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STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

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# 60 YEARS OF NATIONAL STATISTICS IN SLOVENIA

LJUBLJANA, 2004

60 YEARS OF NATIONAL STATISTICS IN SLOVENIA

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Dear Reader,

*On 19 August 1944 the Slovene National Liberation Council established the Statistical Office of Slovenia. This year we are thus celebrating 60 years of national statistics in Slovenia. To mark this anniversary, we prepared this publication entitled **60 Years of National Statistics in Slovenia**.*

*The publication presents a selection of events surrounding the development of national statistics in Slovenia and its co-operation with the international environment. Our objective was by no means to pass historical and professional judgement of the road travelled by our predecessors.*

*All this time, Slovenia had internationally distinguished statistical experts and excellent directors of the Statistical Office. Short biographies of directors and acting directors are part of this publication. The evaluation of the contribution of individual statistical experts, the quality of statistics and their importance for managing the society will be a demanding task for the future. We are convinced that because of the importance of statistics in every society this is necessary since the development of the statistical activity reflects the level of democracy in a society and presents an important part of the history of every nation. At the same time, we must do that out of respect for our statistical predecessors who have broken new ground in that field during the Second World War and especially after it.*

*The foundations of a modern, register-based statistical system were established in the 1970s and 1980s. This was later on supplemented by full enforcement of international standards, which started to be introduced at the beginning of the 1990s, even before Slovenia won independence, and reached their peak with the transition to a market economy and accession of Slovenia to the European Union.*

*We would like to thank numerous institutions and individuals who helped us to collect written and photographic material. We could not use all sources for this publication, but they will be important for future preparation of a more detailed history of statistics in Slovenia.*

*I would like to congratulate everybody who in any way contributed to the present development of Slovene statistics as well as to everyone who is or was employed by the Statistical Office on this anniversary.*

*Križman*  
Irena Križman  
Director-General

of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

Ljubljana, September 2004



## 60 YEARS OF NATIONAL STATISTICS IN SLOVENIA

**In 2004 the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia is celebrating 60 years of existence of official statistics in Slovenia, which will be marked by the anniversary celebration and publishing of this anniversary publication. At its session on 19 August 1944 the Slovene National Liberation Council adopted the Resolution on the Establishment of the Statistical Office.**

Historically speaking, six decades is not a very long time. Anyhow, this time distance is just about right for a scientific discipline to be able to review the road travelled and to learn about its fundamental characteristics. Anniversaries provide a chance to talk about the jubilant and to present it to the public, so that it will be able to get to know it better. This was the main objective that the authors of this publication tried to attain with their contributions, the ambition of which was nevertheless also slightly higher. With this publication the Statistical Office wishes to improve understanding of the past as well as to prepare additional bases for future historical studies. Therefore, chapters in this book are also significant as the

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HISTORY OF STATISTICS IN SLOVENIA

However, the history goes back a lot further. It goes back to 1754, when the first census of population on the territory of the present-day Slovenia was conducted. In 1863 the first independent statistical service was created in Vienna. After the break-up of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Slovenia became a part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, and the central statistical service of this country was the General National Statistics in Belgrade.

We have divided our 60 years into four periods by historical landmarks. The sources for these periods differ considerably both in terms of type and volume. Various sources have been taken into account: publications and documents, legal bases, reports, descriptions and results of statistical activities as well as other written, pictorial and oral sources forming an extensive archives waiting for historical treatment.

The periods were delimited according to the historical position of Slovenia and the development of statistics, which was influenced by social changes in the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and later on by the independence of Slovenia and its accession to the European Union.

For the first half of the period under review, i.e. from the Second World War to 1974, not much pictorial material was preserved. However, for a researcher it is very fortunate that a summary of the development of statistics is available that has already been processed and published in four publications marking 30 years of Yugoslav and Slovene statistics. As the main source for the first two periods these publications were simply remarkable, since time distance is such that it is difficult to find witnesses and people who have experienced those times – an important historical source for throwing light on written archive facts. A careful reader will no doubt notice the unity of sources and dependence on historical publications for the first three decades, since the two subsequent periods differ in the presentation of the material as well as in the photographic design of the book.

For the 1975–1991 period, completely different sources were available – studies, reports, papers and articles in internal magazines, which have been published more or less regularly and present a chronicle of events, unfortunately not for all years. Examination of old issues of the magazine *Statistik* was a special experience for authors, since some of us have been personally involved in activities at the then Institute for Statistics. The more we drew closer to 1991, the more material there was, which had to be and still has to be examined if we want to know our past well. There was more professional co-operation with written materials and minutes, project work, international co-operation. It was much easier to obtain written records of discussions taking place when acts were adopted, and initiatives and studies were written down. Ever greater emphasis was put on promotion activities; there were more publications, proceedings volumes and other written material. After 1991 it was joined by materials from international participation in various meetings, conferences and seminars. It was not easy to extract from this vast material that which should represent the historical core of modern Slovene statistics and not willingly or unwillingly leave out or simplify some things. The authors have therefore summarised the contents on the basis of their knowledge and experience, taking into account the selected sources that will provide support for future researchers in their efforts.

A reader will notice that this book is not about individuals – it describes events. Of course, there is no history without individuals – people are its creators. However, this publication cannot present everybody that would deserve to be presented. To avoid being unfair, which would definitely happen if we wanted to list everybody important, we decided that this book will tell the story about modern Slovene statistics and not the story about the people who created it.

Of course, *60 Years of National Statistics in Slovenia* is not only the story about the Statistical Office, but also the story about statisticians in public administration, at universities, in secondary schools and companies. This book does not attempt to present a complete review; it mostly deals with official statistics. In order not to remain in this close framework, the co-operation of the Statistical Office with the Statistical Society of Slovenia, which unites statisticians from various areas, and with the teaching community, which takes care of knowledge and new young experts, is also briefly described.

Above all, this publication should present our past to the Slovene and international public. It should refresh the memory of employees of the Statistical Office and those of us who used to work for it but are now working in other institutions about the times when valuable experiences were gained – and believe me there were many. And last but not least, may it help the efforts that a true historical book will be published some day. Its preparation will be somewhat easier since its authors will be able to draw from the contributions to the history of Slovene statistics that we prepared at this anniversary and from the archives of documents and photographic material that we collected from our colleagues to this end.

Let me therefore thank everybody who helped collect, prepare and design the material. Let me also wish them to rejoice in this anniversary and stimulate successors to record as thoroughly as possible the future events, so that the future historical book will have factual sources and will be able to present our time objectively.

*Irena Tršinar*  
Editor

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**Abbreviations**

CRP	Central Population Register
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EMU	European Monetary Union
EU	European Union
ILO	International Labour Office
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IT	Information technology
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OJ	Official Journal
ROS	Register of Organisations and Communities
RS	Republic of Slovenia
RTE	Register of Territorial Units
SFRJ	Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
SNA	System of National Accounts
SNOS	Slovene National Liberation Council
SRS	Socialist republic of Slovenia
UN	United Nations Organisation
WWII	Second World War



# ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATISTICAL OFFICE AND THE FIRST POST-WORLD WAR II YEARS

## 1944-1952

*The first statistical office in Slovenia was established during the Second World War on 19 August 1944 and was called the Statistical Office. The decree on the establishment of the statistical office determined its tasks and the first report about its activities was prepared in the same year. The report stated the principles of statistical activities and summed up the most important tasks. Next year the Statistical Office of Slovenia was re-established in accordance with the federal legislation and started to operate according to guidelines of the federal statistical office of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia.*

*The role of the then Office was to co-ordinate work of statistical services established by individual ministries and statistical tasks of district and county people's committees.*

*One of the first tasks was to determine the situation after the war in various spheres of life. The Office organised censuses and used data to set up registers – population census data were, for example, used to set up the Register of Permanent Population in municipalities. This role of the Office was so important that in 1951 it was renamed the Republican Institute for Statistics and Records at the Economic Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia. Regular annual and monthly statistical surveys started to be introduced and their number soon increased. They also took care of publishing the results. The first Statistical Yearbook of the People's Republic of Slovenia was published in 1953 with data for the period from the end of the Second World War to 1952. The description of statistical yearbooks is included in this chapter, although – as the text on publishing activity and the Office's headquarters at Vožarski pot 12 – it refers to the whole period of 60 years.*



## 1944 – BIRTH OF THE STATISTICAL OFFICE DURING THE NATIONAL LIBERATION WAR

At its session on 19 August 1944, the Presidency of the Slovene National Liberation Council (SNOS) adopted a resolution to establish the Statistical Office. The fact that a central statistical office was established first in Slovenia – even before the Decree on Organising the National Statistical Office of Yugoslavia was adopted – has a great historical significance.

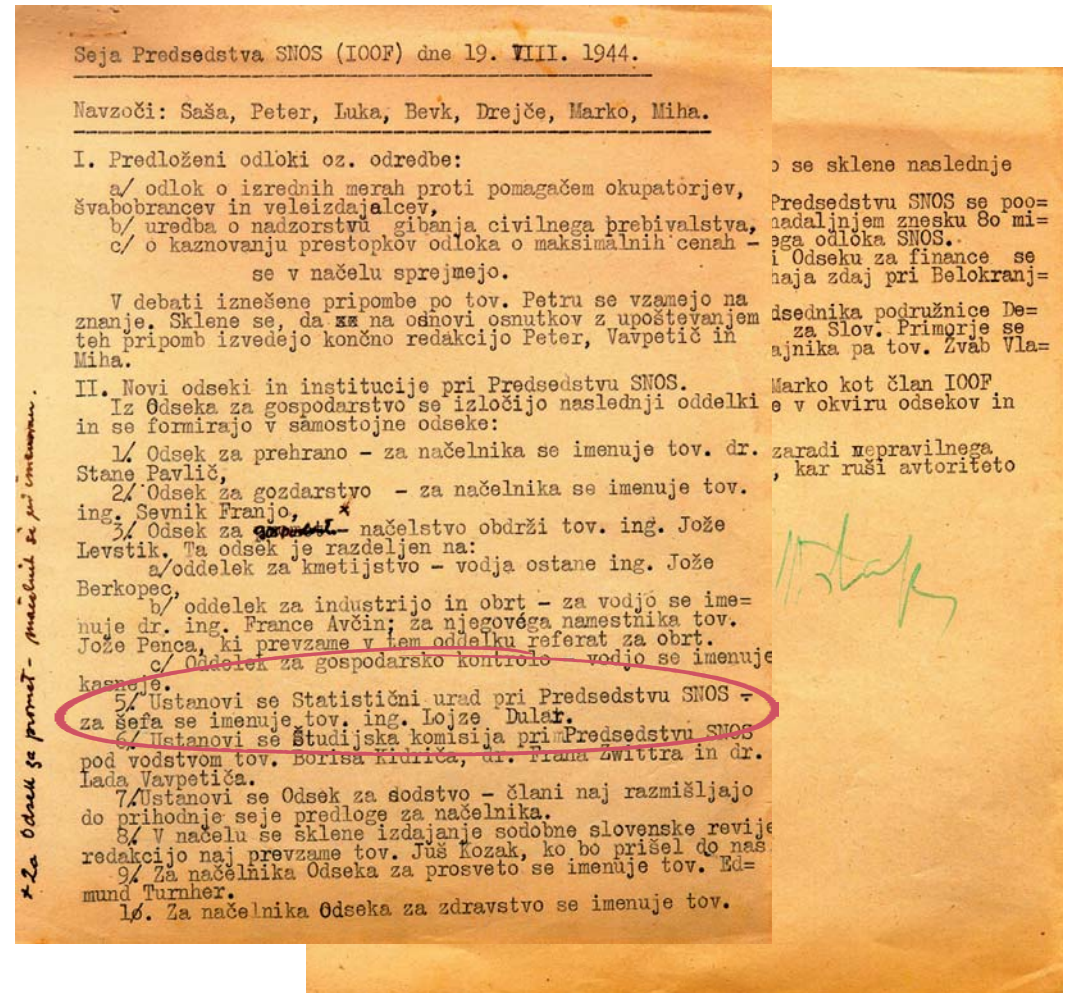
It was determined that the Office be headed by a director appointed by the SNOS Presidency. Tasks of the Office were stated in Article 2 of the decree on the establishment:

- Organising and managing all data important for the public life of the people in Slovenia,
- Dealing with data according to scientific principles and
- Co-operation with institutions and bodies of Slovene national authorities as regards providing data, opinions and advice.

As regards its activity, the Office was responsible to the SNOS Presidency. In his report of 26 November 1944, the head of the Office emphasised the preparation of common guidelines for collection and central processing of data and warned about the problems that the Office had in collecting data as well as the need for qualified human resources.

### Sources:

- Mlinar, B. (ur.) (1974). Prispevek k zgodovini statistike med NOB 1941–1945. Ljubljana: Zavod SR Slovenije za statistiko, str. 10-17.
- Arhiv Republike Slovenije, fascikel 500: Seja predsedstva SNOS, Osnutek Odloka o ustanovitvi Urada za statistiko. Dopis Urada za statistiko SNOS z dne 26. 11. 1944.



Draft Decree on the Establishment of the Office for Statistics at the SNOS Presidency, adopted at the session of the Presidency of the Slovene National Liberation Council on 19 August 1944.



Mr. Alojz (Lojze) Dular,  
Director of the Statistical Office in 1944-1945.

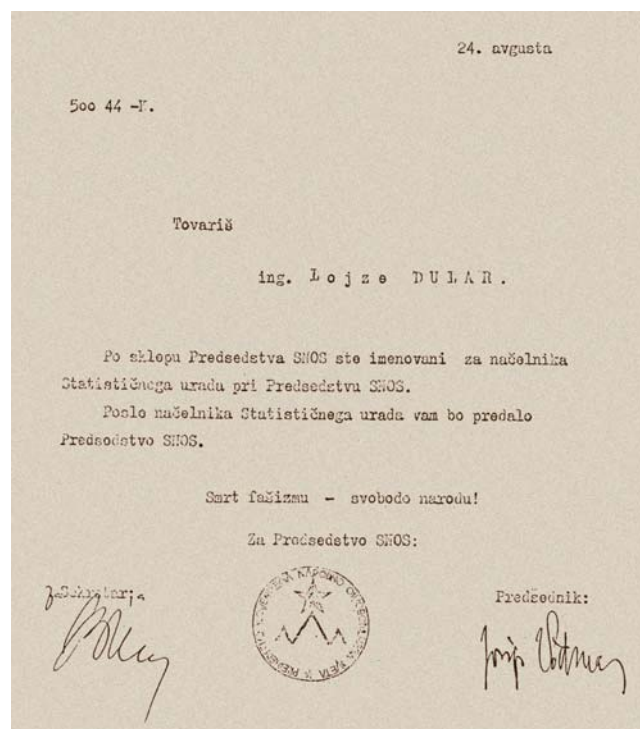
**Mr. Alojz (Lojze) Dular** (\*1903, †2002). In 1926 he graduated from the Technical Faculty in Ljubljana – Mining Department and got a job in Trbovlje Coalmine. At the start of World War II he was Director of the Coalmine. The Germans dismissed him in 1941. He went to Ljubljana and participated in the National Liberation War from the very beginning. He was assigned to work at the SNOS Presidency, acting as the head of the industry, reconstruction and statistics department. He was a member of the scientific institute at the SNOS Presidency where he was appointed first director of the Statistical Office. After the war he went to Belgrade, where he was working in various ministries until 1963 when he came back to Slovenia and was for three years, until his retirement, the Vice-President of the Slovene Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

#### Sources:

- *Arhiv Slovenije, Življenjepis*. Ljubljana, 3. 7. 1963
- *Enciklopedija Slovenije*. (1988). Zv. 2, Ljubljana: Mladinska knjiga, str. 394

Work was done by the Office with the help of statistical offices established at the regional national liberation committees for Primorska (in November 1944) and for Gorenjska. At the end of the Second World War statisticians were given other tasks, so the Statistical Office was left without any personnel.

From that period only data in the form of records and documents on the establishment and organisation of the statistical service are preserved.



Decree on the Appointment of the First Head of the Statistical Office at the SNOS Presidency, Mr. Lojze Dular, who was appointed Director of the Office in the Decree in the Establishment of the Office for Statistics at the SNOS Presidency.

On 14 December 1944, i.e. four months later, the Decree on the Organisation of the National Statistical Office of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was issued on the island of Vis.



## 1945 – REBIRTH OF THE STATISTICAL OFFICE OF SLOVENIA

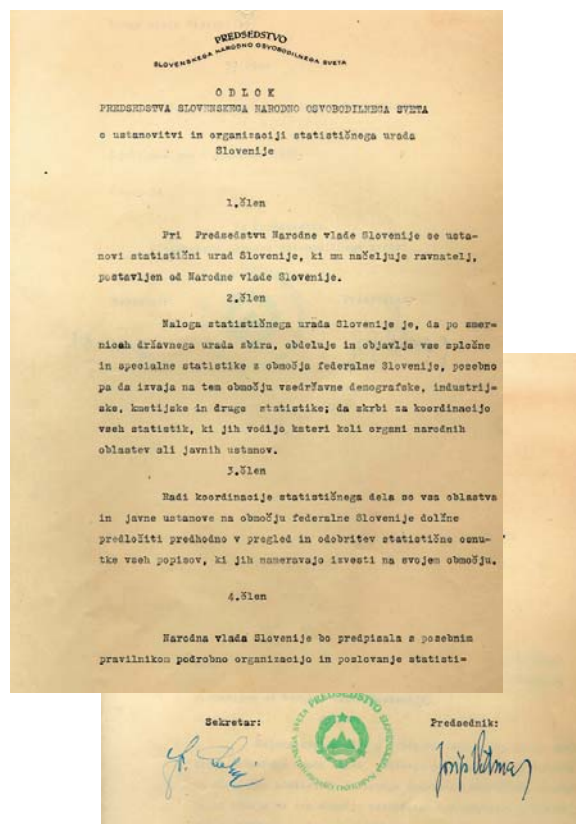
In accordance with the Decree of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia, on 16 June 1945 the National Government of Slovenia established the Statistical Office of Slovenia at its Presidency.

The task of the Statistical Office of Slovenia was to collect, process and publish all general and special statistics from the territory of the Republic of Slovenia following the guidelines of the federal statistical office and to take care of co-ordination of all statistics kept by any national authority and public institution. These authorities and institutions had to submit drafts of all censuses they intended to conduct on their territories for review and approval by the Office.

By the end of June 1945, all ministries had to establish their own statistical divisions. The Statistical Office of Slovenia had to appoint a special statistical commission for each statistical sector as an advisory body for dealing with specific issues. With the regulation of 22 September 1945, independent statistical branch offices at district and county people's committees were established as assistance to the republic office in organising and implementing statistical actions.

The Government of Slovenia was aware that a good statistical service is the cornerstone of successful planning of economic development of the republic and the state. It established a relatively large statistical service compared to other government institutions, which during the economic reconstruction meant a considerable burden on the budget. In 1948 statistical

services in republics were regulated with a federal regulation. Their responsibilities were directly determined as well as the relations between the federal office on the one hand and the republican and local offices on the other.



Decree of the Presidency of the Slovene National Council on the establishment and organisation of the Statistical Office of Slovenia with the stamp and the signatures of President Mr. Josip Vidmar and Secretary Mr. France Bevk.



Ms. Silva Exel-Škerlak, Director of the Statistical Office of Slovenia in 1945-1948.

*Ms. Silva Exel-Škerlak (\*1906, †1987). In 1931 she graduated from the Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana and got a job as a deputy at a grammar school. However, because of her leftist ideas she was arrested. In 1941 she graduated and next year was awarded her Ph. D. at the Faculty of Law. At the same time, she was employed by the Social and Economic Institute in Ljubljana and worked in the editorial board of »Tehnika in gospodarstvo«. During the war she participated in the National Liberation War and was arrested in 1944. After the liberation she was Director of the Statistical Office of the People's Republic of Slovenia until 1948, when she was appointed Vice-President of the Planning Commission of the People's Republic of Slovenia. Later on she worked in some republican institutions and as a professor at the Faculty of Economics in Sarajevo and Ljubljana, teaching internal trade policy.*

### Sources:

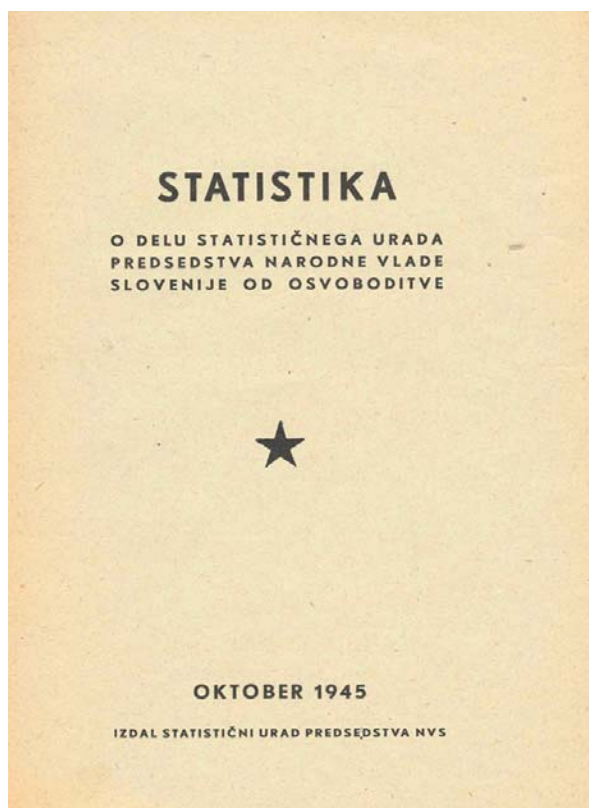
- Biografija. S.n., s. l., str. 130-132
- Univerza v Ljubljani. (1957). Biografije in bibliografije univerzitetnih profesorjev, str. 170-171
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- Uredba o ustanovitvi in delu Zveznega statističnega urada in statističnih uradov v ljudskih republikah. Uradni list FLRJ, št. 47/1948.

## FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF OPERATION OF STATISTICS IN THE EARLY PERIOD

Understanding of fundamental principles of statistics in the early period after the Second World War can be seen from the report on activities of the Statistical Office of Slovenia between the liberation and October 1945.



Report on the work of the Statistical Office of Slovenia, covering the period from the liberation to October 1945, title page.

The mentioned report points out and gives explanations for three fundamental principles that statistics must take into account at its work:

- Unity of theory and practice.
- Co-operation of all bodies of the statistical service.

Statistics as a practice and science grew from the needs of the society and must serve the society. Every statistical material is dead unless we can derive from it the fundamental guidelines of development. A theory is correct only as long as it derives from real and constantly changing life and as long as it is being constantly checked in real life.

All bodies carrying out the statistical service must work in strict concordance, according to the same principles and on the basis of the same forms and questions, because it is only possible to sum and compare data of the same kind.

- Democracy of statistical character.

In a people's state, statistics must not be a lie and is not a means of exploiting people. Benefits of the people collecting data must be the same as of the people providing them.

### Source:

- STATISTIKA: o delu Statističnega urada predsedstva Narodne vlade Slovenije od osvoboditve. (1945). Ljubljana: Statistični urad predsedstva NVS, str 8-9.

## DETERMINING THE TASKS OF THE STATISTICAL SERVICE

The same report from 1945 mentions tasks that have to be carried out by the statistical service.

This is how the report summed up the most important tasks of the statistical service:

- Co-ordination of statistical work.

Co-ordination means that the Statistical Office must take care that no data collection in the republic is carried out on two or more tracks and that it has to prevent this from happening. Whenever ministries, district, county or local committees needed data, they were collecting the data for themselves. This led to total anarchy as regards data collection in Slovenia. The same censuses were conducted several times, which presented great loss of time, money and energy.

- Training of statistical experts.

Slovenia had no statistical tradition or properly trained statisticians, so something had to be done immediately to organise statistical training.

- Education of the general public.

Statistical data must be presented in an understandable way to the widest possible circle of users and they have to be taught to think in numbers.



Mr. Boris Debevec, Director of the Statistical Office of Slovenia in 1948-1950.

**Mr. Boris Debevec** (\*1911, †1951). After graduating from the college of education, in 1929 he entered the Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana, where he graduated – with interruptions – in 1946 from pedagogy, history of philosophy and psychology. Since 1930 he has been working as a teacher in various places in Slovenia. In June 1941 he was arrested by the Germans but he managed to escape. During the war he worked in the paper factory in Vevče and taught in the industrial school. After the liberation in May 1945 he was for a few months Acting Director of the Statistical Office of Slovenia until he was transferred to Belgrade as Assistant Director of the National Statistical Office. In 1947 he was transferred back to Ljubljana, first as Assistant Director and from July 1948 on as Director of the Statistical Office of the People's Republic of Slovenia. At the beginning of 1951 he was arrested and accused of being a Russian agent. The accusation could never be proven. On 18 June 1951 he died in prison.

### Source:

- Arhiv Slovenije, os. Dokumenti, 1951

### Source:

- STATISTIKA: o delu Statističnega urada predsedstva Narodne vlade Slovenije od osvoboditve. (1945). Ljubljana: Statistični urad predsedstva NVS.





Ms. Katja Vodopivec, Acting Director of the Statistical Office of Slovenia in 1951.

**Ms. Katja Vodopivec** (\*1917). After graduating from the Faculty of Law in 1941, in 1943 she was awarded her Ph. D. in criminal science by successfully defending her thesis on the statistical method in criminal etiology. She participated in the Liberation Front and was an activist until the end of WW II. After the war she worked in the department for statistics at the Ministry of Labour and at the Statistical Office between 1949 and 1954. First she was Assistant Director and after the departure of Mr. Debevec Acting Director. In 1953 she was studying in the United Kingdom in the field of social security analysis and statistics. In 1954 she was appointed first scientific collaborator of the Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law; between 1961 and 1972 she was Director of this Institute. From 1971 on she was employed by the Faculty of Law in Ljubljana as full professor for criminology and a long-time head of the chair for criminal law science. She was lecturing at many universities (Vienna, Graz, Zagreb). She is retired and lives in Ljubljana.

#### Sources:

- Enciklopedija Slovenije. (2000). Zv. 14, str. 298.
- Bavcon, L. (1987). Zbornik znanstvenih razprav. Letn. 47, str. 1-16.
- Kuhar de Domizio, A. (2004). Pogovor z gospo dr. Katjo Vodopivec, (neobjavljeno gradivo).

## DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING

Even back then, the Office wanted to be as independent service as possible. Of course, regulations valid in the federation had to be taken into account.

Data processing was performed in the Office. At first by hand and gradually by machines.

In 1948 the Office had one sorting machine, and two manual and two automatic hole punchers. These machines were very simple. They were sorting papers and counting forms: as many papers came out of the machine, this was the number of characters. In 1952 the IBM computer system was introduced, which included verifying machines and tabulation machines.

The basis of statistical surveys was statistical forms and annual reports sent by authorised institutions. Full coverage was implemented whenever possible and special attention was focused on studying methods and ways of implementing censuses. Courses for interviewers were organised before each census. On such courses interviewers learned about the census methodology and guidelines.

They did not have a program of statistical surveys. Surveys were carried out as necessary. They were studying foreign statistical literature, learning and in this way introducing new surveys. Every department organised surveys on its own, assisted by the Director of course. Expert contributions and papers were written by heads of departments, since they knew the problems and needs best.



The first IBM computer, borrowed for the needs of processing the agriculture census.

#### Sources:

- Mlinar, B. (ur.). (1974). Trideset let statistike v Sloveniji, 1944–1974. Ljubljana: Zavod SR Slovenije za statistiko.
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## FIRST POST-WORLD WAR II CENSUSES

One of the principal statistical tasks after the Second World War was to find out the current situation in the society. This task was performed by censuses, the most important being censuses of territory, population, agriculture and housing.

The first post-WWII census in the field of administrative and demography statistics was the census of places and settlements, since at that time the principal task was to establish the number of population and buildings on the territory of the (former) Drava banovina and the maritime province of Slovenia by settlements within local committees. However, because during the census the administrative breakdown was changed, the objective of the census was not entirely reached.

The 1948 population census was more successful. With it basic data on the population by counties, settlements and hamlets were collected.

The first population census carried out in accordance with UN recommendations was conducted in 1953.

Ever since the Second World War statisticians were linking population censuses with registers. At the 1953 population census the form “Registration for the Population Register” was added. Data from this form served for setting up registers of permanent population on card files by municipalities, which should serve for other administrative purposes as well.

### Sources:

- STATISTIKA: o delu Statističnega urada predsedstva Narodne vlade Slovenije od osvoboditve. (1945). Ljubljana: Statistični urad predsedstva NVS, str. 10.
- Širčelj, M. (1995). Popis prebivalstva. V: Enciklopedija Slovenije. Zv. 9, str. 142–142.
- Mlinar, B. (ur.). (1974). Trideset let statistike v Sloveniji, 1944–1974. Ljubljana: Zavod SR Slovenije za statistiko.

The initial deficiencies led to the decision that data collected with the 1961 population census were used for the Register of Permanent Population – this time for its restoration.

The 1961 population census was additionally used to collect data on dwellings in larger cities. A year before that, a census of agriculture was conducted.



In all population censuses, the general public was informed via the media and by hanging posters at public places. The photo shows bilingual posters in the coastal area during the 1961 Census of Population.

## INTRODUCTION OF STATISTICAL SURVEYS

In the first years after the Second World War the Statistical Office of Slovenia strived to provide basic statistical data on the situation and changes in various areas. It started to introduce annual and regular monthly services (today they are called statistical surveys) with which it would provide data for preparing monthly and annual reviews of the economic and social situation in Slovenia.

Even though the Office did not have clear and planned contents of surveys or a defined periodicity of data collection, the number of statistical surveys was increasing from year to year. We shall only mention the most important surveys by individual fields.

In the field of population statistics, a survey on natural changes of population was introduced.

In the field of industrial activity, a temporary census of industry was conducted. It covered all industrial and other enterprises that were in normal operation and had at least 5 persons in paid employment. All power plants with over 10 kW of power were also surveyed. A special census of construction enterprises was conducted and a regular monthly survey on industry was introduced on consumption and production of raw material and fuels.

In the field of agriculture, a regular monthly agricultural information service was introduced. Production of agricultural output, and the size and structure of forests were estimated. A census of co-operatives and land was conducted. A survey on livestock slaughter was introduced.

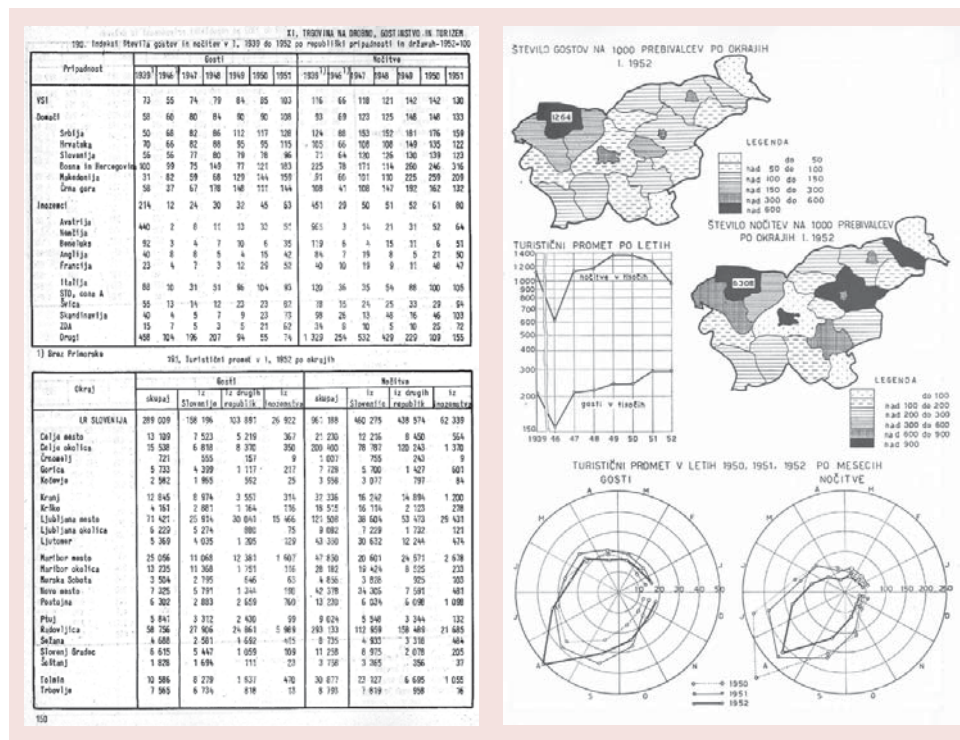
### Sources:

- Mlinar, B. (ur.). (1974). Trideset let statistike v Sloveniji 1944–1974. Ljubljana: Zavod SR Slovenije za statistiko, str. 46–50.
- STATISTIKA: o delu Statističnega urada predsedstva Narodne vlade Slovenije od osvoboditve. (1945). Ljubljana: Statistični urad predsedstva NVS, str. 11–13.

The price service at the Statistical Office was calculating monthly cost of living indices on the basis of data on changes in standard and free sale prices.

In the field of education, a census of elementary, secondary and vocational schools was conducted.

A census of insurance institutions and insurance funds was conducted as well as a census of restructuring of credit institutions operating before and during the occupation on the territory of Slovenia.





## PUBLISHING ACTIVITIES

Statistical publishing has always followed the development of the statistical activity and the needs of informing the public and providing it with statistical data and information in a way that was enabled by the mechanographic technique in old times and the modern information technology today.

At the beginning, the Office was providing the necessary data – mostly of confidential nature – to government bodies and only short information was published for the general public. Publications were issued occasionally and were adjusted to the needs for basic statistical data of that time. Because of the need for open and public information, after 1951 the statistical publishing activity developed rapidly. Numerous serial publications began to be published. Nowadays, they are still being published, although under different titles (e.g. Monthly Statistical Review, Some Important Data on the Republic of Slovenia, Methodological Material, Results of Surveys, Statistical Yearbook, etc.).

In 1955 the Federal Institute for Statistics issues principles for publishing official statistical data and editing statistical publications. It assumed control over data publishing so that republican statistical offices had to show the draft of each publication before it was published. In this way greater harmonisation (unity) and comparability of republican data was achieved. Anyhow, for Slovene statistical office, this meant abolition of the Statistical Yearbook – because data were published in the Statistical Yearbook of Yugoslavia – and lower quality of its publications.

### Sources:

- Mlinar, B. (ur.). (1974). *Trideset let statistike v Sloveniji 1944–1974*. Ljubljana: Zavod SR Slovenije za statistiko.
- Bibliografija Zavoda SR Slovenije za statistiko od 1945 do 30. 6.1990. (1990). V: *Statistični letopis Republike Slovenije* Ljubljana: Zavod republike Slovenije za statistiko, letnik 29, poglavje 38.

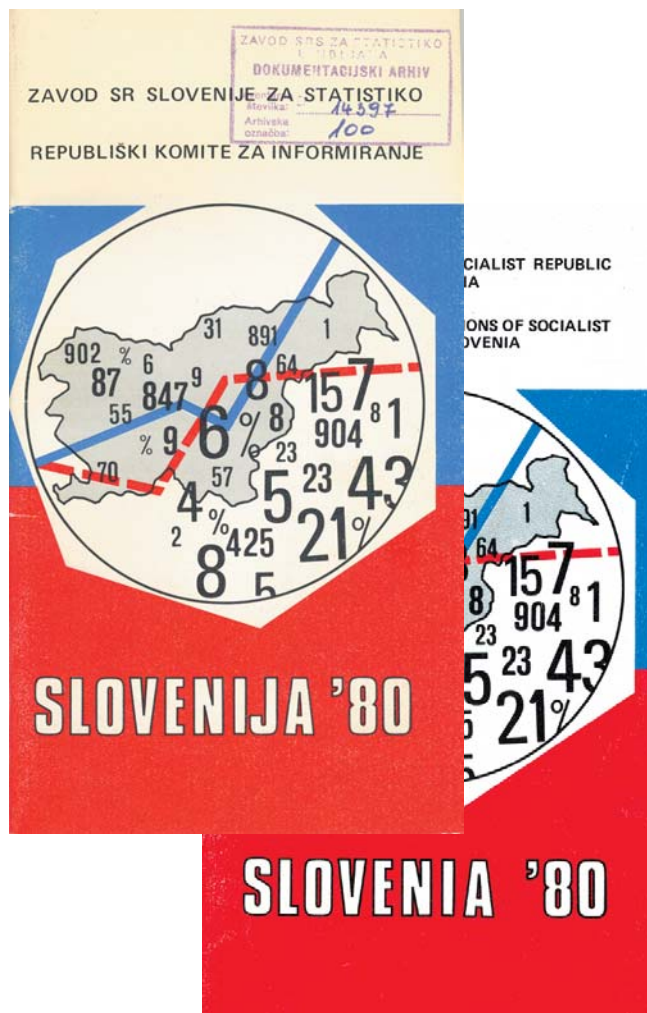
Commentaries and analyses were no longer allowed in official publications but only in “unofficial” ones. Therefore, in 1955 Slovene statistical office started publishing a magazine called *Prikazi in študije* (Reviews and Studies) with quality commentaries and analyses.

In the 1960s a rule was adopted that the public must be informed about the results of all statistical surveys and that commentaries to data are obligatory in printed form. Publishing of statistical publications increased and the quality of published contributions improved. A revision of the publishing system was made; its result was improvement of serial publications in terms of contents. Business data and commentaries started to be published and a program of statistical publications was prepared.



A collection of old publications.

In the 1980s numerous monographic publications with results and analyses of individual or several statistical surveys were published.



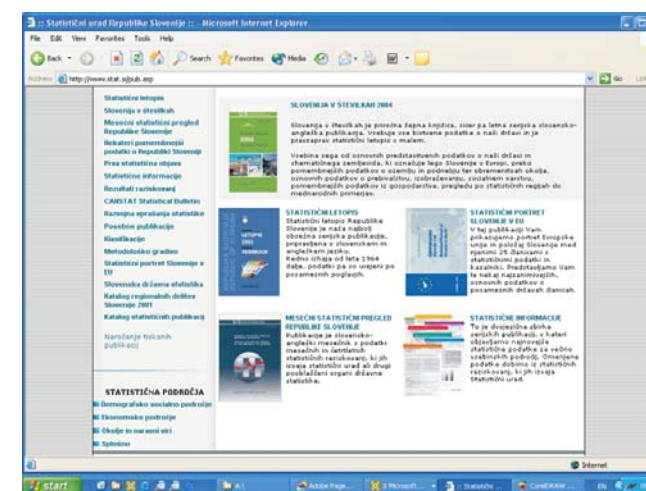
In 1980 the Institute of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia for Statistics prepared a publication with 36 pages (2000 copies in Slovene, 10,000 copies in English for the UNESCO conference in Belgrade and 2000 copies each in French, Serbo-Croatian, Italian, Russian and Spanish). This ambitious project was financially supported by the Slovene Government (the Republican Committee for Information).

Professional statistical conferences »Statistical Days« started in 1987, accompanied by extensive proceedings volumes.

After the independence, the Statistical Office devoted special attention to methodological modernisation of statistical surveys, to statistical terminology and to the use of international statistical standards (classifications and nomenclatures). The contents of its publications were adjusted to this objective. Most publications are now bilingual (Slovene-English) and thus available also to the international public; in this way methodologies and data in them are more widely applicable.

The use of new technologies demanded a new way of publishing statistical data. In 2003 the Office modernised its web pages and thus enabled rapid access to statistical data and information to the users.

All publications are now available also in electronic form. ([www.stat.si/publikacije](http://www.stat.si/publikacije)).



[www.stat.si/publikacije](http://www.stat.si/publikacije)

## STATISTICAL YEARBOOK

The Statistical Yearbook is the central, the richest and the most extensive publication of the Statistical Office. The first Yearbook was published in 1953 and the second in 1955. It was not published until 1964 but from then on it has been published every year. From 1994 on it has been bilingual and from 1995 on the entire contents are published in electronic form on the web pages of the Statistical Office.

The first Statistical Yearbook was published in 1953. This was the first time that basic statistical data for the period after the Second World War and more detailed data for 1952 were collected for the territory of Slovenia in one publication. The first part brought data at the level of the republic and, if possible, by districts, towns and municipalities. The book was divided into 20 chapters, which covered all areas of social and economic life. The second part brought a review by republics of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia. At the end of the Yearbook there were detailed explanations on data sources, the methods of data collection, statistical definitions used and evaluation of data quality; the subsequent issues of the Yearbook had a similar structure.

The purpose of the publication is to offer the users comprehensive information on Slovenia, on socio-economic trends and developments in the country (demographic, social and economic development) and to place Slovenia in the wider area – at first by comparing it with other republics of former Yugoslavia and after 1991 by comparing it with other countries of the world. So the yearbooks contain data of all statistical surveys carried out by national statistics in individual years and periods as well as data from other institutions.

### Source:

- Statistični letopis LR Slovenije. (1953). Ljubljana: Zavod za statistiko in evidenco LR Slovenije.

By examining individual issues of the yearbook, we can follow changes in the spatial breakdown of Slovenia, changes of political systems, changes in methodologies and statistical terminology, different measurement of phenomena, use of statistical methods and data dissemination.



Design of statistical yearbooks was changing through the history.



Whenever our Yearbook is published, this draws great media attention.

Yearbooks are good “statistical identity cards” since they reflect the efforts of statistics to monitor and measure statistical phenomena in all periods. Because of rapid changes in the society and economy and because of the introduction of new standards, it is very difficult to present comparable data for longer periods. Recalculation of data for longer time series is often impossible, so breaks in publishing data series are quite frequent.

Methodological explanations included in the Yearbook are extremely important as they increase transparency of statistical work and help users evaluate the published data.

By publishing data on the Internet, in 1995 the publication became more accessible to users.



## VOŽARSKI POT 12

The headquarters of the Statistical Office are at Vožarski pot 12. The office moved to this location before 1951; at first in its oldest part, which was built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The present appearance is from the 1960s when the complex was rebuilt. Even though it is not very rational to have the office split into two locations, from 1978 on the Statistical Office operates between Vožarski pot 12 in Prule and Parmova 33 in Bežigrad. However, this will not continue for long as a new building will soon be built in Bežigrad.



The statistical building in Prule, Vožarski pot 12.

At first the Statistical Office was using a one-storey building constructed in 1778 with the entrance from Hrenova street. The beautiful door made of massive wood on the back façade of the present building is original. In the 1960s a larger three-storey building was erected on Vožarski pot and connected with the existing building on Hrenova. In 1975 the Statistical Office obtained additional premises in two small extensions on the backyard side of the building.



The Hrenova street entrance into the original 18<sup>th</sup> century building.

For the 1961 population census, in addition to the main building at Vožarski pot 12 the villa at Karlovška 3 was also used. Later on the villa was used by the Register of Territorial Units and the Register of Organisations and Communities. The villa was used by the Office until 1995. For some time the Statistical Office also occupied premises in Savsko naselje, Vodmat, Tabor and on Križevniška street above the inn Vitez.



Vožarski pot 12 is also the headquarters of the Statistical Society of Slovenia and the Slovene Society INFORMATIKA.





A secession villa above the tunnel under the Ljubljana Castle, Karlovška 3, where interviewers were crowded during the 1961 population census and where later on the Register of Territorial Units and the Register of Organisations and Communities were operating.

The archives were also at various locations. The material from 1971 and 1981 population censuses was kept by the Office in Lisičje castle (1971-1992), while a part of other material was kept in rented premises on Ilirska (1977-1992) and Črtomirova (1976-1991) streets in Ljubljana.

Due to lack of space, in 1978 the Statistical Office started using premises in buildings at Parmova 33, which are still being used. By obtaining additional business and archive premises on this location, the Office gradually abandoned rented premises on other locations in Ljubljana.

