



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA



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STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

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AUTHORISED PRODUCERS



# MEDIUM-TERM PROGRAMME OF STATISTICAL SURVEYS

## 2008 - 2012

LJUBLJANA, 2008





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**The authorised producers of national statistics, as specified in the Medium-term Programme of Statistical Surveys 2008–2012, Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 119 / 24. 12. 2007/ p. 17199, are the following:**

Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Related Services (AJPES)  
Bank of Slovenia (BS)  
Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia (IVZ)  
Ministry of Finance (MF)  
Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of Slovenia (ZPIZ)  
Employment Service of Slovenia (ZRSZ)

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At its 150<sup>th</sup> regular session on 12 December 2007 (item 1.13 of the agenda) the Government of the Republic of Slovenia discussed the Medium-term Programme of Statistical Surveys 2008–2012 and adopted the following

### **DECISIONS:**

1. The Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Medium-term Programme of Statistical Surveys 2008–2012, which shall be published in the Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia.
2. The Government of the Republic of Slovenia imposed on the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia to study together with the Ministry of Public Administration the extent and structure of human resources necessary for the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia for the period covered by the Medium-term Programme of Statistical Surveys.

Božo Predalič, MSc  
Secretary-General

On its **24<sup>th</sup> regular session** on 24 September 2007

**the Statistical Council of the Republic of Slovenia**

discussed the Medium-term Programme of Statistical Surveys 2008–2012  
and adopted the following

**DECISIONS**

1. The Statistical Council of the Republic of Slovenia discussed the Medium-term Programme of Statistical Surveys 2008–2012 and proposed to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia to amend the Programme taking into account remarks made by the Council members and to submit it to the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for adoption.
2. The Statistical Council of the Republic of Slovenia proposes to the Government of the Republic of Slovenia to speed up the activities related to solving the problem of adequate business premises for the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia due to operative risks and at the same time to reconsider the number of employees at the Statistical Office in terms of constant addition of new tasks.



Rudolf Moge

President of the Statistical Council  
of the Republic of Slovenia

## Introduction by the Director-General



In the past five-year programme period from 2003 to 2007 Slovene national statistics supported with quality and relevant statistical data Slovenia's decisions on its way towards membership of the European Union, the adoption of the common European currency, the preparations for holding the presidency of the European Union and the preparations for Slovenia's joining the OECD.

In the mentioned period Slovene national statistics celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary by organising an official ceremony and by issuing the publication entitled 60 Years of National Statistics in Slovenia. Within the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SORS) received recognition for four good practices that the group of peer reviewers appointed by the European Commission recommended to national statistical institutes of EU Member States to study and consider how they could apply them to improve the implementation of statistical tasks. The four areas are: (i) statistical legislation, (ii) access to microdata for researchers, (iii) reporting about publication errors and (iv) work of statistical advisory committees.

SORS has actively participated in the work of the Statistical Society of Slovenia, together with which it organised the traditional annual international statistical conference Statistical Days, which plays an important role in the development of statistical science in Slovenia and abroad. Strong and important bonds with the international community are nursed by Statistical Office's management and its staff also at other levels. For example, SORS actively co-operated with the International Statistical Institute and at the Conference of European Statisticians, organised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, where SORS's Director-General was elected one of the CES Bureau vice-chairpersons. Co-operation with the UN Statistical Commission and the OECD was also very fruitful. Slovenia received the status of a permanent observer in the OECD Committee on Statistics in 2006, i.e. before receiving the official invitation for membership of the OECD at state level.

The content of their annual work was planned by authorised producers of national statistics together with data providers and users who are members of the 25 statistical advisory committees established by SORS. The highest representative body of the over 400 external experts who are members of statistical advisory committees is the Statistical Council of the Republic of Slovenia, which at its sessions discussed all important materials related to the activities of national statistics.

Knowledge and experience obtained in the past period were the basis for preparing the objectives and activities that are part of the Medium-term Programme of Statistical Surveys 2008–2012. Some of the tasks that link both medium-term periods are: (i) active presidency of the EU Council Working Group on Statistics during Slovenia's presidency of the EU, (ii) Slovenia's preparations for membership of the OECD, (iii) preparations for the Census of Population and Housing, which will be conducted for the first time fully on the basis of administrative sources and (iv) development projects and temporal and financial analysis of the burden of reporting units and producers of national statistics, which takes place within the Commission and will contribute to further reduction of the reporting burden and costs while achieving the same or even better quality of statistical outputs and services.

A new feature of the mentioned medium-term programme is nine strategies that are the framework for quality improvement of already known data requests and for creating the conditions for recognising new contents that will be needed in the future. Strategic activities will be planned for two years in action plans, while their implementation will be monitored with annual reports.

Two of the most important main objectives of the medium-term programme of national statistics for the forthcoming five-year period are to provide quality and user-friendly national statistics, and to improve the flexibility of the response of national statistics to the needs and requests of users by using new sources of data. At the same time all institutions in the Slovene national statistics system set themselves a goal to strengthen the trust in national statistics, not only on the part of users but to the same extent also on the part of statistical data providers - including the efforts to reduce their burden when reporting data to producers of national statistics. In the next five years data collection will be rationalized with even more intensive use of administrative sources and new innovative approaches to achieving greater efficiency will be designed.

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, as the main producer of national statistics, would like to thank the following authorised producers of national statistics for co-operating in the preparation of this medium-term programme: the Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Related Services, the Bank of Slovenia, the Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia, the Ministry of Finance, the Employment Service of Slovenia and the Pension and Disability Insurance of the Republic of Slovenia.

The Office would also like to thank more than 500 members of statistical advisory committees and members of the Statistical Council of the Republic of Slovenia for their proposals and support in preparing the Medium-term Programme of Statistical Surveys 2008–2012 as an important development document of Slovene national statistics.



IRENA KRIŽMAN

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

## System of national statistics in Slovenia

Slovene national statistics is a professionally independent system of implementing programmes of statistical surveys, which provides to public administration bodies and organisations, the economy and the public quality, timely, temporally, spatially and internationally comparable data on the situation and trends in the economic, demographic and social fields, as well as in the field of environment and natural resources. It is register-based and committed to high professional standards, and within the framework of implementing activities to reduce administrative burdens and costs it follows the principles of rational use of data and sources.

The system of national statistics in Slovenia is composed of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SORS) and authorised producers of the programme of statistical surveys. The professional methodological advisory role is performed by the Statistical Council of the Republic of Slovenia and numerous statistical advisory committees.

The National Statistics Act (OJ RS / Uradni list RS, No. 45/1995 and 9/2001) stipulates the role and co-operation of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia and authorised producers in organising, preparing and implementing statistical programmes and reporting on their implementation, in disseminating statistical data and international co-operation, and commits the parties co-operating in the system to respect the fundamental principles of official statistics.

### **Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia**

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia is a professionally independent government office which monitors a wide spectrum of national statistics and which is at the same time responsible for co-ordinating the national statistics system. Its main tasks in the system are collecting, processing and disseminating statistical data as well as determining and implementing international standards in the fields of methodology, classifications and administrative records, research and development in the field of official statistics, anticipating and meeting the needs of the users for official statistics and information, and taking care of safeguarding data confidentiality. Data are collected and processed on the basis of international standards and long-term experience, and with the help of highly qualified staff.

### **Authorised producers**

The Medium-term Programme of Statistical Surveys determines the authorised producers of the programme of statistical surveys for the period of its validity as well as the tasks of authorised producers. In order to respect the principles of statistical activity, especially confidentiality, the National Statistics Act stipulates that statistical activities of authorised producers must be strictly separated from their primary activities.

During the preparation of the programme for the 2008–2012 period the following institutions agreed to take over the tasks of authorised producers of the programme of statistical surveys: the Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Related Services, the Bank of Slovenia, the Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia, the Ministry of Finance, the Employment Service of Slovenia and the Pension and Disability Insurance of the Republic of Slovenia.

### **Statistical Council of the Republic of Slovenia**

As the highest representative of users and the professional public in the national statistics system, the Statistical Council of the Republic of Slovenia represents the professional methodological advisory body whose task is to solve strategic and development questions of national statistics. Even though it plays an advisory role, the Council has a strong influence in the national statistics system since its members are distinguished representatives of various professional fields and politics. The Council acts according to its Rules of Procedure. In line with the National Statistics Act, the Council has 14 members. The Director-General of the Statistical Office is a member of the Statistical Council but cannot be its President. Council members and its President have a four-year mandate. With its proposals and recommendations the Council provides for the progress and development of the national statistics system, as well as achieving greater flexibility, trust of users and recognisability of national statistics.

### Statistical advisory committees

Statistical advisory committees have been established by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia and operate in various fields of statistics. Currently there are 25 of them. Members of individual advisory committees are appointed by the heads of individual institutions, whether upon SORS's proposal or on their own initiative. The President of a statistical advisory committee is proposed by SORS's Director-General from among external committee members and the Vice-President is usually a SORS's employee. The President has a four-year mandate, while members do not have mandates. Advisory committees act according to the Rules of Procedure and play an important role in the formal co-operation between SORS and users. In addition to providing expert explanations in solving open methodological issues, advisory committees are important in stimulating inter-institutional exchange of information and good practice and in rational planning of national statistics operations. The large number of members (over 400) provides a comprehensive source of information on the needs of users for statistical data and information.

## Medium-term Programme of Statistical Surveys 2008–2012

The Medium-term Programme of Statistical Surveys (SPRS) must be prepared by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia – as the main producer of national statistics - and authorised producers of the programme of national statistics on the basis of the National Statistics Act.

The Medium-term Programme of Statistical Surveys 2008–2012 is the third such document in the history of Slovene national statistics. Due to the adjustment to European medium-term programmes, the first one was prepared only for two years (2001–2002). The first five-year programme covered the 2003–2007 period.

In the process of programme preparation the interested expert public was informed about its content - the proposal was discussed by members of advisory committees, it was sent to inter-institutional co-ordination and it was discussed by the Statistical Council of the Republic of Slovenia. The 2008–2012 SPSR was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia at its 150th session on 12 December 2007 and published in the OJ RS / Uradni list RS, No. 119/2007 on 24 December 2007.

The 2008–2012 SPSR determines authorised producers of the programme of statistical surveys and in the introductory part presents the mission, vision and values of national statistics. It covers strategic guidelines and objectives for national statistics in the mentioned period and priority areas by fields of statistics.

Among the eight main objectives of the SPSR for the forthcoming five-year period the first two are to provide quality and user-friendly national statistics, and to improve the flexibility of the response of national statistics to the needs and requests of users by using new sources of data. At the same time all institutions in the Slovene national statistics system set themselves a goal to strengthen the trust in national statistics, not only on the part of users but to the same extent on the part of statistical data providers – including the efforts to reduce their reporting burden. Further objectives are rationalization of data collection with more frequent use of administrative sources, advanced professional training and the creation of new innovative approaches to improve efficiency, and continued active participation in the national and international statistical environment.

As stipulated by the National Statistics Act, the five-year programme will be supported by annual programmes of statistical surveys, which will state for each year detailed objectives and regular and development tasks within statistical surveys.

According to the National Statistics Act, producers of national statistics must report about the implementation of statistical programmes. In the third year of programme implementation, i.e. in 2010, the Statistical Office will prepare an interim report about the implementation of the 2008–2012 SPSR and submit it to the Statistical Council. After the period covered by the programme, i.e. in 2013, the final report on the implementation of the 2008–2012 SPSR will be prepared by the Statistical Office and authorised producers and submitted to the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for discussion and adoption.

5995. Medium-Term Programme of Statistical Surveys 2008–2012

Pursuant to Article 23. b of the National Statistics Act (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 45/95 and 9/01), the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the following

## **MEDIUM-TERM PROGRAMME OF STATISTICAL SURVEYS 2008–2012**

### **1 AUTHORISED PRODUCERS OF NATIONAL STATISTICS**

The authorised producers of the medium-term programme of statistical surveys for the 2008–2012 period are: the Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Related Services, the Bank of Slovenia, the Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia, the Ministry of Finance, the Employment Service of Slovenia and the Pension and Disability Insurance of the Republic of Slovenia.

### **2 MISSION, VISION and VALUES OF NATIONAL STATISTICS**

#### **Mission**

National statistics provides the public administration bodies and organisations, the economy and the general public with quality and timely data on the situation and movements in the economic, demographic and social spheres and in the areas of the environment and natural resources. These data are comparable in time, among places and internationally. Data for national needs and international dissemination are provided at optimal costs. Taking into account the statistical confidentiality, it keeps building the users' trust and keeps strengthening the professional autonomy.

#### **Vision**

- User-orientation
- Mastering the quality in national statistics
- Competent and motivated staff
- Constant harmonisation with the international, and above all the EU standards
- Modern approaches to data collection, data processing and data dissemination
- Research work and innovations
- Improvement of working conditions

#### **Values**

- The importance of users
- Trust gained on the part of all participants (data users, data providers and producers of statistics)
- Independency of the Office and profession
- Respect for privacy
- Knowledge and experience
- High quality of statistical products and services
- Work in interdisciplinary teams/working groups
- User-friendly environment

### **3 MAIN OBJECTIVES 2008–2012**

1. Providing quality and user-friendly national statistics
2. Flexibility of the response of national statistics to the needs and requests of users by using new sources of data and developing statistical methods
3. Strengthening trust in national statistics and gaining a higher profile in Slovenia and abroad
4. Caring for the trust and cooperation among providers of statistical data and rationalisation of the collection of statistical data, primarily by using administrative sources
5. Advanced professional training and the creation of new innovative approaches to improve working and processing efficiency
6. Improving organisational culture and motivating employees
7. Active participation in the domestic and international statistical environment
8. Continuing the development of the national statistics system

### **4 STRATEGIC GUIDELINES for national statistics for the 2008–2012 period**

#### **4.1 STRATEGY FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL STATISTICS IN SLOVENIA**

Slovenian national statistics are characterised by a modern legal framework which represents good practice within the framework of the EU. The legal framework fully respects the principles of official statistics and the European Statistics Code of Practice which was adopted by the Statistical Programme Committee and presented in the Recommendation of the European Commission on the independence, integrity and accountability of the national and Community statistical authorities of 25 May 2005. Slovenia became a full member of the EU on 1 May 2004, and entered the Euro zone on 1 January 2007. Slovenia is striving to become an active member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Because of its intensive integration in international statistical cooperation, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SORS) has managed to win for Slovenia the status of regular observer in the OECD Statistics Directorate. This also gave Slovenia the opportunity to prepare and publish data in the OECD. Active participation in the Conference of European Statisticians and primarily in the Partnership Group, and in the EU Statistical Programme Committee enables SORS to influence the further development of the European legal framework in the area of statistics. This will reach its peak during Slovenia's presidency of the EU, when SORS will preside over the Council Working Party on Statistics. Also important is international cooperation with the countries of the Western Balkans and Turkey, where Slovenia by means of international technical help, transfers knowledge of statistical standards to other countries in the region and beyond.

With its active participation in the Government Economy Committee and other working bodies of the Government, with inter-institutional participation of SORS's experts, and with activities arising from the work of the Statistical Council of the Republic of Slovenia and 25 statistical advisory committees overseeing various fields of statistics, SORS pursues national policies and the needs for statistical data.

***Six strategic goals can be established on the basis of the above data:***

- 
1. *strengthening the national statistics system, including authorized producers,*
  2. *further development of cooperation with users and data providers, including keepers of administrative records,*
  3. *signing of written agreements with all keepers of administrative records and other databases which are sources for national statistics,*
  4. *reducing administrative burdens and cost,*
  5. *active participation in the development of the European Statistical System, statistics of the OECD and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE),*
  6. *further provision of technical assistance to the countries of the Western Balkans and beyond in accordance with the opportunities available.*
-

**Strengthening the national statistics system, including authorized producers**

In accordance with the legislation on statistics, authorised producers of the programme of statistical surveys are obliged to implement national statistics tasks separately. This is necessary to consistently respect the principles of statistical confidentiality and other principles of national statistics stipulated by the legislation and the European Statistics Code of Practice. Authorised institutions, as determined in the medium-term programme of statistical surveys, have confirmed their readiness and commitment to consistently respect the legislation and the Code in the process of preparing the programme. An exception in terms of respecting the Code is the Bank of Slovenia, which is obliged to follow regulations on statistics laid down by the European System of Central Banks (ESCB). The majority of authorised producers have already ensured the pursuit of national statistics in a separate unit, and all producers are obliged to do likewise as soon as possible. SORS will provide the producers with any necessary professional assistance in the implementation of the principles of the Code.

**Further development of cooperation with users and data providers, including keepers of administrative records**

SORS will continue with, and innovatively improve, the forms of cooperation with different groups of users. The current form of advisory committees will be transformed in terms of content, primarily into more active participation of the members of advisory committees. Besides meetings, SORS will also organise a number of workshops and small working groups for proposing new innovative approaches to the reduction of administrative burdens and collection of relevant statistical data. In terms of content, requests are becoming increasingly cross-cutting (environment is linked with agriculture; traffic is linked with environment, and so on). Policies should also in the future be adjusted to different groups of users, such as representatives of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of power, journalists, business executives, universities, students and youth, the elderly, disabled persons, and other groups of the population. The organization and content of the work of advisory committees should also be adjusted. The role of the Statistical Council as external expert advisory body providing expertise and methodology, which is an important link for the provision of professional independence and relevance of the national statistics system, will be further strengthened.

**Signing of written agreements with all keepers of administrative records and other databases which are sources for national statistics**

Committed to the culture of quality and the National Statistics Act, which stipulates that data for the implementation of the national programme of statistical surveys should be exchanged free of charge, the institutions implementing the programmes of statistical surveys will continue to conclude written agreements with the keepers of administrative and other databases. These agreements regulate issues of organisation, content, legal protection and technical protocol for data transfer. The supplementation of agreements among the holders of tasks within the programmes of statistical surveys will also be continued.

**Reducing administrative burdens and costs**

It is of exceptional importance for the producers of national statistics that the balance between the load on the reporting units and the quality of statistical data, including the expected fulfillment of users' needs for data, is taken into account during the activities aimed at reducing administrative burdens and costs.

SORS and other producers of the programme of statistical surveys have already actively developed procedures aimed at reducing burdens on the reporting units, as expected at the national and international level. In order to achieve the effective implementation of Article 28 of the National Statistics Act<sup>1</sup>, SORS will propose formalisation with an inter-sectoral group, which will be appointed by the Government of RS.

