naravne danosti, imeli bodo pričakovanja o življenjskem slogu, ki bo tak, kak je zdaj miš ali vol. Če upoštevate vse to, bodo prihodnja desetletja vodila v konfrontacijo in mi-

Newspaper Delo, 19. 11. 2009: interview with Eurostat Director General



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flexible. Some specific activities were presented with which deficiencies of the statistical system exposed by the economic crisis are to be compensated, e.g. lack of monetary microdata. The ECB thus introduced two new surveys; the survey on household finance and consumption and the qualitative survey on small and medium-sized enterprises on the needs, preferences and access to finance (S. Perez-Duarte et al). The economic crisis exposed the issue of indebtedness of households. According to the Bank of Slovenia this area is practically undeveloped both as regards the methodology and data (B. Ferik). A step toward greater flexibility of the ESS is the adoption of a new regulation on European statistics in 2009. Greater flexibility of the ESS should be made possible by new measures: the European approach to statistics, exchange of confidential data and easier implementation of temporary direct statistical activities (G. Ružič and K. Hren).

The economic crisis dramatically reduces public finance revenues and increases the need for expenditure to mitigate its consequences. In such circumstances efficient use of available resources is even more



Anuška Ferligoj



Left to right: Iztok Jamnik, Milan Kajič, Matjaž Gorenc

important. Slovenia is developing the so-called development-oriented budget as an instrument for more rational allocation of public funds. At the conference the idea was presented how to design a methodology for monitoring the effects of the spending of public funds by final recipients following the systems of the OECD and the IMF (A. Murn). Also presented was the process of planning development policies, and identification and determination of efficiency factors (K. Lautar, F. Klužer). As regards implementation, both approaches are very demanding in terms of data needs and can not be implemented without thoughtful linking of databases.

The conference presented some specific analyses of the usefulness of available statistical data as a support for scientific and research policies, macroeconomic policies and health policies. The general conclusion was that these data are not sufficiently exploited regarding their availability, that their proper use has to take into account methodologies and that methodological characteristics bring some limitations to the usefulness of these data. The example of Statistics Netherlands on the development of short-term indicators showed how it is possible to design new, interesting and useful

indicators without additional collections, i.e. on the basis of available data.

The session on the recession in the labour market contributed an interesting empirical analysis about the duration of unemployment in Slovenia in the 2004-2008 period, which was produced on the basis of the survival analysis with the use of Cox proportional hazards model. The database of the Employment Service of Slovenia was used for this analysis (A. Kavkler et al). An empirical study on the impact of recession on various labour market indicators was also presented (M. Divjak).

For monitoring the effects of the crisis on well-being and the quality of life, and the related social policy measures, Household Budget Surveys (HBS) and Surveys on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) are indispensable data sources. Years of experience of the Institute for Economic Research in using data from the HBS and the more recent EU-SILC confirmed the quality and usefulness of data from both sources for studying various social issues, also in times of crisis. The justification of both data sources is confirmed by their



Round table: Data support to Slovenia's membership of the OECD

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Panel discussion: Data as support to policies

being substantively complementary, but greater utilisation is hindered by methodological differences, so the exploitation of data from both rather costly surveys is quite modest. At the conference data users expressed their wish that the EU-SILC database were supplemented with appropriate methodological documentation.

The crisis is threatening *sustainable development* at different levels and different segments. At the 19<sup>th</sup>

*In the memorable panel discussion on forecasting economic trends the discussants pointed out the deficient theory of business cycles and the uniqueness of events that can not be identified by historical data and described by uniform models. An additional problem is revision of already published data. A proposal was given to design a monthly synthetic indicator of economic activity. Ms Karmen Hren thought that the idea was feasible but added that "forecasting is as if one was driving forward while looking back". A very good connoisseur of statistics past and present Mr Tomaž Banovec, the retired Director-General of the Slovene statistical office, added that "the road is still full of cracks and holes".*

Statistical Days sustainable development during the crisis was discussed from the point of view of the individual. The Institute of Public Health presented first results of surveys about the impact of the crisis on people's health in light of data on absenteeism. Presenting the linking of two databases (record of temporary and permanent absence from work and the perinatal information system), the Institute highlighted the extreme data potential of this institution; however, due to lack of knowledge, lack of cooperation and methodological problems, this potential is insufficiently exploited (M. Omerzu et al). The Statistical Office pointed out that the public is not properly informed about the content and method of measuring sustainable development, which causes simplified and superficial understanding of sustainable development as most people equate it with environmental protection. Also presented were results of Statistical Office initiative to find out how it is possible to present sustainable development indicators in a more non-technical way in cooperation with users (M. Suvorov).

Important sources of data for monitoring sustainable development and, of course, also other areas are censuses. At the 19<sup>th</sup> Statistical Days Statistical Office's plans for conducting the agriculture census in 2010 and the population census in 2011 were presented. These two censuses will be conducted by using administrative records. In the agriculture census administrative sources will partly substitute the traditional method of data collection, while the population census will be register-based, i.e. all data will be obtained from administrative sources. By doing this, Slovenia will join few European countries that have already successfully conducted register-based censuses. The plans for conducting a register-based census were also presented by Slovakia.