Statistical Office's premises are still on two locations, which makes everyday operations more difficult. In addition, the premises at Parmova 33 are not appropriate.

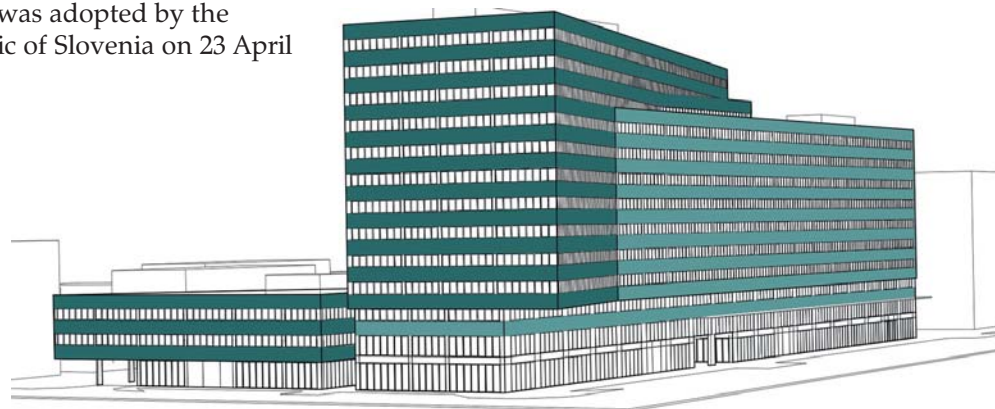
It is therefore planned that in 2007 the Office will move into a new building Bežigranski dvor, which will be used by other public administration bodies as well. The decision on this move was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on 23 April 2002.



A view from our windows offers a tempting panorama of the roofs in Žabjek.



Statisticians share the premises at Parmova 33 with other public administration bodies.



On 23 April 2002 the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted a decision to start implementing the investment project for constructing a business complex in Bežigranski dvor, with new premises for the needs of public administration, including the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia. The move should take place in 2007.



# BEGINNINGS OF INDEPENDENT STATISTICS IN THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

1953-1974

*After the Second World War, statistics was developing as an independent professional-administrative service operating on the basis of federal legislation. With the reorganisation of public administration in 1953, the aspiration for professional independence of the statistical service within the administration as well as organisational independence of Slovene statistical service from the national statistical service started to come true. This was aided by the constitutional changes in 1974, which gave greater role to statistics as an activity of special social importance. In the then system of information, statistics as a profession obtained a greater role, of which statisticians were well aware. Therefore, even greater emphasis was put on education and professional training, and on organisation of the statistical service at organisational and operative level. Abolition of county institutions for statistics in the mid-1960s brought about increased workload, which is why rationalisation attempts at the end of this period were urgent. The solution was sought in greater use of mechanographic technique and at the beginning of the 1970s in the introduction of new technologies, which stimulated thinking about introducing central registers and the statistical databank, and enabled actual start of their development.*

*Thirty years of statistics in Slovenia were marked by numerous activities that were finished with a celebration and comprehensive presentation of the development of statistics and organisation of the statistical service in Slovenia. In that period, the Institute changed its name three times: in 1953 it was renamed the Institute for Statistics and Records of the People's Republic of Slovenia, with the adoption of the Act on Administrative Bodies in the People's Republic of Slovenia in 1956 it was renamed the Institute for Statistics of the People's Republic of Slovenia and then in accordance with the new Constitution it was renamed the Institute of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia for Statistics. This name remained until 1991.*





## 1953 – REORGANISATION OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

With the reorganisation of public administration in 1953, for the first time after WWII the Statistical Institute of Slovenia started to operate as an independent republican body, since until then organisation and operation of statistical bodies was dictated by the federal legislation. Even more important was the 1956 act, with which federal authority was decentralised.

It has become clear that the existing centralised statistical system cannot cover all the needs for data because it did not take into account particularities of economic and social structures of Slovenia, irrespective of the fact that the Statistical Institute of Slovenia was carrying out additional or special statistical actions. In accordance with the decree published in the Official Journal of the People's Republic of Slovenia, No. 38/1953, the Office was renamed the Institute for Statistics and Records of the People's Republic of Slovenia.

With the decentralisation of federal authority to the republican level the independence of the Institute strengthened. In accordance with the Act on Administrative Bodies in the People's Republic of Slovenia, the Institute was renamed the Institute of the People's Republic of Slovenia for Statistics – an administrative body responsible for carrying out the statistical service. The Institute should organise and implement collection and processing of data important for the federation and the republic as well as professionally harmonise the statistical service in the republic, in counties and in municipalities.

However, the situation did not change much. Relevant data for the needs of local bodies and enterprises were missing and the question of inclusion into a common statistical system with other bodies and institutions was not solved. Censuses and statistical surveys started to be conducted again at

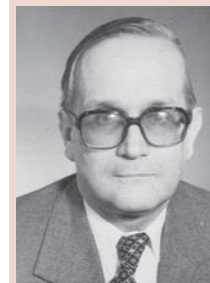
### Sources:

- Mlinar, B. (ur.). (1974). Trideset let statistike v Sloveniji, 1944–1974. Ljubljana: Zavod SR Slovenije za statistiko.
- Odlok o organih in zavodih republiške uprave, Uradni list LRS, št. 38/1953.
- Zakon o upravnih organih v Ljudski republiki Sloveniji, Uradni list LRS, št. 45/1956.

different fields of public administration, especially in the areas that were insufficiently covered in the existing system (e.g. housing statistics, craft statistics, finance and investment statistics).

URADNI LIST		Stran III
Drugi del		Določ. LR Slovenije
EKONOMSKI UKREPI ZA IZVRŠITEV DRUŽBENEGA PLANA LR SLOVENIJE		%
XII. poglavje		
Dopolnilna dohodnina od kmetijstva, ki jo plačujejo pridelovalci hmelja.		
Izvešt avst Ljudske skupnosti LR Slovenije se pooblašča, da predloži za leto 1956 dopolnilno dohodnino od kmetijstva, ki jo plačujejo pridelovalci hmelja.		
XIII. poglavje		
Dopolnilna dohodnina od dohodkov, ki jih imajo zasedniki od pridelave in prodaje lesa		
Izvešt avst Ljudske skupnosti LR Slovenije se pooblašča, da v opremljenem zveznem izveščem svetovno takšno predloži za leto 1956 dopolnilno dohodnino od dohodkov, ki jih imajo zasedniki od pridelave in prodaje lesa.		
XIV. poglavje		
Sredstva za poravnane LR Slovenije		
I. Razdelitev prometa davka		
1. Razdelitev prometa davka		
2. Razdelitev prometa davka		
3. Razdelitev prometa davka		
37. člen		
Zavod LRS za statistiko organizira zbiranje in obdelovanje statističnih podatkov, ki imajo pomen za federacijo in Ljudsko republiko Slovenijo, ter sam zbira in obdeluje te podatke, strokovno vsklajuje statistično službo v Ljudski republiki Sloveniji, objavlja statistične podatke in opravlja druge upravne zadeve iz republiške pristojnosti na področju zbiranja in obdelovanja statističnih podatkov.		
Določ. LR Slovenije pri sredstvih, ki se izločijo iz dobička gospodarskih organizacij za okrajna prevoznice		
1. Določ. LR Slovenije pri sredstvih, ki se izločijo iz dobička gospodarskih organizacij za okrajna prevoznice		
2. Določ. LR Slovenije pri sredstvih, ki se izločijo iz dobička gospodarskih organizacij za okrajna prevoznice		
3. Določ. LR Slovenije pri sredstvih, ki se izločijo iz dobička gospodarskih organizacij za okrajna prevoznice		

The 1956 Act on Administrative Bodies in the People's Republic of Slovenia determined that the Institute of the People's Republic of Slovenia for Statistics is the administrative body responsible for implementing the statistical service.

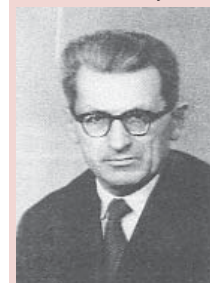


Mr. Vojan Konvalinka,  
Director of the Institute in 1951-1954.

**Mr. Vojan Konvalinka** (\*1919, †1999). In 1941 he graduated from the Faculty of Law and in 1950 from the Faculty of Economics. In 1942-1943 he was in the concentration camp Gonars. In 1951-1954 he was Director of the Statistical Office of the People's Republic of Slovenia or the Institute of the People's Republic of Slovenia for Statistics. Later on he worked in the Federal Institute for Statistics. Between 1957 and 1961 he was Adviser in the Ethiopian Government Planning Office in Addis Ababa, and between 1961 and 1971 Assistant Director of the Public Accountancy Service of Yugoslavia. He was also Deputy-Director of the Federal Institute of Statistics and Adviser in the Executive Council of the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia. He worked in the field of economic statistics, especially balance statistics.

### Sources:

- Enciklopedija Slovenije. (1991). Zv. 5, str. 254
- Arhiv Slovenije. Evidenčni list



Mr. Rajko Kiauta,  
Director of the Institute in 1954-1967.

**Mr. Rajko Kiauta** (\*1900, †1993). After finishing grammar school in Ljubljana, in 1922 he graduated from the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in Zagreb. In 1923 he obtained the title of professor. He taught at a grammar school in Maribor, worked in a wood-processing factory in Maribor and in the insurance company Slavia. He was actively involved in the National Liberation War. From 1943 to the end of World War II he was confined. After the war he worked in several national services. From the Planning Commission of the People's Republic of Slovenia he came to work for the Institute of the People's Republic of Slovenia for Statistics, where he was Adviser from 1951 on and Director from 1954 until his retirement in 1967.

### Sources:

- Arhiv Slovenije. AS 35 Republiška uprava za kadre 1960-1991
- Tršinar, I. 1997. Kronika Statističnega društva Slovenije : 1977-1997. Ljubljana, Statistično društvo Slovenije

## INTERNAL WORK ORGANISATION

Operation of the Institute of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia for Statistics to a large extent depended on federal regulations, even though after 1956 the republican legislation allowed greater independence. Concerning organisational forms, until 1965 the Institute mainly followed the Federal Institute for Statistics.

The period until 1956 saw the takeover of departmental statistics and formation of subject matter statistics. Organisation of the Institute was improved and changed with the development of the statistical system and tasks. From this early period, let us mention that until 1958 all general matters were concentrated in the Institute secretariat. Later on a general department was established. Until 1954 processing of statistical material and publication of results were, for example, organised as a department for mechanical processing of material, which was later on transformed into a special department for machine processing. At the same time a special division for publishing, printing and graphics was created.



Ms. Erika Golja working on the sorting machine in April 1961. This was one of the indispensable machines for adding and sorting data.

In 1956 an independent service for editing the contents of publications was established. Methodological work, which used to be organised in a special department for statistical methodology, became a functional activity of heads of organisational units for subject matter statistics. After 1965 a special human resource service and a service for work organisation and planning were created.



Employees gathered at various occasions in the syndicate room (the present seminar room), e.g. at Director's speeches.

### Source:

- Mlinar, B. (ur.). (1974). Trideset let statistike v Sloveniji, 1944–1974. Ljubljana: Zavod SR Slovenije za statistiko.

## 1959 – THE ROOTS OF THE STATISTICAL COUNCIL

A special regulation on the organisation and operation of the Institute, adopted in 1959, legally regulated for the first time the internal organisation and competence of the Institute. For co-ordinating the statistical service and for harmonising the contents of statistical surveys, data processing and publishing, the Professional Council for Statistics was established with a special regulation.

The Professional Council for Statistics is a distant predecessor of the present Statistical Council of Slovenia. The latter was established in 1981 on the initiative of the then Director and obtained the legal basis with the National Statistics Act of 1995.

The Professional Council began to systematically review the relevance of existing statistical services. Studying individual demands of Government departments, the Council found out that the most problematic field of statistics is price statistics, followed by standard of living, stocks, construction and housing statistics. The Council proposed to the Executive Council of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia solutions which should stop multiple data collection and do away with unnecessary burdening of reporting units. Greater role was assigned to the Institute for Statistics, which should provide consent for every collection of statistical data.

The Professional Council proposed to the Executive Council of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia appropriate measures for organising data collection at various levels of the republic.

It also knew the problems of co-operating with municipal statisticians, since despite the regulation of 1948 the relations were not clear enough. Municipal centres that were also collecting data or keeping various records were namely not included in the system of national statistics because they were mainly operating for the needs of municipalities.

Their co-operation with the republican institute was only regulated as regards the common implementation of federal and republican surveys. However, they had data, albeit indirectly: they were receiving one copy of the report from reporting units for all federal and republican statistical surveys of interest to them.

110.  
Na podlagi 48. člena uredbe o organizaciji in delu Izvršnega sveta Ljudske skupščine Ljudske republike Slovenije (Uradni list LRS, št. 20-141/58) in v zvezi s 7. členom zakona o upravnih organih v Ljudski republici Sloveniji (Uradni list LRS, št. 13-45/56) izdaja Izvršni svet Ljudske skupščine Ljudske republike Slovenije

### U R E D B O

o ustanovitvi, delovnem področju in delu Strokovnega sveta za statistiko LR Slovenije

#### 1. člen

Ustanovi se Strokovni svet za statistiko (v nadaljnjem besedilu: strokovni svet) kot posvetovalni organ Izvršnega sveta Ljudske skupščine Ljudske republike Slovenije.

#### 2. člen

Strokovni svet obravnava posamezna vprašanja s področja organizacije in delovanja statistične službe v Ljudski republici Sloveniji, vprašanja vskladitve, vsebine, obsega in druge zadeve posameznih organov,

#### 4. člen

Predsednika in člane strokovnega sveta imenuje in razrešuje Izvršni svet. Imenuje jih izmed predstavnikov upravnih organov, zavodov, zbornic, strokovnih združenj in drugih organizacij, ki so zainteresirane na pravilnem delovanju statistične službe, ter izmed vidnih strokovnjakov in drugih javnih delavcev.

Direktor Zavoda LRS za statistiko je član strokovnega sveta po svojem položaju.

predloži osnutek predpisa, ki ga takoj Izvršnemu svetu, mora pa nujnost obrazložiti in o tem poročati strokovnemu svetu na njegovi prvi prihodnji seji.

#### 4. člen

Predsednika in člane strokovnega sveta imenuje

Article 4 of the Regulation determines the appointment and structure of the Professional Council for Statistics.

#### Sources:

- Mlinar, B. (ur.). (1974). Trideset let statistike v Sloveniji, 1944–1974. Ljubljana: Zavod SR Slovenije za statistiko.
- Uredba o ustanovitvi, delovnem področju in delu Strokovnega sveta za statistiko. Uradni list LRS, št. 21/1959.



## STATISTICAL PERSONNEL

After World War II, Slovenia had a great advantage in the then Yugoslavia – it had some top experts from the field of statistics. However, Slovenia was lacking operative statistical personnel, so that the Institute started working with people with secondary or lower education. They were gaining experience while implementing current tasks, but they were lacking theoretical and practical knowledge for implementing the needed surveys.

At first, work was divided between the republican institute and local offices so that the latter performed fieldwork and produced data reviews for their areas, while in Ljubljana these reviews were combined into republican reviews. At the beginning, local fieldwork personnel outnumbered personnel at the central office in Ljubljana – in 1956 a half of all people working on statistics was employed by local bodies. The quantity of statistical work and the increase in the number of surveys demanded extended employment – from 180 employees in 1949 to 396 in 1956. In 1950 the Office was employing only 4 people with university education. Experts on methodology, analyses and theory were missing as well. Most work was done by employees with secondary education. Professional examinations were already compulsory.



Albina, Eva, Anita, Petra, Rosana, Erika and other colleagues from the Mechanographic Centre, March 1961.



Presenting the awards for dedicated work in the past, around 1972.

By 1966, there was a considerable rise in employment of people with higher and university education: their share in the employment structure was 19% (13% with university education and 6% with higher education). By 1972, the share grew to 38% (26% with university education and 12% with higher education). At the same time, there was a decrease in employment of people with lower education: secondary education from 39% to 31% and less than secondary education from 32% to 22%.

The present situation is very different. As of 30 June 2004, the office has 392 employees and 54% of them have university or higher professional education – 4 of them have Ph. D. and 18 of them have a master's degree – while 14% of the personnel have higher education. The 2002 Public Servants Act distinguishes between officials and professional–technical staff. On the basis of this act, in April 2004 a new systematisation of workplaces was adopted for the Statistical Office: of the 392 employees, 193 are officials and 199 are professional–technical staff.

The average age of employees is 43 years, with 10% of the staff younger than 30. The majority of employees are women (68%).

### Source:

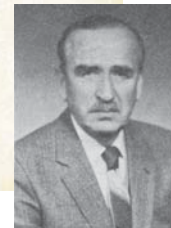
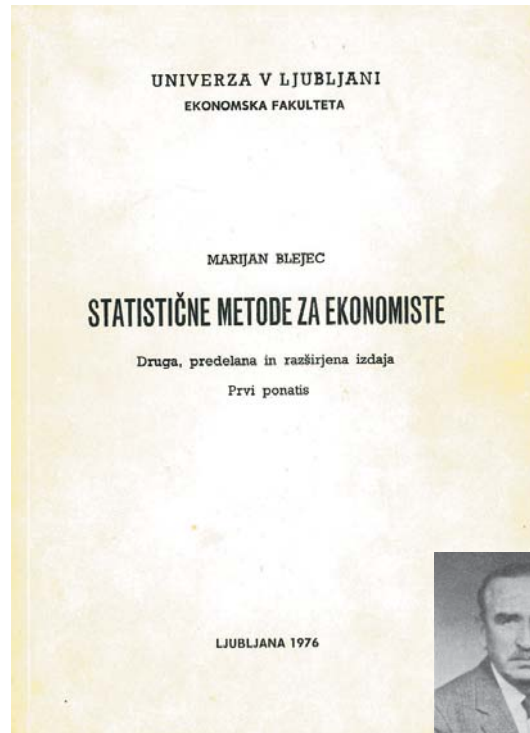
- Mlinar, B. (ur.). (1974). Trideset let statistike v Sloveniji, 1944–1974. Ljubljana: Zavod SR Slovenije za statistiko.

## PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

At the beginning, the statistical personnel were trained at courses, seminars and at their workplaces by implementing various tasks.

Because of ever-greater needs for professional knowledge and employment of highly qualified experts, the Institute gave initiative to the College of Administration in Ljubljana to establish in the academic year 1964/65 a statistical department for students who wanted to work in the statistical-analytical service. In the academic year 1971/1972 the department changed its name to Department for Statistics and Automatic Data Processing.

In 1968 a training program was prepared and adopted by the Institute. Various forms of additional training in the field of statistical knowledge and knowledge of foreign languages were organised, and international exchange and specialisation in Slovenia or abroad were provided. As part of OECD's technical assistance, foreign experts came to Slovenia and 25 employees were trained in Germany in the field of statistics and programming. In 1973/1974, about 15% of people employed by the Institute were studying part time.



The book *Statistične metode za ekonomiste* (Statistical Methods for Economists) by Mr. Marjan Blejčec was and still is important professional literature vastly used by the Office's employees. With professional training of statisticians and concrete co-operation in Office's tasks, Mr. Blejčec greatly contributed to the development of Slovene statistics.

### Source:

- Mlinar, B. (ur.). (1974). *Trideset let statistike v Sloveniji, 1944–1974*. Ljubljana: Zavod SR Slovenije za statistiko.



Mr. Franta Komel,  
Director of the Institute in 1967-1981.

*Mr. Franta Komel* (\*1924). He was attending grammar school in Ptuj but because of war he continued his schooling in Ljubljana and finished it in Zagreb in 1945. In 1954 he graduated from the Military Academy in Belgrade. During the war he was member of the national liberation forces. Between 1945 and 1964 he served as a colonel in the Yugoslav People's Army, but he was also engaged in statistical work. Between 1967 and 1981 he was Director of the Institute of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia for Statistics and then until 1985 Director of the Federal Institute for Statistics. As the director and statistician, he had a big impact on the modernisation of all aspects of the statistical system with the help of information technology, took great care of training statisticians at home and abroad, introduced new methods of data collection, processing and dissemination, designed the theory of registers on the basis of Nordic models and established the foundations of rationalisations enabled by the use of data from multipurpose administrative records.

### Source:

- *Enciklopedija Slovenije*.(1991). *Zv. 5, str. 210*

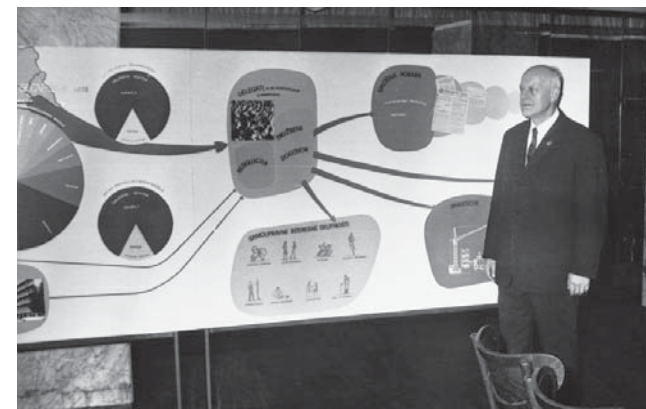
## STATISTICS IS BECOMING A PART OF THE SOCIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

The process of reorganising statistics started back in 1966. It was in progress until statistics was recognised for its role in the social information system according to the constitutional amendments of 1971 and the 1974 Constitution.

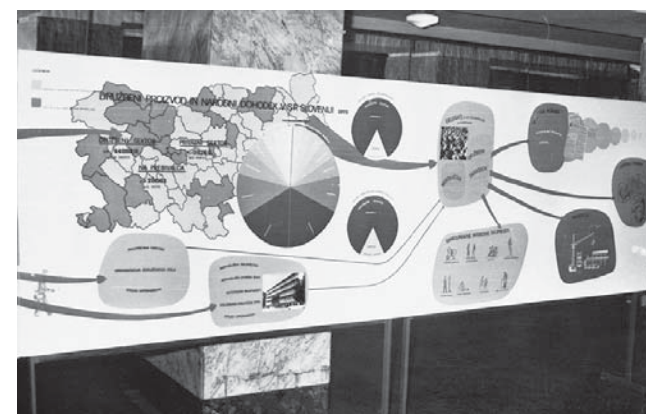
The federal Basic Act on Statistics of 1966 emphasised the methodological and professional unity of statistics, while the organisation in the republics was left to republican legislation. Due to extensive harmonisation with other Government departments and services as well as frequent changes in organisation and administration, the republican Act on Statistics was not adopted until 1988.