**Active participation in the development of the European Statistical System, statistics of the OECD and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)**

SORS will continue to actively participate in the development of the European Statistical System, primarily in drafting and introducing the new legislative framework, the simplification of legislation, and the organisational and methodological challenges of statistics in the next medium term. SORS will be active in statistical cooperation in the OECD, the Conference of European Statisticians, and the UN Statistical Commission, where as part of Slovenia's EU presidency in the spring of 2008 it will head the drafting of the position of EU Member States at a meeting of the Commission.

**Further provision of technical assistance to the countries of the Western Balkans and beyond in accordance with possibilities**

SORS will continue to provide technical assistance to the countries of the Western Balkans and Turkey to the extent possible. Within the framework of the EU, SORS will also be active in a wider context as part of the EU's fields of interest.

## **4.2 STRATEGY IN THE FIELD OF FURTHER REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDENS**

SORS is committed to implementing the tasks of the Action Programme for Reducing Administrative Burdens and Costs<sup>2</sup> published by the European Commission on 24 January 2007. Besides these tasks, SORS is obliged to implement the tasks adopted by the Government of RS in regard to the quality implementation of the Lisbon Strategy and which are a part of the policy of better regulations aimed at reaching higher competitiveness in the drafting of better regulations, the reduction of administrative burdens and the drafting of the assessment of the impact of regulations on citizens and the economy.

Besides the commitments at the international and national level, the producers of national statistics constantly receive requests from individual reporting units regarding the reduction of their burdens. For the sake of the international comparability of data, virtually all statistical fields are regulated by the *acquis communautaire*. A consequence of the fact that a small population is used for the collection of data for statistical purposes is that the reporting units are burdened more often than those in large countries. In order to preserve the quality and timeliness of statistical data, the producers of national statistics had to act on reducing burdens on reporting units and developing other ways to acquire data.

***In order to continue with the reduction of burdens on reporting units and to ensure good quality statistical data, SORS has adopted four strategic goals:***

- 1. reducing burdens on enterprises, with an emphasis on small and medium-sized enterprises,*
- 2. reducing burdens on the population and households by using substitute, primarily administrative sources,*
- 3. reducing burdens on providers and producers of national statistical data, with better organisation of the process and the use of modern information technology,*
- 4. providing a balance between users' needs and burdening of data providers.*

<sup>1</sup> National Statistics Act, Official Journal of RS, No. 45/95 and 9/01 - Article 28: "Administrative and other national authorities, public servants and holders of public offices, as well as the authorised producers which collect statistical data in their own field of work, and which are not included in the programme of statistical surveys, shall define the methodological bases for their statistical surveys, subject to prior opinion provided by the Office. The entities referred to in the previous paragraph must notify the Office and request the opinion of the Office prior to setting up new, or amending existing official or administrative data collections (records, registers, databases, etc.) kept in their own fields of work, unless otherwise provided by the law."

<sup>2</sup> The Ministry of Public Administration issued the Instructions for measuring of administrative costs in July 2007.

**The goals will be reached by the following activities:**

*as wide use of different administrative sources (registers, records, etc.) as possible both for statistical surveys in enterprises, surveys on farm holdings, persons and households*

In 1970 SORS already launched the idea of developing central registers in order to rationalise data collection and reduce the burden on reporting units. It established a register of territorial units, a register of organisations and communities, a central population register, and other registers which were later kept by their institutions.

For the implementation of the importance and priority use of administrative sources ahead of other sources for the purposes of national statistics, the National Statistics Act<sup>3</sup> stipulates in Article 32 that data are collected from various official and other data collections of the public and private sectors. Moreover, the Act stipulates in indent 9 of Article 7 that SORS cooperates with and offers to institutions introducing new statistical surveys or setting up records which can be a source for national statistics all knowledge adequate for such purposes, while indent 10 of the same article stipulates that SORS makes proposals for supplementing the content of existing records kept by other authorities and organisations of the public administration in their own fields of work. SORS implements the provisions of the National Statistics Act by means of direct cooperation with the institutions through statistical advisory committees, which some 400 external members, and by organising expert lectures. The office will increase the transfer of its extensive know-how and experience in the future. The recording of potential administrative sources in the areas of agriculture, education, environment, energy and waste, real estate and housing will be continued.

*establishment of the Government's inter-ministerial group for the use of administrative data for statistical purposes*

All state institutions are responsible for the implementation of tasks related to the reduction of administrative burdens and costs. There are already cases in practice of records used by SORS for the preparation of certain data being discontinued.<sup>4</sup>

For this and similar reasons, the implementation of Article 28 of the National Statistics Act should be intensified in the next medium-term.<sup>5</sup> For this purpose SORS will propose to the Government of the RS the establishment of an inter-ministerial working group tasked with developing and participating in the use of administrative records and other collections of data of national importance for the purposes of national statistics and the promotion of multipurpose use in general.

Such participation will help maintain the balance between demand from users of data and burdens on reporting units. Strictly necessary data will be ensured from quality and interoperable records, or through the direct collection of data from respondents. In so doing, the cooperation of all interested parties, which could be institutionalised in the proposed inter-ministerial group, is important. An extension of the term of the existing working group for the Measure 28/07 at the Ministry of Public Administration from enterprises to also include farm holdings, individuals, and households has also been considered.

*establishment of the methodological council*

The methodological council will discuss and give its opinion on the procedure of verification and authorisation of methodology for each new statistical survey for surveys which are made from development tasks

<sup>3</sup> National Statistics Act, Official Journal of RS, No. 45/95 and 9/01.

<sup>4</sup> Example: suspension of the collection of data on the opening hours of shops, which also included the size and type of shop. Because this source does not exist, surveys on shops in Slovenia cannot be carried out without additional questionnaires.

<sup>5</sup> National Statistics Act, Official Journal of RS, No. 45/95 and 9/01 - Article 28: "Administrative and other national authorities, public servants and holders of public offices, as well as the authorised producers which collect statistical data in their own field of work, and which are not included in the programme of statistical surveys, shall define the methodological bases for their statistical surveys, subject to prior opinion provided by the Office. The entities referred to in the previous paragraph, must notify the Office and request the opinion of the Office prior to setting up new or amending the existing official or administrative data collections (records, registers, databases, etc.) kept in their own fields of work, unless otherwise provided by the law."

into regular tasks, for surveys which are subject to revision, and proposals for suspending a survey, to the college of SORS's Director-General. The council will consist of SORS experts appointed by SORS's Director-General, and of external experts in the field of statistical methodology.

The council will carefully inspect the rationality of the collection of data from reporting units. The framework of its tasks and competences is determined by special instructions.<sup>6</sup>

*cooperation in inter-ministerial groups for the implementation of strategy for the reduction of administrative burdens*

On the basis of the Action Programme for Reducing Administrative Burdens in the EU, adopted by the Council of the EU (COM(2007) 23), the Ministry of Public Administration has established a working group for cooperation with the Economic Commission.

In order to achieve quality implementation of the Lisbon Strategy and its measures at national level, in relation to the policy of better regulations and reduction of administrative burdens, an inter-ministerial working group for the implementation of the Measure No. 28/07 has been established on the basis of a decision from the Government of RS.<sup>7</sup> SORS actively participated in both groups.

For the implementation of tasks related to both groups, and other tasks which will relate to the reduction of administrative burdens, SORS will set up an internal group of experts.

*monitoring of costs/benefits of statistical surveys*

One task of the internal group for the reduction of administrative burdens will be to monitor the ratio between the costs and benefits of statistical surveys. In doing so, the group will take into account findings and tasks arising from the inter-ministerial cooperation, from analysis of employee logbooks (for this purpose SORS has established an application, and all employees keep a monthly record of performed tasks), and from analyses carried out after the acquisition of data on the actual and detected burdens on reporting units. Slovenia has summarised the methodology for measuring administrative costs after the International Standard Cost Model Manual (Measuring and reducing administrative burdens for businesses).

*use of questionnaires for various purposes*

Questioning reporting units 'with one questionnaire for multiple purposes' is a years-long practice of SORS. The office cooperates with institutions collecting data for their own activities (the Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia - ARSO; the Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Related Services - AJPES; the Tax Administration of the Republic of Slovenia - DURS; the Post and Electronic Communications Agency of the Republic of Slovenia - APEK) in the sense of joint preparation of questionnaires which serve both the activities of the institutions and national statistics. The results of such cooperation are positive both for the institutions and the reporting units, and SORS will make efforts to upgrade this kind of cooperation.

*data collection in one place*

Enterprises send identical data and information to different institutions for different purposes. The AJPES and SORS have already concluded numerous agreements on cooperation, resulting in enterprises sending their data also for statistical purposes via the AJPES's portal.

It would make sense to consider the establishment of a joint channel for the collection of all data at national level.

<sup>6</sup> Instructions on the procedure of verification and authorisation of statistical survey methodology and on the procedure of suspension of statistical surveys, [http://www.stat.si/eng/stat\\_notranji.asp](http://www.stat.si/eng/stat_notranji.asp)

<sup>7</sup> Programme of measures for reducing administrative burdens - Decision from the 98<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Government of RS held on 23 November 2006, item 1.7

*modernisation of processes and further development of the e-reporting system* With projects on the modernisation of the operating process, which are being finalised, SORS will upgrade the information system of the entire production process and especially expand the use of e-reporting to all possible statistical surveys.

*the use of sampling of monitored units* On the basis of the prepared address lists for statistical surveys, SORS will monitor the burden on individual reporting units. By means of sampling of enterprises, SORS is already trying to spread the burden evenly and thus reduce the greatest burdens. SORS includes in individual samples up to 10 % of all small enterprises in the population.

*simplification of EU legislation* The simplification of EU legislation (including in the field of statistics) includes a wide range of instruments, the most important being: (i) reducing the number and volume of legislation, which is related to the initiative for better defined regulations, (ii) simplification of requests for statistical data in the selected priority fields, and (iii) the promotion of the use of statistical tools and methods which can facilitate the fulfillment of statistical tasks.

SORS's experts are included in the discussions on new draft regulations or draft amendments to a regulation at the very beginning. SORS has developed and amended the organisational rules for preparing response opinions and active participation in the discussions on draft regulations in different phases of the procedure during its preparations for the takeover of the presidency of the EU Council working group on statistics<sup>8</sup> and will continue in this manner after the presidency.

The manner of work, which will be upgraded on the basis of experience acquired, will ensure that SORS makes maximum efforts for the statistical commitments accepted at the level of the EU to include commitments related to reducing the burden on reporting units as much as possible.

*providing balance between the quality of statistical data and reduction of burdens on reporting units* Maintaining the balance between requests from the users of data and demands for the reduction of burdens on reporting units is extremely important. This balance arises from the awareness that the primary mission of national statistics is to provide quality, comparable, timely and necessary data obtained at minimum cost to all the parties involved.

The following restrictions must be strictly taken into account:

– Certain data that the state needs for decision-making are not contained in any records, so the use of an administrative source is not possible. These data include, for example, statistics on the use of information technology in enterprises, on road transport of goods, labour force, household consumption, standard of living, etc.

– Certain records are not arranged or their arrangement for administrative purposes requires too much time for the data they contain to be arranged in a manner that would ensure quality and timeliness.

– In accordance with the National Statistics Act, data collected for statistical purposes require special protection, which means that they cannot be used for administrative purposes.

– The collection of most data from enterprises is carried out in accordance with the *acquis communautaire*, and only some of the content is regulated by so-called gentlemen's agreements. Almost all statistical surveys carried out in this way are subsequently regulated by law, so suspensions of surveys which still do not have legal basis are not justified at the expert level.

– Activities aimed at reducing administrative burdens must not affect the quality of statistical data or cause a loss of data needed by users.

– In using administrative sources, there is a danger that a source is

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<sup>8</sup> The Presidency of the EU Council working group on statistics will take place as part of Slovenia's EU presidency between 1 January 2008 and 30 June 2008.

exhausted, or that it changes to the extent that by definition it becomes unacceptable for use.

– With regard to measuring administrative costs, the issue of measuring perceived burdens remains open.

– SORS will have to collect data for measuring the administrative burdens caused by SORS and national statistics so as to ensure comparability in Slovenia and the EU. More coordinated activities are expected in the European Statistical System.

– In terms of simplifying legislation, the EU has been reporting on the reduction of burdens, but the volume of actual activities taking place in the EU countries is not reducing in most cases; on the contrary, the number of actual requests for data in EU legislation has been increasing, despite efforts to simplify legislation.

– The reduction of burdens on reporters of data frequently presents a transfer of the burden to national statistical offices, which require more human resources and a higher educational structure. More simple procedures for covering and collecting data must be replaced by adequately computerised working processes, extensive linking, analytical work and constant cooperation with keepers of administrative sources and the pursuit of content changes in those sources.

### 4.3 STRATEGY OF QUALITY<sup>9</sup>

In 2005, the European Commission adopted the European Statistics Code of Practice, which today is the fundamental document for comprehensive quality management in national statistical offices. The principles of the Code of Practice deal with institutional environment, statistical processes and statistical output.

Slovenia has also adopted the Eurostat's unified definition of the quality of products and services, which besides costs and burdens includes six components: relevance, accuracy, timeliness and punctuality, clarity and accessibility, comparability and coherence.

The final goal of the strategy for quality is quality, user-friendly and independent national statistics, which is provided by SORS as the main producer of national statistics and producers of the programme of statistical surveys authorised by the medium-term programme of statistical surveys.

The starting point for the drafting of the strategy is the definition of five pillars – independent national statistics, users and providers of data, development of human resources, quality of statistical products and services and process orientation, within which national statistics develop the area of quality.

#### ***Five strategic goals can be established on the basis of this data:***

1. *to maintain professional independence of the national statistics system and the authorization for data collection at least at the current level,*
2. *the fulfillment of the needs of both users of data and providers of data is balanced,*
3. *the quality of statistical products and services is assessed and published for the majority of statistical products in a user-friendly manner,*
4. *renewal of the process of statistical data processing brings better quality and efficiency,*
5. *all employees should follow the values of quality, lifelong learning and development.*

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#### <sup>9</sup> References:

- (i) the European Statistics Code of Practice: [http://www.stat.si/eng/drz\\_stat\\_kakovost\\_kodeks.asp](http://www.stat.si/eng/drz_stat_kakovost_kodeks.asp)
- (ii) Eurostat's website for quality: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/quality>
- (iii) ESS Quality Declaration  
[http://epp.eurostat.ec.eu.int/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/PGP\\_DS\\_QUALITY/TAB47141301/DECLARATIONS.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.eu.int/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/PGP_DS_QUALITY/TAB47141301/DECLARATIONS.PDF)
- (iv) ESS Quality Definition  
[http://epp.eurostat.ec.eu.int/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/PGP\\_DS\\_QUALITY/TAB47141301/DEFINITION\\_2.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.eu.int/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/PGP_DS_QUALITY/TAB47141301/DEFINITION_2.PDF)
- (iv) ESS Quality Definition  
[http://epp.eurostat.ec.eu.int/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/PGP\\_DS\\_QUALITY/TAB47141301/DEFINITION\\_2.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.eu.int/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/PGP_DS_QUALITY/TAB47141301/DEFINITION_2.PDF)

**Independence of the national statistics system and authorisation for data collection is maintained at least at the current level;**

The current arrangement of the national statistics system in Slovenia provides the strongest possible guarantee for independence of the national statistics system and for the possibility of collecting data directly from reporting units as well as from all public and private collections of (secondary) data. However, this position of SORS and authorised producers should be further strengthened, because only independent statistics are trustworthy and relevant for users.

*professional independence*

The professional independence of SORS and authorised producers at the expert level from other political, legislative or administrative authorities, as well as from the private sector, is a guarantee for the credibility of Slovenian and European statistics. In the next mid-term will SORS continue, together with authorised producers, to strengthen this position and ensure the proper implementation of the National Statistics Act in practice.

*authorisation for data collection*

SORS and authorised producers are clearly and officially authorised by the National Statistics Act (authorised producers also by sectoral laws) for collecting information for national and international needs. The implementation of the articles of the National Statistics Act which relate to the rights to collect data and rights of access to public and private databases is of a key importance for providing quality statistical data.

**Meeting the needs of both users of data and providers of data is balanced;**

Balancing between the requests from the users (in particular the general public, Slovenian public administration and European institutions and researchers) and the requests of data providers (in particular companies) to reduce their burdens as much and as quickly as possible is becoming increasingly difficult. It is therefore extremely important to monitor the relevance of published statistics for users, monitor the burdens on data providers, and direct particular attention to reducing these burdens, and at the same time ensure confidentiality and protection of the submitted data, which must be used exclusively for statistical purposes.

*respect of statistical confidentiality in accordance with Slovenian legislation and international standards*

The privacy of data providers (persons, households, companies, farm holdings, and other reporting units) and the confidentiality of data provided must be ensured unconditionally. This is why SORS and authorised producers will pay particular attention to the safety and protection of data and ensure that data is used only for statistical purposes.

*providing impartiality and objectivity in the national statistics system*

When preparing and disseminating Slovenian and European statistics, producers of Slovenian and European statistics must take into account scientific independence and act objectively, professionally and transparently, and treat all users equally. SORS will ensure that all users are treated equally by respecting publications in accordance with the announced calendar at the hour specified in advance.

*reasonable burdening of reporting units*

The burden of reporting must be proportionate to the needs of users, so SORS and authorised producers will pursue the government's policy of reducing administrative burdens on companies. For this purpose, different administrative sources – registers, records, reports and lists kept by different ministries, agencies and government offices will be used in a wider range. Monitoring the burdening of data providers as well as monitoring the quality and adequacy of administrative sources is necessary in this process.

*relevance and applicability of statistics*

Slovenian and European statistics must satisfy the needs of their users. Monitoring the satisfaction of users will continued to be carried out on two tiers: on one hand, through the Statistical Council of RS and statistical advisory committees to which the biggest users give their proposals and

needs, and on the other hand we ensure that opinions of the widest target groups are taken into account by carrying out regular surveys on the satisfaction of users.

**Quality of statistical products and services is assessed and published for the majority of statistical products in a user-friendly manner**

In order to provide good quality statistical products and services, the office complies with the standard definition of quality. The goal is to publish five-yearly and annual reports on the quality for the majority of statistical surveys in a manner understandable and accessible to users.

