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SESSION 1: RECONSTRUCTING THE PAST

TRANSITION AND THE CONTINUITY OF YUGOSLAV STATISTICS

Report submitted by the Federal Statistical Office of Yugoslavia ¹

Summary

Transition of Yugoslav statistics was conditioned by the general imperative requesting homogenisation of standards and also by changes in the ownership structure of the economy. The area of economic statistics was the first to be affected by transition. (In its post-war development, thanks to the significant liberalisation of the economy, as well as the system of management, Yugoslav statistics was keeping pace with international recommendations and modern technology.)

Major changes (implied by recent development in the country and beyond it) are linked to: application of the classification of activities of the European Union (NACE-Rev.1), introduction of the system of national accounts (SNA) and abandonment of the system of economic balances (MPS) and, finally, application of survey methods and the existing subsidiary (administrative) evidence and registers. In the development of the

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alternative strategy for data collection, compared to the previous prevailing practice of full coverage and obligation of enterprises and institutions to submit statistical reports to statistics, being of essential importance is the evidence obtained from the so-called balance sheets (on financial operations), which represents a specific inheritance from Payment Operations Service, presently under the competence of the

Central National Bank. This evidence provides the framework with supplementary information that eliminates the need for double sampling.

There exist two possible causes for the interruption of data series in Yugoslav statistics:

- (1) Change of the definition of data as a result of changed standards (nomenclatures, classifications, accounting categories, etc.);
 - (2) Change of the coverage, resulting from the altered approach to data collection or changes in the existing methodology of data collection; some series can be "reconstructed" by the procedure of recalculation or estimation in the relevant time sections of the past, while other series where full coverage is replaced by sampling cannot be continued at all.
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