### Interview

Walter Radermacher,

Eurostat Director General



**Statisticians are now quite aware of the users' needs in financial and economic crisis and are also familiar with the new challenges for measuring progress in society or well-being and sustainable development - but are European statistical institutions qualified enough for quick changes in the implementation of the improved production of EU statistics?**

The European Statistical System (ESS) is under strong pressure as regards requests for new statistics but at the same time, as a result of the economic and financial crisis, it is also suffering from severe budget cuts and strong pressure to lower the burden. There is a need for improvement, be it in terms of new products answering new needs, in terms of services, or in terms of quality. The legal basis of many of the statistical actions is a strong point of European statistics but also an obstacle when very quick changes are necessary. However, the ESS has taken steps to prioritise the activities in its work programme in order to accommodate work on the new needs. This, in combination with the re-design of the statistical production process, will provide enough flexibility to the system and a permanent adaptation to user needs.

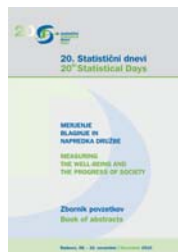
**Statisticians have many formal and informal possibilities for exchanging opinions, experiences and best practices. The Statistical Days conferences in Slovenia try to offer the possibility of open discussion to the other two partners, i.e. users and data providers, too. What was your impression about that kind of discourse at the 2009 Statistical Days?**

The Statistical Days is an important event in the national and international context for exchange of views between data providers and data users. Such events, as they are held in many countries and at the European and international level, guarantee permanent dialogue with main stakeholders. Radenci has proven over the years - as a result of its structure and the participation of many high-level representatives from other countries - to be an event that generates much attention and has won a strong support from the international statistical community.

## Statistics for the people and about the people

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### 20<sup>th</sup> conference: 2010 Measuring the Well-Being and the Progress of Society



The theme of the 20<sup>th</sup> jubilee conference was outlined by the previous conference, when participants discussed the role of statistics in times of crisis and how statistics can help find a way out of it.

The focus of statistics to monitor social development from the point of view of the quality of life of the present and future generations has lately been announced by some important conferences (GDP and Beyond), the OECD global project (Measuring the

Progress of Societies) and recommendations of top experts, Nobel laureates Joseph Stiglitz and Amartya Sen. The ESS reacted to these events with the initiative to establish a sponsorship group on measuring progress, well-being and sustainable development.

The theme of the 20<sup>th</sup> Statistical Days is thus Measuring the Well-Being and the Progress of Society. The content of the conference and the announced papers again promise a very interesting conference, which will in the panel discussion and in sessions deal with various views of the well-being, dimensions of well-being and methods of measuring well-being. Qualitative and quantitative indicators as the main tools for monitoring well-being will be discussed as well as the possible methods of improving their usefulness in analysing well-being. The conference will again be accompanied by round tables discussing dissemination of seasonally adjusted data and raising the level of statistical literacy in Slovenia. Development achievements in statistics will be presented by special presentations.



## Many happy returns to Statistical Days!

Statistical meetings in Radenci are celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, still fresh, still curious, still willing to accept new friends, with an eye fixed towards the future, this year with a topic of well-being and social progress.

Where do Statistical Days get their vitality from? In the international community there are namely not many – as regards the idea and participation – such professional conferences on official statistics that could be proud of a tradition spanning almost a quarter of a century.

To a large extent the success of Statistical Days is primarily the result of the efforts of the two organisers, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia and the Statistical Society of Slovenia, which with their employees and with the help of the local hosts take care that everything always runs smoothly. As participants, we experience these meetings mostly as very pleasant and useful professional socialising with friends and colleagues joined by the common interest in statistics. Usually we do not even feel that the conferences require careful preparations, organisation and a lot of work and personal commitment of people from the organising committee and their colleagues.

However, even the very best organisation is no guarantee for a successful professional conference. Reviewing and reading the extensive documentation of twenty conferences, we were frequently able to confirm that Statistical Days in Radenci are characterised by the fact that they have always been an effective mechanism for networking and an ingenious form of communication and knowledge transfer.

The success of our statistical meetings can be sought in the simple fact that from the very beginning these meetings were designed as *an active professional gathering*

of national *statistics experts, users and data providers*. A quarter of a century ago Radenci launched what is now called “communication with data providers and users of statistical data”, currently one of the leading strategies of national statistics in Europe and the world.

Several hundred papers clearly confirm in various ways what an important impact statistical conferences had on the development of official statistics. Statistical Days were the forum where ideas about the development of national statistics in Slovenia were presented, developed and checked, whether it was about designing the basic development concepts, the strategy of Slovenia’s accession to the EU and other international integrations, the development of new areas within the programmes of statistical surveys or establishing institutional, infrastructural and legislative bases.

Active cooperation of other authorised producers of national statistics at Statistical Days (Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public and Legal Records and Related Services, Bank of Slovenia, Institute of Public Health, Ministry of Finance, Pension and Disability Insurance Institute, Employment Service of Slovenia) and other national institutions (Customs Administration, Tax Administration, etc.) definitely contributed to better mutual understanding and thus accelerated the development in the use of administrative records for statistical purposes.

Statistical conferences also promoted communication with researchers from universities, other government institutions (e.g. Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development) and research institutes, whether regarding the use of statistical data for research purposes or research and development in the field of official statistics. At this point we must mention constructive initiatives by researchers in introducing modern approaches to microdata. With the help of official



Social evening

statistical data, their analytical studies discussed at our statistical meetings revealed many serious social issues (e.g. analysis of the consequences of population ageing). At the same time, with models for forecasting and analysis they pointed out the development opportunities and dilemmas. By using statistical data in complex analyses and models, the usefulness of these data was confirmed and their deficiencies were revealed.