*commitment to quality* Slovenian national statistics is committed to act in accordance with the principles of the Quality Declaration of the European Statistical System.

*accuracy and reliability* Slovenian and European statistics must reflect reality accurately and reliably; by publishing indicators of quality in the area of sampling and non-sampling errors, it enables users to assess if data is useful for their purposes.

*timeliness and punctuality* Slovenian and European statistics must be disseminated timely and punctual. Users are informed on any changes to the calendar published in advance; indicators of timeliness and punctuality are publicly published in reports on the quality of an individual statistical survey.

*coherence and comparability* Slovenian and European statistics must be coherent internally and time-wise and comparable among regions and countries, and it must be possible to combine and jointly use related data from different sources.

*accessibility and clarity* Slovenian and European statistics must be presented in a clear and understandable form, disseminated in an adequate and proper way, available with metadata and guidelines, and as such be accessible impartially.

**Renewal of the process of statistical data processing brings better quality and efficiency**

Process orientation of Slovenian statistics is an important factor contributing to increasing the quality of statistical products. The used sources, methodology, procedures and, ultimately, costs related to statistical surveys have an important role in the process. By making processes transparent and with the clear documentation of procedures, we can achieve better quality results and at the same time better cost-efficiency.

*good methodology* The introduction of new methodologies and methodological revisions are the subject of a special procedure in which experts in the area of science and research are involved, together with experts from the national statistics system.  
Education in the area of statistics, the exchange of good practices within the Slovenian and European statistical systems, and the organisation of conferences on methodology are tasks which raise the level of the quality of statistics.

*adequate statistical procedures* Adequate statistical procedures used from the collection of data to its confirmation must support the quality of statistics. For individual parts of the statistical procedure, SORS will draft special guidelines and recommendations which will unify and increase the transparency of the used procedure and better quality.

*cost-efficiency* Because sources must be used efficiently, SORS will introduce special mechanisms for monitoring the consumption of financial and human resources in respect of certain dimensions of quality.

**All employees should follow the values of quality, lifelong learning and development**

Education for the increased level of quality of statistical products and services includes all aspects of education, because both methodological and information know-how, as well as the promotion of exchange of good practices are of particular importance.

*all employees are involved in the promotion of the concept of quality and the importance of the Code of Practice*

Employees of SORS and of independent statistical units of authorised producers in the national statistics system are aware of the importance of the Code of Practice in their everyday work. They have to be acquainted with the basic concepts of quality, so the entire training programme must be oriented towards giving every employee the opportunity to achieve this goal.

*all employees are given the opportunity to monitor developments in the area of statistical methodology and exchange good practices in a simple manner*

The exchange and introduction of good practices within the Slovenian statistical system and in the European Statistical System is of a key importance for the quality of statistical results, so employees must be provided with education in Slovenia and abroad, while the Statistical Office will also organise internal conferences on methodology aimed at exchanging good practices.

#### 4.4 STRATEGY OF DATA PROTECTION

Protection of data is one of the most important elements to influence the reputation of and trust in reporting units and users in SORS. SORS can expect high levels of response and quality answers in surveys only if a high level of trust in reporting units is established. The behaviour of reporting units is reflected in the quality of statistical data. Not even the best statistical methods for data processing can sufficiently substitute for quality completion of questionnaires.

SORS has been aware of its responsibility for the protection of data since its very establishment and has since acted to protect its good reputation for these reasons. Despite increasing user need for detailed data at territorial levels and data on small social groups, and researchers' increasing need for microdata, SORS has been consistent in protecting the information privacy of individuals and business interests of companies. Being aware of the importance of the development of procedures and methods of statistical protection, SORS has been actively participating in their development within Eurostat.

***SORS is achieving comprehensive protection of data in the area of statistics at four levels:***

1. *professionally qualified personnel, who are aware of the importance of data protection and statistical confidentiality, acts with quality and uniformly,*
2. *statistically protected aggregated statistical data and microdata,*
3. *technical equipment, organisational rules and procedures which prevent unauthorised access to data,*
4. *adequately arranged business premises.*

**Professionally qualified personnel, who are aware of the importance of data protection and statistical confidentiality, acts with quality and uniformly**

Continued education in the area of data protection is raising awareness of the importance of the field of data protection and statistical confidentiality for SORS's activities, and of the commitment employees have in this area. Upon concluding an employment contract with SORS, new employees sign a statement on data protection. Employees who use individual data to pursue their tasks can access them only on the basis of a special authorisation and the statement on the protection of the mentioned data. They are continually informed on the procedures of work, which ensures uniformity of working process and also one of the key goals of the data protection strategy - awareness and quality work of the employees.

**Aggregated statistical data and microdata are statistically protected**

Besides the protection of data during the procedure of processing and preparation for dissemination, it also must be provided that aggregated data are published, and that microdata is submitted to researchers in a form which prevents the disclosure of the private information of individuals and business

interests of companies. For this reason, SORS uses special software as part of an EU project managed by Eurostat. The office uses the procedures for providing statistical confidentiality which reduce the information value of data to the least extent. Statistical protection ensures the protection of the privacy of individuals and business interest of companies in the last phase of the statistical process - data dissemination.

**Technical equipment, organisational rules and procedures which prevent unauthorised access to data**

SORS has been constantly adapting to changes in the area of needs for data protection and takes advantage of improved possibilities for data protection provided by information and communication technologies and methods for providing statistical confidentiality by means of statistical protection. SORS will continually assess the changing safety requirements and will adapt to the changing situation.

*organisational measures*

SORS uses special rules regulating the manner of work in business premises during the exchange of data, work with particularly sensitive data, rights to access data, and the traceability of work with data. The implementation of the provisions of the rules prevents unauthorised use, alteration and destruction of data, determines archiving, the organisation of decision-making regarding the submission of microdata and the provision of statistical confidentiality, protection of the website, monitoring of safety sensitivity and proposing of measures, training of employees, measures taken by employees upon suspected unauthorised access to data, and managing proposals from employees.

*technical measures*

Technical measures include the IT-operationalisation of organisational measures during the exchange of data, work with particularly sensitive data, rights to access data, the traceability of work with data, prevention of unauthorised use, alteration and destruction of data, archiving, and the protection of the website.

**Adequately arranged business premises**

SORS has business premises at two locations: Vožarski pot 12 and Parmova 33. The building in Parmova 33 does not provide adequate protection for technical equipment and, indirectly, protection of data. Since the building was not properly constructed, after 60 years it is now unsafe for occupation.<sup>10</sup> In May 2007, the inadequacy of the business premises was pointed out by a team of inspectors of the European Statistical System.<sup>11</sup> The Government of RS has adopted a decision to relocate SORS to new business premises, but the decision has not yet been implemented. Regarding the protection of business premises in Parmova 33, only small-scale modifications can be carried out before relocation.

SORS urgently needs to be relocated to new business premises, and has been pointing out the problem in all its activities and documents.

<sup>10</sup> The Slovenian Labour Inspectorate, the Ljubljana Unit, issued on 18 March 1998 the Decision 0402-3/98, ordering restoration of the building which has never been carried out.

<sup>11</sup> Inspectors from the European Statistical System pointed to the inadequacy of the business premises in their report in May 2007: Assessment: Currently SORS is spread over two locations. We understand that in one of these it is difficult to ensure the physical protection of SORS' data, because of the nature of the premises. A new building is under development and it is important to stick to the established timetable (beginning of 2008) for its completion and move to one location.

## 4.5 STRATEGY OF COOPERATION WITH REPORTING UNITS AND REDUCTION OF THEIR BURDENS

The strategy is aimed at improving cooperation with reporting units. SORS is dependent on data it receives from the environment and the lack of data may be critical for executing its basic activities.

The users' requests for new data and analyses can be seen as a constant increase in the number of surveys. SORS ensures the economy of surveying by sampling reporting units instead of full coverage, and makes efforts to standardise work with reporting units; this is why it introduces up-to-date tools and methods of good practices in the communication with reporting units. By acquiring data from secondary sources, SORS enables the implementation of multiple surveys from a single source, and this manner of data acquisition reduces the burdens on reporting units.

SORS will attempt to maintain the response from reporting units at least at the current level. Besides improving the existing ways of reporting, SORS will enable units to choose the reporting channel. The office will gradually increase the number of surveys included in e-reporting. Questionnaires are not harmonised in terms of content and form because surveys have been launched at different times. SORS will gradually eliminate procedures which are not sufficiently uniform, so different activities of the office may temporarily halt the processes and cause delays in contacts with reporting units.

A strategy of work with reporting units with the form integrated to this extent has been created for the first time. It is based primarily on the standardisation of contacts with reporting units and introduction of reporting unit-friendly way of reporting, including e-reporting. A unit must in any case know where it can find an interlocutor or help as soon as possible when necessary and in the most suitable way. Response to a unit must be clear and understandable.

### *Strategy for the improvement of work stands on four pillars:*

1. *all at one place and the possibility of choosing a method of communication with SORS,*
2. *simple and understandable communication between reporting units and SORS,*
3. *taking into account the response from reporting units,*
4. *increasing the speed of response to contact from reporting units.*

*all at one place*

Primary and secondary sources<sup>12</sup> of data will be collected at one place, which will ensure uniform management of the collection. Agreements and technical protocols will have to be realised in the area of secondary sources. Moreover, an organisation and technical infrastructure must be set up within the projects of renewal and persons responsible for the process of receiving secondary sources have to be additionally trained. All contacts with reporting units will take place with employees trained for those tasks in a particular organisational unit of SORS. A particular person who has good knowledge of a reporting unit and can provide help in completing different questionnaires will be appointed as the contact person for that unit.

*possibility of choosing means of communication*

SORS will enable reporting units to choose an adequate way for reporting. Besides the existing written questionnaires, and online and telephone surveying, SORS will expand the use of e-reporting to all possible surveys. The office will continue to monitor and use new development possibilities and communication technologies. For the task to be realised, a new channel must be established, address books must be adjusted, work must be reorganized, and responsible persons must be additionally trained for the task.

*modernisation telephone calls*

Telephone communication presents one of the most important contacts with a reporting unit, so availability in this area is of extreme importance. SORS wishes to modernise telephone contacts with the possibility of automatic dialing and the specialisation of analysts for companies. By establishing a base of frequently asked questions and answers, which will also be available on the website, SORS will increase availability for this form of communication with reporting units.

<sup>12</sup> Primary data is data SORS receives directly from reporting units. Secondary data is data SORS receives from holders of official and other administrative databases.

**Simple and understandable communication between reporting units and SORS**

Reporting units must be able to immediately recognise communication with SORS. SORS will standardise the channels it uses to make them as recognisable and simple as possible for reporting units. Standardisation will require the creation and implementation of operating rules for communication with reporting units.

*coherence of questionnaires and memoranda*

Questionnaires and memoranda, which together with explanations of questionnaires are aimed at an easy understanding of questions and completion by reporting units as rapidly as possible, must be compiled in a way which meets the mentioned requirements. The content of questionnaires will be revised and harmonised by means of precise monitoring of the response of reporting units (for example, in which questions reporting units needed additional explanations in order to complete a questionnaire) and performance of analyses.

*form unification*

Form unification (questions, memoranda, notices...) will be continued. This will enable immediate recognisability of SORS documents. Implementation will require the determination of rules and the standardisation of the form and content.

*business principles of communication*

Business principles of communication will be established for communication with reporting units and for the introduction of regular meetings with providers of secondary data aimed at monitoring changes in registers.

**Taking into account responses from reporting units**

A constant task of SORS is to acquire necessary data by placing as small a burden on reporting units as possible and in such ways that they understand the meaning and purpose of reporting to the maximum extent. SORS will actively respond to contacts from reporting units. In its organisation and plans, the office will take measures which will follow the wishes of reporting units.

*active evaluation and introduction of proposals from reporting units*

SORS will establish a committee for the evaluation and introduction of proposals from reporting units which will actively analyse proposals and initiatives of reporting units and incorporate the accepted content into its operating processes. It will determine the principles of communication on the basis of initiatives. The committee will be directly responsible to the Principal of SORS. It will report regularly to the college of the Principal of SORS and write reports which will be published on SORS website.

*determining the importance of data providers*

With the renewal of address books, which will be quite thorough, SORS will start monitoring the number of data providers and their importance in terms of the number of surveys on which they report. It will monitor the regularity of reporting and introduce methods for data collection which will reduce the burden on the most burdened reporting units. It will start to regularly monitor the importance of a reporting unit for statistical process.

*importance of surveying*

SORS will connect the number of collected and the number of published variables, determine the criteria for the importance of surveying, criteria for the preparation of a new questionnaire and selection of samples. SORS will mutually coordinate the surveys and classify them by importance, and will also continue to reduce the number of surveys with the full coverage.

**Increasing the speed of response to contact from reporting units**

The speed of response to appeals and requests from reporting units, and speed of response to detected mistakes in questionnaires in the work of reporting units is extremely important. By increasing the speed of response to contacts from reporting units, SORS will gradually win their trust.

*quicker response to obtained information*

Data in statistical process must as soon as possible be visible to controllers and methodologists who must have insight into the obtained data also from other surveys. They then have to verify the data and establish contact with reporting units which require additional explanations as soon as possible.

*improvement of operating plans* The purpose of monitoring and shaping operating plans is to reduce deviations from plans and to reduce burdens on reporting units in that period of the year when they have commitments to other institutions (for example, annual accounts, etc.) or increased volume of reporting to SORS.

*reducing manual operations* By unifying surveys, reducing the number of variables, unifying the size of envelopes, and using envelope makers, introducing optical reading, expanding the use of e-reporting and automatic controls, SORS will increase the automation of work and fluidity of surveys.

## 4.6 STRATEGY OF DISSEMINATION AND COMMUNICATION WITH USERS

The elements that SORS took into account in drafting a new strategy of dissemination are: the users and the greatest possible satisfaction of their needs for data from the aspect of adequacy, availability and timeliness; strengthening the recognisability and trust among users in SORS trade mark, which is consequently reflected in expansion and frequency of use of official statistical data and information; and optimising the statistical process of preparing the dissemination of products and services. Experience shows that users first look for needed data on the website of national statistics. Besides providing official statistical data, SORS will also enable its users to acquire data from the statistics of various ministries, government offices and international statistical data in order to ensure easier and quicker access to data and information.

SORS is aware that the mere availability of statistical data is not enough, and will make efforts for the promotion of official statistical data and its actual use, for the development of statistical literacy among different groups of users, such as the general public, researchers and media.

SORS will prepare for the dissemination of products and services even more efficiently than before, which will be achieved with the promotion of the culture of innovation among employees, the introduction of successful solutions from the international environment, cooperation with universities, the rational consumption of resources, efficient use of information and communication technology, the automation of the process, and transparent use of uniform standards in the entire process.

SORS's dissemination of products and services will be further adjusted considering the needs for and possibilities of using statistical data, which is determined by the statistical and computer literacy of individual user groups.

The purpose of the strategy is to improve the efficiency of searching for and acquisition of statistical data, which will comply with the users' needs, and to display data for the general public in an understandable way, maintain the level of trust of the public, and increase the use of data for the planning and monitoring of policies at different levels.

### ***The purpose will be achieved with the following goals:***

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- 1. satisfied users,*
  - 2. improvement of statistical literacy,*
  - 3. recognisability and good reputation of SORS trade mark, trust of users and actual use of statistical data,*
  - 4. efficient preparation, promotion and transmission of data and information.*
- 

#### **Satisfied users**

Simple search for data which comply with the user's needs, and understanding and use of data without effort is the way which leads to a satisfied user. Dynamic development of new statistical products and services and improvement of communication with users will increase the use of statistical data, which will consequently mean that the development of society will be increasingly based on objectively measurable information, and the well being of citizens will increase.

#### *simple search and acquisition of statistical data*

Simple search and acquisition of statistical data will be enabled by an efficient search engine at the website, improved navigation through the website, and efficient tools and formats for drawing on internet content, and the smoother

functioning of the website. Moreover, users will have an opportunity to actively participate in the preparation of the website content; it will be possible to acquire statistical data through mobile phones; the website will be user-friendly to persons with special needs; access to the statistical data of ministries, government institutions and international organisations will be enabled to and from the website.

*coordination of data and users' needs*

SORS will regularly monitor user satisfaction with statistical products and services, reduce time between the occurrence of events and publication of data on these events, increase the consistency of data acquired from different sources, the degree of detail of data, its time and international comparability, simplicity of acquisition and adequacy of data for further use, and availability of comments and explanations important for the data to be understood. Statistical data will be available to users free of charge (except for that prepared on a special request from a user). SORS will develop new statistical products and services.

*understanding and use of data*

When published, statistical data will be neutrally commented on, displayed in simple tables, both graphically and cartographically, and information on data will be understandable, easily accessible and updated. Demanding users will be able to tabulate selected variables and time points depending on their needs and use graphic and cartographic presentations. SORS will cooperate with universities and libraries in increasing the statistical literacy of the population.

**Improvement of statistical literacy**

Improving statistical literacy is of key importance for adequate use of statistical data and information. SORS will continue to cooperate with groups of users such as journalists, students, primary and secondary school students, and much more emphasis will be put on the public, who will be, unlike the mentioned activities established by direct contact, addressed through the website, which will contain different options for e-learning and interactive work. In so doing, SORS will use certain possibilities provided by new concepts of publication of data online (WEB 2.0 software).

**Recognisability and good reputation of SORS's trade mark, trust of users and actual use of statistical data**

SORS will promote its trade mark, as the importance of trade marks for users is expected to increase in the future. SORS will act to improve the recognisability of official statistical data by the public in order for users to differ them from other data, being aware of its quality and compliance with professional standards and, consequently, its applicability. SORS will promote the use of statistical data in the management of the society and state.

*differentiation of official statistical data from other data*

In order to improve the recognisability of SORS and official statistical data and maintain its good reputation, SORS will increasingly promote itself in the media, at expert conferences, fairs, and different interest associations, develop a comprehensive visual image, regularly measure its reputation, recognisability, and users' trust.

*use of statistical data in the management of society and state*

SORS will prepare on request from the state and local institutions and interest associations additional analyses and, in accordance with the principle of protection of information privacy of individuals and business interest of companies, will also enable the use of statistically protected microdata. SORS will try to provide Slovenian researchers with the most favourable conditions for the use of microdata of other EU countries.

