1. Basic Information
   1.1 Désirée Number: 2004/016-710.02.01
   1.2 Title: Setting up the Social Statistics Database for the implementation of EU SILC
   1.3 Sector: Statistics
   1.4 Location: Slovenia

2. Objectives
   2.1 Wider Objectives:
       - to provide adequate statistical information to the Government of Slovenia and EU
       - to implement EU SILC regulation

   2.2 Immediate Objective:
       - to set up a system of statistical registers that will enable linking of various social data on a person
       - to provide statistical data to decision makers in various spheres of social policy
       - to use the data for various analyses of social domain
       - to set up a framework for a partial register-based census of population
       - to make use of already collected administrative data
       - to decrease the burden that the population has participating in various surveys

2.3 Comprehensive Monitoring Report

In the Comprehensive Monitoring Report the following text justifies the project's objective: "Slovenia needs to improve the quality and the timeliness of data in certain domains such as migration statistics; data coverage of Regional Agricultural Accounts and Environmental Statistics and of macroeconomic statistics; short-term public finance statistics; and rail and inter-modal transport. Further attention to the data coverage and quality of business statistics is needed. Administrative capacity should be strengthened in terms of staff, in particular in the area of macroeconomic statistics.

2.4 Acquis Communautaire

3. Description

3.1. Background and justification:
Statistics themselves present a large and very dynamic part of the Acquis. Its implementation is a complex and long procedure requiring permanent efforts. Many EU policies use statistics as vital input.

The availability of statistics is not sufficient as such; they must exist in a comparable way to statistics of Member States and other Candidate Countries. Only high standards of quality will help to achieve the legitimacy and credibility required in order to be used for the purpose outlined above. Permanent investment in the quality of statistics is indispensable in order to provide the required information in a changing environment. The existing system of data collection has to be permanently adapted to new technologies and requirements. There are some administrative data being collected by different bodies that should be used by SORS by legal provisions in Slovenia.

SORs uses data from administrative sources for statistical purposes. Such use is controlled by the Statistical Council, of which SORS provides secretariat through the statistical law. A pre-requisite for efficient use of such data is the comparability of concepts and definition, which is of utmost importance and thus promoted by SORS. On the practical level, use of such data needs close co-operation between the concerned administrations. Here the good reputation and efficient service provided by SORS helps a lot.

For implementing EU SILC, SORS has received EU financial assistance through Phare 2001 and Phare 2002 Multi-Beneficiary Programmes. However, this will not be used for organising the statistical survey (setting up a database, which is the subject of this project) but exclusively for fieldwork, which is not the subject of this project.

In autumn 2003, Slovenia carried out the first part of the EU SILC pilot under Phare 2001 and Phare 2002 MB Programmes. The main purpose was to evaluate administrative data sources that could be used instead of survey questions for households. It turned out that individual items that need to be collected within the statistical survey EU SILC can be obtained from fifteen administrative data bases, i.e. income tax data, data on employment and unemployment, and data on various forms of social assistance.

With household questionnaires, we tried to collect data that could not be obtained from the existing data collections. We checked how the questionnaire works in the field and whether or not people are able to answer the relatively difficult questions. As it turned out, the proposed questions are appropriate and the length of the questionnaire is such that interviewing can be done in households. In the next phase, we analysed a combination of data obtained from administrative sources and data collected with the questionnaire. It turned out that there are no major problems.

At the moment, we are preparing for the second phase of the pilot in which we will re-interview the households that co-operated in the first wave. This time we will test two things: households with telephone will be interviewed via the telephone, and we will try to find out if the interviewing method, the questionnaire length and questions in it are appropriate for telephone interviewing. The questionnaire for telephone interviewing differs considerably from the questionnaire in the first wave when all households were interviewed face-to-face.
The second part of the pilot will also answer the question in which way we should follow households that moved or split between the first and the second wave. Since real panel surveys have not yet been carried out in Slovenia, such an analysis is essential before the survey is conducted. Generally, we think that – as in other countries – following the households will prove to be the most difficult task connected with the EU SILC project.