Foreign participants also found many answers to professional questions or obtained many ideas about the way forward. Statistical Days offered to statisticians from other statistical offices an excellent opportunity to verify their achievements and in direct contact with Eurostat representatives or colleagues from other offices clear professional dilemmas and views. This opportunity was especially valuable for Western Balkan statisticians. For Eurostat representatives and for representatives of other international institutions, Statistical Days were an opportunity to get to know first hand about actual problems of harmonisation of statistics and implementing their ideas in specific circumstances which differ rather significantly among countries.



## Many happy returns to Statistical Days!



Lea Bregar

Author of the overview and content analysis of conferences  
in this jubilee publication

Statistical meetings thus in many ways contributed to the development of official statistics in and outside Slovenia. By drawing attention to social issues and by promoting institutional cooperation, their impact went well beyond statistics.

At the end of this overview one can not but mention another finding: almost 900 documented papers reveal exceptional subject-matter diversity and wealth of the fields covered by modern statistical services, including national statistics in Slovenia. Today official statistics is definitely one of the world's largest providers of data, i.e. figures that are mostly free of charge, of increasingly high quality, methodologically harmonised and easily accessible. As such, they present a potential basis for universal communication and knowledge creation in individual countries and globally. However, there is a problem that awareness and knowledge of this wealth are too modest in view of the invested resources and potentials. I believe that Statistical Days will continue to seek ways how to train a wider circle of users in qualified use of data and how to increase the exploitation of available sources and already collected data. Recent conferences in Radenci have already been a step in this direction.

