



## Brief description of the national statistical system – Slovenia:

### Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SURS)

## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

### **The mission of SURS:**

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter SURS) as the main producer of official statistics in Slovenia provides to the public administration bodies and organizations, 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. SURS aims to provide data for national needs and international dissemination at minimal costs. By respecting statistical confidentiality, SURS builds users' trust and its professional independence.

### **The status of SURS in public administration system of Slovenia:**

In the organizational scheme of the Government of the Republic of the Republic of Slovenia, SURS is directly responsible to the Prime Minister and participates in budget discussions as an independent governmental institution.

### **Procedure of appointment of Director-General of SURS:**

The Director-General of SURS is appointed in accordance with the Civil Servants Act (OJ RS, Nos 56/2002, 110/2002 and 2/2004; amendments: 10/2004) for a renewable five-year term. In accordance with this Act the decision on 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 suggest 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.

### **Location of the seat of SURS:**

SURS as a production process oriented institution headed by the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General is divided into 8 sectors

*General Methodology and Standards:* Interviewing of People and Households, General Methodology, Standards.

*Macroeconomic Statistics:* National Accounts, Price Statistics.

*Business Statistics:* Short-term Business Statistics, Structural and Global Business Statistics.

*Demography and Social Statistics:* Labour Statistics, Social Services Statistics, Demography Statistics and Level of Living.

*Environment Statistics:* Environment and Energy Statistics, Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting Statistics, Transport, Tourism and Information Society Statistics

*Dissemination of Statistical Data and Methods:* Editorial Board and Regional Statistics, User Support, Print Preparations and Printing.

*Data Collection Data Reception:* Enterprise Cooperation.

*EDP Infrastructure and Technology:* Data Input and Editing Support, Statistical Processes Support, Output Processes Support and Internet Technologies, System and Tehnical Support

and 4 services:

*International Co-operation and European Affairs*

*Legal and Human Resource Matters*

*General Matters and Public Tenders*

*Financial Operations*

As of 1 March 2015, SURS employs over 320 employees. In 2013, 73 % of the staff has university education or more.

**Main legal act(s):**

The legal bases for the operation of SURS and the authorized producers of national statistics are the Slovenian National Statistics Act (OJ RS Nos 45/1995 and 9/2001), and medium-term and annual programmes of statistical surveys issued on the basis of the Slovenian National Statistics Act.

**Statistical programmes:**

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 SURS together with the authorized producers and published in the Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia.

- **Medium-term Programmes:** 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.
- **Annual Programmes:** determined each year by the Head of SURS in cooperation 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.

## **II. SYSTEM OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS IN SLOVENIA**

**The coordination role of SURS within the system:**

The Slovenian National Statistics Act defines the role and cooperation of SURS with the authorized producers concerning the organization, preparation, implementation and also reporting on activities in the Programmes of Statistical Surveys with respect to the fundamental principles in official statistics, data dissemination and international cooperation.

**Authorised producers of national statistics:**

In the current Medium-term Programme of Statistical Surveys 2013-2017 the activity of national statistics is implemented in certain fields by the following institutions:

- Bank of Slovenia (balance of payments, financial and monetary statistics)
- Ministry of Finance (general government debt and deficit, public finance statistics)
- Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public and Legal Records and Services (part of business statistics)
- National Institute of Public Health (health statistics)

- Pension and Disability Insurance Institute (pension statistics)
  - Employment Service of Slovenia (partly employment and unemployment statistics).
- Recent amendments to the Slovenian National Statistics Act require from authorised producers of national statistics that they organize 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 of the Republic of Slovenia, the National Council of the Republic of Slovenia, the Bank of Slovenia, representatives of the employers and the employees, the judiciary, recognized experts in the field of statistics and representatives from SURS. The Director-General of SURS cannot be the president of the Statistical Council. Its main tasks are discussing programmes of statistical surveys, legislative proposals, methodological bases, rationalization and modernization of statistical surveys and providing initiatives and proposals for international statistical cooperation and classifications to be used as national standards.

#### **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 cooperation of institutions in common efforts to provide quality, timely and relevant statistics. Currently there are 23 Statistical Advisory Committees established by SURS for different fields of statistics.

### IV. PUBLICATIONS

#### **Published Reports and Publications:**

**Publications of Statistical Data:** STAT'O'BOOK; Slovene Regions in Figures; Statistical Portrait of Slovenia in the EU; First Release; E-Release, Brochures Collection.

**Other Publications:** medium-term and annual reports on implementing the statistical programmes, annual publication on priorities; 60 Years of National Statistics in Slovenia; 70 Years of the Statistical office of the Republic of Slovenia.

#### **Website:**

With a growing focus on presenting data on the website, the website of SURS has become a central communication channel with users. An advance release calendar related to the publication of statistical data and publications in the entire current year is available online. In 2005 SURS upgraded the SI-STAT database into a data portal, where users can access the 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 repondents:

- Quality Statement of the Statistical office of the Republic of Slovenia
- Strategy of Dissemination and Communication with users of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia.

### **Detailed Information:**

More information on SURS is available at <http://www.stat.si/eng>