The need to reorganise statistical surveys in Slovenia was becoming ever more urgent. It was demanded by constitutional amendments of 1971, with which the republic obtained a constitutional right to legally regulate and organise the statistical service on the territory of Slovenia, taking into account the needs for a common statistical system for the whole Yugoslavia.

The constitution of 1974 declared statistics as an activity of special social importance and a part of the social information system, which should provide harmonised recording, collecting, processing and publishing of all information, especially numerical information needed for planning social development, and the necessary availability of data for the general public.



The celebration of the 30th anniversary of statistics in the Festival Hall in Ljubljana. An exhibition with the presentation of some statistical indicators for 1973 was prepared. The photo shows Mr. Vlado Mahorčič, who worked as a statistician already during the National Liberation War. After WWII he was in charge of statistical tasks at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, at the Planning Commission and at the Institute for Statistics until his retirement in 1970.



In the Festival Hall an exhibition with a graphic presentation of topical statistical data was prepared at the 30th anniversary of the Statistical Office.

### Sources:

- Mlinar, B. (ur.). (1974). Trideset let statistike v Sloveniji, 1944–1974. Ljubljana: Zavod SR Slovenije za statistiko.
- Temeljni zakon o statistiki, Uradni list SFRJ, št. 21/1966.
- Zakon o statističnih raziskovanjih, pomembnih za republiko, Uradni list RS, št. 11/1988.
- Spomen-knjiga Tridesetogodišnjica statistike u SFR Jugoslaviji. (1975). Beograd: Zvezni zavod za statistiko, str. 87–94.



## REORGANISATIONS AT THE START OF THE 1970s

After 1964 the Institute started to contact reporting units directly, which led to a great increase of workload. Reorganisation of work became necessary and at the start of the 1970s it became possible.

In the 1960s the functions of the Institute were broadened and the extent of tasks grew considerably – especially as regards methodological work and adjusting surveys to republican needs. The abolition of county institutes for statistics in 1965 was the first phase of reorganising the Institute in order to increase efficiency and shorten the time needed to carry out the tasks by using mechanographic techniques and a new division of work between subject matter departments.



At the celebration of the anniversary, on 24 August 1974 the daily newspaper Delo published an interview with Director Mr. Franta Komel entitled We Need a Modern System of Information. The article described the project of improving and modernising the statistical information system, which has been going on since 1970. The emphasis was put on statistical registers, publishing of results, co-operation with data providers and the social information system.

### Source:

- Žagar, P. (1974). Potrebujemo moderen sistem informacij. V: Delo. Letnik 16 (24. 8. 1974).

Research and analysis became the main task of statisticians. Operative implementation of surveys, technical work, data preparation and processing, and publishing of results were divided among relevant organisational units.

In the second phase of reorganisation from 1970 on, the Institute was introducing and developing new data processing technologies. It was necessary to start with general and special training of its employees in order to teach them how to use the technology in the newly established electronic centre. Due to the extent of statistical activities and the needs for technical modernisation, the Institute was one of the initiators for establishing this centre.

Phase three was closely connected with other elements of reorganisation. The Institute established contacts with the OECD and received a large technical assistance for preparing and implementing the project "Modernisation of the System of Information in the Public Administration of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia".

From the original advice given by experts in 1970 – they helped in preparing the project Statistical Information System and implementing the model Statistical Databank for the Socialist Republic of Slovenia – and subsequent training of statisticians from Slovenia, the basic elements of the program were established. Ideas started to appear about setting up registers and the statistical databank.



The professional training in Germany within OECD's technical assistance was attended by technical experts as well as subject matter specialists. The photo from 1973 shows Mr. Ivan Glonar, Mr. Bogdan Podlesnik, Mr. Martin Černe and Mr. Aleksandar Milenković.

## THE ORIGIN OF ELECTRONIC COMMERCE AT THE STATISTICAL OFFICE

The idea of a common “pot” of important statistical data started to be developed in 1969 at the regional office for data processing and statistics Nordrhein–Westfalen. The efforts led to the birth of the Statistical Databank.

First information was brought to the Institute by the colleagues from the German statistical office – statistical experts and advisors in the OECD project – at the beginning of the 1970s. Their software could not be used directly, since at that time the Institute was still using a CDC computer, while the German office was using an IBM computer. The application for data entry control therefore had to be rewritten with the help and guidance of German colleagues.

First data were entered into the Statistical Databank from publications containing municipal



First information on the Statistical Databank was brought to Slovenia by Mr. Hans Obers and Mr. Werner Storchmann. Operation of the Statistical Databank was presented to the public at every possible opportunity, including at the opening of a new computed centre in 1980. The lecturer was Mr. Tomaž Valantič.

### Source:

- BSP-online: [www.stat.si/bsp](http://www.stat.si/bsp).

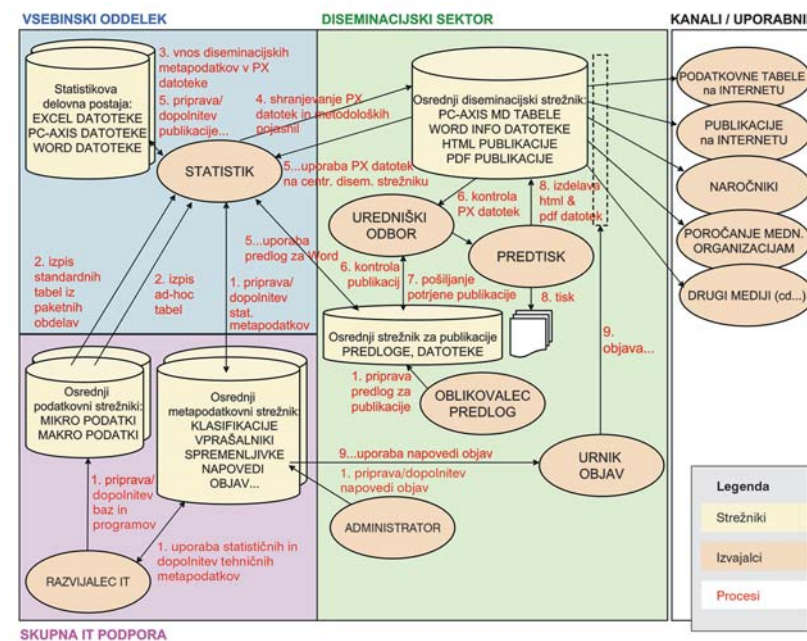
data. The method of that time was manual entry of data into prepared forms, transfer to cards and tapes, program control of data and preparation of descriptions for the meta database.

The first contingents for the Statistical Databank were prepared before the new Fujitsu computer was purchased in 1979. After the computer was installed, Mr. Alfred Abeln adjusted the software for operation in the new environment. First queries in the Statistical Databank via a terminal were demonstrated already at the opening of the new computer centre.

External users did not have terminal links with the computer since costs of a telephone line, a controller and a terminal were too high. Users were only able to access the Statistical Databank in the premises of the Institute. The only exception was the Institute for Social Planning, which had its own terminal. With the development of personal computers and the Internet, from 1998 on the contents of the Statistical Databank were offered to the widest circle of users. Nowadays, data queries can be made in Slovene, English and German. The Databank contains around 250 standard tables for 10 fields of statistics. It is also possible to prepare tables on one's own from 2.1 billion data items, 350,000 strings and 20,000 time series.

Modern information technology has enabled further development of e-dissemination.

Introduction of new user-friendly tools takes place together with the co-operation with the international environment. The first data published with the new PC-AXIS tool were 2000 Agriculture Census data in 2002.



### SKUPNA IT PODPORA

The present concept of dissemination is possible only with the use of modern information tools.



## 1970 – THE ROOTS OF E-GOVERNMENT

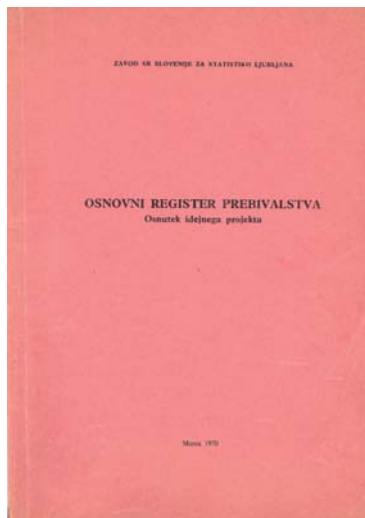
In 1970 the Institute issued a publication entitled *Basic Register of Population – Project Draft*, in which the idea about setting up the central register with basic data on population was presented. The objectives were visionary and at that time still unfeasible, however incredibly similar to the objectives of the present e-government.

As one can read in the introductory chapter on the project objectives, a complete, permanent and current record of all people living in Slovenia and later on also of all Slovenes living in Yugoslavia and abroad should be established. The fundamental principles were also laid down: single data coverage, multipurpose application, harmonisation with users' interests, and predetermined purpose of data collection and conditions of their use. The methodology for keeping the register was prepared and the objectives were not only to improve the statistical information system but also to decrease the burden on people giving data and rationalisation of operation of public administration.

In the same year the basic population register obtained a legal basis and the name Central Population Register or CRP. It was set up according to 1971 population census data and was kept in connection with municipal Register of Permanent Population. The law determined that the register be kept by the Institute, which however was not realised until 1980, when the predecessor of the present CRP database was set up with the introduction of the personal identification number.

### Sources:

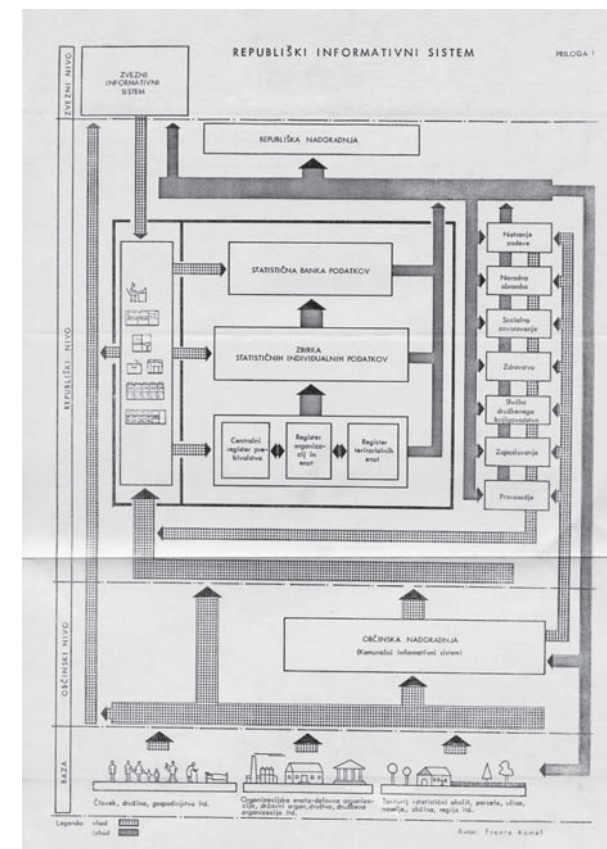
- Komel, F. (1970). *Osnovni register prebivalstva. Osnutek idejnega projekta*. Ljubljana: Zavod SR Slovenije za statistiko.
- Pakiž, O. (1971). *Organizacijsko tehnične osnove statističnega informacijskega sistema SR Slovenije*. V: 10. letni sestanek Jugoslovanskega statističnega društva. Portorož: Jugoslovansko statistično društvo, str. 1–16, 1–5a.
- Komel, F. (1974). *Pristop k informacijskemu sistemu*. V: *Mednarodno posvetovanje o avtomatski obdelavi v javni upravi*. Portorož: Zavod SR Slovenije za statistiko, str. 1–14, Priloge 1, 2.



The title page of the publication that can rightfully be called the roots of e-government, since already in 1970 its visionary author Mr. Franta Komel set up goals of single and multipurpose data capture, linking of records, predetermined purpose of their use and lowering the burden of employees and data providers.



Mr. Franta Komel with the closest colleagues on the trip to Logarska Valley. From left to right: Mr. Ivan Glonar, Mr. Odon Pakiž, Mr. Velimir Rajković, Mr. Franta Komel, Ms. Milojka Virant Zajšek and Ms. Milena Zemljič.



In the paper at the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Yugoslav Statistical Society in 1971 and at the International Conference on Automatic Processing in Public Administration, Mr. Odon Pakiž and Mr. Franta Komel presented the idea of the Slovene information system.

“The only solution is to introduce modern electronic techniques and thus the system of mutually linked records.” More than thirty years ago, progressive statisticians working on the project of linking data on people, space, households and employment set up the objectives and plans that are, with a slightly different terminology, still alive and appear in numerous materials, strategies, laws and projects.

## 1974 – THIRTY YEARS OF STATISTICS

In 1974, the thirtieth anniversary of statistics was marked all over the country. In Slovenia, celebrations were held from September to December, with the central celebration on 12 December 1974 in the Festival Hall in Ljubljana, close to the date of establishing the Yugoslav statistical service, 14 December, which was selected for the annual Day of Statistics.

The Institute for Statistics of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia issued three occasional publications showing the history of statistics.

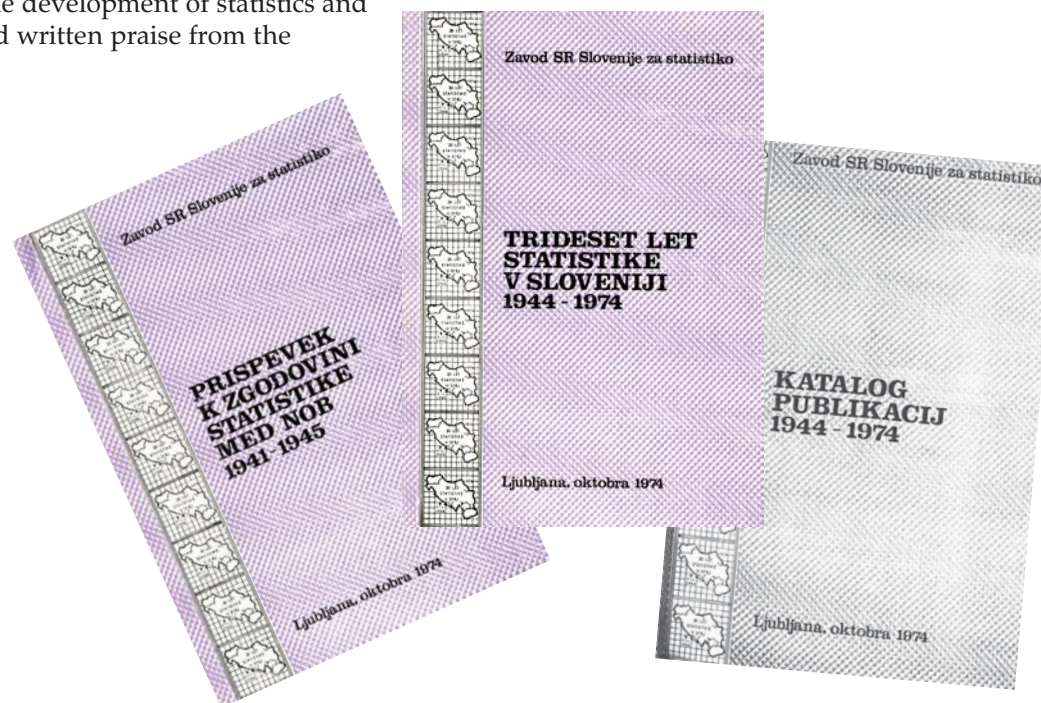
The first one, entitled *Thirty Years of Statistics in Slovenia 1944-1974*, brought a review of development of statistics in general and in Slovenia, describing research work, methods of work and its public character as well as the role of statistics in the system of self-management.

The second publication, entitled *Contribution to the History of Statistics During the National Liberation War in Slovenia 1941-1945*, is a review of statistical work during WWII with 22 annexes showing documents connected with the establishment of the statistical office and appointments as well as circular letters, instructions and forms for collecting data. These two publications are basic works about the beginnings of statistics in Slovenia.

The third publication is the *Catalogue of Publications issued during the 30 years of statistical activity in Slovenia*. In addition, a special chapter about the development of statistics in Slovenia was added to the publication issued at the anniversary of the federal office.

The promotion of statistics was taken care of via mass media. More than 500 statistical publications were put on display in the premises of the publishing house Mladinska knjiga, 48 employees received awards from President Tito for personal merits and their contribution to the development of statistics and 155 employees received written praise from the Director.

The celebration in the Festival Hall was attended by 405 Institute employees, statistical experts and distinguished guests from the socio-political life in Slovenia and other Yugoslav republics.



The *Contribution to the History of Statistics in Slovenia 1944-1974* is the fundamental historical work for understanding the early period of official statistics in Slovenia. With great understanding of statistical promotion, Director Mr. Franta Komel supported the issuing of the three publications. The editor was Mr. Branko Mlinar and the Editorial Board was composed by Mr. Franc Glavan, Ms. Milojka Virant, Mr. Branko Mlinar and Ms. Milena Zemljič. The first volume was prepared by Mr. Karel Berič and Mr. Velimir Rajkovič, while the second one was prepared by Mr. Vlado Mahorčič.

### Source:

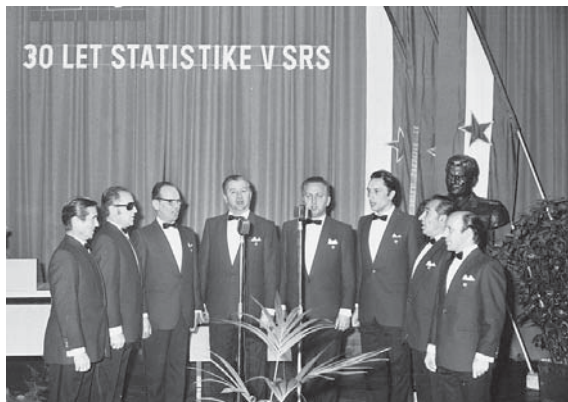
- Spomen-knjiga Tridesetogodišnjica statistike u SFR Jugoslaviji. (1975). Beograd: Zvezni zavod za statistiko, str. 87–94.





### 30 YEARS OF STATISTICS IN THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

Festival Hall, Ljubljana  
12 December 1974





# FIRST STEPS TOWARDS THE REGISTER-BASED SLOVENE STATISTICS

1975-1990

*After the first thirty years of living and working in Yugoslavia, in the 1970s Slovene statistics was largely independent. Statistical surveys in Slovenia were carried out according to the federal program, which was supplemented by independent republican surveys. The Institute stimulated the development of administrative records, the data of which were collected for several purposes and were defined by common identifiers. In this way they could be used to rationalise statistical work, which would to a large extent be based on statistical registers and linking of administrative and statistical sources. Three base registers were set up, which in the 1980s started to perform their tasks for statistics and other needs.*

*This was a period of strengthening the mission of statistics, important discussions about the revision and development of the statistical system, conceptual and technical modernisation of collecting, processing, disseminating and storing statistical data, normative regulation of statistics and strengthening of co-operation with professional and general public and the civil society.*

*Great development challenges and the wish for professional advancement led to the inclusion into international developments; at first via the Federal Statistical Institute and international projects, but ever more with bold decisions that started drawing Slovene statistics – albeit still informally – towards the European statistical system.*





## DECISION FOR REGISTER-BASED STATISTICS

In the 1970s a decision was adopted that Slovene statistics will be based on official records and registers. The Statistical Office was very interested in developing central registers because of more rational data collection and decreasing the burden of reporting units, since in this way it would be faster and easier to collect great quantities of microdata that the Office needed for implementing its tasks.

The decision that Slovene statistics would be based on registers was taken in 1970; however, register philosophy did not come to existence until the 1980s. Concrete preparations started following the Nordic model and after study visits in Denmark and Sweden.

The most important characteristics of register-based statistics are: legally regulated keeping of administrative registers and the use of prescribed identifiers; existence of administrative registers at the central level, full coverage and multipurpose data; data entry as close to the source as possible; use of standards; rationalisation of work in public administration; decreasing the burden of reporting units or individuals – either employees filling in the forms or individuals providing data that have already been officially recorded; and regulated data flow from sources to the Statistical Office as one of the final users.



Ms. Ljubica Djordjević, Mr. Štefan Klement and Mr. Jurij Levačič presenting the Register of Organisations and Communities.

The main objective of register-based statistics is rationalisation of carrying out statistical surveys, the most successful example of which would be transition from the classical population census to the electronic population census based on administrative registers.

### Sources:

- Komel, F. (1973). Statistični informacijski sistem in elektronska tehnika. V: Glasnik delovne skupnosti Zavoda SR Slovenije za statistiko. št. 1, str. 17–22a.
- Pakiž, O. (1973). Organizacijsko tehnične osnove statističnega informacijskega sistema SR Slovenije. V: Glasnik delovne skupnosti Zavoda SR Slovenije za statistiko. št. 2, str. 12–29.
- Stanovništvo Jugoslavije kroz popise stanovništva – Statistički registri. (1988). V: Zbornik referatov Osmega srečanja statistikov Jugoslavije. Brezovica.
- Zakon o centralnem registru prebivalstva. Uradni list RS, št. 1/1999.

These are also the reasons why the understanding of registers was first spread in statistical circles. Because we have passed from the idea to actions long ago, Slovenia no longer uses only the term register orientation but also the term register organisation; and the Statistical Office played a historical role in this development.



At the end of the year, colleagues met and enjoyed themselves at the Day of Statistics, which in 1977 was held in Hotel Slon. Ms. Ljubica Djordjević and Mr. Aleksandar Milenković, long-time colleagues in the field of methodological and information work on demography and registers, were preparing the foundations for the Central Population Register and the Personal Identification Number and linking data from the Register of Territorial Units.