• • •

## List of published papers presented at Statistical Days conferences, 1987-2009

Author	Title	Author	Title
Abad Pedro	Implementation of the statistical framework for the compilation of money and banking statistics in Spain, 1998	Banovec Tomaž	Statistika in prihodnost države - poslovne in druge statistike, 1996
Ahčan Aleš, Polanec Sašo	Socialna varnost in upokojevanje med tranzicijo: mikroekonometrični dokazi iz Slovenije, 2008	Banovec Tomaž	Elementi za pripravo plana za prevzem statistične ureditve Evropskih skupnosti Slovenian statistical acquis 1998-2002, 1998
Albreht Tit	Razvoj kazalnikov zdravja in zdravstvenega varstva kot podpora spremljanju odločitev zdravstvene politike, 2003	Banovec Tomaž, Klanjšček Mirko	Statistika parametrov informacijske družbe, 1998
Alsaleh Mohammed Ahmed Ali	On forecasting exchange rate : a time series analysis, 2002	Banovec Tomaž	Informacijska družba – makroekonomska določitev in uradna statistika, 1999
Antončič Vojko	Indikatorji neekonomskih aspektov družbenega razvoja, 1989	Banovec Tomaž	Kooperativna administrativna baza povezanih podatkov treh registrov (KABPP3R), 1999
Antončič Vojko, Gnidovec Meta	Zaposlilvena pot z vidika samostojnosti, 1995	Banovec Tomaž	The use of administrative sources for statistics and international comparability: Slovenia-records and national statistics, 2000
Apostolovska Biljana, Bogov Dimitar	Implementation of the data warehouse and automation of the national accounts, 2000	Banovec Tomaž	Statistika in administrativno okolje : pojavi - dogodki značilni zanje, njihovo administrativno spremljanje, omrežja, javnopravne in druge evidence in državna statistika, 2001
Arnež Marta, Belak Eva, Vehovar Vasja	Natančnost ocen v uradnih anketah, 1994	Banovec Tomaž	E-poslovanja, država in njena statistika, 2002
Arnež Marta, Novak Tatjana, Vehovar Vasja, Zaletel Metka	Geo-informacijski sistem za načrtovanje vzorcev, 1996	Banovec Tomaž	Razmislek o majhnih državah in evropski statistiki, o hedonskih metodah in omrežjih za e-poslovanja, 2002
Arnež Marta, Belak Eva, Jukić Nina	Imputacije izdatkov na primeru četrtletne ankete o potovanjih domačega prebivalstva, 2002	Banovec Tomaž	Resorne in uradne statistike na primeru nepremičnin in zemljiške politike, 2003
Arnič Andreja, Šeremet Tatjana	Analysis of procedures and experiences with the implementation of the classification server, 2002	Banovec Tomaž	Ali imamo v Sloveniji preveč ali premalo stanovanj?, 2005
Artenjak Janez, Tominc Polona	Enterprise input-output modelling in the cost-volume-profit analysis, 2003	Banovec Tomaž	Upravljanje staranja, oprto na izkazana dejstva ter na urejene in povezane evidence in na napovedane spremembe, 2008
Arthur Stephan	Experience with constructing composite asset price indices, 2004	Banovec Tomaž	Statistika upravičencev do družinskih prejemkov, 1995
Arthur Stephan V.	Stephan Data sharing between central banks - recent developments in the Bank for International Settlements, 2005	Barba Jana, Čemažar Andreja, Čepar Drago, Kurinčič Irena, Palčič-Likar Zdenka	Statistical web sites from dissemination to learning tools, 2001
Artnik Barbara, Vidmar Gaj, Javornik Jana S	OLAP for health statistics : how to turn simple spreadsheet into a powerful analytic tool, 2002	Barbieri Giovanni	Primerjalna analiza spletnih strani izbranih ponudnikov statističnih podatkov, 1999
Astin John	Measuring EU inflation : the harmonised indices of consumer prices, 1998	Bavdaž Mojca, Ograjenšek Irena, Bregar Lea	Primerjava števila prebivalcev po popisu 2002 in Centralnem registru prebivalstva na ravni občin, 2004
Astin John	Structural funds allocation formula : the calculation of GDP in purchasing power standards, 1998	Bavdaž Mojca	Respondenti v anketah podjetij in njihov pogled na statistiko, 2006
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Hrisafova Maja, Boshkovska Dushica	International and inter-institutional cooperation in statistics with special accent on the euro-integration processes - new strategies/new phenomena : (State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia experiences), 2001	Jerkič Alenka	Maastrichtski kriteriji : primanjkljaj in dolg države, 2001
Ingjatovič Miroljub, Kramberger Anton	Fleksibilizacija slovenskega trga dela, 2000	Jesenko Jože, Andrejčič Radovan	Statistika na Fakulteti za organizacijske vede Kranj, 1994
Inglič Rihard Tomaž	Anketa o mnenju potrošnikov kot vir kratkoročnih ekonomskih kazalcev, 1997	Jeskanen-Sundström Heli, Pohjola Antero	Role of official statistics in EU accession negotiations : the Finnish experience, 1998
Inglič Rihard, Belak Eva	Anketa o porabi časa - 2000/01, 2001	Jevtič Živojin, Kožetinac Gradimir	Monetarna politika i kretanje inflacije u Jugoslaviji, 1989
Inglič Rihard, Remec Matija	Pomen in vloga administrativnih podatkov v prenovljenem procesu SILC, 2007	Josipovič Damir	Predlog možnih izboljšav spletne ponudbe uradnih statističnih podatkov na področju demografske statistike, 2002
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Intihar Andreja	Indeksi cen storitev pri proizvajalcih - nov evropski ekonomski kazalec	Jovanović Predrag, Davidović Zoran	New approach to quality issues in the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, 2003
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Janković Miroslav, Stojiljković Dragi	Purchasing power parities as the tool for data users in international comparisons : (Serbia and Montenegro case), 2003	Kajič Milan, Pincolič Andreja, Tomkiewicz Marjan	Mehanizmi varovanja podatkov pri elektronskem poslovanju Statističnega urada RS, 1999
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Javor Anka	Updating the address list for the short-term surveys on distributive trades, 2004	Kardaun Jan	Defing e-commerce : making simpler by making it more complex, 1999
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Keuning Steven	The Further Development of Euro Area Statistics, with Special Reference to Government Finance Statistics, 2006	Kovačič Saša	Neenakost plač v Sloveniji in po regijah, 2000
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Klep Jožica	Podpora urejanju statistične terminologije, 2004	Kraigher Tomaž	Ocene potreb po formalnem izobraževanju odraslih v Sloveniji v naslednjih desetih letih, 2001
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Klinar Marjana	Socialna varnost v Republiki Sloveniji, 2000	Kraigher Tomaž	Meje različnih ukrepov v zvezi z blažitvijo ekonomskih posledic staranja prebivalstva Slovenije, 2008
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Kocjanc Damjana, Lozar Manfreda Katja	Internet v slovenskih podjetjih, 1996	Kramberger Anton	Dopolnilni delovni statusi ljudi, 1995
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Korez-Vide Romana	Možnosti in priložnosti merjenja globalizacije, 2004	Križman Irena, Jemec-Zalar Bojana, Zrnec Tjaša	Usklajevanje statistične zakonodaje z zahtevami Evropske Unije, 1999
Kosec Barbara	Informiranje na podlagi podatkov plačilnega prometa, 1998	Križman Irena, Žnidaršič Erika	Register nepremičnin - večnamenska baza podatkov na področju nepremičnin, 2005
Košir Franc, Marčun Tomaž	Elektronsko poslovanje - izkušnje in priložnosti, 1999	Križman Irena	Nadaljnje zmanjševanje administrativnih bremen - pomemben cilj slovenske državne statistike, 2007
Košmelj Blaženka	Ob prvi izdaji slovenskega statističnega terminološkega slovarja, 1993	Kujović Nebojša	Revalorizacija društvenih sredstava i njen uticaj na obračun društvenog proizvoda, 1987
Košmelj Katarina	Poučevanje statistike na oddelku za agronomijo Biotehniške fakultete Univerze v Ljubljani, 1994	Kukar Stanislava	Ocena obsega in tendence v razvoju sive ekonomije v Jugoslaviji, 1989
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			Uporaba podatkov APG in EU-SILC za raziskovalne namene, 2009