**Efficient preparation, promotion and transmission of data and information**

SORS will prepare the dissemination products and services even more efficiently than before, which will be achieved with the promotion of the culture of innovation among employees; the introduction of successful solutions from the international environment; cooperation with universities; rational consumption of resources; efficient use of information and

communication technology; automation of the process; and transparent use of uniform standards in the entire process. This will shorten the procedure of the preparing for the dissemination of statistical data, minimize the number of sources for that part of the statistical process and the possibility of error.

*consideration of needs for data, statistical and computer literacy and communication capacities of users*

With surveys, at meetings and through direct contact with users (for example, members of the Statistical Council of RS, members of statistical advisory committees and others) SORS will monitor their needs for data, statistical and computer literacy, and information and communication capacity, and will take into account the acquired data when preparing the dissemination of products and services.

Databases will be more comprehensive, graphic presentations of data will be better and more user-friendly, while SORS will also upgrade its publishing activities relative to users' needs.

*consideration of uniform content, professional and technical standards*

During the preparation of the dissemination of products and services, SORS will optimise the process of dissemination of statistical data by promoting a culture of innovation among the employees; introducing successful solutions from the international environment; cooperating with universities; consuming resources rationally; using information and communication technology efficiently; automating the process; and using uniform standards in the entire process transparently.

## 4.7 STRATEGY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

SORS is a user-oriented organisation which is organised with an emphasis on processes and the quality and protection of data provided by reporting units. Information technology (IT) must follow the mission, vision and values of SORS, and provide for the efficient, professional and economic execution of SORS's mission and tasks.

### **Key goals for the realisation of the tasks set forth are:**

1. *well computerised and efficient statistical process, supported by general user-friendly information solutions,*
2. *efficient and satisfied internal and external users of information services,*
3. *competent IT experts,*
4. *electronic storage and archiving.*

### **Computerised and efficient statistical process**

This will be achieved by developing and introducing general information to support the statistical process, which enables more transparent and efficient statistical processes and long-term savings in the maintenance of these solutions.

*methodology and organisation*

Such an approach brings new challenges from the aspect of development and introduction. Planning, development, testing and the introduction of general information systems require the use of better defined and adequately supported methodology in terms of organisation. The IT unit will start introducing established standards and development methodologies which cover the entire life-cycle of the application software (CMMi<sup>13</sup>). The next important activity is improving organisation within the IT by introducing process organisation of development activities, which will enable IT experts to specialize in individual expert areas and be independent from the statistical content in their work. This will lead to a more transparent process in the development of information systems, a higher concentration of IT knowledge, and easier and more efficient allocation of human resources. Due to constant challenges in updating information systems in SORS, which challenge the personnel potentials and knowledge of the internal IT staff, SORS will continue to efficiently use both internal and external human resources. In

<sup>13</sup> CMM – application software

doing so, SORS will focus on the internal management of the statistical core business<sup>14</sup> and will outsource when this is cost-efficient and/or presents an opportunity to expand internal know-how, and not as the provider of all development activities in individual areas (complete outsourcing<sup>15</sup>).

*consolidation and  
standardisation of  
software*

SORS has consolidated its development environments in recent years and will standardise them considering individual statistical processes. Besides a long-term focusing on relational technology of Oracle databases (and in certain areas of Microsoft SQL Server) SORS has chosen NET as an application development environment, SAS as the environment for processing and analyses, and tools developed in statistical offices (Blaise, PC-Axis, Argus, etc.) for specific statistical areas (collection and arrangement of data, dissemination, protection, etc.). The use of commercial and statistical tools wherever possible and the development of our own application solutions only where they are necessary for the smooth functioning of the statistical process remains a constant guideline. The main challenge will therefore be to integrate individual technological solutions into an integrated system, which will be achieved with the improvement of interoperability between individual systems and the introduction of the principles of service oriented architecture. A very important activity will be finalising the transfer of processing and data into a LAN server environment, with which SORS will conclude the use of its IBM central computer, and will also transfer data and processing performed on working stations. Due to the increasing importance of XML technology in the area of statistical data and metadata, SORS will start developing and introducing SDMX technological solutions.

*technical infrastructure*

SORS constantly provides and updates technical infrastructure. By introducing new general information solutions into regular production, it will become even more important, as is required by general integrated IS. SORS will upgrade these capacities in accordance with a plan and actual needs. The biggest concern in the establishment of technical infrastructure will be constant care for information security, primarily the protection of individual data, which will require security upgrading of the local network and improving the security infrastructure on web servers SORS uses to collect and disseminate data. Because of the great importance of SORS's activities for the national and international environment, SORS will pay particular attention to the establishment of a system which will provide continuous operation in case of a disaster or other extraordinary events, and in which it will coordinate its activities with the policy of the Ministry of Public Administration and possibly use common technological solutions.

**Efficient and satisfied  
internal and external  
users of information  
services**

Despite the fact that a large part of the development tasks in the area of information services for the support of statistical production will be finished by the end of 2008, the introduction of solutions into regular production is a particular challenge, and will continue at least until 2010. The introduction of new applications and tools into general use will increase SORS's need for constant improvement of the level of IT services (providing functioning, user support, infrastructure management, etc.) in order for the second main goal of the strategy to be efficient, and that internal and external users of information services are satisfied.

*IT support*

The first step in this direction will be taken in the 2007/2008 season with the introduction of ITIL guidelines, which is a long-term process of constant improvement, which will enable SORS employees and external users to work smoothly and efficiently. In terms of organisation, this will bring the establishment of a modern service centre and adequate process organisation in the area of IT services.

<sup>14</sup> core business – predominant activity or basic activity

<sup>15</sup> outsourcing – subcontracting

*hardware and software for users* SORS ensures that software and hardware is constantly upgraded, which is an important factor in user efficiency.

*education of users* Due to the increasing complexity of the application environment, constant education of users is a key factor which enables efficient work and prevents incompetent or unsafe use of information equipment. SORS will prepare and continually carry out targeted workshops for users in order to raise the level of their knowledge.

#### **Experts in IT**

Work in IT requires trained experts, so the constant development of competences of the employees of SIIT is necessary. Considering that SORS is an institution which works with data, the competence of information personnel is of a key importance for its proper functioning and further development.

*training* SORS constantly makes sure that its information personnel are adequately trained. An activity which will enable even more focused and efficient training is the typing of working places in IT and more emphasis on self-education at the working place. Operating results frequently depend on how well employees are informed on the strategic and tactical guidelines of SORS, which can be improved with workshops and brainstorming, and participation in interdisciplinary project groups which deal with development activities.

*gaining international experience* Participation in pilot projects enables less experienced employees to gain the experience necessary for independent work. Due to the similarity of the statistical process, it is very important for the IT personnel in SORS to gain experience from other statistical offices, which is ensured through participation in expert conferences and bilateral cooperation with foreign offices.

*adequate number of employees and their structure* Due to the shortage of IT experts on the labour market, particular attention should be paid to ensuring their continuity. This will be achieved with planned scholarships which will ensure a continuous inflow of young personnel in SORS, and by maintaining a high level of motivation of IT experts, which will prevent excessive outflow of key IT personnel.

#### **Electronic storage and archiving**

SORS regulates archiving and the storage of statistical material in accordance with the legislation adopted in 2006 (the Protection of Documents and Archives and Archival Institutions Act, Decree on documentary and archival material custody, and the Uniform Technical Requirements prescribed by the Archives of the RS, which should be considered and followed when resolving these questions).

In 2007, SORS launched a special project of renewal and adaptation to the mentioned regulations. Due to highly demanding technological and security issues which must be taken into account in accordance with the legislation, the procedures of renewal will go into the next mid-term.

## **4.8 STRATEGY OF HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

Besides sufficient financial resources, spatial and other working conditions, SORS employees are the most important resource for achieving the mission and goals SORS must provide on the basis of national and international regulations and programmes in the area of national statistics, both in Slovenia and for the needs of the EU, and also for wider international comparisons. Highly competent, motivated, flexible employees among whom we have organised an excellent flow of information at all levels of the organisation, openness to the domestic and international environment, adequate structure and the scope of human resources potential are the goals incorporated in the strategy of human resources management with the wish that its implementation motivates all employees.

***Five strategic goals can be established on the basis of this data:***

1. *high competence of employees will be ensured with an adequate procedure for selecting the best candidates, definition of necessary knowledge, organisation and consistent implementation of continuous training, education and stimulation of employees for lifelong learning,*
2. *motivation of employees will be stimulated by making their work satisfying, with management and adequate working conditions,*
3. *flexibility in the response of employees to new content and technological challenges will be achieved with the stimulus of internal mobility of employees, building of an organisational memory in the form of documented working processes in the production of statistical data,*
4. *excellent flow of information at all levels of the organization, and with the domestic and international environments via the internet will be ensured by means of modern IKT (intranet) and other contemporary tools and organisation of work,*
5. *SORS will make efforts to ensure that the Government of the Republic of Slovenia confirms the personnel plans with a structure and scope of human resource potential which will be adequate in terms of numbers and expertise.*

**High competence of employees**

Determination of competence areas (typical professions), including the necessary knowledge for individual typical occupations, is necessary for the acquisition and promotion of the best personnel and for planning education and training. Tests of required knowledge will be carried out in the recruitment procedure. Intensive cooperation with universities in proposing and acquiring the best personnel will be continued. SORS will be promoted as an attractive employer. The system of mentoring and circulation of employees at all levels will be improved. The long-term programme of education and training will be constantly updated. Education at post-graduate level (statistics) will be supported as a priority. The annual programme of intensive education and training for all areas of expertise and typical occupations will be prepared every year.

**Motivation of employees**

Measuring employee satisfaction will be carried out once a year with a special questionnaire. Current annual and multi-annual supply programmes for improving working conditions will be prepared in accordance with the drawing up of the budget. SORS has fulfilled all conditions to acquire new, modern and, from the aspect of data protection, adequate working premises not later than in 2009. The workload will be distributed as equally as possible, taking into account logbooks and time consumption records. The assessment and promotion of employees will be carried out according to the established rules. Innovativeness in the introduction of methodological approaches which contribute to higher quality and the simultaneous reduction of administrative burdens and administrative costs for all participants will be particularly rewarded. Regular annual interviews with employees will, as before, be used for the organisation of work, training and development of their careers.

**Flexible employees**

The acquisition of experience and knowledge from different areas will be promoted and planned. SORS will also promote the rotation of duties. SORS will implement the plan for the development of personnel who want to advance in statistical and other areas of competence by monitoring the interests of employees and their timely incorporation in education and training. The planned training of personnel who need wide professional and managerial expertise in order to carry out managerial tasks will be carried out by registering potential ('pool') managers of internal organization units. Both the employee and the proponent will be given a transitional period in which they can test their decision and decide on the transfer. The participation of employees responsible for personnel and their direct managers is necessary for all these activities. Activities will be carried out regularly and will depend on the interests of employees and management, and a comfortable working atmosphere based on the culture of trust, dialogue and the desire for results.

**Provision of information flow between the domestic and international environment**

An excellent flow of information at all levels of SORS will be ensured with well-organised management and continued preparation of and cooperation at professional and organisational, as well as methodological meetings at all levels of SORS and in the domestic environment, the EU, the OECD and other international environments, together with drafting and exchanging reports from different areas of work. The intranet and internet page of SORS, which are used as the medium, will be upgraded, while the inclusion of employees in the e-Government portal in order to ensure timely responses to material in the procedure of adopting decisions of the government and ministries and inclusion in EU portals (the CIRCA EU portal for monitoring EU legislation) is maintained. Drafting of response reports on EU draft regulation will continue to be discussed in smaller inter-sectoral groups, which has proven to be a good practice, introduced before Slovenia's presidency of the European Union.

**Adequate structure and volume of human resources potential**

In terms of methodology, the drafting of current annual and multi-annual personnel plans will be improved, primarily from the aspect of planning scholarship awards to students on courses SORS needs most in order to pursue its activities smoothly, while in rewarding their work, SORS cannot match the privileges the labour market offers to such personnel because of the legal framework of the public administration. An adequate structure of personnel and the willingness of candidates to work for SORS will be ensured with well-organised and guided interviews. Better quality of work and satisfaction of employees will be achieved with quality mentoring of trainees and the rotation of employees. Particular attention will be paid to employees who have fulfilled the legal requirements for retirement. Due to constant changes in the working process which they have to follow, individual implementation plans will be made in accordance with their expectations and the expectations of SORS.

## **4.9 STRATEGY OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

As a direct budget user, funded mainly from the national budget, and a professionally independent government office, SORS directly participates in the procedure of adopting and coordinating the budget. SORS is also partially funded from EU sources. In pursuing its tasks, SORS primarily takes into account the guidelines from the medium-term programme of statistical surveys, on the basis of which the annual statistical programme is drafted, and coordinates them in accordance with possibilities arising from the process of adopting and coordinating the national budget of RS.

***SORS will pursue three strategic goals in the mid-term:***

- 
- 1. ensuring adequate funds for the implementation of statistical surveys,*
  - 2. balancing costs and benefits in the implementation of tasks,*
  - 3. acquiring as much funding from external sources as possible for the implementation of projects.*
- 

**Ensuring adequate funds for implementation of statistical surveys**

SORS will continue to place emphasis on as detailed planning and as rational consumption of all sources as possible. Labour costs constitute the majority of SORS's costs. In this area, the personnel service of SORS will continue to improve the management of the strategy, employment policy and human resources.

In the sense of general rationalisation, the finance department will, together with other internal units, implement strategies adopted within SORS and considering the adopted rationalization, accelerate the activities of the internal environment, which will influence the quality of employment and rational acquisition of data, boost development and help from SORS to the external environment in the realisation of sectoral statistics.

By so doing, SORS will rationalise costs. It will improve internal work processes and control every year, which will also influence the rational consumption of sources.

As a direct budget user, SORS will respect the applicable legislation from the entire financial area and with rational policies as much as possible respect the following principle: reaching maximum effects with minimum costs.

**Balancing costs and benefits in the implementation of tasks**

SORS will reduce burdens by analysing work diaries. For this purpose every employee will keep a monthly record of performed tasks. Each task has a code of the holder of costs, while the content of tasks is registered with a code of activity. Comparison of activities and the time consumed for them in similar surveys will be the foundation for making decisions on changes to certain content and technical areas.

The listed activities will enable adequate planning of funds, presentation of necessary funds in direct participation of SORS in the procedure of drafting and coordinating the national budget<sup>16</sup> and for the monitoring of expenditure.

**Acquire as much funding from external sources as possible for the implementation of projects**

SORS will continue in the next mid-term to acquire as much funding from external, primarily EU sources, as possible. The receipt of tenders will take place as part of the strategy of development of statistics and technological processes and the possibility of co-funding from the national budget.

The better meeting of users' needs almost without additional financial burdens for SORS will be continued in the following ways:

- further conclusion of mutual agreements on the division of work with authorised producers of programmes of statistical surveys,
- provision of data (in accordance with the respect of provisions on statistical confidentiality) to researchers and other interested users,
- helping the environment to develop sectoral statistics.

SORS will continue to participate in projects carried out by other institutions by providing its know-how or concrete implementations of a certain part of a project. This participation will be financially evaluated upon the conclusion of mutual agreements on cooperation.

*own activities*

SORS's own activities include the sale of services and publications, while the purpose is that statistical data and information reach the widest range of users as possible in the simplest way. SORS increases the volume of data published on its website every year. A consequence of this is that revenues from SORS's own activities are decreasing every year.

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<sup>16</sup> 18. an article of the National Statistics Act, Official Journal of RS, No. 45/1995 and 9/2001.

## **5 PRIORITY OPERATING AREAS BY STATISTICAL CHAPTERS**

With reliable statistical data on economic, social and environmental conditions, national statistics provides companies and citizens with the facts necessary for the evaluation of their status by comparing the situation in the national and international arenas, and for the evaluation, assessment and adoption of initiatives.

Priority statistical information which will be offered by national statistics in the next mid-term are displayed in this chapter.

In establishing the priorities, SORS has taken into account the content of draft statistical programme EU 2008–2012<sup>17</sup>, the content of other national and international programmes and national needs established in extensive public debates through statistical advisory committees and the Statistical Council of RS. Particular attention in the implementation of tasks will be aid to the meeting of the obligations of the European Statistics Code of Practice and the reduction of administrative and cost burdens on reporting units and producers of national statistics.

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<sup>17</sup> The Council of the European Union, Proposal of a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Community Statistical Programme 2008 to 2012, COM(2006), Brussels, 20 November 2006.

## 5.1 DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL STATISTICS

### *A review of priority activities for an individual area:*

<b>Population</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Preparation and implementation of a register-based census of the population and housing</li> <li>2. Harmonisation of migration statistics</li> <li>3. Projections of population</li> </ol>
<b>Labour market</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduction of burdens on reporting units</li> <li>2. Development of a system of survey modules in the labour market</li> <li>3. Revision of professions qualification</li> </ol>
<b>Education and training</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Quality and international comparability</li> <li>2. Qualification system of education and training – KLASIUS</li> </ol>
<b>Culture</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reducing burden on reporting units</li> <li>2. New aspects of the monitoring of culture</li> </ol>
<b>Health protection</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development of survey collection of data</li> <li>2. Reducing burdens on reporting units by updating routine sources of data</li> <li>3. Causes of death</li> <li>4. Occupational injuries and diseases</li> <li>5. Health accounts</li> </ol>
<b>Standard of living and social protection</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Further development and dissemination of the Income and Living Conditions Survey</li> <li>2. Development of a European system of social statistical survey modules</li> <li>3. Statistics on housing</li> </ol>
<b>Consumer protection</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Statistics on safe/healthy food</li> </ol>
<b>Crime</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development of a system of comparable statistics</li> <li>2. Preparation of a single methodology for recording crime</li> </ol>
<b>Social database</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Renewal of the process of collection and analysis of data</li> <li>2. Further reduction of administrative burdens</li> </ol>

### 5.1.1 Population

Data on the number of the population and population structure (gender, age, education, etc.) is the basis for calculating the different indicators used for statistical monitoring and showing the frequency of certain occurrences in the population (fertility, mortality, ageing, migration, etc.), and is at the same time of particular importance for analysing the social and economic development of Slovenia and a basis for creating hypotheses on future demographic trends (projections).