## INTRODUCTION OF CENTRAL REGISTERS

The beginnings of central registers go back to the time around the 1971 population census, when information technology advanced to the point where it became possible to process large quantities of data and keep large data collections. Common identifiers enable linking of data in public and legal records for statistical and administrative purposes.

The first step in this direction was the establishment of three base registers in the 1970s:

- Register of Territorial Units (RTE) was organised in 1971 as a statistical land cadastre in the form of lists of codes and maps for interviewers prepared on the basis of data and maps from the 1961 population census. In both censuses the system of statistical and census districts was improved for the needs of interviewers.
- The oldest data collection of the Central Population Register (CRP) was set up on the basis of 1971 census data. Before 1971, population registers existed only at local level. Updating of the CRP was periodic and unreliable since there was no identifier that would provide uniformity of data on individuals. This was solved with the normative introduction of personal identification numbers in 1976 and practical introduction in 1980.
- In 1976 the Register of Organisations and Communities (ROS) was set up with the help of data collected with the census of organisations and communities.

### Sources:

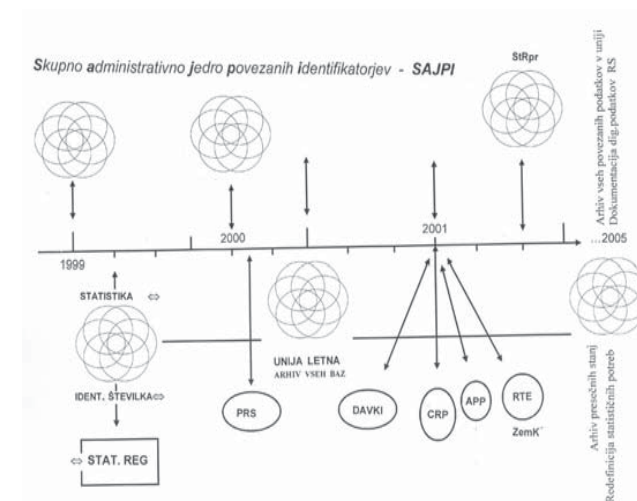
- Djordjević, L., Tršinar, I. (1984). Poročilo s študijskega potovanja na Danski statistiki v Kopenhagnu. V: Statistika, Ljubljana: Zavod SR Slovenije za statistiko, št. 3, Priloga.
- Tršinar, I. (1999). Centralni register prebivalstva; Oris razvoja, komentar zakona in prevod v angleški jezik. Ljubljana: Uradni list RS.



The title page of the supplement of magazine Statistika from 1984, which contained the report of Ms. Ljubica Djordjević and Ms. Irena Tršinar on the study visit in Denmark. Denmark was one of the model countries for introducing registers in Slovene statistics.

The second step was modernisation with the help of new computer equipment. The 1980s were therefore decisive for the start of current keeping of all three registers. The RTE was developed by statisticians in co-operation with the Surveying and Mapping Authority. It became an indispensable

infrastructure for demonstrating results of statistical surveys by spatial criteria: GIS – geographic information systems were born. In co-operation with registration services and municipal Registers of Permanent Population, the CRP has become the basis for population statistics and mass dissemination of its data started. In 1985 the three base registers were joined by the Register of Craftsmen, which was later on incorporated into ROS, which in turn became the basis for producing directories for implementing various statistical surveys, the data source for direct implementation of business subjects statistics and the source for external users.



Presentation of the concept of linked identifiers by Mr. Tomaž Banovec.

## BEGINNINGS OF FORMAL INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION OF SLOVENE STATISTICS

Statisticians in Slovenia were maintaining contacts with the international statistical community even before the formal beginning of international co-operation.

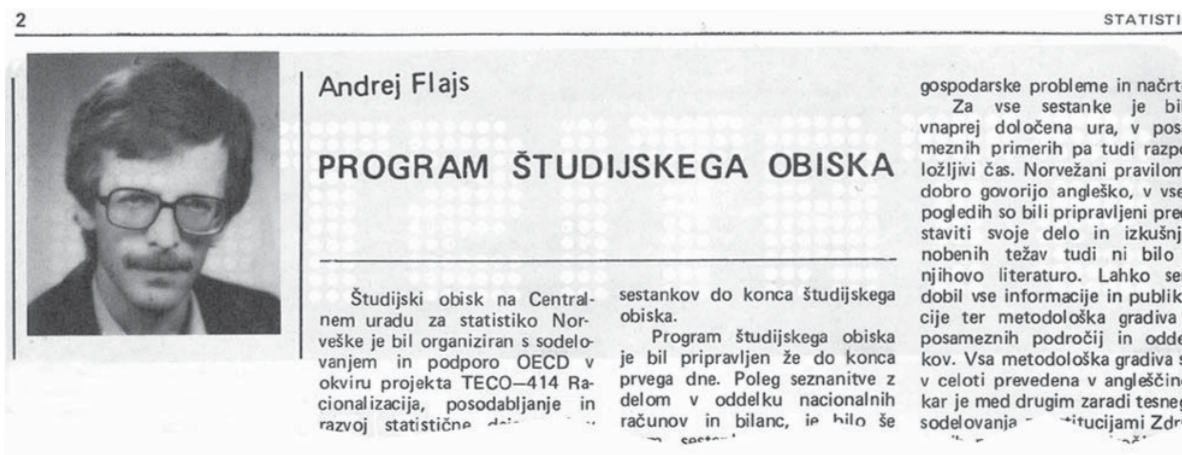
Before Slovenia won independence, international co-operation fell within the competence of the Federal Institute for Statistics. Statistical institutes in the republics were able to join for the first time in the 1970s with limited competence (only improvement of methodological knowledge), if they fulfilled professional demands. Slovene statisticians fulfilled them (the only other statisticians in Yugoslavia to do that were Serbian colleagues) thanks to relatively high methodological and technical development. They became part of two international OECD's projects which in addition to other state authorities included statistics: TECO for the field of technical co-operation and PUMA for the field of public management. In addition, they visited county statistical office of Nordrhein-Westfalen in Düsseldorf and statistical offices of Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

In this way the bases were developed for the extensive project called Modernisation of the Statistical Information System and register development following the Nordic models started. By studying methodological work in some selected fields of statistics at Statistics Sweden and Statistics Denmark and later on by studying the system of national accounts at Statistics Norway (in 1989), internationally comparable methodological standards and practices started to be introduced. Creation of the statistical databank, which was the result of co-operation with German statistics, presented at that time an extremely modern tool for disseminating statistical data to users and for achieving coherence of methodological results within Slovene statistics.

International co-operation in the 1970s and active role of Slovene statisticians in the Yugoslav statistical system contributed to long-term strategic objectives of Slovene statistics becoming one of the most advanced. This was most clearly reflected in the development and use of registers and other administrative sources, the introduction of the statistical databank, the introduction of satellite teledetection methods for estimating land use and for the needs of agriculture and forestry, and related methodological improvements, i.e. coherence of definitions and classifications. After winning independence, these objectives contributed to a very dynamic and universal harmonisation of Slovene statistics with international, especially European, statistics.

### Sources:

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- Banovec, T, Tretjak, A. (1987). Uporaba satelitskih metod teledetekcije za ocenjevanje izrabe tal in za potrebe kmetijstva in gozdarstva. Ljubljana: Zavod SR Slovenije za statistiko.



In Norway Mr. Andrej Flajs learned about the national wealth statistics within the system of national accounts and balances as well as other aspects of statistics directly or indirectly linked to national wealth, natural resources and environment.



## 1975 – DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE REVISION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATISTICAL SYSTEM

Discussions about the revision and development of the statistical information system were led by the Institute in co-operation with external experts in statistics. Several revision attempts failed in the 1965-1975 period, so this revision was very much desired.

According to the internationally harmonised definition, the statistical system was defined as a system of collecting, processing (including analyses) and disseminating results of statistical surveys, especially publishing official statistical data for the general information needs of the wider national and international public, and partly also for the specific needs of science and national administrative bodies.

International data comparability was especially pointed out. In a relatively complicated system of the former Yugoslavia, it was namely difficult to put forward initiatives, since republics were only able to regulate that part of surveys that referred exclusively to their own needs. Surveys that were important for the entire country, including international co-operation, were covered by the Federal Institute for Statistics. In 1975 Slovenia still did not have a republican act on statistics. The needs for data were assessed with the help of social documents, experts' demands, requests from heads of statistical offices and at statistical conferences. The inefficiency of such a system led to the appearance of new authorised bodies for statistics.

### Sources:

- Novak, A. (1975). Revizija in razvoj statističnega sistema (osnovna izhodišča). Ljubljana: Zavod SR Slovenije za statistiko.
- Cedilnik, B, Klep, J., Fidler, F. (1981). Pogovarjali smo se z Antejem Novakom. V: Statistika, Ljubljana: Zavod SR Slovenije za statistiko, št. 11, str 5-7.

In the 1970s the most deficient issues were established: modernisation of research methods in statistics, lack of co-operation with the scientific community, large burden on reporting units and the need to stop carrying out unnecessary surveys. Statistics should be opened to users, methods of assessing and realising users' needs should be developed and employees should be trained to work in terms of technology and statistical expertise. The notions of the right of the public to be informed and the principle of statistical confidentiality were introduced. Opening of the statistical system was followed by opening of the information and documentation centres providing users with data, telephone services and data access via computers. To increase the importance of statistical data, good relationships with mass media started to be nurtured, and statistical culture was improved by regular training and drawing statistics closer to users.

For the revision to succeed, legal, organisational, personnel, technical and financial conditions were equally important. It is interesting that a special commission for development and revision of statistics was appointed. As regards its work, it could be compared to the present Statistical Council. At the same time subcommissions were also proposed – a kind of origin of the present statistical advisory committees for individual fields of statistics.



The study of the development and revision of the statistical information system was prepared by Mr. Ante Novak in 1975. He presented a very critical overview of the revisions in the past decade and the situation in the field of statistics. He was convinced that the complexity of the then system led to its ineffectiveness. The interview with Mr. Ante Novak, published in Statistika in 1981, also touched this subject.



## 1977 – ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATISTICAL SOCIETY OF SLOVENIA

The Statistical Society of Slovenia was established on 14 December 1977 at the Inaugural Assembly. The Initiative Committee for the Establishment of the Statistical Society chose this date because 14 December was the Day of Statistics.

The Statistical Society of Slovenia was established according to the principle of openness: in addition to statisticians, data providers and users were also invited to join the society. This was the main difference from the then Statistical Society of Yugoslavia, which was established in 1953 and had very strict professional criteria for its membership.



At the Inaugural Assembly in Hotel Kompas Ms. Milojka Virant Zajšek, the then Deputy Director of Slovene statistical office and the first President of the Society, delivered the inaugural speech. The initiators of establishing the Society were Ms. Vojka Šircelj and Mr. Ivo Lavrač. First row: Ms. Blaženka Košmelj, long-time President of the Commission for the Statistical Terminology, Ms. Milojka Virant Zajšek and Mr. Emil Milan Pintar, President of the Society in the forthcoming period. Second row: Ms. Draga Kobentar and Ms. Lea Bregar.

### Source:

- Tršinar, I. (1997). 20 let Statističnega društva Slovenije, Kronika Statističnega društva Slovenije 1977–1997. Ljubljana: Statistično društvo Slovenije.

The Society's work was organised in sections: the first one was the Section for Developmental and Theoretical Questions of Statistics, which was established in 1979. A part of this section was and still is the Commission for the Statistical Terminology, which was established in 1981.

The Inaugural Assembly of the Statistical Society of Slovenia pointed out the need for scientific work in:

- Solving key systems questions of statistics,
- Developing statistical methodologies – from data coverage to analyses and publishing,
- Studying statistical standards, methods and classifications,
- Automatisation of statistical processes in all phases of work,
- Studying teaching methods and procedures in teaching statistics,
- Professional training of employees and broadening of the statistical culture.



Speech given by Mr. Franta Komelj, with the statistical choir – the pride of statisticians – at the back.



The first regular assembly of the Statistical Society was held in December 1979 in the Vič cinema theatre packed to the capacity.

## 1980 – MISSION OF THE INSTITUTE OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA FOR STATISTICS

At the beginning of 1980 the Act on the Organisation and Competence of the Republic Administration and Organisations and of Independent Professional Services, adopted by the Executive Council of the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia, determined the mission of the Institute of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia for Statistics.

Article 37 reads: »The Institute of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia for Statistics shall perform professional tasks from the statistical information system referring to programming statistical surveys important for the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Socialist Republic of Slovenia and municipalities, to collecting, processing and analysing statistical data and information, to determining statistical standards and harmonising methodological bases, to professional harmonisation of statistical surveys among them and with basic records, to the population register, the register of organisations and communities, the register of territorial units and the statistical databank, to publishing and transmitting statistical data and information and to supervision of work of reporting units.

The Institute of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia for Statistics shall perform professional tasks from the previous paragraph within the framework of the common statistical system in the country also for self-government organisations and communities, for self-government interest communities and for socio-political organisations.«



Mr. Ivan Glonar, Mr. Alojz Poglajen, Mr. Tomaž Valantič, Mr. Branko Mlinar, Mr. Stanko Mraz and Mr. Petar Delak, members of the Board of Directors in 1980.

In 1979 the Institute changed its organisation and prepared it to the arrival of a new computer. In this year the Institute carried out 230 statistical surveys, of which 30 for the needs of Slovenia. It was also developing the three base registers. Even then the Institute was process organised, since collection, programming and processing were organised for all surveys in special units. Processes were managed with strict guidelines and written documentation accompanying every phase. The planning service was responsible for organisation.

### Sources:

- Zakon o organizaciji in delovnem področju republiških upravnih organov in republiških organizacij ter samostojnih strokovnih služb Izvršnega sveta Skupščine SR Slovenije, Uradni list SRS, št. 5/1980.
- Statistik (1980). Ljubljana: Zavod SRS za statistiko, št. 6.



## FIRST MODERN COMPUTER FOR NATIONAL STATISTICS IN SLOVENIA

Deriving from the problems and proposals explained and proposed in the study *Revision and Development of the Statistical System*, in 1978 the then Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia adopted a decree on purchasing a computer and determining funds for a new building. The computer arrived, but the project for constructing a new building has unfortunately not been realised.

After preparations that started in 1975, in September 1977 the Institute opened an invitation to tender for buying computer equipment. A special commission proposed to the Director negotiations with the Japanese firm FUJITSU for the computer system FACOM: M 180 II AD. The transition to one of the most modern computers in this part of Europe demanded a radical change in thinking and work organisation, and especially acquisition of additional knowledge. Some of our computer experts obtained knowledge in Japan and others with the help of Japanese experts who came to Slovenia. For the needs of transition to the new computer, in 1979 57 Institute employees attended training in Haludovo on the island of Krk in three periods.

On 20 July 1980 there was a grand opening of the Centre for Automatic Data Processing at the Institute. Over 100 guests accepted the invitation to attend, among them some of the most prominent representatives of Slovene government, institutes, the Federal Statistical Institute and statistical institutes of other Yugoslav republics. Representatives of FUJITSU and the county statistical office of Nordrhein–Westfallen were also present.

### Sources:

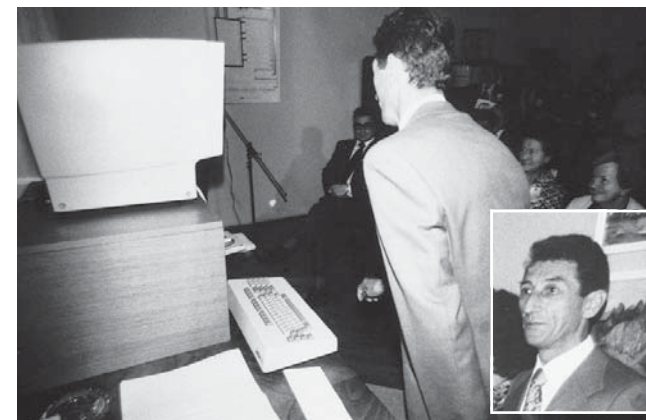
- Maher, N., Tomažin, M., Tomkiewicz, M. (1980). Pogovarjali smo se z vodjem Računskega centra Alešem Brinarjem. V: *Statistik*. Ljubljana: Zavod SR Slovenije za statistiko, št. 4, str. 2–4.
- Valantič, T. (1980). Otvoritev Centra za avtomatsko obdelavo podatkov. V: *Statistik*, Ljubljana: Zavod SR Slovenije za statistiko, št. 7/8, str. 2–5.
- Maver, D. (1982). Obisk v računskem centru. V: *Statistik*, Ljubljana: Zavod SR Slovenije za statistiko, št. 2/3, str. 15–17.



All employees were eagerly awaiting the arrival of the new computer by the Japanese firm FUJITSU. The backyard in Hrenova was almost too small for the new computer. Its capacity was 2 Mb of RAM and 2 Gb of disc space.



The work of organisers and programmers – as information technology experts were called back then – changed completely. They started to work interactively with terminals. Punched cards, which the younger generations do not know, were soon forgotten.



Mr. Marjan Dekleva, the oldest statistician in terms of service, pushed the button and thus officially started the use of the new computer.



Mr. Aleš Brinar, Head of the Computer Centre, showing the operation of the computer and maintenance of the archives on tapes, which contained around 6,000 magnetic tapes with statistical data from all statistical surveys.

At the reception in the lobby of the Institute every participant received a folder with materials: *Modernisation of the Statistical Information System; Revision and Development of the Statistical Information System; and the Institute's magazine Statistik (Statistician)*, No. 6/1980 with the description of the Institute's scheme of organisation, its procedures and employees.

## INFORMING OF EMPLOYEES

Statisticians have always been aware of the importance of disseminating information, so it is not surprising that, in addition to rich professional publishing, in all periods informing of employees was emphasised.

Important sources of learning about the Office's past are internal magazines and other forms of internal informing.

On the occasion of the professional excursions in 1955 and 1956, the first issue of the comic paper was published. In 1964–1965 the first five issues of the magazine Halo 23-256, which was named after a telephone number, were published. These were the beginnings of the internal magazine Glasnik (Herald), which was published quarterly in 1966–1970, and after a break and with the different number of issues per year in 1973–1979.

The magazine was renamed Statistk (Statistician) at the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Statistical Office in 1974 when it became more informative. The magazine was being published under this name until the end of 1988. After a break, in 1990 a magazine entitled Sporočila (Messages) started to be published, which became a regular form of informing employees with professional news. In 1995 the magazine was modernised and renamed Statistična sporočila (Statistical Messages) and it is still published under this name.

### Sources:

- Statistk. Ljubljana: Zavod SRS za statistiko (več števil s tega obdobja).
- Maher, N., Tomažin, M., Karanjac, J. (1980). Besedo ima ... V: Statistk, Ljubljana: Zavod SR Slovenije za statistiko, št. 3, str. 2–5.
- Mlinar, B. (1978). Razvoj statistike. Sistem statističnih raziskovanj v Jugoslaviji. V: Statistk, Ljubljana: Zavod SR Slovenije za statistiko, št. 8, str. 1–3.
- Berič, K. (1979). Integriranje in povezovanje podatkov v statistično-informacijskem sistemu (nadaljevanje). V: Statistk, Ljubljana: Zavod SR Slovenije za statistiko, št. 2–3, str. 1–4.
- Mlinar, Z. (1980). 25 let Prikazov in študij; Uspešnosti ne moremo meriti le s količino. V: Statistk, Ljubljana: Zavod SR Slovenije za statistiko, št. 3, str. 13–14.

Internal magazines before Statistk were very modest in terms of design and had no special graphic design. Statistk was the first internal magazine to introduce a graphic cover and the integrated appearance in the form of a real magazine. Its content was diverse and was not limited to statistical subjects. The readers were also offered a review of activities from the field of social, sporting and cultural life of Institute employees. As a trade union periodical, by the end of the 1980s the magazine lost its mission, while lack of information for the employees led to the publication of a new magazine, this time named Statistična sporočila. At first the new magazine was purely informative, until the Office decided to publish it as a full colour magazine.

We must not forget another important source of information, namely minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors. Their contents are dedicated to professional issues and other official issues regarding Institute's work and organisation. They present a systematic and complete overview of activities from 1980 on, when the Boards of Directors started to meet regularly every Tuesday.



Board of Directors of Mr. Franta Komel at the end of the 1970s.



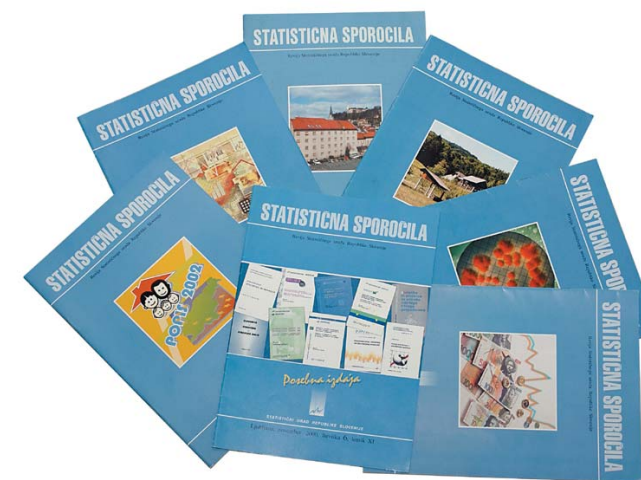
In 1978 a special column started to be published in *Statistik* entitled Statistical Development and has been part of the magazine for several years. In the first issue there was an interesting article about the system of statistical surveys in Yugoslavia, presenting the evaluation of the development and guidelines for the future. It also included still topical principles of national statistics such as unity, openness and availability of results, development and organisation for various types of users and preparation of analyses, i.e. the transition from government statistics to other users and related openness and professionalism. The necessity to develop statistics for the needs of municipalities was singled out. The article describes the problem of timeliness of short-term statistics in connection with full coverage characteristic for statistics in Yugoslavia.