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Kunc Mateja, Miklavčič Aleksandra	Uprava Republike Slovenije za javna plačila, 2000	Macur Mirna	Evalvacijske študije, 1995
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Kustec Tanja	Standardno poročilo o kakovosti za primerjalno študijo "Dnevna rutina v vrtcu in šoli", 2004	Madžarevič-Šujster Sanja	Croatian public finance - an overview, 1997
Kutin Julija, Jereb Puhar Vitja, Jug Matjaž	Analično informacijsko okolje SURS v luči popisa prebivalstva 2002, 2002	Maher Neva	Sistem informiranja za spremljanje nalog, ki jih opravlja sodobna javna uprava, 1997
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Labus Mirosljub	Statistička osnova za kvazi dinamički strukturni model jugoslovenske privrede, 1989	Maher Neva	Statistika, podatki, indikatorji in storitve v kontekstu Evropske unije, 2004
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Stojiljković Dragi, Janković Miroslav	Consumer price parities between the two republics, 2004	Škrlec Šinkovec Mojca	Izdatki gospodinjstev za končno potrošnjo in revizija, 2003
Stol Hans R.	Metadata in datacapture, 2002	Škrlec Šinkovec Mojca	Nefinančni sektorski računi, 2006
Strazišar Nina	Predstavitev pilotne raziskave o zadovoljstvu uporabnikov Statističnega urada RS v letu 2003, 2004	Škrlec Mojca	Podoba slovenskih gospodinjstev skozi prizmo nacionalnih računov, 2009
Strmšnik Igor	Ocena nacionalnih računov Slovenije 1990-1993, 1993	Škrubelj Jelka	Slovenija in EU : potek multilateralnega in bilateralnega "screeninga" za prost pretok blaga, 1998
Strmšnik Igor	Institucije in nosilci nalog pri vključevanju Slovenije v strukturno politiko Evropske zveze, 1998	Škufca Uroš	Uporaba tezavra EUROVOG v informacijskih sistemih na omrežju internet, 1997
Sušnik Darja	Uvedba sistema Intrastat v podjetju Predilnica Litija d.o.o., 2004	Škufca Uroš	Uporaba spletnih robotov v statistične namene na internetu, 1999
Suvorov Mojca	Prikazovanje in razumevanje energetskega bilanca, 2001	Šnuderl Katja, Peljhan Jožica	Možnosti in omejitve pri pregledovanju podatkov in podatkovnem skladišču regionalnih statističnih podatkov v SURS RDB, 2002
Suvorov Mojca	Kazalniki trajnostnega razvoja, 2003	Šnuderl Katja, Pehlič Sandi	Podatkovni portal SI-STAT: nadgradnja v letu 2005 in nove možnosti za uporabnike, 2005
Suvorov Mojca, Krížman Irena	Izmenjava znanja in izkušenj na področju kmetijskih statistik, 2003		
Suvorov Mojca	Izbor ključnih kazalnikov trajnostnega razvoja v Sloveniji, 2009		
Svetin Irena	Spremljanje novih pojavov na trgu dela, ki jih omogoča informacijsko - komunikacijska tehnologija (teledelo), 2003		



