

## *Statistical office of the Republic of Slovenia (SORS)*

### I. GENERAL INFORMATION

<b>SORS's mission</b>	The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter SORS) as the main producer of official statistics in Slovenia provides to the public administration bodies and organisations, the economy and general public data that are of good quality, timely and comparable in time, space and internationally, on the status and trends in the economic, demographic and social fields, as well as in the fields of environment and natural resources. SORS aims to provide data for national needs and international dissemination at minimal costs. By respecting statistical confidentiality, SORS builds users' trust.
<b>SORS status in public administration system of Slovenia</b>	In the organisation scheme of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia SORS is directly responsible to the Prime Minister and participates in budget discussions as an independent governmental institution.
<b>Procedure of appointment of Director-General of SORS</b>	The Director-General of SORS is appointed in accordance with the Civil Servants Act <sup>1</sup> for a renewable five-year term. In accordance with this Act the decision on the appointment is issued by the government of the Republic of Slovenia upon the proposal of the Prime Minister. Open competitions for this post are run by a special competition commission, appointed by the Officials Council who after examining the applications suggests one or more adequate/qualified candidates to the Government. Yet, the Government is not bound by the suggestion of the Officials Council, so that in case of its rejection, the competition is to be repeated.
<b>Location of seat of the SORS</b>	Slovenia has a centralised institutional statistical system. The majority of tasks are performed by SORS, based in Ljubljana.
<b>Organisational structure of SORS</b>	<p>SORS as production process oriented institution headed by the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General is divided into 10 sectors and 5 services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Statistical data production consist of one input sector (Collection and Processing of Statistical Data and Keeping of Production Databases) and six subject matter sectors (National Accounts; Price Statistics; Manufacturing and Services Statistics; External Trade Statistics, Structural Business Statistics, Classifications and Business Register; Demography and Social Statistics; Environment and Natural Resources Statistics, Regional Statistics And Geomatics).</li><li>• Three infrastructural sectors (General Methodology and Standards; Dissemination of Statistical Data and Methods; EDP Infrastructure and Technology).</li><li>• Five support services (International Co-Operation and European Affairs; Legal and Human Resource Matters; General Matters and Public Tenders; Financial Operations; Main Office and Dispatch Centre).</li></ul> <p>SORS employs (as of December 31, 2006) 386 employees. Half of the staff has university education or more.</p>
<b>Main legal act(s)</b>	The legal bases for the operation of SORS and authorised producers of national statistics are the National Statistics Act <sup>2</sup> , and medium-term and annual programmes of statistical surveys issued on the basis of the National Statistics Act.
<b>Statistical programmes</b>	<p>The main tasks of national statistics are specified in the annual and medium-term programmes of statistical surveys describing statistical requirements for national and international needs. Both programmes are prepared by SORS together with the authorized producers and published in the Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Medium-term Programmes</i>: adopted by the Government for a five year period of validity are the corner-stone for the preparation of the annual programmes. At the end of the period the final report is prepared and submitted to the Government.</li><li>• <i>Annual Programmes</i>: determined each year by the Head of SORS in co-operation with authorized producers. They consist of regular and development tasks, which are arranged by chapters, themes and modules, where the modules comprise adequate statistical surveys. Due to better comparability, the structure of the annual programmes follows the structure of the EU Commission annual statistical programmes. Each year the annual report is prepared and submitted to the Statistical Council that discusses it and submits an opinion.</li></ul>

<sup>1</sup> OJ RS 56/2002, 110/2002 and 2/2004 (10/2004 – amendments)

<sup>2</sup> OJ RS 45/95 and 9/01

## II. SYSTEM OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS IN SLOVENIA

**SORS coordination role within the system** The National Statistics Act defines the role and cooperation of SORS with the authorised producers concerning the organisation, preparation, implementation and also reporting on activities in the Programmes of Statistical Surveys with respect to the fundamental principles of official statistics, data dissemination and international cooperation.

**Authorised producers of national statistics** In the current *Medium-term Programme of Statistical Surveys 2003–2007* the activity of national statistics is implemented in certain fields of statistics by the following institutions: *Bank of Slovenia* (balance of payments, financial accounts, financial and monetary statistics); *Ministry of Finance*: general government debt and deficit, public finance statistics; *Agency for Public Legal Records and Related Services* (part of business statistics); *Institute of Public Health* (health statistics); *Pension and Disability Insurance Institute* (pension statistics); *Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia* (social security statistics); *Employment Service of Slovenia* (partly employment and unemployment statistics). Recent amendments to the National Statistics Act require from authorised producers of national statistics that they organise their statistical activities separately from other activities and fully respect the principles of official statistics, especially statistical confidentiality.

## III. ADVISORY BODY/STATISTICAL COUNCIL

**The Statistical Council** The Statistical Council is a professional methodological advisory body for strategic and development questions of national statistics and the highest representative body of users and the professional public. Members of the Statistical Council are from the National Assembly, the National Council, the Bank of Slovenia, employers and employees, the judiciary, statistical experts and representatives from SORS. Director-General of SORS can not be the president of the Statistical Council. Its main tasks are discussing programmes of statistical surveys, legislative proposals, methodological bases, rationalisation and modernisation of statistical surveys and providing initiatives and proposals for international statistical co-operation and classifications to be used as national standards<sup>3</sup>.

**Statistical Advisory Committees** With the long tradition of advisory committees in Slovenia, their work has a significant impact on the development of national statistics at expert level and on the co-operation of institutions in common efforts to provide quality, timely and relevant statistics. Currently there are 25 statistical advisory committees established by SORS for different fields of statistics<sup>4</sup>.

## IV. PUBLICATIONS

**Published Reports and Publications** *Publications of Statistical Data*: Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Slovenia; Slovenia in Figures; Slovene Regions in Figures, Statistical Portrait of Slovenia in the EU; Rapid Reports; Some Important Statistics on Slovenia, The Slovenian National Statistics; Monthly Statistical Review of the Republic of Slovenia; First Release; 60 Years of National Statistics in Slovenia; Slovenia 15 years After Independence.

*Other Publications*: medium-term and annual reports on implementing the programmes, annual publication about priorities in each year.

**Website** With a growing focus on presenting data through the website, SORS's website has become a central communication channel with users. An advance release calendar related to the publication of statistical data and publications is available online. In 2005 SORS upgraded the SI-STAT database into a data portal, where users can access all published data, either in the SI-STAT Database or in publications and websites of authorized producers of national statistics. For international comparisons, links to European statistical data, collected by EUROSTAT are available.

## V. OTHER RELEVANT REMARKS (e.g. major policies)

**Strategic Documents** The strategic documents are oriented towards register-based statistics that provides non-excessive burden on respondents:

- Total Quality Management Strategy 2006-2008
- Statistical Dissemination Policy and Strategy
- Protocol for Dealing with Data in the Early Access System

**Detailed information** More information about SORS can be found at <http://www.stat.si/eng/>

<sup>3</sup> Detailed information on the Statistical Council: [http://www.stat.si/eng/drz\\_stat\\_svet.asp](http://www.stat.si/eng/drz_stat_svet.asp)

<sup>4</sup> Detailed information on statistical advisory committees: [http://www.stat.si/eng/drz\\_stat\\_sosveti.asp](http://www.stat.si/eng/drz_stat_sosveti.asp)