In 1980, 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication *Prikazi in študije* (Reviews and Studies) was marked by the presentation of the evaluation by external experts. At the same time the wider statistical activity was evaluated.



*Statistik* was a popular form of presenting the work of expert groups, organisational and personnel issues, and important reports from workers' council and trade union meetings. The magazine also brought news of cultural, social and sporting life of workers as well as a little something for amusement.

In addition to design, in 1998 *Statistična sporočila* were also changed as regards the contents. The emphasis was on informing about all important events and contents connected with national statistics in Slovenia both in the Office and in other national institutions authorised by the National Programme of Statistical Surveys for producing certain statistics.



From *Statistik* a true magazine has been developed that covers the contents of statistical developments not only at the Office but also at other authorised producers of official statistics in Slovenia.

## MEETINGS OF STATISTICIANS: PROFESSIONAL, SPORTING, CHESS, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL EVENTS

Towards the end of the 1970s and in the 1980s, social life in the Institute was very diverse, which coincided with great advancement in the development of professional work. The magazine *Statistik* was keeping a chronicle of all these events.

It was agreed at the spring 1978 meeting of young Yugoslav statisticians in Skopje, Macedonia, that statistical institutes would start organising annual meetings of Yugoslav statisticians. In fact, statisticians managed to organise 10 meetings. In charge of organisation were each of the six republics and two provinces, the Federal Institute for Statistics and the Metropolitan Institute for Statistics in Belgrade. As a rule, the sporting event drew the greatest participation, but it was always combined with a professional conference and a round table, the annual assembly of the Association of Statistical Societies of Yugoslavia and the social evening with a cultural program. The first meeting was organised by our Office in Portorož in the autumn of 1978 and the last one was organised in Donji Milanovac, Serbia, in 1990.

The Statistical Office has always kept good relations with neighbours. Therefore, for larger meetings, lectures and celebrations the neighbouring hall of the Local Community Prule was available, while evening sports activities of employees were taking place in the gym of the Elementary School Prule. Employees of the Statistical Office were preparing common programs for celebrations at major national and republican holidays together with children attending the Elementary School Prule, while units of civil service were engaged in rescue operations in case of natural and other disasters together with units of the local community. The Office was also taking care of the National Liberation War monument in the park of the Local Community Prule.

### Source:

- *Statistik*. Ljubljana: Zavod SRS za statistiko (več številka s tega obdobja).

As regards cultural activities, we had an excellent choir that deserves to be mentioned. Celebrations became more interesting with musical equipment. They developed into a real statistical cabaret. In a pleasant atmosphere of the Youth Centre in the attic of the building at Vožarski pot 12 various meetings and sessions were held as well as training and lectures, and on Wednesday afternoons presentations of work by departments and experiences gained on study missions abroad. The attic was also used for cultural and social activities: choir and band practice, monodrama performances by acknowledged theatre actors, organisation of a photo course, New Year's meeting of children with Jack Frost and the puppets, and a number of informal meetings of colleagues. The dining room also became a place of cultural activities and numerous exhibitions. This was the time when the Institute experienced the most colourful social life.



Trade union excursions were always very popular. One of the many was to travel with a museum train from Ljubljana to Most na Soči. The photo shows participants taking a rest in Bled.



Most participants in the first meeting of statisticians in Portorož competed in various sports: chess, shooting, bowling, table tennis, volleyball and football. In addition to sporting and cultural program, a professional conference was organised the subject of which was internal organisation of work in individual statistical institutes.



One of the most popular traditional events was the visit of Jack Frost, who gave presents to children of Institute employees. In addition to presents, children could also enjoy the puppet show given by statisticians in the attic. The Statistical Office is one of the rare organisations to have Jack Frost visits for several decades. Therefore, Mr. Aleš Brinar is the most frequently photographed person at the Office.



## EFFORTS TO PUT FORWARD THE REPUBLICAN ACT ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITY

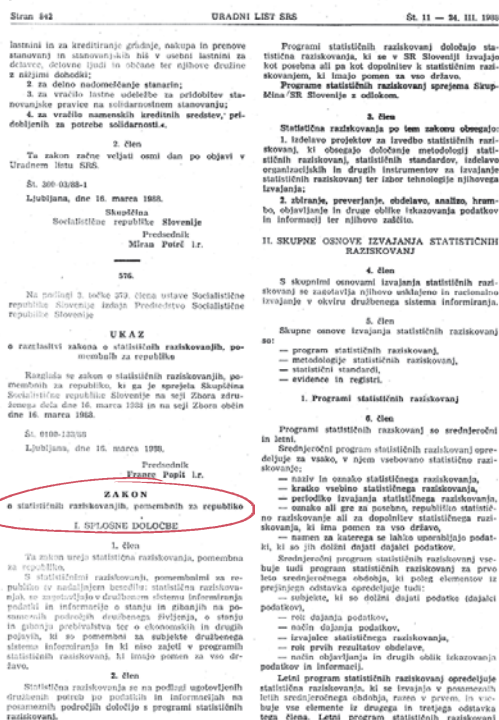
In addition to the federal program of statistical surveys, in 1978 Slovenia had the most extensive republican annex – 31 independent republican surveys and 16 surveys supplementing the federal program. The Institute was striving for the adoption of the republican act that would determine the role of the Institute in relation to other producers of official statistics.

On 27 October 1978 the draft Act on the Statistical System and Statistical Service in the Socialist Republic of Slovenia was published. The republican act should determine the organisation of statistical activities and the implementation of statistical surveys within the competence of the Republic of Slovenia. The discussion went on until 1988, when the Act on Statistical Surveys Important for Slovenia was adopted. Before this act, Slovenia only had the Decree on the Method of Data Collection by Republican Administrative Bodies and the Decree on the Method of Data Collection by Self-government Institutions and Organisations (OJ No. 23/59), which only partially regulated these issues. In addition, at that time Slovenia was using the federal Act on Statistical Surveys, which was valid for the whole country (OJ SFRJ, No. 39/77).

The main deficiency of the then federal act was inadequate definition of statistical institutes as the main producers and methodological co-ordinators of statistical activity, since the act mostly regulated only the program of statistical surveys.

Because of increased demands for data, in Slovenia statistical data were also collected by unauthorised institutions, which led to non-harmonised and methodologically inappropriate

collection of the same and similar data. On the one hand, this caused large burden of data providers, while on the other hand this resulted in uncertainty of using results because of different information on the same phenomenon. It has to be emphasised that other authorised producers – such as the then Agency for Payments and the National Bank – had a good statistical service.



### Sources:

- Berič, K. (1979). Predlog za izdajo Zakona o statističnem sistemu in statistični službi SRS. V: Statistika, Ljubljana: Zavod SR Slovenije za statistiko, št. 1, str. 5–9.
- Zakon o statističnih raziskovanjih, pomembnih za republiko, Uradni list RS, št. 11/1988.



Ms. Milojka Virant Zajšek, Acting Director of the Institute of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia for Statistics in 1981.

*Ms. Milojka Virant Zajšek (\*1921, †1999). After finishing secondary school for women, she studied romance languages at the Faculty of Arts. In 1940 she abandoned her studies and got a job in a coalmining company in Trbovlje. She was actively involved in the National Liberation War. After the war she was employed by the daily newspaper Primorski dnevnik in Trieste, Italy. Later on she returned to the coalmining company in Trbovlje and then went to work for the Ministry of Mining, where she was a personnel officer of the Mining Directorate. In 1951 she graduated from the Faculty of Economics and was employed by the Institute of the People's Republic of Slovenia for Statistics as a statistician-economist. She worked for the Office until her retirement. She held many responsible posts: head of department, independent adviser and from 1976 on Deputy Director. At the beginning of March 1981, she was appointed Acting Director of the Institute of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia for Statistics and held that post until the end of April 1981. She was also the first President of the Statistical Society of Slovenia. She retired in 1982.*

### Sources:

- Personalna mapa
- Banovec, T. (1999). In memoriam. V: Bilten Statističnega društva Slovenije, Letn. 23, št. 44, str. 6-7.

## RATIONALISATION OF ACTIVITY – A PERMANENT FEATURE IN ALL PERIODS

Ever since the economic reform in 1965 and especially within the so-called stabilisation policy period at the beginning of the 1980s, the Institute was faced with the need for efficient operation. A Commission for Saving was even created.

A special Commission for Rationalisation of Operation was appointed. It is especially interesting that the commission supported the need for co-ordination of statistical activity among institutions, teamwork, steady advancement, and automatisisation and informatisation of processes. This was more an attempt to make people aware of the problem than focus on good organisation and knowledge of employees.

Rules on innovation were prepared and later on adopted. One of the practical examples of rationalisation was the contribution to the improve-

ment of publication tables, which started to be designed at programming. This facilitated time-consuming work in rewriting tables from the computer to the publication tables.

The most noticeable action took place in the “stabilisation year” 1980 at assigning personal identification numbers to about 1.8 million people living in Slovenia. The extensive task of sorting and coding of forms by hand was accomplished with volunteer work. The first partial report was published: in only two and a half months 1,600 hours of volunteer work were done for about 250,000 forms, which was around 14% of the total material. Some 80% of these hours were done by Institute employees who were not coding during their normal working hours. The action was successful.



Rationalisation of human resources was an unfinished task for the Commission for Systematisation: Ms. Ana Antončič, Mr. Stanko Mraz, Mr. Ljubo Ugren, Ms. Minka Kastelic and Mr. Petar Delak.

### Sources:

- Tomažin, M. (1980). Delo Komisije za racionalizacijo poslovanja. V: Statistik, Ljubljana: Zavod SR Slovenije za statistiko, št. 4, str. 6–7.
- Markuž, M. (1980). Enotna matična številka občana. V: Statistik, Ljubljana: Zavod SR Slovenije za statistiko, št. 9, str. 3–4.



The Council of the Collective played an important role in deciding about work-related issues, organisation, human resource management and other matters. At this session the reimbursement for coming to work was discussed.





## 1981 – STATISTICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES – A FORM OF PROFESSIONAL CO-OPERATION

The idea about statistical advisory committees as professional advisory bodies for methodological issues and statistical development goes back to the 1975 publication *Revision and Development of the Statistical Information System*, but they started to operate in 1981.

The idea about advisory committees was presented by the Institute management at two three-day professional conferences entitled *Statistics and Users*, which were organised in Ljubljana and in Maribor with the intention to satisfy users' needs and expand the circle of users. The idea was well accepted and advisory committees were defined as "organisational form of co-operation between users and data providers,... which should be the main bodies of revision and development of the statistical system".

The first advisory committee started to function on 9 December 1981, when the first session of the Advisory Committee for the Field of Statistics was organised in the hall of the local community Prule in the form of a professional conference on the Register of Organisations and Communities. The field of work of this advisory committee was satisfaction of information needs with the help of data from this register as one of the standards of the social information system.

The first meeting was attended by 46 representatives of enterprises, bodies of republican administration and the biggest users of this register. The discussion was decisive for further development of the register as the infrastructural tool of register-based statistics. The need was expressed for introducing an identification number of the business register, the keeping of which was later on regulated in the Business Register of Slovenia Act (OJ RS, No. 13/1995).

In 1982, 22 more advisory committees were created for various fields of statistics. The most active of them was the Advisory Committee for the Integral System of Social Accounts, which organised 17 meetings in a very short time.

Advisory committees still have the same function and have actually become permanent and creative factors of statistical development in Slovenia.

### Sources:

- Klep, J. (1981). Ustanovljen prvi sosvet za področje statistike, s posveta o enotnem registru organizacij in skupnosti. V: *Statistik*, Ljubljana: Zavod SR Slovenije za statistiko, št. 12, str. 7–8.
- Banovec, T. (1995). Model podatkov v Republiki Sloveniji – potrebe po povezovanju in večnamenski rabi statističnih in evidenčnih podatkov za potrebe socialne politike. V: *Zbornik referatov Radenci '95 – Statistika dela, delovnih in življenjskih pogojev*. Radenci: Statistični urad Republike Slovenije in Statistično društvo Slovenije, str 111–124.



Mr. Tomaž Banovec, Director-General of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia in 1981-2003.

*Mr. Tomaž Banovec (\*1939). After finishing the secondary school for construction in Ljubljana in 1959, he continued his studies at the Faculty of Geodesy, Civil Engineering and Architecture where he graduated in 1965. His first employment was at the Land Survey and Photogrammetry Institute, where he soon became Head of the Cartography Department. In 1970 he was Director of the Development Institute at the Land Survey Institute of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia and later on Deputy Director of the Institute for Social Planning, responsible for the field of spatial planning, information science and technology (until 1975). In 1979 he was appointed Director of the Centre of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia for the Social Information System and Information Science. Between 1981 and his retirement in 2003 he was Director of the Institute of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia for Statistics or the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia as it is known today. He has always been a very prolific writer – his bibliography covers more than 162 titles. Under his leadership, the Office made a great step forward in the field of technological modernisation of statistical procedures, linking of administrative records, adjustment to users' needs and modern understanding of the statistical service in the society, normative regulation of this area and last but not least integration into the European statistical system and development of statistics after Slovenia's independence.*

### Sources:

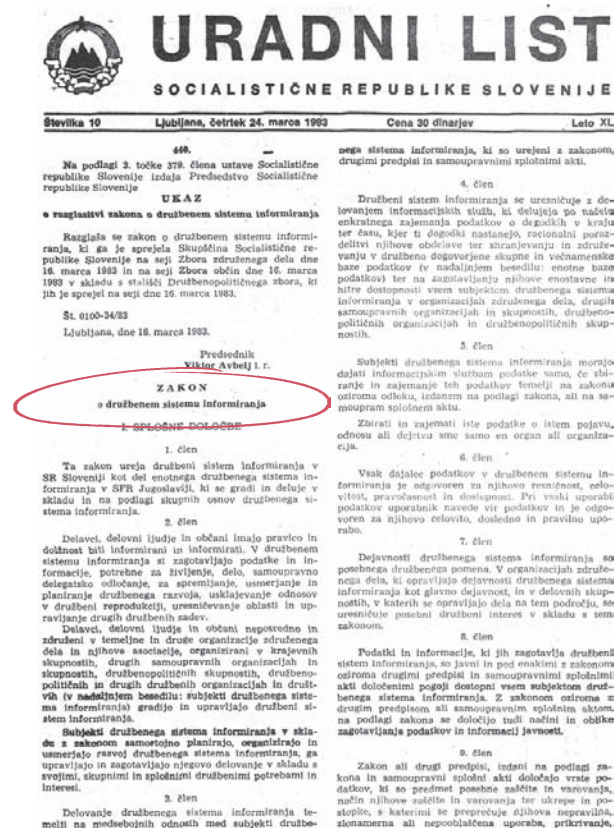
- *Enciklopedija Slovenije*. 1987. Knj. 1. Ljubljana, Mladinska knjiga
- *Obrazložitev predloga za odlikovanje g. Tomaža Banovca*. (delovno gradivo)

## ACT ON THE SOCIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

In 1982, Institute experts actively participated in the preparation of the Act on the Social Information System, which determined that the program of statistical surveys is one of the common bases of the social information system. It also stated that in order to achieve unity, common standards and methodologies for collecting, processing, storing and disseminating data should be used.

Even before the Act on the Social Information System was adopted, the Institute prepared a proposal of priority tasks of common importance in this field: normative bases for a balanced development of the social information system; development of the common elements, bases and standards of the social information system; development of indicators for measuring development and their harmonisation in terms of contents and methodology; further work on the revision of statistical surveys; modernisation and socialisation of the statistical system; up-to-date, operative and universal use of registers' information capacities; formation of new and linking of all existing registers, databases and other automated records; setting up the statistical databank, modernisation of the land register and cadastre; setting up the register of buildings and definition of the strategy of balanced development of IT infrastructure.

The Act on the Social Information System, which introduced the philosophy of common bases (registers, records, classifications and data linking), was an important milestone in the development of register-based statistics in Slovenia. It stimulated future development of register-based statistics as well as establishment and standardisation of records. The keeper of the registers and the body responsible for linking and harmonising institutions implementing the social information system program was the Institute for Statistics.



### Source:

- Zakon o družbenem sistemu informiranja (Uradni list SRS, št. 10/1983).

However, the Act on the Social Information System itself contained a provision that because of the protection of personal freedom and privacy and because of rights of individuals provided by the constitution and laws, personal data are subject to special protection regulated by the law. Such an act was adopted in 1990 as the Personal Data Protection Act (OJ SRS, No. 8/1990).

## 1987 – BEGINNING OF TRADITIONAL STATISTICAL CONFERENCES IN RADENCI

In 1987 the Institute of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia and the Statistical Society of Slovenia organised the first statistical conference in Radenci, which became a traditional annual meeting of experts from various areas known as Statistical Days.

The first conference was dedicated to the then very important subject of statistics and inflation, since inflation presented a special problem for the quality of statistics. Topics discussed in connection with the high inflation rate were: external trade flows, macro-economic aggregates, productivity, wages, cost of living and the accounting system. In papers and discussions Slovene experts critically evaluated methodological approaches of the Federal Statistical Institute, but they were also constructive since they proposed a revision of the statistical system aimed at the future and into the world. International obligations of statistics were pointed out, since at that time international co-operation was done exclusively via the federal office. Slovenia therefore demanded insight into the record of international obligations. One of the key conclusions of this first conference in Radenci was drawing attention to the importance of independent statistical service and its professional competence.

Every year the main topic of the conference was a selected area of wider social importance at that time. Gradually, sections were added for presenting various other topical issues. Already the first conference was attended by representatives of the Slovene and Yugoslav statistical office as well as by users of statistical data from ministries, other public administration bodies and the scientific and research community. In 1993 the conference became international and after that the number of participating countries has been increasing as well as the number of guests and speakers. Every year a proceedings volume containing all papers for the conference is published before the event. Of the initial 15 authors presenting 13 papers in 1987, by 2003 the number of authors has grown to 87 and the number of presented papers to 73. The first proceedings volume had 124 pages; by 2003 it had become a large book with 544 pages. Other things that have to be mentioned are round tables, poster sections and press conferences accompanying the conference.

Statistical Days, the international conference of statisticians in Radenci, has carried the name of Slovene statistics into the world. The importance of these conferences for the professional public in Slovenia is so big that they will surely continue to be organised in the future.

### Titles of Statistical Days:

- 1987 – Statistics and Inflation
- 1989 – Role of Statistics in Social Development
- 1993 – Statistics and Records for the Needs of Open Market Economy
- 1994 – Slovenia, Statistics, European Union
- 1995 – Statistics of Labour, Working and Living Conditions
- 1996 – Economy, Slovenia, European Union
- 1997 – New Statistical Findings, Financial Statistics, Globalisation
- 1998 – Statistical Support to Accession Negotiations and Structural Funds
- 1999 – Electronic Commerce and Statistics
- 2000 – Statistics 2000 – Network of Statistics for Better European Compliance and Quality of Operation
- 2001 – A New Millennium - New Phenomena: Have Statisticians been Able to Understand and Measure Them
- 2002 – Integration of Statistics in the Information Society
- 2003 – Statistics as a Tool and Source for Users' Knowledge Creation
- 2004 – Statistical Monitoring of Globalisation and Services – A Challenge and Necessity

#### Source:

- Križman, I. (2000). Deset statističnih srečanj v Radencih. V: Statistična sporočila. Ljubljana: Statistični urad Republike Slovenije, št. 6, str. 2–28.





Radenci 2000

## STATISTICAL DAYS RADENCI



Radenci 2001



Radenci 2003

## 1989 – ALIGNMENT WITH THE EUROPEAN STATISTICAL SYSTEM

In the last years before independence, Slovene statistics started to follow European integration processes conceptually, although it was still part of the Yugoslav statistics, so things could only be done informally.

Upon the proposal of the Statistical Office, in 1989 the Slovene Government introduced the calculation of gross domestic product according to the internationally comparable methodology of national accounts (SNA '93).

By the end of the 1980s Slovene statistics had completed the system of three base registers, introduced common identifiers and obtained considerable knowledge about modern international standards. In 1989 it started putting pressure on the Federal Statistical Office to increase the Europeisation of methodological solutions. Firstly, there was the introduction of the System of National Accounts (SNA 93), the introduction of the Standard Classification of Activities and other economic classifications as well as the introduction of the classification of occupations and modern labour and level of living statistics.

The then federal state responded rather slowly. Therefore, upon the proposal of the Statistical Office, in 1989 the Slovene Government introduced the calculation of gross domestic product according to the methodology of the System of National Accounts. Calculation according to the then internationally incomparable methodology that took into account only the concept of material production ran in parallel. For the Slovene statistical office this meant double burden, however, it was also a strategic advantage in terms of methodological readiness. Even more importantly, Slovenia obtained internationally comparable data on basic macroeconomic aggregates.

An important milestone of our integration into the international environment was 1990. Slovene statisticians participated in two seminars organised by the Federal Institute for Statistics – EFTA Secretariat in Miločer and Eurostat in Belgrade. European statistics was making large steps following the integration processes and the preparation for the common European market. The centre of statistical harmonisation was Eurostat; the condition for introduction and efficient implementation of common statistical standards is adequate legal and institutional position of statistical offices in EU Member States, which provides professional and methodological independence. Member States and Candidate Countries must implement the entire statistical legislation – first of the common European market, the EU and finally the European Monetary Union (EMU), which is a constantly moving target.

Yugoslav and Slovene statistics did not meet the requirements of market economy and were not aimed at preparing statistical data for various types of users.



Ms. Magdalena Žebre, Ms. Lea Bregar, Ms. Genovefa Ružič and Mr. Tomaž Banovec – participants of the 1990 EFTA Secretariat meeting in Miločer.

### Source:

- Križman, I. (1989). Statistika v pripravah na Evropo 92. V: Zbornik referatov Radenci 89 – Vloga statistike v družbenem razvoju. Ljubljana: Zavod SR Slovenije za statistiko, str. 1–11.