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Author	Title	Author	Title
Špiranec Katica	Dinamika in struktura uporabnikov informacijsko-dokumentacijskega centra Zavoda Republike Slovenije za statistiko, 1994	Vajda Jana	Vpliv sprememb v računovodskih standardih in računovodskih izkazih na obračun agregatov gospodarskih družb v nacionalnih računih, 2003
Šrekl Jože	Dileme in zadrege ob poučevanju statistike na VTVŠ, 1994	Vasle Boštjan	Ocenjevanje osnovne inflacije v Sloveniji, 2000
Šrekl Jože, Gspan, Primož	Ocenjevanje gibanja števila nezgod, 1995	Vehovar Vasja	Statistika inovativnosti : nekatera metodološka vprašanja proučevanja družbenega razvoja v razmerah intenzivnih tehnoloških sprememb, 1989
Štebe Janez	Subjektivni kazalci socialnega kapitala v Sloveniji, 2001	Vehovar Vasja, Zaletel Metka	Anketa o delovni sili - kakšen vzorec potrebujemo?, 1994
Štebe Janez, Kaštrun Tomaž	Kako oživeti statistične podatke? : Izkušnje z uporabo metapodatkov standarda DDI v Arhivu družboslovnih podatkov, 2002	Vehovar Vasja, Zaletel Metka	Vzorci v uradni statistiki - razvoj in perspektive, 1997
Šteblaj Alenka	Statistika notrajnega plačilnega prometa, 1997	Vehovar Vasja, Lozar Manfreda Katja	Internet in elektronsko poslovanje v slovenskih podjetjih, 1997
Šteinbuka Inna	Prevzem evra v Sloveniji, 2007	Vehovar Vasja, Remec Matija, Kramberger Anton	Statistika Interneta, 1998
Štuhec Snježana L.	Statistični register prebivalstva Slovenije, 1998	Vehovar Vasja, Remec Matija	Informacijska družba in elektronsko poslovanje v Sloveniji, 1999
Šurkalović Branka	Education system and life-long learning in Serbia, 2003	Vehovar Vasja, Jovan Matej	Informacijska tehnologija: Slovenija-EU, 2003
Šuštarčič Jasenka	Račun proizvodnje za zavarovalni sektor, 1996	Vehovar Vasja, Belak Eva	Vpliv uporabe mobilnih telefonov na anketno zbiranje podatkov, 2004
Šuštarčič Jasenka	Storitve finančnega posredništva merjenje posredno, 2001	Verlič Christensen Barbara	Prostor in kakovost življenja, 1995
Šuštarčič Jasenka	Sektorsko razporejanje FISIM za Slovenijo, 2004	Vertot Nelka	Staranje prebivalstva Slovenije v luči razlik med regijami, 1997
Šutalo Ivan	Rebasing problem in Croatia national accounts, 2002	Vertot Nelka	Poskusni popis prebivalstva '98-priprava na rednega 2001, 1998
Šutalo Ivan, Jukić Darko	Using Denton method for reconciliation annual (benchmark) GDP figures and quarterly GDP figures, 2001	Vertot Petronela	Umiranje mladostnikov v Sloveniji zaradi nasilnih smrti, 1999
Švajncer Tanja	Kakovost ankete o delovni sili, 2003	Vertot Nelka, Ilič Milena	Popis prebivalstva, gospodinjstev in stanovanj v Sloveniji v letu 2001 v luči popisov prebivalstva na slovenskem v preteklosti in prihodnosti, 2000
Tajnikar Maks	Ekonomski vidiki inflacije, 1987	Vertot Nelka	Popis prebivalstva, gospodinjstev in stanovanj v Sloveniji v letu 2002 - nov izziv za statistike ter nove možnosti za analitike in raziskovalce, 2001
Tavčar Branka	Uporaba matrike nacionalnih računov v ZMAR, 1996	Vertot Nelka	Uporabnost podatkov, zbranih v Sloveniji s popisom prebivalstva 2002, 2002
Tavčar Branka	Uporaba makroekonomskih statistik za napovedovanje, 2000	Vertot Petronela	Družine v Sloveniji v starajoči se družbi na prehodu v tretje tisočletje, 2008
Tekavčič Metka	Varstvo pri delu in stroški delovne sile, 1995	Veselinovič Draško	Nekateri problemi slovenske finančne statistike (predvsem) s področja vrednostnih papirjev, 1997
ten Bosch Olav	Visualising statistics in the Netherlands, 2008	Vesely, Zdenek	Czech experience in harmonisation of statistics with EU, 1998
Teržan Metka	Poklicne bolezni, 1995	Vidmar Mišo	Problematika statističnega zajemanja cestnega blagovnega prometa v Sloveniji in bodoče prilagajanje evropskim usmeritvam, 1994
Thygesen Lars	Quality management in statistics Denmark : a pragmatic approach, 2001	Vidmar Mišo	Pilotni projekt s področja cestnega blagovnega prometa, 1996
Todorova Mira	Customer satisfaction process in the State Statistical Office, 2000	Vihavainen Hilikka	Co-operation with the Ministry of Finance and the central bank in the provision of EMU related statistical information : experiences of Statistics Finland, 2003
Todorova Mira	Komunikacija z uporabniki statističnih podatkov v Državnem statističnem uradu Makedonije, 2005	Vipavc Brvar Irena, Klep Jožica	Uskladitev metapodatkovnih standardov za potrebe uporabnikov: primer METIS in DDI, 2003
Todorova Teodora	Financial statistics in Bulgaria, 2001	Vipavc Brvar Irena, Štebe Janez	Spremljanje uporabnikov, 2005
Tomšič Andrej	Elektronske storitve javne uprave : razumeti povpraševalno stran, 2004	Vodopivec Milan	Uvedba sistema "odložene šolnine" v slovensko visoko šolstvo, 2002
Tomšič Sonja, Šelb Šemerl Jožica	Izboljšanje kvalitete podatkov o vzrokih smrti, 2007	Vodopivec Milan, Dolenc Primož	Živeti dlje, delati dlje: aktualni izzivi na trgu dela, 2008
Torkar Darko	Problematika spremljanja naložb tujcev na slovenskem trgu kapitala, 1998	Vodopivec Milan, Širok Klemen	Analiza prehoda v delovno neaktivnost v Sloveniji, 2008
Toth Martin, Svenšek Rosvita	Zdravstvena statistika na Slovenskem : stanje in razvojna vprašanja, 1993	Vodopivec Milan, Vodopivec Matija, Dolenc Primož	Mobilnost na trgu dela in finančno/ekonomska kriza, 2009
Trbanc Martina	Socialna izključenost: koncept, obseg in značilnosti, 1995	Vrabič Kek Brigita	Anketa o fleksibilnosti trga delovne sile v predelovalnih dejavnostih, 1999
Treacy Joe	Implementing a New Data Management System in the Central Statistics Office Ireland, 2007	Vrabič Kek Brigita, Barbara Čertanec	Primerjava rezultatov anket o poslovnih tendencah in kratkoročnih kvantitativnih kazalnikov, 2006
Trewin Dennis	Improving statistical literacy, 2003	Vukmirović Dragan, Jancić Zoran, Budimir Jelena	Trženje uradne statistike in splet, 2005, 2005
Trewin Dennis	Role of good planning in determining statistical priorities, 2003	Vukmirović Dragan, Kostić Miroljub, Adžić Ivana	Standardi za izmenjavo podatkov in metapodatkov v Zavodu za statistiko Srbije in med institucijami, 2006
Trewin Dennis	Measurement of services : recent ABS experience, 2004		
Trnovšek Bojan, Irena Tršinar, Silvo Režek	Registri upravnih notranjih zadev kot vir podatkov za statisko prebivalstva, 2007		
Tuš Jadranka	Elektronski vprašalnik za spremljanje srednješolskega izobraževanja, 2001		
Tuš Jadranka	Kdaj se lahko nehamo učiti, 2004		

