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REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA: NATIONAL REPORT

by

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Slovenia has set up its register-oriented statistics over the last 20 years. At present the National Statistical Institution (NSI) coordinates and, in part, implements two thirds of the 430 current statistical surveys. The NSI also indirectly coordinates the setting up and linking of new administrative registers.

2. Bearing in mind many years of work, the observed individual objects (a person, an enterprise or similar associations, buildings, etc.) are adequately identified and referenced to the relevant analytical category (geo-code, socio-code, business-code, etc.). Furthermore links among analytical categories are defined. Linking the observed objects enables mutual transfers of attributes and multi-purpose use of data.

3. Slovenia still faces the task of rebuilding its regions according to the European Union recommendations. It modelled new Europeanized communities whereas provinces still have not been determined. The national administrative authority is not organized into a homogeneous unit in one district, but in quite different functional spheres. NSI is now creating conditions for this transformation to take place. For new regions many recalculations should be made. To this end, an adequate method which harmonizes the systems of regional and national accounts should be developed and introduced.

II. ARRANGEMENT OF STATISTICS AND RECORDS

4. Slovenia has, already as part of the former federally managed state of Yugoslavia, statutorily settled its national statistics, similarly to the case in other federal countries (e.g. Federal Republic of Germany). The minimum requirements for this were compulsory and priority implementation of statistical tasks determined in the Program of Statistical Surveys, which were important to the entire former federal state; and it enabled individual federal units (republics and provinces) to implement their additional statistical surveys and to independently determine their tasks in the field of the register and tasks on records.

5. It was also possible within this framework for Slovenia to independently prepare and accomplish its Act on Social System of Informing (1982) and, on this basis, to set up the basic registers which cover the majority of the most important requirements of the current national administration and local self-management of the state. NSI fulfilled the leading role in setting up these registers and in this work cooperated with other state bodies, ministries with little assistance from the institutionally organized research organizations.

III. REGIONS AND REGIONAL ACCOUNTS IN SLOVENIA

6. Slovenia still does not have a final arrangement or, rather, it still has not decided on a European statistical classification on NUTS-3 level, but from the professional point of view it is clear that her size does not enable a reasonable additional division of the Slovenian territory on NUTS-0, NUTS-1 or NUTS-2 levels.

7. The new constitutional arrangement presupposes the self-management shaping of provinces which will be self-managing units. The project on proposing such units is on-going.

8. In this respect we lost the former consistent statistical-economic basis for comparing the local accounts in communities. Consequently, we had to prepare a new method of regional accounting when determining adequate stable analytical and possibly even administrative regions which are to be harmonized with the European arrangement.

9. Thus, Slovenia still does not have finally determined regions which would be legally or administratively backstopped. We are acquainted, however, with the territorial division which, according to the new local division of 65 former communities into 147 Europeanized ones, acknowledges many additional breakdowns according to individual functions of individual bodies.

IV. LINKS AMONG DIFFERENT ANALYTICAL SPACES

10. As a consequence, we are now undergoing our largest transition and the sequence of actions to be taken is of great importance. During this process we should be able to transfer data from one analytical space to another. In this context, geographically defined analytical space should be understood to be one of many analytical spaces (social, economic, etc.).

11. The object-driven approach links both existing entities (objects) and attributes. These attributes should create related links among different analytical spaces. For example, in the social analytical space it is possible to collect about 100 attributes for the needs of an individual via censuses. An individual citizen is, however, linked to the register of employers via his/her Personal Identification Number (PIN). He/she also belongs to the economic analytical space. In this way we can gather many important data on his/her employment status, payment of taxes, occupation and work performed, and so on.

12. In a similar manner we can link different objects and extract requested records from statistical data bases. To this end we have closely georeferenced all 4 questionnaires from the 1991 Census (population, households, agricultural holdings, dwellings) and we are now introducing a new geo-referenced data collection.

13. In future we will further improve linkages and installations of geo-references, socio-references, business and similar references and the modelling of their cross-cutting links in order to better fulfill the needs of different users of statistical data.

V. GEOREFERENCED AND GEOCODED STATISTICAL DATA BASES

14. Our GIS application is a successful result of the co-operation between NSI and a private software company. The development of the software started in 1989 and is continuously progressing. All data that apply to the house number level can be loaded in the data base and linked together for territorial representation.

15. So far we have linked together the data from the Census '91 (population, house-holds, agriculture, dwellings), the Business Register and the Central Population Register. Data regarding taxes, property and elections have also been added. Time series are important as the best evidence of the development of a certain territorial unit, and so the inclusion of the data from the previous censuses is planned.

16. Practical values of our GIS-application are speed, exactness of the territorial location of the phenomena, analytical help in data modelling and visual presentation. In short, it is a good tool for professional work and for statistical dissemination.

17. Any optional users' requests can be easily fulfilled. It is easy to define options and even easier to choose the territorial units - by simply encircling the territory. The results are simultaneously presented on the screen. The precision of the territorial location is performed via the Register of Territorial Units and geocoded Postcodes. The changes of the options can guide a user through the data and through the results all over the territory of Slovenia. One can easily develop ideas and simultaneously examine the definitions and results. Therefore the GIS application is a useful decision-making tool in geographical analytical space.

18. The GIS application is used by NSI and other institutions. One of its most successful tasks was performed during discussions about the new territorial administrative division of Slovenia and, in future, for decision support by forming new regions. The visual presentation of the data is another important value. GIS has been used for conferences, government commissions, professional fairs and lectures. In addition, we would like to use GIS for the dissemination of statistical information to the mass media. GIS will help us to improve the quality of press conferences. Actually, we have an idea for using multimedia as another promising product (Internet). Through the combination of picture, sound, data and text it will enable a display of statistical tables in turn with comments, video programmes and statistical maps produced by GIS.

19. Following the statistical principles on the protection of individual and personal data, it must be said that GIS is used for statistical purposes only. Whenever the data is shown to the public or used outside the statistical office the presentation of protected individual data or the results of less than minimum units in statistical aggregate is blocked.

VI. WHAT DO WE PLAN TO ACHIEVE BY THE END OF THE CENTURY?

20. We shall continue to further develop the data model of the Republic of Slovenia as described above. We would particularly like to widen its analytical application. The Slovenian Census 2001 will be conducted on the basis of administrative registers "europeanized" as much as possible. By then, we will have investigated:

- a) the possibility of the logical and contextual transfers of large amounts of administrative and other data between different analytical fields (business, social);
- b) the revolutionary development of information technology (Value-added Networks, Internet) especially for dynamical including of new datasets for new defined "information needs";
- c) the linking of Slovenia to the European establishment (statistics and registers) by these means, and linking of the geo-referenced, business-referenced and socio-referenced data on Slovenia to the data of the neighbouring countries for very small territorial units (census statistical territorial units or geocoded postcode);
- d) the adoptions of the world statistical and other standards and analytical experiences;
- e) the building of different new multipurpose statistical registers from administrative registers and other data sources for determination of regions in Slovenia and regional-oriented statistics and regional accounts.