# INDEPENDENT SLOVENIA - STATISTICS - INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

1991-2004

*The final decade of the first 60 years of statistics in Slovenia coincided with the period from Slovenia winning its independence to becoming a full member of the European Union. This is not only logical due to the history of the Slovene nation but also because of the important role that statistics played in the negotiations for EU membership. In addition, what is integration of Slovenia into the EU is integration of Slovene statistics into the European statistical system.*

*Slovene statistics started to follow European integration processes even before independence. The Office was increasing co-operation with international institutions, so that the first visit at Eurostat took place in April 1992, even before Slovenia was recognised as an independent state. A little later Slovene statistical office became a member of the Conference of European Statisticians; two years later it signed the Declaration on the Co-operation with Eurostat and became part of other international institutions as well.*

*Parallel with international activities, we experienced intensive developments at home. In accordance with the new National Statistics Act, the mid-1990s saw further strengthening of activities for technical and methodological modernisation of collecting, processing and disseminating statistical data. The Office has adjusted its co-operation with professional and general public as well as with the civil society in Slovenia and abroad. It has adjusted its programs and principles to international principles of official statistics and development of legislation in Slovenia. In accordance with the National Statistics Act, the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Statistics was renamed the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia.*



## 1991/1992 – FIRST STEPS TOWARDS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

At the time Slovenia was fighting for its independence in 1991, in accordance with the then legislation the Slovene statistical office was part of the Ministry of Planning. The situation remained the same until the National Statistics Act was adopted in 1995. At the informal meeting with Eurostat in April 1992, the Office's management analysed the situation of national statistics in Slovenia and in the same year prepared the first program of activities for Europeanisation of Slovene statistics. In June 1992 the Statistical Office became a member of the Conference of European Statisticians.

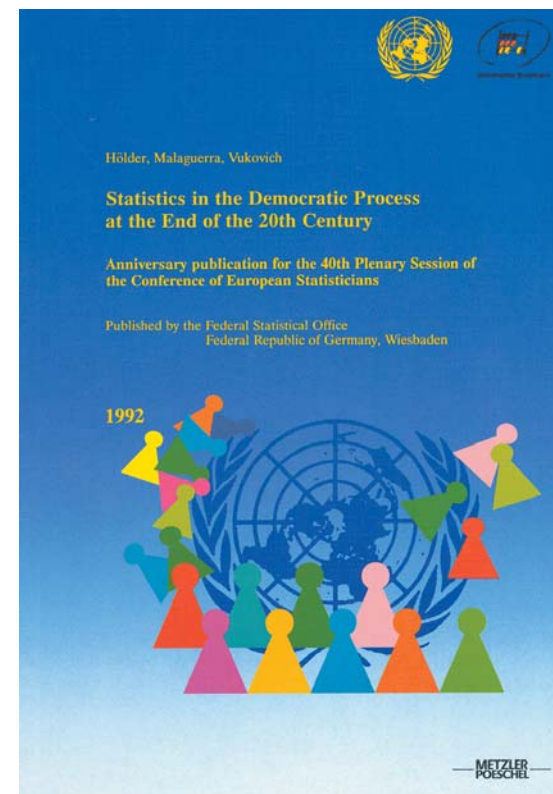
After Slovenia won independence and introduced the market economy, the process of harmonisation with EU standards in the field of statistics intensified. As mentioned, this process started when Slovenia was still part of the former federation, because already then EU Member States were important trade partners for Slovenia.

The Statistical Office made a lot of efforts to establish contacts with Eurostat as soon as possible, since in this way harmonisation with statistical standards in the European Union would be much easier. The first visit at Eurostat took place on the basis of informal contacts in April 1992, even though at that time Slovenia was not yet officially recognised as an independent state in international institutions.

In the very intensive agenda of this first visit, the then management of the Statistical Office discussed with Eurostat representatives methodological and other differences and the necessary adjustments that Slovene statistics would have to make in the future.

### Sources:

- Križman, I. (1994). Statistical Planning and Priority Setting in the Process of Transition of the Slovenian Statistics. V: Conference of European Statisticians, Paris.
- Statistics in the Democratic Process at the End of the 20th Century. (1992). Wiesbaden: Federal Statistical Office Federal Republic of Germany.



In this publication the Conference of European Statisticians published fundamental principles of official statistics after the anniversary conference in 1992.

In addition, the Statistical Office was rapidly becoming a member of other international organisations. In 1992 it became a member of the Conference of European Statisticians at the UN Economic Commission for Europe, whose headquarters are in Geneva. In 1992 the Conference of European Statisticians was celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and adopted at its 47<sup>th</sup> session the Resolution on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in the area of the Economic Commission for Europe.

The main part of this document is formed by ten fundamental principles of official statistics, which had important impact on the preparation of new legislation on national statistics and on the development of statistics in Slovenia in the forthcoming years.

## TEMELJNA NAČELA URADNE STATISTIKE V REGIJI EKONOMSKE KOMISIJE ZA EVROPO

### Zavedajoč se,

- da so uradne statistične informacije pomembna osnova za razvoj gospodarstva in okolja, demografskega in družbenega razvoja, vzajemnega znanja in trgovine med državami in narodi v regiji,
- da je potrebno zaupanje javnosti v uradne statistične informacije v veliki meri odvisno od spoštovanja osnovnih vrednot in načel, ki so osnova vsake demokratične družbe, ki želi razumeti samo sebe in spoštovati pravice svojih članov,
- da je kakovost uradnih statistik in s tem kakovost informacij, ki so na voljo vladi, gospodarstvu in javnosti, v veliki meri odvisna od sodelovanja državljanov, podjetij in drugih poročevalskih enot pri zagotavljanju ustreznih podatkov, potrebnih za statistične izkaze,

### ob sklicevanju na

- splošne predpise in standarde, ki so bili v ta namen sprejeti z Evropsko konvencijo o človekovih pravicah, s Konvencijo Sveta Evrope z dne 28. januarja 1991 za varstvo posameznikov v zvezi z avtomatsko obdelavo osebnih podatkov, z Zaključno listino Helsinske konference o varnosti in sodelovanju v Evropi, z Zaključno deklaracijo Borske konference o gospodarskem sodelovanju v Evropi in s Pariško listino za novo Evropo,
- prizadevanja vladnih in nevladnih organizacij, dejavnih na področju statistike, za uveljavitev standardov in konceptov, ki omogočajo primerjave med državami, in deklaracijo Mednarodnega statističnega inštituta o poklicni etiki,
- ter glede na
- konsenz, ki ga je dosegla Konferenca evropskih statistikov, o tem, da je potrebno določiti merila za urejanje dejavnosti uradnih statističnih uradov v regiji in državah članicah,

sprejema Ekonomska komisija za Evropo naslednjo resolucijo:

1. Uradna statistika je nujno potreben element informacijskega sistema demokratične družbe, ki zagotavlja vladi, gospodarstvu in javnosti podatke o gospodarski, demografski, družbeni in okoljski situaciji. V ta namen morajo uradne statistične ustanove zbirati in dajati na razpolago uradno statistiko, ki je praktično koristna, na nepristranski osnovi za zadovoljitev pravice državljanov do javnih informacij.
2. Da bi ohranili zaupanje v uradno statistiko, se morajo statistični uradi odločati - na podlagi natančnega poklicnega premisleka, ki upošteva znanstvena načela in poklicno etiko - o metodah in postopkih zbiranja, obdelave, hranjenja in prikazovanja statističnih podatkov.
3. Da bi omogočili pravilno tolmačenje podatkov, morajo statistični uradi predstaviti informacije v skladu z znanstvenimi standardi o statističnih virih, metodah in postopkih.
4. Statistični uradi imajo pravico komentirati napačno tolmačenje in napačno uporabo statističnih podatkov.

5. Podatke za statistične namene je moč pridobivati iz vseh vrst virov, bodisi iz statističnih anket ali administrativnih evidenc. Statistični uradi naj sami izberejo virov glede na kakovost, pravočasnost, stroške in obremenitev poročevalskih enot.
6. Individualni podatki, ki jih zberejo statistični uradi za statistične izkaze in se nanašajo ali na fizične ali pravne osebe, so strogo zaupne narave in jih je mogoče uporabiti le za statistične namene.
7. Zakoni, predpisi in ukrepi, v okviru katerih deluje statistični sistem, morajo biti javni.
8. Usklajevanje med statističnimi uradi znotraj držav je bistvenega pomena za doseganje doslednosti in učinkovitosti statističnega sistema.
9. Uporaba mednarodnih konceptov, klasifikacij in metod s strani statističnih uradov vseh držav pospešuje doslednost in učinkovitost statističnega sistema na vseh ravneh.
10. Bilateralno in multilateralno sodelovanje na področju statistike prispeva k izboljšanju uradnih statističnih sistemov v vseh državah.

Konferenca evropskih statistikov v presledkih, ki niso daljši od treh let, razpravlja o teh načelih, preuči načine, s katerimi bi prispevala k njihovi uporabi, in poroča Komisiji.

Osmi sestanek  
15. aprila 1992



The Resolution on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics – ten fundamental principles. Blow up photos hang in all meeting rooms.



## IMPACT OF INTEGRATION INTO INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SLOVENE STATISTICS

In order to accelerate the development of Slovene statistics, in 1993 Slovenia was included in the Phare Program, which was a special Eurostat's program of technical assistance for the field of statistics. A year later, formal co-operation with Eurostat – and later on with other international organisations – started with the signing of the declaration on co-operation.

The beginning of the 1990s brought numerous obligations and new ideas for Slovene statistical office. Harmonisation with the mentioned international principles of official statistics was greatly accelerated, especially the introduction and consistent respect of the principle of confidentiality of individual data and user-orientation, i.e. taking into account requests from all groups of users as a commitment in a market economy.

At the same time, the Office was building and developing appropriate infrastructure (legislation, statistical classifications, registers, information technology), introducing new and more advanced methods of collecting (sampling methods instead of full coverage, automatic data entry), producing (estimates, revisions) and disseminating statistical data, and introducing the elements of statistical quality. Because of many participants with various needs that needed to be co-ordinated, the Office has set up appropriate or improved the existing mechanisms and forms of monitoring and evaluating requests from all groups of users. Therefore, in Slovenia co-operation with the Statistical Council, statistical advisory committees and working groups was reinforced; e.g. for preparing positions in the process of adopting draft EU legislation. International activities were expanded to the Statistical Commission and the Conference of European Statisticians within the United Nations, the Statistical Programme Committee, other committees and bodies at Eurostat and numerous working groups.

What had to be provided was the efficiency of co-operation and thus co-ordination of all groups of users and programs of work of domestic and foreign institutions.



Meeting of directors of European statistical offices discussing the future of the European statistical system. Palermo, Italy, 2002. Participants from the Statistical Office: Mr. Tomaž Banovec, Ms. Irena Križman and Ms. Magdalena Žebre.

## 1994 – DECLARATION ON CO-OPERATION WITH EUROSTAT

The Declaration on Statistical Co-operation with Eurostat was signed in 1994. Conditions that the Statistical Office had to meet before Slovenia became a member of the EU were determined: 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.

No 16/94  
21 March 1994

### SLOVENIA STEPS CLOSER TO EU

Today in Ljubljana SLOVENIA took a step closer to the European Union.

The statistical office of the Republic of SLOVENIA signed an agreement with EUROSTAT, the EC statistical office in Luxembourg. This is aimed at developing a statistical system in SLOVENIA that provides reliable, impartial, timely, comparable and relevant statistics - a necessary ingredient for SLOVENIA's fledgling democracy.

Today's ceremony was attended by Mr Marc Janssens, the EU Ambassador to SLOVENIA, and ambassadors of several EU countries. EUROSTAT was represented by Mr Alain Chantraine, head of international relations, and the SLOVENIAN statistical office by its Director, Mr Tomaz Banovec.

#### Cooperation between SLOVENIA and EUROSTAT...

...began shortly after SLOVENIA achieved international recognition in 1992.

Today's accord follows the agreement on statistical cooperation signed on 17 January between EUROSTAT and seven Eastern and Central European countries including SLOVENIA. It builds on that and aims to assist SLOVENIA to develop a statistical system in tune with the rest of Europe and with SLOVENIA's specific needs.

It will include

- Providing SLOVENIA with statistical methodology and guidance on EC statistical laws
- Providing a technical assistance programme including training courses, seminars, pilot surveys, study visits, etc
- Providing support for publications and other activities including the exchange of statistical information.

<p>Issued by: Eurostat Press Office Building Jean Monnet L-2920 LUXEMBOURG</p> <p>Tel: (352) 4301-33012 (352) 4301-34654</p> <p>Fax: (352) 4301-32594</p>	<p>For further information: Klaus Löning</p> <p>Tel: (352) 4301-33543</p> <p>Fax: (352) 4301-32139</p>
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When the Declaration was signed, the press release was prepared in several languages.

#### Source:

- Žebre, M. (2002). Strategic Management in Slovenia, Beograd: Document CARDS/PGSC/2002/07.

Eurostat provided technical and financial assistance (Phare) for co-financing the harmonisation of Slovene statistics with the European one and for institutional strengthening of the Office. The share of co-financing was up to 10% of its annual budget. In addition to Eurostat, transfer of knowledge to Slovene statisticians was provided by other international institutions such as EFTA, OECD, ILO and IMF as well as by numerous national statistical offices of EU Member States within Eurostat's programs. Governmental assistance of EU Member States (especially Austria, Germany, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom) and non-member states (Switzerland and Norway) is also worth mentioning.



Director Mr. Tomaz Banovec with representatives of Eurostat and other statistical offices at signing the agreement between Eurostat and the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Statistics.

### Slovenska statistika na poti v Evropo

Ljubljana — Direktor državnega zavoda za statistiko Slovenije mag. Tomaz Banovec in direktor za mednarodno sodelovanje Eurostata Alain Chantraine sta včeraj podpisala skupno deklaracijo o sodelovanju na področju statistike med slovenskim statističnim zavodom in Eurostatom, statističnim uradom Evropske zveze (EZ).



Alain Chantraine in Tomaz Banovec po podpisu sporazuma med Eurostatom in slovenskim zavodom za statistiko

Direktor državnega zavoda za statistiko Slovenije Tomaz Banovec je med drugim dejal, da pod pojmom evropeizacije statistike v Sloveniji razumemo usklajitev vsebin, metod in pozemanja klasifikacij ter standardov za statistične pojave, ki jih sporazumno in visoko strokovno pripravljajo in do- ločajo v okviru EU v Eurosta-

tu. Direktor Chantraine pa je med drugim poudaril, da se Slovenija in EZ dogovarjata o »Evropskem sporazumu«, ki naj bi bil enak sporazumu, ki ga je Evropska zveza že podpisala z Bolga-

rijo, Češko, Slovaško, Madžarsko, Poljsko in Romunijo. Po njegovih besedah današnji podpis pomeni velik korak v razvoju stikov med Slovenijo in EZ.

Slovene media reported about the event, e.g. newspaper Slovenec, 22 March 1994.

Also taken into account were experiences of some of the then Candidate Countries (especially the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland).

A part of the technical assistance was earmarked for training statisticians, mostly in the form of active participation in working meetings: over 200 per year, after EU membership over 250 per year.



The greatest part of Eurostat's technical assistance financed by Phare funds was, especially after 1998, intended for implementing numerous pilot projects. Methodological knowledge obtained was used by the Slovene statistical office for regular implementation of new tasks. There were over 63 pilot projects of this kind implemented between 1996 and 2004, and some of them are still underway. In addition, the Office implemented and is still implementing from Phare funds (so-called national programme) some large projects and new development tasks. These are surveys that are very demanding in terms of financial and human resources and their implementation had to start before EU membership. Two of the 17 such projects are still underway.

In addition to projects from the Phare programme and other projects of international co-operation, the Office implemented numerous other projects and development tasks financed only by the national budget of the Republic of Slovenia.

#### Overview of Phare projects from the field of statistics in 1996 – 2004

Fields of statistics	Phare pilot projects*	Other Phare projects**
Statistical infrastructure (information technologies)		5
Demographic and social statistics	16	1
Macroeconomic statistics	11	4
Business statistics	11	2
Monetary, financial and balance of payments statistics	6	1
Agriculture statistics	10	2
Multi-domain statistics	9	2
Total	64	17

\* A multi-phase project counts as one project.

\*\* Finished projects and projects still underway.



ICON/Statistical Office working group. From left to right: Ms. Friedrike Wünschmann, Mr. Milan Katić, Ms. Ana Tretjak, Ms. Metka Planko, Ms. Meta Blejec and Mr. Wolfgang Walla.

With fewer than 400 employees, the Slovene statistical office is a relatively small office. Therefore, after winning independence and especially after 1998, when the screening exercise was finished, an exceptional work was carried out. Thanks to correct strategic decisions in years before and after the independence, extreme rationalisation of statistical processes, great investment in training, dedication and motivation of employees, and international co-operation, the Office gradually developed its mission, vision, long-term strategy and the method of determining priority tasks.



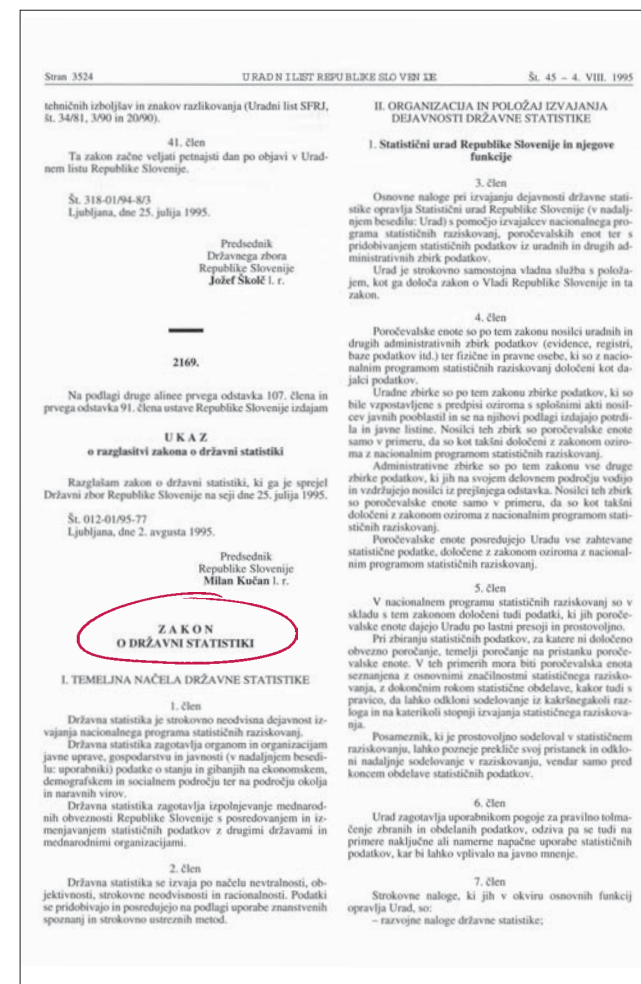
## 1995 – ADOPTION OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICS ACT

Transition of the Slovene society into a market economy and inclusion into the international co-operation demanded an independent and professional statistical organisation. International principles of official statistics and good practice in national statistical systems of the most developed countries, especially Nordic, helped us to prepare a modern legal framework.

In 1995 the National Assembly adopted the National Statistics Act, with which the statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia became a professionally independent Government service responsible directly to the Prime Minister. The Act determined important elements of national statistics such as its mission, co-ordination and programming of activities of national statistics, co-operation in developing administrative sources, independence of the institution, activities, the head of the office, obtaining data from administrative and other sources, the Statistical Council and statistical advisory committees, confidentiality, statistical dissemination and rules of financing.

The Office is the main producer and co-ordinator of implementing programs of statistical surveys. However, certain statistical surveys are carried out by authorised institutions, which are determined by the medium-term program of statistical surveys. The present program for the 2003–2007 period determined the following authorised institutions: the Bank of Slovenia, the Ministry of Finance, the Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public and Legal Records and Services, the Institute of Public Health, the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute, the Health Insurance Institute and the Employment Service of Slovenia.

According to the 2001 novel of the National Statistics Act, the mentioned authorised institutions must organise their statistical activities separately from other activities and fully take into account the fundamental principles of official statistics, especially the principle of statistical confidentiality. As part of preparations for joining the European Union, in 2001 amendments of the statistical act were adopted to facilitate preparation and adoption of programmes of statistical surveys, improve statistical confidentiality, strengthen independence of the Statistical Office and define in detail the role of authorised producers.



Facsimile of the National Statistics Act

### Source:

- Zakon o državni statistiki. Uradni list RS, št. 45/1995 in 9/2001.

## IMPROVING THE CO-OPERATION VIA THE STATISTICAL COUNCIL AND STATISTICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The National Statistics Act determined that the Statistical Council and statistical advisory committees are parts of the Slovene statistical system. Time showed that the Council justified expectations at the highest level, as did advisory committees at the level of individual fields of statistics.

In the system of national statistics, the Statistical Council is the highest advisory body for strategic and development questions and the highest representative body of users and the professional public. Even though its role is advisory in nature, it has a lot of influence because of its membership. Its members are namely distinguished experts and representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, the National Council of the Republic of Slovenia, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, the Bank of Slovenia, employers and employees, the judiciary, statistical experts from the academia and from the Statistical Office. The main tasks of the Statistical Council are to discuss medium-term and annual programmes of statistical surveys and to monitor their implementation, to discuss legislative proposals, to propose methodological bases, rationalisation and modernisation of statistical surveys, to provide initiatives and proposals for international statistical co-operation and to propose classifications to be used as national standards.

Co-operation of producers of national statistics and users of statistical data via advisory committees had a long tradition, since the first advisory committees for various fields of statistics were established in the 1980s.

### Sources:

- Križman, I. (2002). Slovenska državna statistika, zaupanja vredna in uporabniško usmerjena. Ljubljana: Statistični urad Republike Slovenije.
- Poslovnik Statističnega sveta Republike Slovenije. (2001). Ljubljana: Statistični urad Republike Slovenije.

In accordance with the National Statistics Act, the Statistical Office is the institution responsible for establishing statistical advisory committees for individual fields of statistics. The president of each advisory committee is never a representative of the Statistical Office, while members of committees are users of statistical data, i.e. various experts from the academia, public administration, Government, the economy and other professional public. At the moment there are 26 advisory committees. Of 510 members, who may be members of several advisory committees, 412 are external members and 98 are Office's experts. In 2004 two new advisory committees were established: one for real estate statistics and the other one for health statistics.