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Vukmirović Dragan, Milojić Andra, Ćirić Rade	Srbski sestavljeni indeks kot merilo kratkoročnih trendov gospodarske dejavnosti (krize), 2009	Zorc Rems Vanda	Spremljanje menjave storitev v plačilni bilanci Slovenije, 1994
Walczak Tadeusz	Co-operation in the field of science and research in NSI, 2002	Zorc Rems Vanda	Viri podatkov za drugo finančno posredništvo, 1997
Walton Richard	Steps toward international comparability in general economic statistics, 2002	Zorko Danica	Pomen statističnih in drugih informacij za oblikovalce turistične ponudbe za kreatorje turistične politike in za turiste potrošnike, 1994
Ward Michael	How relevant is the evidence for policy, 2003	Zupančič Samo	Statistično zajemanje podatkov o trgovini s storitvami v novem krogu pogajanj Svetovne trgovinske organizacije in v zagotavljanju prostega pretoka storitev v Evropski uniji, 1998
Wass Kurt	Finančna kriza in Evropski statistični sistem, 2009	Zupančič Samo	Statistično zajemanje podatkov o trgovini s storitvami, 2001
Willeke Caroline, De Windt Nicole	Vloga statistike pri finančni pismenosti, 2008	Zupančič Samo	Ekonomska participacija starejših v Sloveniji, 2008
Wurm Nikolaus	Statistics in the enlargement process : contribution of the Phare Programme, 2000	Zupanič Vesna, Vratanar Nevenka, Murnc Irena	Vodenje poslovnega registra Slovenije kot osrednje javne kooperativne baze podatkov o vseh poslovnih subjektih v Republiki Sloveniji ter načini objavljaja in posredovanja podatkov uporabnikom, 2002
Zabukovec Branko, Knapič Barbara	Short-term public finance statistical indicators, 2001	Žagar Tina, Primic Žakelj Maja, Zadnik Vesna	Povezovanje Registra raka za Slovenijo s sorodnimi državnimi podatkovnimi zbirkami, 2005
Zabukovec Brane	Davki in prispevki za socialno varnost : (ESA) 1995 tabela 0900), 2004	Žaucer Irena	Ekonomski računi za kmetijstvo, 1996
Zadnik Stirn Lidija	Informacija o izobraževanju na področju statistike na nekaterih oddelkih BF, 1994	Žaucer Irena	Ilegalna ekonomija : prva ocena ilegalnih dejavnosti za Slovenijo, 1999
Zaharieva Milena, Milusheva Boryana, Stanev George	The Bulgarian statistical system : an integral part of information, 2002	Žaucer Irena	Ekonomski računi za gozdarstvo, 2006
Zajc Župan Tanja, Medeot Marino, Tršinar Irena	EMŠO novorojenčkom že v porodnišnici, 2000	Žavbi Miran	Prilaganje izvajanj statističnih raziskovanj o stroških dela in strukturi plače v Sloveniji zahtevam Eurostata, 2000
Zakotnik Ivanka	Statistično dokumentacijska osnova za izdelavo statističnih input-output tabel in možnosti njihove ažurnejše (letne) izdelave, 1993	Žavbi Miran	Novosti na področju zbiranja podatkov o plačah in stroških dela, 2001
Zaletel Metka, Kocjanc Damjana, Novak Tatjana, Vehovar Vasja	Kvaliteta anketnih podatkov : pomen anketarja, 1998	Žavbi Miran	Spremembe in novosti na področju statističnega spremljanja podatkov o plačah, 2003
Zaletel Metka, Seljak Rudi	Merjenje kakovosti statističnih izdelkov, procesov in storitev v uradni statistiki, 2003	Žavbi Miran, Novak Tatjana	Racionalizacija na področju zbiranja podatkov o plačah in stroških dela, 2005
Zaletel Metka	Že spet statistika trka na vaša vrata?, 2004	Žebre Magdalena	Statistično spremljanje blagovnih tokov in pridruženo članstvo Slovenije Evropski uniji, 1993
Zaletel Metka	Kodeks ravnanja evropske statistike, 2005	Žebre Magdalena	Mednarodni programi usposabljanja, 1994
Zaletel Metka	Celostno obvladovanje kakovosti na Statističnem uradu RS, 2006	Žemva Mojca	Pregled priporočil za spremljanje denarnih in finančnih statistik v skladu z novimi priporočili mednarodnega denarnega sklada, 1997
Zaletel Metka	Komuniciranje kakovosti statističnih podatkov, 2007	Žitnik Mojca	Pilotno raziskovanje s področja statistike industrijskih in nevarnih odpadkov v Sloveniji, 2003
Zdešar Polona	Medgeneracijske razlike v informacijski družbi, 2008	Žnidaršič Erika	Kdo so revni v Sloveniji?, 1995
Zeila Karlis	Metadata Driven Integrated Statistical Data Management System, 2007	Žnidaršič Erika	Poskusni popis 1998 - stanovanjski del, 1998
Zemljič Barbara	Kakovost različnih metod merjenja gledanosti, 2003	Žnidaršič Erika	Uporaba popisnih podatkov pri nastavitvi registra stavb in stanovanj, 2001
Zemljič Petra	Načrtovanje in poročanje o doseženih ciljih in rezultatih v sektorju država, 2001	Žnidaršič Tina	Kadrovska organizacija popisa 2002 in analiza mnenj popisovalcev, 2002
Ziherl Petra	Statistika investicijskih skladov in drugih nedenarnih finančnih posrednikov, 2009		

## Round tables at Statistical Days conferences, 1994-2009

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- Statistical education and training

