

Distr.  
GENERAL

ECE/CES/SEM.54/30 (Summary)  
11 April 2006

Original: ENGLISH  
ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN ONLY

**UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL COMMISSION and  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE  
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (EUROSTAT)**

**ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)  
STATISTICS DIRECTORATE**

Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Seminar on the Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS)  
Sofia, Bulgaria, 21-23 June 2006

Topic (i): Changes in statistical processes

## **USING ADMINISTRATIVE SOURCES - A BASIS FOR A BETTER STATISTICAL PROCESS**

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### **Summary**

1. Slovenia is a register-oriented country. We have been using data from the administrative sources for statistical purposes for a long time. However, recently there is an even stronger orientation toward replacing the primary data collection using data from secondary sources in order to reduce the administrative burden on reporting units and cut our expenses. It is a great challenge for us to reorganize the statistical process and IT architecture.
2. The paper will focus on impacts of using administrative data on different parts of the statistical process from data acquisition on input to the analysis of final statistical results.
3. Firstly the current methods and solutions used in the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SORS) to effectively collect and analyse data from administrative sources will be revealed. We are collecting data in different ways and in different formats. For some data sources with frequent data exchange, the direct database replication method is used; others come into the office on CD, DVD or by e-mail. Data, where the volumes are big are usually loaded into input databases, where statisticians have the possibility of analysing the data. Owing to an increasing number of data sources, we plan to establish a general multi-modal input solution for data from secondary sources. The solution should also enable the introduction of more flexible

and powerful controls on raw data, providing the opportunity to reveal potential problems and inconsistencies as early as possible and provide the possibility to fix it in one place in order to avoid inefficient and sometimes inconsistent corrections in many places further along in the statistical process.

4. Increasing use of data from administrative sources has consequences on statistical processing. Combining data from statistical surveys and administrative registers requires advanced methods for processing of statistical metadata. We have found the way to standardize it for use in every survey that could potentially need to use it. In databases, we can store both primary and secondary data directly accessible for analysis and production of statistical results, together with some important metadata. In Structural Business Statistics (SBS) it is necessary to combine data from different sources for the same variable, depending on the part of the population we are observing. In the new SBS production system, it is now possible to change the data source or add the new variable in a more flexible way.

5. The data from administrative sources often integrated with primary or other secondary data are very important for external researchers. After the introduction of the possibility for secure remote access for researchers that enables them to do their analysis in a more comfortable way (data for their projects are stored on the dedicated server separate from the internal network), there is a need to improve the process of data preparation. The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia is often in the position of being the only institution capable of linking data from different sources for researchers. However the process of data integration and anonymization could be very resource demanding so the introduction of a system for data integration (including statistical processing needed for it) is planned.

6. An effective statistical process must be supported with appropriate IT system(s). In further modernization of the collection, processing and dissemination systems in SORS great importance will be put on the extensive use of administrative data.

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