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**FEDERAL STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF  
YUGOSLAVIA: A REVIEW<sup>1</sup>**

Paper submitted by the Federal Statistical Office Yugoslavia

1. The Federal Statistical Office of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is the central body of the statistical offices network. Statistics for Yugoslavia date back to 1862, when the Statistical Department in the Ministry of Finance of the Principality of Serbia was established. In 1881 it became the Administration of Government Statistics. After the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenians was established in 1918, statistical institutions of these regions were connected to the integral system with headquarters of the Directorate of Government Statistics in Belgrade. The Central Government Statistics was founded during the Second World War and after it the name was changed into the Federal Statistical Office (FSO). From 1956 to the disintegration of the Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia the Federal Statistical Office had continuously performed its activities. This Office has continued with its functions after 27 April 1992, when the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was proclaimed. Today, this Office has over 200 employees.

2. This short review of the FSO genesis shows the long experience of the institution which enforces the Program of Statistical Research determined by the Law on System of Statistical Research and is carried out according to annual and five year programmes of statistical research that is established by the Federal Assembly. The statistical system of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia includes two statistical offices, one for the Republic of Serbia and one for the Republic of Montenegro, and they are responsible for performing surveys designed by the FSO. In addition to statistical offices this Program is also compulsory for some other federal institutions authorised to meet the requests of the Federal Government, like the

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National Bank, Clearing and Payment Service, the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Federal Ministry of Justice, the Federal Meteorological Bureau, the Federal Office of Labour Market and Migration, and others.

3. The programme of statistical surveys represents one of the widest research programs of the country, specially in the fields of: population, national accounts, labour force, public health, social welfare, pension and disability insurance, education, science, culture, justice, environment, agriculture and forestry, mining, energy and industry, construction, transportation, external and domestic trade, catering trades and tourism, prices and other indicators that could be used in policy planning. According to the Program for 2000 there were 320 planned surveys. Most of these surveys were successfully performed with the exception of some surveys where certain difficulties appeared (these were mostly connected to field work and also to lack of resources).

4. Data obtained from the statistical surveys are public and accessible to users except those considered as state, military or official secrets. Available data are published within the publishing activities of the FSO in the form of communication, bulletins, statistical pocketbooks, statistical yearbooks and some other forms (with different frequency). They are mostly issued bilingually, in Serbian and English. In addition to hard copies, some data are prepared for public use in an electronic form with the intention of the FSO to extend that way of presentation.

5. The Federal Statistical Office of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has always been determined to apply European and world standards, methodologies, recommendations and classifications in conducting surveys. In that sense the current Classification of Activities that is applied in the FSO, with minor exceptions, corresponds to the same standards of EU (NACE, Rev.1) and at the same time with the UN (ISIC, Rev.3) standards. European standards relating to goods and products are also intended to be applied: PRODCOM and also the CPA classification. The Yugoslav nomenclature on customs tariffs is based on the European Combined Nomenclature and Harmonized System. Yugoslav statistics provide data by the Standard International Trade Classification, SITC, Rev.3. Current statistical surveys in the field of education are adjusted to ISCED, 1997 and labour force analysis, employment and the population census to ISCO '88. Since 1997, macroeconomic accounts of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are calculated on the basis of SNA'93, in parallel with existing economic balances by the concept of material product.

6. Our long-lasting and recognizable statistical tradition and reputation in world statistics and our further progress was slowed down in the recent decade-long isolation. As a result of different UN Resolutions the Federal Statistical Office was prevented from participating in international meetings. Obtaining papers presented at the international meetings, as well as publications necessary for keeping pace with world statistical achievements, was a serious problem to experts of the Federal Statistical Office. Nevertheless, most questionnaires and requests by international institutions were successfully processed.

7. Since the democratic changes in the country and reintegration of the FSO into the European statistical family this Office has put great efforts into further harmonization and application of UN and EU standards in all fields of statistics. We are very much interested in comparing our achievements with other European and World statistics and are willing to improve our existing methodologies.

8. The FSO considers to succeed in these efforts by active incorporation into current statistical trends such as integration into different regional programs of: comparison (ECP), various surveys based on SNA, available projects on indicators of sustainable development, on

monitoring the hidden economy, surveys on households consumption, participating in the uniform framework for surveys on the basis of samples, in human development indicators, in research on data quality and in one word in all fields where our experts could improve their knowledge and apply up-to-date statistics in our national statistics.

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