Besides an improvement in living conditions, increase in life expectancy and low fertility (low fertility and possible economic difficulties related to it, impact on the quality of life and development), Slovenia is facing population ageing, which may trigger intergenerational conflict related to the funding of the social protection system and pension system. Slovenia is also facing a transition into a long-lived society, which according to its basic characteristics, requires an adjustment of the system of social, pension and health. As a consequence, changes in the population require new and improved education and social infrastructure for all age groups, including better possibilities for lifelong learning, low-cost childcare, health care and elderly care. The creation of adequate conditions for the employment of older population groups is also of great importance.

***The following activities will be emphasised in the medium-term:***

**Preparation and implementation of a register-based census of the population and housing**

A register-based census of the population and housing in the Republic of Slovenia is planned for 2011, and ensuring all necessary administrative and statistical sources in due time will be of particular importance. SORS used certain administrative sources already in the 2002 Census, while the main prerequisite for a complete register-based census is the introduction of Register of Real Estate and the attribution of dwelling numbers to all permanently and temporary registered persons in the Central Population Register. Moreover, it is necessary to develop statistical methods for monitoring occurrences which cannot be covered by a register-based census (such as families and households) because there are (still) no adequate data on such occurrences in the existing administrative sources and registers. For the content which has previously been collected with classic censuses based on statements from individuals (including about nationality/ethnicity, mother tongue, language spoken in household, and religious affiliation), SORS will together with interested institutions propose manners and methods for the acquisition of such data taking into account the best practices of other EU countries.

The Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development has already expressed the need for data on mother tongue, spoken language and religious affiliation, while the Government Office for Religious Communities expressed the need for statistics on religious affiliation.

*further development of national and international projections of populations in the cooperation with the Eurostat*

Due to population ageing, demographic experts believe that revisions of demographic projections should be carried out more frequently - every three years. The development of national and international projections of population under the auspices of the Eurostat is being envisaged.

**Harmonisation of migration statistics**

Migration is a good indicator of demographic changes and conditions in the labour market. The adoption of a regulation on statistics of migration and international protection due to the increasing need for statistical data on migrations, migration flows, their patterns and causes, and also for data on socio-economic characteristics of migrants is in the procedure at the EU level. The data will be provided by SORS, in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior. The implementation of an ad-hoc module on migrants in the labour market is being prepared as part of the Labour Force Survey.

After the adoption of the regulation on statistics on migration and international protection, the data for this area will be more available and internationally comparable.

## Projections

After its accession to the EU, Slovenia was included by the European Statistical Office in the group of countries for which it prepared a 'set' of projections of population for the 2004-2050 period, so that the data on the future number and age/gender structure of the population of EU members could be as comparable as possible in future. The growth of the importance of the problem of ageing of Europe's population detected in recent years and also expected in future has accelerated this task. Demographic projections indicate that the trend of population ageing will also continue in Slovenia in the following years. In 2007, the Eurostat began to prepare for all EU Member States a new set of projections of population by age and gender, in which the most recent demographic trends of birth-rate, death-rate and migration will be taken into account. Internationally comparable calculations are expected to be finalised in the first quarter of 2008.

### 5.1.2 Labour market

The purpose of data collection in the area of labour market statistics is to provide users and planners of policies with internationally comparable, timely, reliable and quality data for measuring the efficiency of national strategies for the development of the labour market, employment and solving the issue of unemployment, and monitoring the reviewed Lisbon Strategy.

***The following activities will be emphasised in the medium-term:***

#### Reduction of burdens on reporting units

##### *metadata*

In the area of labour statistics, the majority of surveys already use administrative sources (or administrative sources combined with questionnaires) and the practice will be continued in the implementation of the Labour Force Survey, where the variable 'wages for the main job' will be taken from administrative sources.

In the Labour Costs Survey, SORS will in future search in the inter-institutional environment for adequate administrative sources, with which it will compensate for the collection of data from reporting units in at least part of a survey.

SORS will completely replace the collection of data on the earnings for persons in paid employment employed by natural persons with data from the Tax Administration of the Republic of Slovenia (DURS).

A higher volume of data, metadata and indicators of quality will provide users with better insight into the quality and applicability of results.

#### Development of the system of survey modules

The envisaged ad hoc modules within the ADS are: (i) Labour market situation of migrants (2008) and (ii) Entry the young people into the labour market (2009).

Guidelines for the formulation of the programme of ad hoc modules for the 2010–2012 are the following: factors which influence the growth of employment; demographic challenges of population ageing; activation of older persons in the labour market and raising the retirement age; adequate childcare, which can boost the supply of labour; equal opportunities for all, regardless of gender, age, or disability; education people with disabilities for their inclusion in the labour market.

The proposed content at the EU level is: (i) Reconciliation between work and family life (2010), (ii) Employment of disabled people (2011 – the content will be covered in censuses in certain countries) and (iii) Transition from work into retirement (2012).

#### *implementation of the Structure of Earnings Survey and Labour Costs Survey*

Implementation of the Structure on Earnings Survey was planned for 2008, and of the Labour Costs Survey for 2010. Surveys at the EU level will be expanded to all economic activities, which Slovenia is already implementing.

**Revision of qualification of professions**

*national needs / governmental decree*

At the international level, the revision of the International Standard Classification of Occupations ISCO-88 (UN, ILO, Eurostat) will be finalised. The activities of SORS linked to this classification will relate to the establishment of national needs and the preparation of bases for the adoption of a governmental decree on the amending of the Standard Classification of Occupations.<sup>18</sup> SORS will inform its users on the news and changes to the Standard Classification of Occupations, and together with the most important users, assess the previous period up to the single implementation of the change.

*European Socio-economic Classification (ESeC)*

ESeC will enable national and internationally comparable surveys and analyses in the socio-economic area. It is based on the qualification of occupations and has been developed for several years. After its implementation, it will serve as an analytical tool in studying the socio-economic background of the population in the area of different statistical surveys, which contain data necessary for its usage. Before the implementation, the testing of a prototype of the classification<sup>19</sup> carried out by statistical offices (with representativeness of different statistical systems) included in the project will take place within the Eurostat.

**5.1.3 Education and training**

National statistics monitor formal and non-formal education and training from different aspects and sources (education institutions, employers, individual). The data show the enrolment 'graduates' (youth and adults) and personnel in formal and non-formal education within education institutions, considering their different characteristics, financial investment in formal education, employees participating in the programmes of education and training and employers' investment in that education, and educational attainment and (non)participation in formal, non-formal and opportunity education, or learning related to the socio-economic profile of an individual.

Data on education and training are amended with relevant data from other statistical surveys (Census, ADS, ad-hoc modules within ADS, EU-SILC, APG...) and present support for the monitoring of the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy and the concept of a knowledge-based society.

***The following activities will be emphasised in the medium-term:***

**Quality and international comparability**

SORS will ensure quality (reports on the quality for the UOE questionnaire will be introduced) and international comparability of financial and non-financial data on formal education (harmonisation with the ESA 1995 methodology) and metadata related to those data. SORS will also provide data and metadata for indicators or new indicators within the OECD-INES project<sup>20</sup> and at the level of the EU.

*different aspects of monitoring of education*

- Advantage will be given to:
- monitoring adult education (formal, non-formal and opportunity education) from the aspect of the individual, related to their socio-economic characteristics; a survey on adult education will be carried out (implementation of a pilot survey in 2011 and the main survey in 2012);
  - monitoring of education of employees and employers' investment in the education of employees; a survey on the continue education and training of employees will be carried out (expected in 2011);

<sup>18</sup> In order to prepare coordinated positions in the area of the revision of ISCO-88, a project group, officially named the Coordination Group for the Activities of the Modernisation of ISCO-88 and the Standard Classification of Occupations (hereinafter referred to as: the group) convened for the first time in 2005. The group is an inter-ministerial group, constituted of representatives of SORS, representatives of the Employment Service of Slovenia, a representative of the National Institute for Vocational Education and Training, a representative of the Association of Employers of Slovenia, a representative of the Confederation of New Trade Unions of Slovenia, and a representative of the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of Slovenia. The activities of the group are coordinated by SORS.

<sup>19</sup> Developed within the 'EU 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Research Programme'.

<sup>20</sup> INES: Indicators of Education Systems.

- monitoring of the transition from education to the labour market – through a special module within the Labour Force Survey (expected in 2009);
- the introduction of the Klasius classification in official and administrative records, which are a source of data on the level and of education for statistical surveys from the area of education and training (in the cooperation with the producers of those records);
- renewal of the system of publication of data and indicators, and their harmonisation with the reporting of the OECD.

*use of administrative sources in the area of education*

SORS will continue to participate in the introduction and creation of a legal framework for reporting data at the EU level. The adoption of a Decree on education and lifelong learning, which will regulate collection of data with the UOE questionnaire and the Adult Education Survey is envisaged. The production of data will be defined in more detail in two implementing acts (for UOE and the Adult Education Survey).

SORS will also actively update and rationalise data acquisition (introduction of e-questionnaires) and take over data from the existing and new centrally-managed official and administrative records.

Due to uncoordinated solutions in different laws regulating education, records in the area of education are fragmented and cannot be connected, which burdens their usage for administrative and statistical purposes.

SORS will send to relevant ministries an initiative urging them to accede to the arrangement and update of content, legal and organisational and informational aspects of records and data collections, if this can be done through a unified umbrella act on data collection in the area of education and training.

**Classification system of education and training – KLASIUS**

The Government of RS adopted on 26 April 2006 at the 71st regular session a Decree on the introduction and use of the classification system of education and training KLASIUS, which will be used as obligatory national standard. The proposal for the decree was drafted by a working group of representatives of the Ministries for Education and Sport, Higher Education, Science and Technology, and SORS.

*introduction of KLASIUS and expected results*

The introduction of KLASIUS will take place in accordance with the agreement concluded in April 2007 by the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher Education, the Ministry of Labour and SORS. The agreement defines tasks in the following key areas: (i) the introduction of KLASIUS in the procedures of adopting and accrediting education and training programmes, (ii) in the procedures for adopting catalogues of professional skills and competence standards for national professional qualifications, (iii) in the management of official and other administrative collection of data and in national statistics and (iv) the further development and upgrade of KLASIUS, including defining and implementing connections between KLASIUS and a possible national framework of qualifications.

The main goals to be achieved with the drafting and implementation of the agreement:

- to develop and ensure possibilities for reducing the excessive biased use of KLASIUS (encoding of activities/results as close to their source as possible and not each time for every individual use of KLASIUS);
- to develop and ensure possibilities for up-to-dating maintenance and updating the classification system of education and training.

*availability on the classification server*

SORS will ensure the introduction and maintenance of KLASIUS and its public availability on its website. The collection will be renewed annually with data from administrative collections of data. This will create a basis for the preparation of detailed encoding lists and/or a breakdown of KLASIUS (into,

for example, individual education programmes, or educational titles). Possibilities for creating an application will also be studied. The application will primarily be used for the needs of statistical surveys within SORS, and secondarily for use of other users (The Employment Service of RS, personnel services, etc.).

*introduction into statistical surveys* New classification of education and training will have to be introduced into all statistical surveys (including population census) which contain data on the inclusion of persons or their level of education.

#### 5.1.4 Culture

With statistical surveys in the area of culture, national statistics monitors the activities of the providers of activities in different areas of culture, data on employees, financial data (at the annual level) and structural data on the providers (at the multi-annual level). The need for better measuring the social impact of culture and the role of the culture sector in a knowledge-based economy is already present. The data collected are/will be the basis for monitoring national cultural policies.

***The following activities will be emphasised in the medium-term:***

**Reducing burdens on reporting units** For the further reduction of burdens on reporting units and the acquisition of quality and adequate data from centralised registers, the emphasis in the next medium term at the national level will be on the development of sectoral statistics. A condition for their development will be the regulation of legal bases and personnel and the financial strengthening of 'intermediate organisations' important for the collection of statistical data.

**New aspects of the monitoring of culture** The development of culture and creativity is of particular importance in the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy goals. At the level of Member States and the Community, there are insufficient quantitative records to enable the correct evaluation of the contribution of culture and the creative sector to the economy of the EU. This is why more emphasis will be put on monitoring culture from the economic and social aspects (monitoring expenditure on culture, cultural participation, cultural tourism and production). An emphasis will also be put on the development and introduction of methodologies in the EU for measuring of the impact of cultural activities on society and the economy.

*use of existing sources* The source of this data will primarily be the existing sources of SORS (for example, the Statistical Register of Employment (SRDAP), structural statistics, the business register) and surveys carried out in households such as the Household Budget Survey and the Cultural Activities Participation Survey (of which the first implementation is envisaged in 2007 in the form of a special module within the Adult Education Survey) and existing surveys in the area of statistics on culture, tourism, etc.

#### 5.1.5 Health protection

Statistical data on public health are necessary for the development of measures in the area of public health, and also for indicators of sustainable development, structural indicators, framework indicators of disability, and indicators created as part of an open method of coordination for the support of national strategies for the development of high-quality, accessible and sustainable health care and long-term care. Advantages have been given to further development and implementation of the methodology, in particular in the areas of health condition (including disease prevalence and disability), health factors (such as lifestyle and environmental factors), health care (including health expenditure) and causes of death.

Currently being adopted is the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on public health and health and safety at work COM(2007), Brussels,

7 February 2007, and a bill on records and material in the field of health and health care, in which the Public Health Institute of Slovenia (IVZ), as an authorised producer of a programme of statistical surveys, makes efforts to gain authorisation for the collection of data for the provision of national needs and for international reporting.

**Development of survey collection of data**

Surveys conducted five times a year which will provide data on the health condition of the population, on accidents and injuries (including those related to consumer protection), on lifestyle and on accessibility and capacity of preventive and curative health care will be carried out. Preparations for the implementation of the first survey<sup>21</sup> are under way.

**Reducing burdens on reporting units with updating of routine sources of data**

SORS seeks to reduce burdens on reporting by regulating legal bases, strengthening the personnel and finances of the IVZ, in order to achieve the following goals with the development of routine sources of data in the area of health, health protection and long-term care, and the establishment of centralised collections of data:

- flexibility in responding to anticipated needs in the area of health statistics and bases for the health care policy;
- the adequacy of statistics on public health with the rationalisation of collection achieved by unifying methodology, computerisation and the use of administrative sources in the areas of monitoring of medical treatment, the national perinatal information system, the record on the health status of the active population, occupational injuries and diseases, and sick leave, the register of deceased persons, the record of migration of health workers, and the network of health care institutes and statistical reports on the work of providers of health care services;
- boosting cooperation with providers of data.

Provision of user-friendly statistics in the area of public health.

**Causes of death**

Statistical data cover details related to the deceased person, region, details on death, including the main cause of death. Electronic reporting is being developed for the purpose of reducing burdens on reporting units.

**Occupational injuries and diseases**

Data renewed in terms of content include details related to the injured person, employer, characteristics of the working environment, including the sequence of events and circumstances of the accident, which are directed to causes which can be prevented.

International comparability ensures the collection of data on the basis of the ESAW questionnaire<sup>22</sup>, which will be amended with data on treatment in the health care system for national needs.

Data which has to be provided in the area of occupational diseases include details related to sick or deceased persons due to confirmed occupational diseases, characteristics of the company and working place, and exposure which caused damage to health. Slovenian methodology will be based on the EODS<sup>23</sup>.

It will be possible to obtain quality statistical data on occupational diseases in Slovenia will be possible after the implementation of changes to the procedure of verification of professional diseases, which will reduce conflicts of interest which result in the attitude of occupational medicine towards employers and employees.

SORS, together with the IVZ, will try to motivate the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs to amend legislation which obstructs the detection and recognition of rights related to occupational diseases.

<sup>21</sup> EHIS – European Health Interview Survey.

<sup>22</sup> ESAW – European Statistics Accidents at Work.

<sup>23</sup> EODS – European Occupational Diseases Statistics.

**Health accounts** The need for statistical data on expenditure and funding of health care is increasing. SORS, together with experts from the IVZ and UMAR, will continue to develop the system of health accounting with the implementation of SHA methodology<sup>24</sup>.

### 5.1.6 Standard of living and social protection

Standard of living is the level of satisfaction of the needs of population with the flow of goods and services. With this term we designate the achieved living conditions measured at the aggregate or individual level. Within the standard of living, national statistics collect and display data from various aspects, such as household expenditure, income, housing conditions, health, etc.

**The following activities will be emphasised in the medium-term:**

**Further development and dissemination of the Income and Living Conditions Survey** In future, national statistics will acquire data on the standard of living and social protection primarily by implementing the Living Conditions Survey (EU-SILC – its main purpose is the calculation of indicators of social cohesion and monitoring of living conditions and establishment of changes) and by implementing the European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS). The purpose of the annual survey on living conditions (EU-SILC) is to determine in what living conditions persons in households and selected individuals live, how they are incorporated into society, and which factors increase or decrease the level of their social inclusion. Development of EU-SILC will ensure longitudinal data and the dissemination of results and implementation of the concept of gross income.

**Household Budget Survey** The Household Budget Survey has been carried out by SORS since 1984. The last methodological renewal of the survey was carried out in 1997. By 2012, SORS will create possibilities for technical renewal of the survey and examine methodological approaches, and analyse the needs and possibilities for increasing the sample. Because of needs within the European System of Central Banks (ESCB), the Bank of Slovenia will study the possibilities for the development of surveying the population, also in the cooperation with SORS.

*system of integrated statistics on social protection* The source of data on expenditure and funding sources for social protection programmes is the implementation of the European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS). This includes public and private institutions which reduce the burdens of certain risks on households or individuals without providing equivalent compensation or reimbursements, and are not the result of individual arrangements.

The EU-SILC and ESSPROS are also the foundations for indicators of social coherence adopted in Laeken, and for pension indicators. The Open Method of Coordination (OMC) is carried out in relation to this. The development of indicators of social cohesion, with added emphasis on poverty of children, will be continued. Attention will also be paid to the development of indicators and trial calculations on the monitoring of how stimulating or non-stimulating the social system is for private activities and higher income.

**Development of an European system of social statistical survey modules** The development of a new survey (E4SM), the so-called European System of Social Statistical Survey Modules, which will strengthen the statistical infrastructure, is envisaged. This will be a new, flexible system which will improve timeliness and responsiveness in the provision of data. It is aimed at developing a framework of social survey modules which would result in the rationalisation of surveys, and at the same time increase flexibility for quick responses to new, short-term needs of users - predominantly - general directorates of the European Commission. The system will be based on short-term and long-term modules, and is expected to cover different areas (adult education, health, information technology, the basic set of social variables, etc.).