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- Regions in Slovenia

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### 1998

- EDISENT in enterprises, public institutions and administration

### 1999

- Administrative data
- Electronic Commerce in Statistics - Experiences, Vision
- Use of Blaise Software

### 2000

- Information society and statistical tasks in 2001, including indicators for new economy
- Introduction of total quality management in national statistics

### 2001

- Dissemination of the Slovene agriculture census 2000 data and the future of the farm structure surveys in Europe
- Use and analysis of census data
- Metadata driven processing: opportunities and threats
- Measuring and defining the necessary statistics in case of new commerce with energy

### 2002

- Intrastat
- Public finance statistics
- Metadata and quality
- R&D in the field of statistics and knowledge transfer
- Activities of official statistics in the 2003-2007 period

### 2003

- E-administration and Statistics
- Internet as an unstructured source of information for the needs of national statistics
- Trade off between statistical confidentiality and data dissemination
- Statistical dissemination on the Internet

### 2004

- Co-operation of government institutions in the process of accession to the EMU
- Statistical support to regionalisation and cross-border integration of regions
- Protection and transmission of statistical data for research and analytical purposes
- Role and importance of information and communication technology in modernising the processes of data collection, processing and dissemination
- Record-keeping and statistical monitoring of real estate

### 2005

- Internet – new solutions for efficient dissemination of statistical data
- Problems encountered in statistical monitoring of the balance of payments
- Reform of agriculture statistics

### 2006

- Standards for transmission of data and metadata between institutions (national and international)
- Population ageing and economic activity of population
- Implementation of the updated classification of activities NACE Rev. 2
- Food safety

### 2007

- Census of population and housing around 2011 using registers in Slovenia
- Census at School
- Use of the real estate register

### 2008

- EU marine strategy and statistics
- User needs and preparation of linked microdata for research purposes, modelling and evaluating the efficiency of legislation
- Collection, processing and disseminating of sensitive data

### 2009

- Information security – presentation of good practice and open issues
- Data support for Slovenia's membership of the OECD
- Poster sessions at Statistical Days conferences, 1997-2009

## Poster sessions at Statistical Days conferences, 1997-2009

### 1997

- Presentation of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia and the CD-ROM "Economy and craft"
- Users of Statistical Office's services
- Presentation of the Agency for Payments and Electronic Commerce
- Slovenian Stock Exchange and modern methods of work

### 1998

- The databank of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia
- Companies' financial data
- Credit rating
- Sending orders via e-mail
- Checking the situation via the Internet
- IMAD's website
- Publishing macroeconomic data in accordance with International Monetary Fund's standards

### 1999

- Generator of hi-speed data entry applications
- Blaise 4 Windows: a system to support statistical data collection and editing
- Results of the Phare project on long-distance learning in Slovenia
- Co-Operative Administrative Database of Linked Data from Three Registers – the record-keeping and statistical aspect
- Statistical classification server – description of the prototype solution

### 2000

- 2000 Census of Agricultural Holdings and Gardening in the Republic of Slovenia
- Overview of topical job vacancies and searching of job seekers on the website of the Employment Service of Slovenia
- Presentation of the external trade database at of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia
- Financial data of companies on the Internet
- KLASJE – statistical classification server
- EDI-FIN – electronic reporting of enterprises

### 2001

- The statistical data warehouses building methodology
- Use of spectrum in seasonal adjustment of time series
- LogiQuest: a new integrated approach for data collection for business statistics
- METIS - the corporate metadata repository of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

### 2002

- Keeping of the Business Register of Slovenia as the central public co-operative database on all business entities in the Republic of Slovenia and ways of publishing and transmitting the data to the users
- The electronic data reporter
- 2002 Census – a new approach and innovation in data processing
- OLAP for health statistics: how to turn a simple spreadsheet into powerful analytic tool
- Slovenian Statistical Office's regional database statistical data warehouse
- QUESTOR – software for integral treatment of statistical material

### 2003

- ECHI: European Community Health Indicators; a framework for monitoring public health issues in the enlarged European Union
- Slovenian Statistical Office's website
- Intrastat

### 2004

- Is insufficient data quality an obstacle for your business?
- Co-operation of the Slovenian Statistical Office and AJPES in the new method of collecting data on wages

### 2005

- SI-STAT Database
- Presentation of the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute
- Presentation of the Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public and Legal Records and Services
- Presentation of the Statistical Office of Serbia and Montenegro
- IMAD's publications

### 2006

- Analytical application for external trade in the ISPO portal

### 2007

- Presentation of the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute
- Presentation of the Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public and Legal Records and Services
- Access to microdata at the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia
- Import and export price indices and export and import unit value indices
- Survey on small agricultural units
- Rural development statistics
- Estimating hours worked
- Expense for hospital treatment and prescription medicines

### 2008

- Implementation of SDMX standards in the European Statistical System
- Presentation of integrated statistical information system
- Basket of products and its use in living standard measurement: case of Bosnia and Herzegovina and future perspectives
- Perceived inflation in the Consumer Opinion Survey
- Pension and Disability Insurance Institute
- Simple solution to our survey
- Statistical data in thematic cartography

### 2009

- Services producer price indices – a new European economic indicator
- New approach for preparing public tenders for selling apartments
- Overcoming economic crisis with the help of statistics
- Labour market situation of migrants and their immediate descendants
- Technological changes in the process of surveying