Meetings of advisory committees take place at least once a year when the draft annual programme of statistical surveys for the next year is discussed. There are ever more presentations and exchange of experience among experts and concrete work in working groups, which are established as necessary at individual advisory committees. Of course, there can be more meetings when new developments or changes in the society have to be discussed that have direct or indirect impact on statistics.



The current President of the Statistical Council is Mr. Rudolf Moge, member of the National Assembly. One of his merits is presentation of the results of the 2002 Census of Population, Households and Housing, which was an important media event in the small hall of the National Assembly on 16 April 2003 (from video).

Activities of advisory committees have important impact on the development of Slovene national statistics at professional level and on the co-operation of institutions in common efforts for quality, timely and relevant statistical data.

## TRANSFER OF KEEPING THE ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTERS AND THEIR FURTHER USE

Tasks and properties of administrative registers, which were set up by the Statistical Office in previous decades, have exceeded the framework of statistical competence, especially as regards transmission of individual data to users. Therefore, on the basis of the National Statistics Act, keeping of these registers was gradually transferred to authorised institutions.

Keeping of the three registers was transferred after thorough preparations for giving away each of them: the Register of Territorial Units was taken over by the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia in 1995, the Central Population Register was taken over by the Ministry of the Interior in 1998 and the Business Register of Slovenia was taken over by the Agency for Public and Legal Records and Services in 2002.

This does not mean that the Office stopped using these registers – on the contrary, it focused its attention on obtaining data from existing administrative sources. Above all, the Office strengthened its co-operation with keepers of existing and new administrative sources, so that it has impact on taking into account statistical classifications as national standards as well as keeping and using common identifiers. In addition, the Office provides opinions regarding the methodological bases of data collection. Since national statistics has the right to access administrative records at individual level, this has impact on the quality of statistical data and on lower burden of reporting units.

### Sources:

- Banovec. T. (1999). Skupno administrativno jedro povezanih indikatorjev (SAJPI) za povečanje racionalnosti elektronskega poslovanja. V: Organizacija, Letn. 32, št. 3, str 155–157.
- Banovec T. (1997). Uporaba administrativnih virov za statistični namen. V: Gospodarski vestnik, leto 46 (20. 2. 1997), št. 8, str 55–57.
- Zakon o centralnem registru prebivalstva, Uradni list RS, št. 1/1999.
- Zakon o poslovnem registru Slovenije, Uradni list RS, št. 13/1995.
- Zakon o geodetski dejavnosti, Uradni list RS, št. 8/2000.
- Akcijski načrt za izvajanje programa projektov e-uprava do leta 2004.

When the Statistical Office was the keeper of these registers there was no problem with linking the data in them. With their transfer to other institutions, data linking at administrative level became a major challenge, as regards both organisational questions and standards. Namely, the Act on Linking Public and Legal Records has been in the process of preparation for several years. In addition, technical questions of linking the records have not yet been solved either.

All three base registers continue their development, so that they have become or are becoming important elements of electronic commerce in public administration. They have a central role in the action plan for implementing the e-government projects, in which they serve for implementing a number of services, even those that present decrease of burden of not only reporting units but also public servants and other individuals. Such extent of services would, however, not be possible if the Office was still the keeper of these registers, because this would exceed the Office's competence. Nevertheless, the Office was the one that 30 years ago set up goals and plans in connection with the use of administrative registers and their linking, which with slightly modified technology are still alive today and appear in numerous materials, strategies, acts and projects.



After the transfer of keeping, the Central Population Register Department moved to the Ministry of the Interior, where it operates with expanded functionality on a new location at Mačkova 2. In 2002, retired employees of this department came to visit. The photo shows Ms. Marica Markuž, Ms. Ljubica Djordjević, Mr. Marjan Potisek and Ms. Irena Tršinar, who is still the Head of this register.



After the transfer of keeping, the Business Register of Slovenia to the Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public and Legal Records and Services, transactions with customers are done in branch offices. The photo shows the branch office in Ljubljana.



## PLANNING OF STATISTICAL SURVEYS

The commitment to prepare and adopt programs of statistical surveys has been part of the National Statistics Act since 1995. It covers national and international needs. In 2001 the Act was amended, making adoption of statistical programs more flexible.

In 2001 the competence for adopting statistical programs was changed. Medium-term programs, which are usually valid for the period of five years, are adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, while annual programs are adopted by Director-General of the Statistical Office in accordance with authorised producers of national statistics.

In determining the Medium-term Programme of Statistical Surveys for 2001 and 2002 the Office developed in co-operation with other partners in the statistical system methodological bases of programming, which via a transparent classification system take into account links between national and international needs as well as the importance of appropriate statistical support for various policies. Reporting about program implementation is linked to the same classification system.

In 2002 the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Medium-term Programme of Statistical Surveys for 2003-2007, which describes long-term objectives of the development of national statistics in Slovenia. Data providers and producers of national statistics have recently been demanding that the Office increases rationality, so the Office in co-operation with authorised producers prepared the second overview of priority regular and development tasks.

The long-term objective of the Office is to support the development of departmental statistics, which would in the long run decrease the burden of everybody involved in producing national statistics and at the same time increase the coverage of user's needs.



Members of the Board of Directors at the regular session in spring 2002.



In addition to planning, monitoring of work and publishing of results are important elements. Therefore, the so-called Friday group for weekly monitoring of advance statistical data release was established. In 2001 Slovenia was second behind Canada as regards strict respect of publishing standards put into force by the International Monetary Fund.

### Sources:

- Srednjeročni program statističnih raziskovanj 2003-2007. Uradni list RS, št. 10/2003.
- Letni program statističnih raziskovanj za leto 2004. Uradni list RS, št. 7/2004.

## INTRODUCTION OF TOTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT

The Medium-term Programme of Statistical Surveys 2003-2007 describes long-term objectives of development of national statistics in Slovenia. One of the objectives is total quality management, which is a contribution to improving business excellence of public administration.

The Statistical Office has always devoted a lot of attention to the quality and accuracy of statistical data. In long-term objectives of the development of national statistics in Slovenia, quality in the widest sense was given a special place. In the Medium-term Programme of Statistical Surveys 2003-2007, the Office put introduction of the total quality management as one of the important objectives based on four pillars: users and data providers, human resource development, quality of statistical products and services, and process orientation.



In 2000 statistical conference in Radenci Ms. Irena Križman chaired a round table on total quality management in national statistics.

Within the European statistical system, quality measurement and reporting are ever more standardised in the standard methodology. The main source for these reports is the measurement of the quality of final statistical data, processes and necessary resources. An important part that is not included in standard quality reports refers to qualitative customer and employee satisfaction indicators. Both standard reports and customer surveys prove the high quality of statistics in Slovenia.

### Sources:

- Poročilo o izvajanju Letnega programa statističnih raziskovanj za leto 2003., [www.stat.si/doc/svet/porocilo2003](http://www.stat.si/doc/svet/porocilo2003), 15. 7. 2004.
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## KNOWLEDGE AS THE KEY FACTOR OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICAL ACTIVITY IN SLOVENIA

In the Medium-term Programme of Statistical Surveys 2003-2007 and as one of the principal orientations in the next five years, the Office set up a goal to become a knowledge-based statistical office.

The Statistical Office devotes a lot of attention to constant education and training of its employees. No doubt, this strengthens its professional independence. To enable participation in training to as many employees as possible despite limited financial resources, the Office has always focused on in-house training.

Expertise of employees and all others in the system of national statistics is a guarantee for their professional and independent work, which is the condition for user's trust. In 2000 a training program for the field of statistics was prepared with the emphasis on theoretical statistics with practical examples. Later on this program was expanded to other fields such as information technology, management and language learning.

From 2003 on in-house training of employees has been supplemented with workshops at which knowledge is exchanged with users and data providers. Methodological knowledge of employees is also being developed with the help of various forms of co-operation within the European statistical system and bilateral co-operation with other statistical offices.

### Sources:

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Since 2000, the Office has been actively participating in establishing interdisciplinary post-graduate statistical studies, especially in the official statistics module. After several years of preparations for introducing the new study course, co-operation with the Statistical Society of Slovenia and the University in Ljubljana was decisive. University post-graduate statistical studies are performed by five faculties: the Faculty of Biotechnology, the Faculty of Economics, the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, and the Medical Faculty. First students entered this program in the academic year 2002/03. This is the first statistical training in Slovenia whose goal is to improve the quality of official statistics. At the moment, 7 out of 45 students in two classes are employees of the Statistical Office.



The Office's in-house training group. Left to right: Ms. Milivoja Šircelj, Ms. Meta Blejčec, Ms. Tatjana Novak, Ms. Metka Zaletel, Ms. Irena Križman, Mr. Tomaž Smrekar, Ms. Ana Tretjak and Ms. Majda Kmet.

## Statistika

### Univerzitetni podiplomski študijski program



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3. izdaja  
julij 2004



In 2004 the third year of interdisciplinary post-graduate study of statistics is taking place, the initiator of which was Ms. Anuška Ferligoj, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences in Ljubljana and Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia for Science.



## CO-OPERATION WITH THE CIVIL SOCIETY

Two important professional societies have their headquarters at Vožarski pot 12: the Statistical Society of Slovenia and the Slovene Society INFORMATIKA. This is not a coincidence since statisticians have always cultivated good relations with the civil society and have always known how to use co-operation with experts to the benefit of statistics.

In December 1997, when the Statistical Society of Slovenia celebrated 20 years of existence, an overview of achievements was made and objectives for future were set up. The objectives of the Society set up in 1977 are still solid and Slovene statisticians are successfully meeting them. Co-operation between the Office and the Society is mutual and indispensable. A wide range of common accomplishments is important, but the greatest achievements can be summarised in four items.

The first one is interdisciplinary work on statistical terminology, since in 1997 the Slovene language was among the first eight European languages included in the International Statistical Glossary with 1,500 entries. The second one is the joint success of organising two annual professional meetings every autumn – the methodological conference and the statistical conference in Radenci.



On 12 December 1997 there were a special assembly at the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Statistical Society of Slovenia and the 10<sup>th</sup> regular assembly of the Society organised in the hall of the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia.

The third one is statistical training and systematic establishment of secondary and higher education programs and the fourth one is co-operation in international institutions. In 1993 the Statistical Society of Slovenia namely became a member of the International Statistical Institute. Since then Slovene statisticians from the Office and other institutions are formal participants and members of conferences and working groups.



Participants of the Assembly from the Statistical Office. First row, left to right: Ms. Vida Butina, Ms. Simona Sreš, Ms. Metka Ahačič and Ms. Irena Žaucer. Second row: Ms. Metka Medvešek Milošević and Mr. Milan Svetin.

### Source:

- Tršinar, I. (1997). 20 let Statističnega društva Slovenije, Kronika Statističnega društva Slovenije 1977–1997. Ljubljana: Statistično društvo Slovenije.

## MODERN POPULATION CENSUSES

In every country population censuses and other types of censuses are the most expensive statistical activities. That is why they are determined by laws, carefully planned and implemented in a limited short time only every ten years. Therefore, Slovene statistical office has been trying to increase the use of administrative sources since 1970 to reduce the costs and rationalise census implementation.

Other censuses were gradually added to population censuses such as the census of households in 1953, housing in 1961 and 1971, and agriculture partly in 1981 and completely in 1991. The 1991 Census of Population, Households, Housing and Agricultural Holdings was the most extensive census and the last one in former Yugoslavia. In independent Slovenia the first census was the Census of Agriculture in 2000. The Census of Population, Households and Housing was conducted in 2002.

In the previous decades the connection between censuses and administrative records was mutual. Post-war population censuses, for example, served for setting up population registers. When after the 1971 population census the Central Population Register was established and became an up-to-date database, its data started to be used for censuses: for the first time in 1981 - only as assistance for interviewers. For the 1991 population census, in addition to Central Population Register data also data from the Statistical Register of Employment were used. This register was established by means of the 1986 census of employees. For the 2002 population census, data from this register were supplemented by data from some other administrative records such as the Unemployment Register, the Business Register, data from the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute and other sources.

### Source:

- Šircelj, M., (1995), Popis prebivalstva. V: Enciklopedija Slovenije. Zv. 9, str. 142-143

By linking data from various sources, at the 2002 population census the extent of interviewers' work was decreased and the quality of data was improved. When Slovenia will have the Record of Households and the Register of Buildings and Dwellings (which are being prepared by the Ministry of the Interior and the Surveying and Mapping Authority of Slovenia), we will be able to start with much cheaper and more frequent implementation of electronic censuses of population, households and housing.

The share of questions that reflect special social needs and can not be found in administrative sources – which means that they will still have to be collected in a classical way – will be very small.

Post World War II censuses in Slovenia

Year	Census				
	population	housing	households	agriculture	employment
1948	x				
1949/50		x			
1953	x		x		
1960				x	
1961	x	x <sup>1)</sup>	x		
1969				x	
1971	x	x	x		
1976					x
1981	x	x	x <sup>2)</sup>		
1986					x
1991	x	x	x	x	
2000				x	
2002	x	x	x		

x<sup>1)</sup> Only in larger cities.

x<sup>2)</sup> Census of land, livestock and agricultural machinery as part of the census of households.

STATISTIČNI URAD REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE

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## HARMONISATION WITH EU'S STATISTICAL ACQUIS

Screening of statistical legislation started in 1998 with the Accession Agreement. Slovene national statistics was committed to achieve full compliance with EU's statistical acquis by the end of 2002 at the latest. Among 31 working groups that were harmonising the Slovene legislation, there was also a special group for statistics.

At the very beginning of formal negotiations, the importance of high quality statistical data was pointed out. Statistics was not a subject of negotiations but a condition for them. All the time this presented a great responsibility but also a great challenge and opportunity to develop the system of official statistics. Institutional strengthening and capacity building were preconditions for the quality of prepared data. The Government of Slovenia as one of the most important users of data supported the development of official statistics in Slovenia because it was fully aware of its importance for EU membership.

As part of the harmonisation process, in 2001 amendments of the National Statistics Act were adopted, which facilitated the preparation and adoption of the program of statistical surveys, improved statistical confidentiality, strengthened independence of the Statistical Office and defined in detail the role of authorised producers.

International statistical community – above all Eurostat and some Member States – played a very important role in the harmonisation process. Eurostat put a lot of effort into enabling harmonisation and ensuring its efficiency. Professional and financial support that the EU offered to the Office and other authorised producers of official statistics in Slovenia showed in successfully implemented activities. Data providers had to provide data for new variables, definitions of the same variables changed, periodicity became shorter, technical support from the Office was needed. As a result, users of statistical data needed to obtain knowledge on procedures, definitions of phenomena/variables, classifications, data coverage and data quality.

In addition to methodological adjustment of statistical surveys to EU standards, e.g. in the field of classifications, concepts, methods and sampling, the Office also carried out development of other areas of statistical activity, especially modernisation of processes at the Office, information technologies and dissemination. Phare funds played an important role in this process by enabling the implementation of projects in the mentioned areas. In addition, our experts participated in various international events organised by Eurostat – especially in working groups, in leadership groups for individual fields of statistics and the Statistical Program Committee. In this way representatives of the Statistical Office were active in discussions about current and strategic issues of the European statistical system already in the transition period.

### Sources:

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Ljubljana, 24. april 1998.  
Tiskovna konferenca ob obisku generalnega direktorja Eurostata, Yvesa Francheta, v Sloveniji na povabilo direktorja Statističnega urada Republike Slovenije Tomaza Banoveca.  
(z leve: Amir Najafi, ambasador Delegacije evropske komisije v Sloveniji, Yves Franchet, Tomaz Banovec).



Ljubljana, 23. april 1998.  
Predavanja Yvesa Francheta vodstvenim in strokovnim delavcem Statističnega urada Republike Slovenije o vlogi statistike v procesu evropske integracije.  
(z leve: Yves Franchet, Giulioa Crippa, namestnik ambasadorja Delegacije evropske komisije v Sloveniji, Tomaz Banovec).



Director-General of Eurostat, Mr. Yves Franchet, visited Slovenia in 1998. He had a very demanding agenda which included meeting the then Prime Minister Dr. Janez Drnovšek and giving a lecture at the Faculty of Economics in Ljubljana.



## STATISTICS AS SUPPORT TO POLICIES

The dynamics of changes in the international and national environment demanded that national statistics change from the passive role of observer to the active role and become support for decision-making. Due to the transition of Slovenia to a market economy and open society, Slovene statistical office followed the development of modern national statistics. By providing data and calculating new indicators (structural, short-term, etc.), the Office provides the basis for preparing programs harmonised with EU policies.

In the past 12 years (from 22 May 1992, when Slovenia became a member of the United Nations, to 1 May 2004, when Slovenia became a member of the European Union), changes in the international environment have become much more complex and dynamic than ever before. In our country reforms are taking place in many areas. Statistics is not being used internationally and nationally only for monitoring the implementation of policies but also as support to policies of international and national institutions (the IMF, the European Monetary Institute/European Central Bank, the European Commission, the Government of Slovenia and various ministries, the Bank of Slovenia, etc.). All this demands active inclusion of statisticians into monitoring development and legal documents – both Slovene and European. Obligatory standards – such as IMF's dissemination standards in 1997 – were introduced in international co-operation, which used to be more or less voluntary. Co-operation of EU Member States with Eurostat was less and less based on agreements. They were replaced by legislation – regulations, directives, decisions, etc. In the preparations for the EMU and the introduction of euro as the common currency, the demands for international comparability, relevance, timeliness, accuracy, availability and coherence of national statistics grew rapidly.

### Source:

- Križman, I. (2003). Slovenian Experience in Adopting the EU Statistical Requirements. Potsdam: prispevek na konferenci SCORUS.

Challenges and tasks of statistical offices of EU Member States, and especially future Member States, became very large. Because of limited resources – including human resources – they became a constant professional and management challenge. In 2004, the European statistical legislation comprised over 300 acts or about 3,000 pages; and it had to be implemented before accession. For example, in 1992 it covered only a quarter and in 1998 (screening) about a half of the present number of acts. Nevertheless, some statistical data (e.g. external trade statistics, agriculture statistics, consumer price index, regional statistics) had to be provided during negotiations of Slovenia for future membership. Therefore, the period of harmonising Slovene statistics with the European one was a lot shorter than for other areas and individual policies. Of course, harmonisation was also needed as regards methodological recommendations of other international institutions – e.g. the IMF for the balance of payments statistics – and best practices and innovations of statistical offices of other countries had to be followed.

Slovene statistics has thus done a very big and important work.



Ms. Irena Križman, Director-General of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia.

*Ms. Irena Križman (\*1951). She graduated from the Faculty of Social Sciences in 1975 and was awarded her Master's Degree from management of non-profit organisations in 2002. She has been employed by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia since 1974. During this time she performed numerous management tasks since 1980. From 1987 on she has been Deputy Director-General and on 1 June 2003 she was appointed Director-General by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the period of five years. She was elected Deputy President of the Statistical Council of Slovenia. Her work is closely linked to the preparation of statistical legislation comparable to the European one, i.e. modernisation of the Statistical Office and other authorised producers of official statistics. Under her leadership, a new methodological approach was formed to the programming of national statistics, which is covered in the Medium-term Program of Statistical Surveys and the Annual Program of Statistical Surveys. Her approach aroused interest within the European statistical system. She has been actively participating in international statistical organisations: she is a ordinary member of the International Statistical Institute, was one of the Secretariat Vice-Presidents of the International Organisation of Official Statistics, is a member of the international panel for preparing the Human Development Report and is one of the Vice-Presidents of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians at the UN Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva. She has presented over 30 papers.*

### Source:

- mag. Irena Križman, [http://www.stat.si/drz\\_stat\\_organiz\\_zivljenjepis.asp](http://www.stat.si/drz_stat_organiz_zivljenjepis.asp), 30. 5. 2004

## 1 MAY 2004 – ENTRY INTO THE EUROPEAN STATISTICAL SYSTEM

In June 2003 the Government of the Republic of Slovenia evaluated that Slovene national statistics performed tasks imposed by the screening and thus successfully finished the preparations for entry into the European statistical system. The Government also adopted decisions for the future development of national statistics. One has to be aware that obligations in the field of statistical legislation are being constantly updated and expanded, which represents a great organisational challenge for managing statistical offices, especially in small countries such as Slovenia.

After successful harmonisation with the *acquis communautaire* and after the Report on the Implementation of the Medium-term Program of Statistical Surveys 2001-2002, in June 2003 the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted several positions: further strengthening of institutional capacity of national statistics institutions to support policies in the process of decision-making in the EU and wider needs of users, including determination of priority tasks; support to the professional independence; scientific approach to training; exchange of knowledge with domestic users; proper working conditions and stable financing; statistical support to regionalisation in Slovenia; co-ordination between the Bank of Slovenia, the Ministry of Finance and the Statistical Office in preparing statistics for inclusion into the Eurozone (EMU Action Plan); and harmonised approach to disseminating data to international institutions.

At the adoption of positions, the main conclusion of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia was that the Office and other partners in the Slovene statistical system were fully prepared for membership of Slovenia in the EU after May 2004.

Good co-operation of the Office with other institutions in Slovenia and the international community, full implementation of principles of official statistics and the national statistical legislation, dedicated work of every employee and good presentation of the main strategic objectives created trust and recognition of the Statistical Office and national statistics.

With accession of Slovenia to the European Union on 1 May 2004, Slovene national statistics became part of the European statistical system.



At the accession to the European Union, the Statistical Office published a special publication in which it presents the position of Slovenia among the 25 EU Member States.

*The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia will continue to fulfil users' needs. We look forward to future co-operation with the statistical community in Slovenia and abroad. Sharing work, exchanging knowledge and experience, and co-operation will contribute to high quality of statistical data and greater satisfaction of users. Our deliberations and efforts are directed into the future, but we will always be proud of our predecessors' work.*