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<sup>24</sup> SHA - System of Health Accounts

### Statistics on housings

At the 81st regular session held on 6 July 2006 the Government of RS adopted the Programme for the layout of data on buildings and parts of buildings, which represents the beginning of the actual implementation of the real estate census. The project developer is the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia. The real estate census includes the acquisition of data on buildings and parts of buildings and the publication of that data. The main goal of the real estate census is the Register of Real Estate, the finalisation of the Building Cadastre, and amendments to the Central Population Register with the numbers of permanent and temporary residences. The results and goals achieved by the real estate census will influence the manner of implementation of a larger number of SORS tasks related to monitoring of statistics on real estate, particularly on the manner of implementing future censuses of population and accommodation.

In the area of statistics, the real estate census will enable the abandonment of expensive classic population censuses. At the same time, it will present efficient statistics on housing. The housing stock will become part of the address of persons and will link housing with citizens and enable an analysis of housing conditions related to socio-economic background.

The timely establishment of the Register of Real Estate is important for SORS from the aspect of the rational implementation of statistics on housing, in particular for the preparation and implementation of the register-based census of population and housing in 2011. If the Register of Real Estate is not established in due time, this goal, also determined as part of social reforms, will not be achieved. A decision on the possibilities of the use of the Register of Real Estate must be known in 2007, because SORS will otherwise have to begin preparations for a conventional population census. This would have two major consequences: (i) a conventional census is very expensive (considerable burden on the state budget) and (ii) a considerable burden on the population in such a short time after the real estate census. An important element of the arrangement of the real estate record is not only its establishment, but primarily in its quality and regular maintenance, without which the database will not be implemented and fulfil its purpose, also determined by the Law of Real Estate Record.

### 5.1.7 Consumer protection

Consumer protection is divided into consumer matters and food safety. The latter requires the provision of efficient supervision over the entire supply chain (from the field to the table), including legal standards on the environment and animal welfare.

#### Safe/healthy food

Data on ecological production and the processing of food and marketing of agricultural products and foodstuffs, organic livestock farming, its import and export, control organisations and certification, foodstuffs with protected designation of origin, foodstuffs with protected geographical indication, are available at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food. The Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning is responsible for data on genetically modified organisms. The Ministry of Health is interested in data on healthy nutrition.

The work of SORS will be directed at closer inter-institutional cooperation (also via the statistical advisory body for health) for the monitoring of the content and quality of data and access to data for users in one place.

### 5.1.8 Crime

Statistical data on crime are intended to support policies/strategies for the prevention and control of crime at the national and international levels.

Within the statistics on justice, national statistics display data on criminal offences and offenders registered by the prosecution and courts. These are data on the number of accused and convicted persons by different variables (gender, age, education), on the duration of incarceration, procedures and sentences. Besides SORS, some of the data on crime statistics at the national level is also collected by other institutions (for example. the police within the Ministry of the Interior – data on registered crime; the Prison Administration within the Ministry of Justice – data on prisons and prison population). The Crime Victim Survey, which is harmonised with the International Crime Victim Survey (ICVS), provides data on the experiences of crime victims, on the reporting of criminal acts to the police, on satisfaction with police work, on the feeling of safety, etc.

**The following activities will be emphasised in the medium-term:**

**Development of a system of comparable statistics**

In accordance with EU guidelines and the EU Action Plan 2006–2010<sup>25</sup> activities related to the development of a system of comparable statistics on crime, criminal justice and victimisation will be continued in the next medium-term. The emphasis will be on developing and improving data (and metadata) monitoring methodology, ie the data based on the administrative records of the police, courts, and prisons (in cooperation with providers of such data), and data obtained on the basis of a survey of victims. A European module of questions about victimisation which will be take place in the end of 2007 or the beginning of 2008 will be prepared within the Eurostat, while the implementation of the main survey in accordance with the plans at the EU level, is envisaged for 2008 or 2009.

**Preparation of a single methodology for crime recording**

Drafting of a uniform methodology for the recording of crime from discovery to the final judgement and the connection between the register of the police, prosecution, courts, prisons and the Ministry of Justice will be carried out as part of the set goals of the National Strategy for the Prevention and Elimination of Crime adopted in 2006. The aspect of international comparability of records should be taken into account in the drafting of the methodology. The project starts in 2007 and will be concluded by the end of 2009. It will be headed by the Ministry of Public Administration, and SORS will be one of the participants.

### 5.1.9 Social database

**Purpose of the project**

The purpose of the Social Statistics Database (PBSS) project, which took place in SORS, is the establishment of interoperable statistical databases. The results of the project will be implemented in 2008.

*Renewal of the process of collection and analysis of data*

The establishment of the base will enable the efficient and more rational implementation of regular tasks and the satisfaction of the analytical needs of the users. An expected result of the base is the possibility of connecting and different statistical sources to will cover all phases of the statistical process. The base will enable integration into the functional and efficient production of data in the area of social statistics.

*further reduction of administrative burdens*

The PBSS will set frameworks for the later implementation of major surveys and censuses, sampling of special groups, and analyses. The database will enable the quality integration of data related to the social structure of Slovenia's population, the timely provision of data for national needs and the needs of the EU. The base will be highly applicable for all surveys on households and people carried out by SORS, and will also considerably reduce burdens on the providers of data.

<sup>25</sup> "The "EU Action Plan 2006–2010" has been harmonised within the European Commission, but has not been adopted by the Council of the EU and the European Parliament.

## 5.2 MACROECONOMIC STATISTICS

### *A review of priority activities by individual area:*

<b>National accounts</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implementation of the data transmission programme defined by EU legislation</li> <li>2. Provision of the high quality national accounts estimates, compiled in accordance with EU legislation and international standards, with a special emphasis on gross national income</li> <li>3. Elimination of differences between non-financial and financial institutional sector accounts, and their further development</li> <li>4. Preparation of the transition to a revised system of national accounts</li> </ol>
<b>Prices</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction of new price correction methods and modern approach in their monitoring</li> <li>2. Monitoring of prices of services charged by producers</li> <li>3. Real estate prices</li> </ol>
<b>Trade</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adjustment to legal and methodological changes</li> </ol>
<b>Balance of payments and other statistics on economic relations with the rest of the world</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adjustment of the reporting system to the EU legislation</li> <li>2. Updating of the direct reporting system</li> <li>3. Development of statistics on service exchange</li> </ol>
<b>Statistics on monetary and financial institutions and markets</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Expansion of statistics on non-monetary financial institutions and payment systems</li> <li>2. Integration of the reporting of statistics with the requirements of supervision over financial institutions</li> <li>3. Further gradual development of the Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured (FISIM) in the Bank of Slovenia</li> </ol>

### 5.2.1 National accounts

National accounts provide extensive, comprehensive and coherent data on the structure of the economy, its development, and comparisons with economies of other countries. They are used for three main purposes: (i) monitoring economic performance (ii) macroeconomic analyses, and (iii) the formation of policies and decision-making.

For the EU and its members, national accounts data is the main basis for the creation and supervision of their economic, monetary and social policies. It is also important for the implementation of certain special tasks: for determining the EU's own resources (resources on the basis of the gross national income and value added tax), for the supervision and management of European monetary policy (deficit and debt of the general government sector, as convergent measures for the Economic and Monetary Union are defined on the basis of national accounts data) and for granting financial support to regions in the EU. Due to these specific types of use, national accounts data must be comparable among EU members, and prepared in accordance with the provisions of the European System of Accounts from 1995 (ESA 1995).

***The following activities will be emphasised in the medium-term:***

**Implementation of the data transmission programme**

The set of national accounts data which must be provided by EU Member States is defined in numerous legislative documents. The most important regulation is the Council Regulation (EC) No 2223/96 on the European system of national and regional accounts in the Community, which defines the majority of reporting requirements. The provisions of other regulations are also used, particularly for the area of quarterly data on the general government sector, and quarterly institutional sector accounts. SORS provides the majority of data required by the mentioned regulations, while aggregates in certain areas are still not available, or are available for shorter periods of time (annual institutional sector accounts, fixed capital stock, labour input in working hours as a basis for measuring of productivity, etc.). In addition, the amended regulation 2223/96 will also require additional and more detailed data which will have to be provided in shorter periods of time. The work will be directed at providing a complete set of data within the envisaged time limits. SORS will also develop a methodology for the estimation of macroeconomic data which are not required by EU legislation, but which are important for national needs (for example, expenditure of the general government sector by purpose at the second level of classification, tourism satellite accounts).

**Provision of the high quality national accounts estimates**

Administrative use of national accounts data in the EU requires comparability among Member States and compliance with the provisions of ESA 1995. This particularly applies to gross national income, on the basis of which the major part of the contribution of a Member State to the EU budget is determined. SORS improved in the last ten years with numerous revisions the compliance of the assessment of gross domestic product and gross national income estimates with ESA 1995, and the estimates now comply with international standards to the fullest extent. The methodology for the estimation of gross national income is described in a document on the basis of which the Eurostat will assess compliance. Most activities will therefore be directed at providing quality data, compliant with ESA 1995, and eliminating possible discrepancies as soon as possible. Within this framework, SORS will also pay attention to the description of methodologies for the estimation of national accounts aggregates.

**Elimination of differences between non-financial and financial institutional sector accounts, and their further development**

SORS and the Bank of Slovenia will make efforts to reconcile institutional sectoral non-financial accounts, financial accounts and the balance of payments at the annual level. In the area of quarterly institutional sectoral accounts, SORS, the Bank of Slovenia and the Ministry of Finance will prepare financial accounts for the general government sector for the period from the first quarter of 1999 to the fourth quarter of 2003, while SORS, the Bank of Slovenia and the AJPES will prepare a feasibility study for the development of consistent quarterly institutional sectoral accounts.

**Preparation of the transition to a revised system of national accounts**

The system of national accounts is a statistical system which changes and adapts to the development of the economy. The current system, used worldwide, was established in 1993, and its European version was established in 1995. The system of national accounts from 1993 has been amended on a large scale, and is expected to enter into force in 2008. The amended European system will enter into force few years later, and is expected to become mandatory about 2012/2014. Active Cooperation in the revision process will facilitate the transition to the new system, which will introduce numerous methodological changes.

All mentioned activities will be carried out continuously in the 2008–2012 period. The Slovenian statistical system, which emphasises administrative-statistical sources of data, and its register orientation, will be of key importance for their successful implementation, while the constant availability of the existing sources of data will also be important for the goals to be achieved.

Cooperation between SORS, the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Slovenia will be very important for the implementation of tasks in the area of macroeconomic statistics also in the medium-term period 2008–2012, primarily due to the coordination of responsibilities and activities arising from the statistical tasks of the EU and EMU. Cooperation is determined with a memorandum of understanding between the institutions, which was amended in 2007.

## 5.2.2 Prices

Monitoring the movement of prices of selected products and services and measuring inflationary pressure in different phases of production – factory gate prices and consumer prices, as well as in different geographical area - in Slovenia and abroad, and making international comparisons by means of different price indices are the most important tasks which define activities in the area of price statistics.

***The following activities will be emphasised in the medium-term:***

### **Introduction of new price correction methods and modern approach in their monitoring**

The provision of price stability and conduct of adequate financial and economic policy not only in one country, but also in a wider context, has become so important for every developed market economy that countries have focused all their forces on the development of quality statistical instruments which should be based on comparable and reliable foundations. A result of years of work, which still has not been concluded, was the preparation and development of the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP), which besides the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) presents one of the main instruments for measuring inflation on the consumer side. On the producer side, this work was directed at preparing different kinds of industrial production price indices. For the provision and improvement of the mentioned indices, a part of the time and energy will also be dedicated in the following years to the introduction of new methods of price correction due to changes in quality, while the adopted recommendations and standards for certain groups of products (for example, cars, clothes and footwear, technical products) as well as new, modern approaches in the monitoring of prices (for example, the use of administrative sources and a gradual transition to electronic reporting) will also be taken into account.

### **Monitoring of prices of services charged by producers**

Monitoring the prices of services charged by producers is also one of the development tasks, which is expected to be realised by 2010 with the publication of price indices for selected types of services. Requests for the monitoring of selected types of services are defined in amendment Regulation (EC) 1158/05 of the European Parliament and of Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98 concerning short-term statistics. The needs occurred primarily due to deficient information on the movement of prices in the services sector and due to the increase in their importance in recent years. Information on the prices of services falls within short-term economic indicators, which are also a source for the calculation of other statistical indicators, and the financial sector needs it to determine adequate instruments in monetary policy. Monitoring the prices of services is rather demanding from the performance aspect, because its complexity is a result of the uniqueness and dynamics of such prices and the difficulty of acquiring the necessary information. All this will demand the constant adjustment of methodology, as well as methods of monitoring.

In this period therefore SORS will have to provide in this period information on the fluctuation of prices of the most important services in accordance with the mentioned regulation. In order to acquire the best possible data for the needs of weighting, SORS has to increase the intensity of its cooperation with reporting units and individual associations. In already established surveys,

SORS will have to constantly adjust to development changes in activities, by including or excluding typical or atypical services. SORS will include new surveys when necessary, while the start of the publication of data for already established surveys is also expected in this period.

**Real estate prices**

Real estate prices, primarily the prices of apartments and the situation on the real estate market is becoming an increasingly important issue both in Slovenia and abroad. Monitoring the fluctuation of prices of different kinds of real estate with the calculation of adequate price indices will therefore be one of the main priorities not only of Slovenian national statistics, but also of numerous other countries and international institutions in the coming years, because this is one of the key sources of information for the creation of monetary policy of an individual country and the assessment of its financial stability, as well as for general economic analyses and the conduct of housing policy. The publication of price indices for existing housing and land, and for new housing, in addition to two other price indices (transaction costs and major repairs, as well as renovations) is envisaged for the beginning of the application of the programme. The initial phase consists of preparing independent indices. Also expected to take place in this period is a discussion on and consideration of the possibilities for the potential inclusion of these indices (completely or partially) in the Consumer Price Index.

*studying the availability and different data sources and methodology*

The study of availability and different data sources, study of the existing methodology and guidelines in terms of the fluctuation of prices of different types of real estate, the creation of statistical methodology and procedures for data collection and the calculation of adequate real estate price indices are tasks which have been implemented since 2006 and will also be one of the main priorities in the area of price statistics in future.

**Purchasing power parity**

Besides regular cyclic tasks, SORS will also continue the work on the project as the Head of the Group for Balkan countries (Albania, Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina) in the comparison of purchasing power parity (PPP). The head of the group of countries prepares methodological instructions and lists of products and services of final consumption of the population, performs control of the collected prices, and calculates PPP and the validation of results. A new regulation which is being adopted and which will establish new tasks for this area is expected to enter into force in 2008.

**5.2.3 Trade in goods**

External trade statistics monitors trade in goods with foreign countries. Since Slovenia's accession to the EU, external trade statistics have consisted of Extrastat (statistics on trade in goods of EU Member States with non-member countries; data source are customs declarations) and Intrastat (statistics on trade in goods between EU Member States; data source are statistical questionnaires). Statistical data on external trade is an important indicator of economic performance. It is used as support for the conduct of the national and European economic and European foreign trade and monetary policy, for market and other analyses, and as input for other statistics (balance of payments, national accounts).

***In the medium-term the emphasis will be on the following activities:***

**Adjustment to legal and methodological changes**

*Extrastat*

In the area of external trade statistics, in the medium-term 2008–2012 the European statistical legislation for Extrastat will be adjusted to the planned amendments of the EU Customs Code, which will enable and support the so-called centralised customs clearance of goods and the use of the Single European Authorisation for simplified customs procedures. This will cause a partial loss of national sovereignty in the production of Extrastat, because economic operators will have the possibility to submit customs declarations for imports and exports of goods in any EU Member State. The revised European regulation on Extrastat will be sent into co-ordination and adoption procedure in the Council of the EU and the European Parliament by the end of 2007 or the beginning of 2008, and is expected to enter into force on 1

January 2009. Its actual implementation depends on the implementation of the revised EU Customs Code and on the readiness and capacity of EU Member States to adapt their customs and statistical information systems.

*Intrastat* Simultaneously also Intrastat will be adjusted. Intrastat has been the subject of criticisms since its implementation in 1993 due to its complexity, volume of data, burden on reporting units and high costs. In line with the guidelines of the European Commission and Eurostat, as the institution responsible for EU statistics, on further simplification of statistics and reduction of administrative burdens, the Intrastat system is expected to be considerably simplified and thus to reduce the burdens on the reporting units and on the national statistical institutes. However, it seems that the proposal of the implementation of one-flow system (monitoring only dispatches), which already failed some years ago (the so-called SLIM project), is not achievable at least in the short-run. Data on trade in goods between EU Member States, and in particular on trade in goods within the Eurozone, are one of the key statistical indicators for the monitoring and management of the EU economic and monetary policy, therefore in particular the European Central Bank (ECB) cannot renounce to timely and good quality statistical data on foreign trade. It is therefore expected that the simplifications will be introduced gradually, on the basis of previous detailed analyses on their effects on the quality and timeliness of data, burdens on the reporting units and the costs of the statistical survey, and will thus at least in the initial phase be oriented to the use of already known and established statistical tools (regulation of the statistical threshold for reporting, possible abolition of certain data on the Intrastat form, simplification of the Combined Nomenclature, improvement of data estimation methods, harmonisation of data protection approaches, etc.). Eurostat has launched a series of projects for the simplification of Intrastat in order to reduce the administrative burdens and reporting costs of the reporting units. These activities will be supported financially and expert-wise mainly with the new MEETS directive, which should be adopted at the beginning of 2008. SORS is already actively participating in certain projects and in the first half of 2006 it carried out a survey on the burdens and reporting costs of the most important Intrastat operators. SORS is also planning to participate in projects, which are foreseen in the framework of the MEETS directive.

#### **5.2.4 Balance of payments and other statistics on economic relations with the rest of the world**

Statistics: Balances of payment, service exchange, balance sheets for international investment, direct investment, foreign debt, etc. are important macroeconomic indicators of Slovenia's economic relations with other countries, and provide national inputs into aggregates of the EU and EMU.

The gradual transition from indirect sources of data from payment transactions to direct reporting in the statistics on international economic relations will be continued in the medium-term 2008–2012.

Due to the elimination of indirect reporting for balance of payments and cross-border payment transactions and the introduction of a uniform payment transaction system (Single Euro Payments Area, SEPA), a full transition to more demanding collection of data from direct reporting is envisaged. This presents the transition to a higher number of used sources, assessment, management of samples, etc. In this sense, the efforts at reducing burdens on reporters will be continued. Analyses on the possible use of microdata will also be continued.

In statistics on travel (within the statistics on the services of current account of the balance of payments) the cooperation between SORS and the Bank of Slovenia will be continued in accordance with the agreement between the institutions.

The system of direct reporting for the needs of statistics on economic relations with foreign countries will be upgraded to web application in the medium-term.

### **5.2.5 Statistics on monetary and financial institutions and markets**

Statistics on monetary and financial institutions and markets are organised under the auspices of the ESCB as basic support for the monetary analysis and policy of the Eurozone.

Statistics on monetary institutions are defined by regulations ECB/2001/13 and ECB/2001/18, both from 2001, which will be amended in 2008. Because the ECB will request in 2009 data from the amended reporting, a supplementation of the reporting from monetary financial institutions (MFI) in 2008 will be necessary. The mentioned supplementation of reporting from MFI will be included in 2008 and 2009 together with the other needs for statistics and supervision of banking activities into a uniform system of reporting from MFI, which is being gradually built.

In addition, the ESCB is developing a methodological and legal basis for the collection of data from non-monetary financial institutions, the S.123, S.124 and S.125 sectors. On the basis of the regulations of the ECB adopted in 2007, data from the new report from investment funds, which will be gradually followed by requests for data from other subjects of financial sectors, will be requested in 2008.

The Bank of Slovenia will gradually develop in the medium-term 2008–20012 the calculation for financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM) in the entire financial sector.

## 5.3 BUSINESS STATISTICS

### *A review of priority activities by individual area:*

<b>Short-term and annual business statistics</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improvement of international comparability of short-term indicators</li> <li>2. Improvement of the quality of indicators and reduction of burdens on reporting units</li> <li>3. Introduction of reviewed classification of activities – SKD 2008</li> </ol>
<b>Structural business statistics</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development of globalisation indicators</li> </ol>
<b>Statistical business register</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Technological and content renewal of the statistical business register</li> <li>2. Participation in the maintenance of the quality of the administrative business register – introduction of SKD 2008</li> <li>3. Communication with reporting units – use of services of other institutions</li> </ol>
<b>Transport</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Measuring the volume of transport and development of modal, structural, regional and environmental indicators</li> <li>2. Simplifications and rationalisation of data collection in accordance with amendments to legislation</li> </ol>
<b>Tourism</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. More guidelines for a comprehensive approach to monitoring tourism</li> <li>2. Amendments to EU legislation</li> </ol>
<b>Energy and raw materials</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reducing burden on reporting units</li> <li>2. Calculation of sustainable development indicators</li> </ol>

### 5.3.1 Short-term and annual business statistics

Short-term statistics are intended for monitoring the economic cycle within Slovenia and the EU, which is monitoring the movement of different indicators, such as turnover, new orders, employment, producer prices, etc. At the EU level, this area is regulated by Regulation No 1665/98<sup>26</sup>. Short-term statistics cover four areas: industry, construction, trade and different services. In the previous medium-term, SORS strove to reach the greatest possible compliance with the provisions of the Regulation, which has been achieved almost to the full extent, or will be reached in 2009 (change of the base year). Further development of business statistics and statistics on foreign trade will be supported by the Eurostat with a new Directive on updating European statistics on companies and statistics on foreign trade (the so-called MEETS directive), the main goals of which are: developing a target group of new indicators and examine advantages; directing the development of statistics related to companies; introducing more efficient ways of data collection; and updating and simplifying the Intrastat system (statistics on trade in goods among EU Member States).

<sup>26</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:31998R1165:EN:HTML>

**The following activities will be emphasised in the medium-term:**

**Improvement of international comparability of short-term indicators**

In the next medium-term, work will focus on the harmonisation of indicators which were adopted with a supplement to the aforementioned directive<sup>27</sup> from 2005 and are mainly concern various prices (import prices, services prices at providers). Considering the increasing importance of service activities, the Eurostat is announcing the adoption of a new supplement to the Regulation, which is expected to be adopted by the end of 2012 and to determine the monitoring of the service production index. In the area of construction, the adoption of the decision of the existing monitoring of construction costs (material costs and labour costs) is expected to be replaced by producer prices in construction in 2008. If the decision is adopted, this would conclude a range of producer price indicators: already existing in industry, still developing in service activities, and announced for construction. The development of the EU legislation is taken into account also in the development of short-term statistics in SORS, and development tasks will eventually be distributed among regular tasks.

**Improvement of the quality of indicators and reduction of burdens on reporting units**

Particular attention will be paid to the area of quality of short-term indicators, which covers reducing deadlines for the publication of data, as well as reducing burdens on reporting units (use of administrative sources, more modern ways of data reporting). On SORS side this means a reduction of surveying costs. SORS will continue to participate in the working group in the Eurostat with initiatives for the simplification of Prodcom – the nomenclature of industrial products – and will advocate the integration of very detailed items and the suspension of the monitoring of services. In the area of trade, SORS is planning a study with which it will determine how to use the existing registers in surveys (for example, reporting on sales considering the EAN code classification).

**Introduction of reviewed classification of activities SKD 2008**

The first half of the medium-term will be marked primarily by the introduction of reviewed classification of activities in statistical surveys. In 2009, first the data from monthly and quarterly surveys will be published under the new classification, followed by the data from annual surveys. Data series, primarily since 2000, will be prepared in short-term surveys.

### **5.3.2 Structural business statistics**

Structural business statistics monitor the structure and activity of business subjects, their development and behaviour in given economic conditions, their competitiveness and performance, and the use of production factors and other elements necessary for their operation. In this process, structural statistics uses administrative and the existing statistical sources. The work of business subjects is monitored at the regional level, national businesses, the Community and at the international level, taking into account the size classes of companies and the characteristics of individual activities. The European legal basis for structural business statistics is the Regulation (ES, EURATOM) No 58/97, which is being reviewed. A new regulation, which is in the final phase of harmonisation and adoption in the Council of the EU and the Parliament, is expected to enter into force already in 2007. It will be used in accordance with the annexes to the regulation which cover different content areas and timetables of their introduction. In comparison to the existing regulation, the new regulation contains two new annexes (annex VIII on business services and annex IX on the demography of companies) and will monitor in more detail primarily service activities. In terms of defining and monitoring new content areas, it introduces the possibility of *ad-hoc* surveys and voluntary pilot surveys.

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<sup>27</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:31998R1165:EN:HTML>

***The following activities will be emphasised in the medium-term:*****Development of globalisation indicators**

The international activities of economic subjects are reflected in different occurrences and aspects of globalisation. As an element of structural business statistics, the significant growth of globalisation indicators, which among other things includes foreign affiliate trade statistics (FATS) and statistics on international sourcing, is expected in the coming years. The legal basis for the development of new indicators will be a new Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on the structure and activity of foreign affiliates, which is in the final phase of harmonisation and is expected to be adopted in 2007. The new regulation determines a set of variables which EU Member States will be obliged to monitor and send to the Eurostat. The Eurostat already stimulates the development of the mentioned indicators as part of various financial programmes and projects, providing expert and financial support to the Member States. Almost all projects also include the implementation of a trial survey from the given area and an analysis of costs and benefits, because this is a condition for further amending EU statistics legislation. In the area of globalisation indicators, SORS is currently included in one of the Eurostat's projects for the development of foreign affiliate trade statistics and the Eurostat's pilot project for statistics on international sourcing, and by doing so, actively participates in the development and introduction of new indicators.

**5.3.3 Statistical business register**

The statistical business register is a database of statistical units of the business population, which is on the one hand a source of data for statistics based on data from business register and certain administrative records (production and services statistics, structural statistics on companies, demography of companies, performance indicators for companies, globalisation indicators, groups of companies, foreign affiliates, foreign trade statistics), and on the other hand, supports business processes in SORS (electronic and classical collection of statistical data, maintenance of data on reporting units related to statistical surveys, communication with reporting units, etc.). The statistical business register is also a source of data for certain satellite registers, such as the register for Intrastat and the register of groups of companies. From the aspect of data on groups of companies, the statistical business register is also an important infrastructural basis for studying globalisation processes.

***The following activities will be emphasised in the medium-term:*****Technological and content renewal of the statistical business register**

The statistical business register (SPR) will be renewed in terms of technology and content in the next few years. Technological renewal will be performed within the ISIS infrastructural project, while its aim is to establish a functional database of statistical units of the business population, which will open business processes of SORS and be a source of data for statistical surveys. Content-wise, renewal primarily concerns the introduction of methodologies, variables and procedures for the implementation of statistics, which will have to be quickly developed in the following years in order to catch up with and monitor the development of the world's economy in the conditions of globalisation, increased international exchange of services and accelerated development of information technology. The harmonisation of European methodologies with methodologies of other international organisations, in particular of the OECD, which will considerably improve the quality and international comparability of data, also falls within this framework. The European legal basis of the SPR is Council Regulation (EEC) No 2186/93 of 22 July 1993 on Community coordination in drawing up business registers for statistical purposes, which is being reviewed. The new regulation is in the final phase of harmonisation and adoption in the EU Council working group on statistics and in the European Parliament. An important innovation is the commitment to managing units from the area of agriculture, fisheries and public administration, and data on groups of companies.

Participation in the maintenance of the quality of the administrative business register – introduction of NACE Rev.2

The first condition for the quality of the statistical business register is the quality of administrative business register (PRS), which is managed by the AJPES. The legal basis for maintenance of the quality of administrative business register is the Decree on keeping and maintaining of Business Register of Slovenia, which introduces the possibility of verification and supplementation of data in the register by means of a questionnaire. SORS and the AJPES actively cooperate within various working groups. The cooperation is currently focused primarily on the translation of the PRS and the SPR into a reviewed classification of activities NACE Rev. 2 or its national version SKD 2008. The automatic translation of the main activity code from the existing into the new classification will be possible for approximately 60–70 % of the PRS units. A web (the so-called structural) questionnaire on the website of the AJPES, through which the units of the register will decide on their main activity according to the new classification, will be prepared for other units. All activities related to the translation of the PRS and SPR must be concluded by the end of September 2007, while the formal translation of the PRS will be carried out on 1 January 2008. The mentioned activities take place as part of SORS's project of the introduction of a reviewed European classification of activities NACE Rev. 2 into statistical surveys and the administrative environment, which also includes other methodological and operative questions regarding the management and maintenance of the PRS. This project is the national implementation of the results of the European project Operation 2007, which has been carried out since 2002, the aim of which is a revision of European economic classifications (primarily the classification of economic activities NACE and the classification of product by activity CPA) and their harmonisation with adequate international economic classifications (primarily the ISIC and CPC classifications of the UN Statistical Office). At the end of 2006, the EU regulation on NACE Rev. 2 will be adopted, while the EU regulation on the CPA will be adopted in 2007. Both classifications will be used as of 1 January 2008. Meanwhile a national regulation on the SKD 2008, which will supplement the EU regulation from the aspect of national sub-classes of classification, will be adopted in 2007.

Communication with reporting units – use of services of other institutions

As part of the cooperation between SORS and reporting units and the promotion of SORS's own activities (aid to reporting units in their reporting, communication in the case of non-reporting or reporting of incorrect data, increasing the awareness of reporting units on statistical data for the economy and society, submission of statistical data and information to reporting units, etc.) Besides its own media (SORS website, press conferences, publications, written and telephone communication) SORS also uses the services of other institutions and media, such as the websites of the AJPES, the Customs Administration of the Republic of Slovenia (CURS) and other institutions, e-VEM points, etc.

### 5.3.4 Transport

Transport as a service activity is one of the most important and most complex areas in a time of globalisation and the 'increasingly smaller world'. Mobility of goods and persons are important aspects of the competitiveness of European industry and services; it is also an important right of citizens.<sup>28</sup> Statistics on transport provides data on the flow of passengers and goods, infrastructure, types of transport, traffic, mobility, safety, consumption of energy, environmental impact, etc.

**The following activities will be emphasised in the medium-term:**

**Measuring the volume of transport and development of modal, structural, regional and environmental indicators**

Concerning the environmental impact of transport, the Community Statistical Programme 2008 to 2012<sup>29</sup> states that one of the deficiencies of the current statistics on transport is that it does not provide data for monitoring traffic congestion, vehicle emissions and other environmental impacts. In order to improve the situation, it is expected that in the next period in all countries, including Slovenia, more emphasis will be put on measuring the volume of road traffic, with the indicator of vehicle kilometers. The introduction of new surveys is not to be expected, but only closer cooperation with the Slovenian Roads Agency. Population mobility will also be monitored periodically, and the provision of indicators by type of transport will also be important.

**Simplification and rationalisation of data collection**

With the announced modernisation of EU statistics legislation regarding maritime transport and port traffic (amending of existing legislation or even a new legislation after 2008) major content changes are expected after 2009. Simplifications from the aspect of the ratio between mandatory and optional variables and direction into the direct use of (commercial) databases of vessels for the purpose of collection of data from individual ports or statistical offices are also envisaged.

### 5.3.5 Tourism

Considering the more than 50-year tradition of the publication of data on the arrivals and overnight stays of tourists, statistics on tourism are among the oldest, and remain interesting due to the increasing importance of tourism. This is supported by a document issued by the Ministry of Economy entitled Development Plan and Policies of Slovenian Tourism 2007–2011<sup>30</sup>, which states, "Tourism offers an important development and business opportunity for Slovenia. In view of the current development level of Slovene tourism and the existing development potential, tourism is positioned to become one of the leading branches of industry of the Slovenian economy in the following years..." Existing surveys from the area of tourism provide data on tourist infrastructure, revenue and the number of overnight stays of tourists in Slovenia, and travels of the Slovenian population throughout Slovenia and abroad. SORS also periodically studies foreign tourists and passengers arriving in Slovenia.

**The following activities will be emphasised in the medium-term:**

**More guidelines for comprehensive approach to the monitoring of tourism satellite accounts**

So far, less emphasis has been put on the studying of excursion tourism and the tourism branch as a whole, which covers both stationery and the mentioned excursion tourism. The importance of tourism as a whole is reflected in the calculations of the co-called 'satellite accounts for tourism', which implementation SORS plans to introduce in the second part of the next medium-term. This area is dealt with by selected providers from the Ministry of Economy.

In cooperation with the Bank of Slovenia, SORS will carry out surveys which will form the basis/input source for the model of travel within the balance of payments. Besides already established surveys, these will mainly be surveys

<sup>28</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/transport/transport\\_policy\\_review/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/transport_policy_review/index_en.htm)

<sup>29</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:31998R1165:EN:HTML>

<sup>30</sup> [http://www.mg.gov.si/fileadmin/mg.gov.si/pageuploads/turizem/Microsoft\\_Word\\_-\\_RNUST\\_2007-2011-popravki\\_10.7.2006-za\\_na\\_splet-1.pdf](http://www.mg.gov.si/fileadmin/mg.gov.si/pageuploads/turizem/Microsoft_Word_-_RNUST_2007-2011-popravki_10.7.2006-za_na_splet-1.pdf)

related to foreign passengers (transit passengers, same-day travelers) and their expenditure during their stay in the Republic of Slovenia. Data from the Slovenian Roads Agency will also be used.

**Amendments to EU legislation**

New legislation on tourism will be adopted in the second half of the medium-term for the area of the entire Community. The reason for the changes lies in the necessity for higher comparability and adequacy of data: better harmonisation in the area of data collection (input harmonization) and in the area of publication of data (output harmonization). Changes to the legislation are expected to be bound to the existing content, and will be primarily focused on the update and expansion of indicators, and it is not envisaged that the regulation should bring commitments for the inclusion of new content areas.

### **5.3.6 Energy and raw materials**

Statistics on energy have been developed in order to satisfy the needs of energy policies both at the national and international level. This purpose is realised with the creation of annual energy balances of the country, the implementation of monthly and annual commitments to the reporting to international institutions (Eurostat, IEA, OECD, UN), the provision of statistical data to Slovenian scientific institutions (the research institute Jožef Stefan, the Electric Power Research Institute, the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering), state institutions (the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning) and other users in Slovenia and abroad. These data are also very important for the preparation of assessments on emissions of dangerous substances.

Within statistics on energy, SORS collects data on the production, export and import, sale and consumption of all types of energy products, and implements surveys which monitor the prices of energy for final users. An increasing emphasis has been put on the monitoring of the consumption of renewable energy sources.

***The following activities will be emphasised in the medium-term:***

**Reducing burden on reporting units**

In order to reduce burdens on reporting units, the office will put more emphasis on the cooperation with the Ministry of Economy, which is building a joint energy database. Collection of data together with the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning will finally be harmonised, which will prevent double collection and reduce burdens on reporting units and the costs of implementing surveys.

*development of new methodologies*

SORS will develop a methodology for acquiring precise and good quality data on the consumption of renewable energy sources, in particular from solar and geothermal energy and biofuels. In the next period, SORS will follow and adjust to changes in the EU in the implementation of Combined Heat and Power – CHP (co-production of electricity and power).

**Calculation of sustainable development indicators**

Sustainable development indicators on climate change and energy, for which adequate, timely and quality data will have to be provided, have been increasingly introduced recently.

## 5.4 AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

### **Review of priority activities:**

1. Simplification of legislation on statistics
2. Reduction of burdens on reporting units - use of administrative sources
3. Census of Agriculture in 2010
4. Agro-environmental statistics
5. Monitoring of the use of pesticides

Statistics on agriculture, forestry and fisheries provide basic data necessary for planning and monitoring the effects of policies on agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and data which are the basis for monitoring the development this area and a reference point for more detailed research.

Besides the basic production characteristics of agriculture, forestry and fisheries are becoming increasingly important themes in politics and research, which points to the interaction and environmental effects of these economic areas. Statistics from this area thus adjust with the collection of data to the needs of users; moreover, the collection of basic production data also offers calculations of different agro-environmental indicators and indicators of the socio-economic characteristics of agriculture and fisheries, which point to the development in these branches and their environmental effects. In addition, the Statistical Programme of the European Community for the next period does not emphasise agriculture, forestry and fisheries statistics as such, but sustainable development as a priority goal. Slovenia's Development Strategy, drafted by the Government of the RS, points out primarily the relationship between agriculture and environment (subduing the environmental impact of agriculture). The importance of data and indicators prepared and collected under internationally recognised methods, which will be displayed by national statistics, is in the objective presentation of the situation in the area and provision of international comparability.

### **The following activities will be emphasised in the medium-term:**

#### **Simplification of statistical legislation**

Efforts at simplifying legislation on statistics and, in particular, harmonisation of such legislation in the area of agriculture with the remaining legislation on agriculture will be continued. Only by doing so will SORS, together with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, be able to continue efforts for as wide use of administrative data for statistical purposes as possible at the state level.

#### **Reducing burdens on reporting units**

##### *use of administrative sources*

In order to reach the mentioned goal, SORS will continue the methodological cooperation with custodians of data sources in terms of amending and establishing new administrative collections of data and will follow changes to the legislation on agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and to actively participate in the process of simplifying and amending legislation on statistics within the Eurostat's working groups. In the establishment of new collections of data, SORS can use its technical experience related to the establishment and maintenance of collections of data, and provide content harmonisation of those sources with the legislation. In regular surveys and in the implementation of development tasks, SORS will in advance use all available, quality and methodologically adequate administrative sources and by doing so reduce burdens on reporting units as much as possible, and reduce the costs of data collection.

#### **Census of Agriculture in 2010**

In 2010, SORS will provide the quality implementation of a census of Agriculture, with which it will for the second time acquire detailed and internationally comparable data on the structure of agricultural holdings (the first census in compliance with the EU was carried out in 2000). The results

will provide a detailed update of the entire Statistical Register of Agricultural Holdings, and will be a reference point for agricultural statistics in the next medium-term.

*Statistical Register of Agricultural Holdings* Attention will be focused on current updating and developing the Statistical Register of Agricultural Holdings, which is the main basis for preparing sample frameworks for statistical surveys of agriculture. In addition, an emphasis will be put on the collection of basic data which will be bases or calculations of different indicators of sustainable development (collection of data primarily within areas 61, 64, sub-area 64991 – Statistics on the consumption of reproduction material and mineral fertilisers in agriculture, and 67) and the socio-economic characteristics of the agriculture and fisheries sector. By collecting data from all available administrative sources, SORS will reduce burdens on reporting units, prevent the multiple collection of data of the same kind at the state level, and preserve and improve the quality of data with simultaneous reduction of the costs of collection. More importance will be given to the analysis of data and connecting the data from this area with related or linked content.

**Agro-environmental statistics** The monitoring of the preparation of a set of agro-environmental indicators will be continued. The preparation of these indicators is mainly based on existing statistical and administrative data, but some methodological upgrades of the existing statistical surveys and even a few new projects would be launched to satisfy the needs for the calculation of sustainable development indicators.

**Monitoring the use of pesticides** New requirements for data on the sale and consumption of pesticides contained in the new draft regulations of the EU in the area of sustainable use of these means fall within the most demanding national statistical tasks in terms of expertise and finance. Quality data on the circulation of pesticides in terms of the quantities of active ingredients contained in pesticides expressed in kilograms, and quality data on the use of pesticides in agriculture in terms of the quantities of active ingredients contained by those pesticides per hectare of agricultural land in use and per hectare of treated agricultural land is needed. Data on pesticides used for growing selected agricultural products are collected so that the quantity of active ingredients reaches at least 75% of the total quantity of active ingredients sold on the domestic market. Successful implementation of the task can be provided only by an efficient inter-ministerial system, so SORS has already launched an initiative for the conclusion of a contract with the Phytosanitary Administration of RS.

## 5.5 MULTI-DOMAIN STATISTICS

### *A review of priority activities by individual area:*

<b>Environment statistics and indicators</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthening relations with other institutions and seeking possibilities for the takeover of administrative sources</li> <li>2. Development of methodologies</li> <li>3. Adjustment to amendments to legislation</li> </ol>
<b>Regional statistics</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development of a statistical register of territories</li> <li>2. Providing data and cartographic support for the planning of regional policies</li> </ol>
<b>Science and technology</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Further methodological modifications</li> <li>2. Monitoring of the careers of PhDs</li> </ol>
<b>Information society</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Further development of information society statistics</li> <li>2. Monitoring the development of the Information and Communications Technology sector</li> </ol>

### 5.5.1 Environment statistics and indicators

Environment statistics are an important source of data for assessing the policies of the National Environmental Protection Programme, for reporting to the EU in accordance with EU directives, and for the creation and implementation of the policy of the 6th Environment Action Programme<sup>31</sup>, the EU Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS), and the Lisbon Strategy. Environment statistics in SORS cover data from the areas of waters, waste, environmental protection expenditure, environmental accounts and estimates of damage caused by natural disasters. In order to rationalise the collection of data on the environment, SORS has signed an agreement with the Environmental Agency of RS (ARSO) on the joint collection of data of environment statistics. On water, the adoption of a regulation which will expand the cooperation between institutions and reduce burdens on reporting units is expected.

Environmental protection expenditure is, as a response to the pressures and the state of the environment, an indicator of preparedness for the maintenance of the quality of the environment, which includes the avoidance, prevention, removal and reduction of harmful influences on the environment. The users of statistical data on environmental protection expenditure are interested primarily in the amount of funds used for environmental protection, how the funds are distributed by environmental purpose, and in sources of financing. With statistical surveying, SORS collects data for all fields of activities, and uses data for the public sector from the state budget and administrative sources (ARSO, DURS, CURS).

Data on environmental protection expenditure form the basis for the implementation of environmental accounts, which are a review of the mutual influences of the economy and environment and serve as a statistical tool for analyses of sustainable development.

The framework directive for reporting is important as the first step towards the legislative basis for environmental accounts. Regular and efficient work requires the development of legislative bases in those areas which are most important within environmental accounts (Directive for NAMEDA air pollution emissions, Directive for material flow accounts - MFA) and will be adopted at EU level. In the development, SORS will also take into account the European Strategy for Environmental Accounts

<sup>31</sup> Decision No 1600/2002/EC (O.J. L 242/1, 19/09/2002).

(ESEA). Administrative sources of the Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food and municipalities are used for the collection of data on the assessed damage caused by natural disasters.

***The following activities will be emphasised in the medium-term:***

**Takeover of administrative sources**

Strengthening relations with other institutions (including definition of responsibilities for individual areas of environment statistics) and seeking possibilities for the takeover of administrative sources of data, with which SORS will reduce burdens on reporting units, prevent multiple collection of data of the same kind at the state level; maintaining and improving the quality of data and reducing the costs of the implementation of surveys will also be very important tasks. A new classification (NACE Rev. 2), which is the foundation for all surveys on the environment, will be implemented in the research on waste statistics.

**Development of methodologies**

*waste*

In the area of waste, SORS will close gaps, and develop and improved the methodology for the collection of data on the import and export of waste, pre-treatment activities, the capacity of landfill sites, recovery and disposal facilities, and gaps in terms of the collection or acquisition of data from business enterprises which have previously been granted a concession for the collection, recovering or disposing of specific types of waste.

*environmental accounts*

In order to achieve better harmonisation of reporting and meet the requirements of environmental accounts, SORS will upgrade the acquisition of data from administrative sources, particularly in terms of taxation related to the environment, and will develop methods for the acquisition of data on environmental protection expenditure from households. In the area of environmental accounts, SORS will continue the methodological development and performance of work on the development of modules of the most important environmental accounts. The office will improve the methods of assessment and existing forms of accounts, and filling gaps in data collection, and will increase time series. A number of short-term goals are envisaged for the next period – from material flow accounts, air pollution emission accounts and energy accounts, water accounts (supply and use of water and effluent within the economy and between the economy and the environment) and natural resources accounts and forest accounts. Meanwhile, waste accounts and water accounts or emissions in the NAMEA format fall within the medium-term goals.

In addition, an emphasis will also be put on the collection of basic data which will be the foundation for the calculation of various sustainable development indicators.

## **5.5.2 Regional statistics**

An important element of the work on regional statistics is the monitoring of territorial units and their changes at all eight levels regulated by the Decree on the Standard Classification of Territorial Units, because the regional division of Slovenia is of great importance for statistical work. In relation to the collection and dissemination of statistical data, changes of house numbers (modified, newly registered, cancelled, renumbered), spatial-districts, streets, settlements and municipalities are the most important. The mentioned territorial units and house numbers both in the attribute and graphic form in the Register of Spatial Units is maintained by the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia, while the Statistical Office uses the register primarily for the preparation of code tables and cartographic presentations. Descriptive information on territorial changes and other information related to the changes to the Standard Classification of Territorial Units and Common Classification of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS), as well as other interesting territorial information, maps and code tables, the Catalogue of Regional Breakdown of the Republic of Slovenia and the link to the Klasje classification server are available to users on SORS website.

Important territorial changes have taken place on the territory of the Republic of Slovenia in recent history. The first important innovation is a change in the municipal network, because the number of municipalities increased from 193 to 210. The second are the adopted amendments to Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 May 2003 on the establishment of a Common Classification of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS), which for Slovenia means that at the level of NUTS 2, it does not act as a whole, but is divided into two regions. These are the cohesion regions of Vzhodna Slovenija and Zahodna Slovenija. These two cohesion regions are aimed at stimulating more coherent regional development and reducing differences between the regions. Amendments to the NUTS Regulation have been applicable since 1 January 2008.

The conciliation procedure within trilateral negotiations between the European Commission, the Council of the EU and the European Parliament regarding the draft directive INSPIRE was concluded in November 2006. The directive regulates reference points for the establishment of a European data infrastructure for data on space and the environment in EU Member States. The directive will have to be used as of 2009.

***The following activities will be emphasised in the medium-term:***

**Development of a statistical register of territory**

For the needs of an integrated process of the takeover of administrative and other sources of the processing and dissemination of statistical data, including the provision of new territorial disseminations, SORS will develop a statistical register of territory.

**Data and cartographic support for the planning of regional policies**

SORS will continue to provide data and cartographic support to the different regional divisions of Slovenia at different territorial levels. This support primarily relates to internal organisational units of SORS, because historical data will have to be provided due to changes at the level of NUTS 2. On 1. January 2008 amendments to the NUTS Regulation will enter into force. For Slovenia, this means that two cohesion regions will enter into force: Vzhodna Slovenija and Zahodna Slovenija. This territorial change requires the preparation of new classifications and the conversion of data. Conversion is envisaged in a number of areas: population, health, labour market, tourism, transport, environment etc. SORS will offer all necessary statistical support to the Government of RS in the establishment of provinces.

SORS will continue to actively monitor the INSPIRE directive, the purpose of which is to establish a European infrastructure of spatial data, which will provide users with comprehensive information services on spatial planning. These services must enable users to recognise and have access to spatial and geographical data from various sources, from the local to the global level, in a way which enables their multipurpose use. Target users of the INSPIRE directive include policy makers, planners and managers at the European, national and local levels, and citizens and their organisations. Possible services include the visual presentation of the information level, the application of information from different sources, spatial and time analysis, etc.

### 5.5.3 Science and technology

Statistical data from the area of research and development and innovation are used for measuring the cost of research and development and labour in this area, considering the sector and activity of the producers, divided according to different scope, and the innovation activity of companies, considering the type of innovation, innovation costs and the effects of innovation activity and cooperation.

This data, together with other relevant data based on existing sources/surveys (statistics on patents, human resources in science and technology, processing activities in the area of high technology and knowledge-based services), enable support for the implementation and monitoring of policies (strategic development goals) in the area of science and technology at the EU level and the national level in relation to the set goals of the reviewed Lisbon Strategy.

#### ***The following activities will be emphasised in the medium-term:***

##### **Further methodological modifications**

Considering the development and needs of policies and related guidelines at the EU level, further methodological supplements to the existing surveys are envisaged for the next medium-term. These supplements in the area of statistics on research and development will be related primarily to supplementing certain classifications (socio-economic goals, scientific areas), in relation to more adequate monitoring of new branches of science (nanotechnology, biotechnology); with the improvement of monitoring of the internationalisation of research and development, and by providing more adequate input for national accounts. Efforts will also be directed at further improvement of quality, currency and completeness of this data through supplementing methodological instructions and the organisation of presentations on solutions for more demanding problems in the reporting of data for reporting units of individual sectors.

In the area of innovation, SORS has envisaged the inclusion of new forms of innovation (organisational, marketing innovation). The planned methodological amendments will cause a change in the existing regulations on statistics on research and development, and on statistics on innovation in the EU, as well as the supplementation of the content of questionnaires.

##### **Monitoring the careers of PhDs**

SORS will introduce a statistical survey on the careers of PhDs, in accordance with the international methodology developed by the Eurostat, OECD and UNESCO.

The purpose of the survey is to acquire internationally comparable data on PhDs (personal information, education, employment), on their plans about future employment, on their mobility and scientific output (published articles, patents). The survey will be based on a combination of existing administrative records and special surveys on PhDs.

In order to provide quality implementation, SORS will study in 2007 the methodology and requests for data, and register existing records and data sources. A national methodology for the implementation of surveys in 2008 will be prepared on this basis. Regarding statistics on the careers of PhDs, the adoption of a new EU regulation is also being planned.

### 5.5.4 Information society

The Lisbon Strategy<sup>32</sup>, which was adopted by the European Council in March 2000, is a long-term strategy with the main goal of Europe becoming the most competitive, dynamic and knowledge-based economy in the world by 2010, which would result in sustainable economic growth and more and better jobs. One of the action plans for reaching the goals of the Lisbon Strategy is the i2010 strategy - a European Information Society for growth and employment<sup>33</sup>, which was adopted by the European Commission in 2005. In order to monitor the volume and development of the use of information and communication technology (hereinafter referred to as ICT) and the effects of its use on the development of society, the Commission has defined a set of several tens of indicators. These indicate the development of an individual society; segments of the society or are used for comparison among individual societies. Sources for the indicators are surveys which are, in respect of the Regulation 808/2004<sup>34</sup>, which regulates the collection of Community statistics on the information society carried out by statistical offices in all countries of the Community. The other sources for the indicators are surveys or administrative sources managed by national regulators (by the Post and Electronic Communications Agency in Slovenia). Additional sources are different surveys carried out occasionally under the authority of the European Commission.

***The following activities will be emphasised in the medium-term:***

#### **Further development of information society statistics**

Due to the increasingly changing nature of the entire information society, the collected data should be adjusted to new development achievements. This was taken into account in the mentioned regulation, and this is why the core modules on the use of computers and the Internet in households and companies are supplemented with a special module once a year. In study the use of ICT in households in 2008, emphasis will be put on the use of advanced services such as VoIP, P2P (peer-to-peer), in 2009 on e-business and trust, and in 2010 on security. Regarding companies, in 2008 emphasis will be put on e-business, in 2009 on e-trade, and in 2010 to security. SORS will actively pursue these development goals.

#### **Monitoring the development of the Information and Communication Technology sector**

The i2010 strategy also includes monitoring the development of the so-called ICT sector, which covers within the Standard Classification of Activities (SKD) the production of ICT devices and services related to ICT. In the area of monitoring the ICT sector, monitoring investment in ICT and the development of e-services will be particularly interesting.

<sup>32</sup> Growth and jobs - working together for Europe's future.

<sup>33</sup> [http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/eeurope/i2010/i2010/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/eeurope/i2010/i2010/index_en.htm)

<sup>34</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32004R0808:SL:NOT>

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADS	Labour Force Survey
AJPES	Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Related Services
APEK	Post and Electronic Communications Agency of the Republic of Slovenia
APG	Household Budget Survey
ARSO	Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia
CHP	Combined Heat and Power
CIRCA	Communication & Information Resource Centre Administrator
CMM	Application software
CPA	Statistical Classification of Products by Activity in the European Economic Community
CPC	Central Product Classification
CURS	Customs Administration of the Republic of Slovenia
DURS	Tax Administration of the Republic of Slovenia
E4SM	European System of Social Statistical Survey Modules
EAN	Code Classification
ECB	European Central Bank
EGS	European Economic Community
EHIS	European Health Interview Survey
EODS	European Occupational Diseases Statistics
ES	European Community
ESAW	European Statistics on Accidents at Work.
ESCB	European System of Central Banks
ESEA	European Strategy for Environmental Accounts
ESeC	European Socio-economic Classification
ESA	European System of Accounts
ESS	European Statistical System
ESSPROS	European System of Social Protection Statistics
EU	European Union
EURATOM	European Atomic Energy Community
EU-SILC	The European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions
e-VEM	Electronic Support to All (all at one place)
FATS	Statistics on Foreign Affiliates
HICŽP	Harmonised Consumer Price Index
IBM	International Business Machines Corporation
ICIPP	Industrial Product Price Index
ICVS	International Crime Victim Surveys
ICŽP	Consumer Price Index
IEA	International Energy Agency
IKT	Information and Communication Technology
ILO	International Labour Organisation
INES	Indicators of Education Systems
INSPIRE	Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community
IS	Information Services
ISCO	International Standard Classification of Occupations
ISIS	Integrated Information System
IT	Information Technology
ITIL	Information Technology Infrastructure Library
IVZ	Health Protection Institute of RS
KLASIUS	Qualification System of Education and Training
LAN	Local Area Network
MDDSZ	Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs

MEETS	Modernisation of European Enterprise and Trade Statistics
MFA	Material Flow Accounts
MG	Ministry of the Economy
MNZ	Ministry of the Interior
MOP	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning
MZ	Ministry of Health
NACE	General Industrial Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (General Classification of Economic Activities)
NAMEA	National Accounts Matrix, including Environmental Accounts (National accounting matrix, including environmental accounts)
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OMC	Open Method of Co-ordination
P2P	Peer-to-peer
PBSS	Social Statistics Database
PKM	Purchasing Power Parity
PRS	Business Register of Slovenia
RS	Republic of Slovenia
SCM	Standard Cost Model
SDMX	Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange
SDS	Sustainable Development Strategy
SHA	System of Health Accounts
SKD	Standard Classification of Activities
SKP	Standard Classification of Occupations
SLIM	Project
SOA	Service Oriented Architecture
SORS	Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia
SPR	Statistical Business Register
SRDAP	Statistical Register of Employment
UMAR	Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development
UN	United Nations
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UOE	Questionnaire UNESCO, OECD, Eurostat
VoIP	Voice Over Internet Protocol
XML	Extensible Markup Language (internet technology)

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