There is a link between Phare 2001 and 2002 Multi Beneficiary Programmes and the current project. In Phare 2001 and 2002 Multi Beneficiary Programmes the methodology and the fieldwork of EU SILC were studied (questionnaires were prepared and tested in the field), in the current project, the databases for the implementation of the survey will be established (15 different administrative sources will be arranged in the way that answers from the questionnaires will be incorporated in the new integrated database that will serve for the production of the results for EU SILC statistics).

3.2 Linked activities:

*Phare national programme in statistics*

SORS was allocated from the Phare Programme 1995 (SL-9502.02) an amount of MEUR 1.4, focused on the strengthening of technical capacity (hardware, software and related training), i.e. modernisation and the development of the statistical information system. The Slovenian Government contributed 20% from the national budget to the same project.

The COP-98, 1998 Phare Programme (SL-98.03.01) provided an amount of MEUR 2.0, mainly for achieving compliance with EU statistical requirements (especially in the fields of EMU related statistics and agriculture), together with some efforts for strengthening SORS’ institutional capacity (in particular for the sustainability of data collection). The project was in line with the priorities of the Commission’s Opinion of July 1997 and the priorities referred to in the Accession Partnership for 1998 for statistics. It also took into account the recommendations proposed in the Feasibility Study from the previous project (SL-95.02). The COP-98 was contracted in summer 1999 and expired in December 2001.

In Stat 2000- Alignment of the Slovene Statistics with the Acquis Communautaire project, we studied the links between administrative data and data that we collected directly from enterprises. There are many administrative sources in Slovenia and Slovenian enterprises are faced with mass interviewing by the Statistical Office and some other government institutions because our market is so small, their reporting burden is comparatively greater than in larger countries.

Therefore, Slovenia selected a combined approach, which was a unique solution in the structure of earnings surveys in Europe. As a result of the combination of various data sources, the reporting burden in Slovenian enterprises decreased by at least 40% compared to enterprises in other European countries. In this pilot project, we were faced for the first time with setting up a combined database for enterprises (with philosophy similar to that used at the 2002 population census, which, of course, dealt with households and not with enterprises).

*Phare multi-beneficiary programmes in statistics*

Throughout the period starting with 1993, Slovenian statistics benefited from some inputs within the framework of Phare multi-country co-operation programmes. These permitted Slovenian representatives to attend Eurostat meetings and to receive
assistance on a bilateral basis from the national statistical institutions of some EU Member States. This programme is restricted essentially to know-how transfer and, due to limited financial allocations, cannot cope with the requests to implement heavy surveys within the countries. All these activities represent an indispensable prerequisite for setting-up the required system of statistical surveys in compliance with the EU norms and standards.

Co-ordination of Phare intervention in statistics
Eurostat, as a Directorate General responsible for the statistical acquis, co-ordinates the multi-beneficiary and national statistical programme of a Candidate Country for statistics and take utmost care in maintaining coherence of both of the programmes with the findings from the enlargement process. In this way, there has been no overlapping of the projects and of the objectives. Synergy of the projects contributes to timely compliance with the goals set in relevant documents and thus better results.

Other intervention
SORS has also been provided with some assistance by the EFTA statistical office, the OECD, the ILO and the UNDP. Where this assistance is still ongoing at very low level, it does not overlap with the objectives of this proposal.

3.3 Results:

The project will complete compliance of Slovenian statistics with EU statistical requirements in a way that we will use the existing administrative data available to various institutions. Many variables will be obtained from administrative sources. Questionnaires will only be used to collect a small part of data prescribed with the regulation. As low response burden of households as possible is of key importance for satisfactory co-operation of population in various surveys. Because of small population, 10% of households in Slovenia are included every year in some surveys carried out by SORS, which means that too frequent surveying presents a serious problem. On the other hand, the set of variables from the regulation is so extensive that administrative sources have to be used, since the regulation limits the average duration of an interview to one hour. Without using administrative sources, surveying in Slovenia would take about 1.5 hours.

Data obtained in this way will be of greater quality, since analyses of financial data in Slovenia show that the quality of data reported by households is a lot lower that if data are taken over from administrative sources.

More information about Phare 2001 and Phare 2002 MB Programmes is mentioned in section 3.1.

3.4 Activities:

The project requires substantial development of software. The reason is that it attempts to enhance data from statistical sources with data stemming from other administrative sources, which need reformatting, linking to other databases, transformation and adaptation to the statistical environment. Such procedure does though protect respondents form giving more data, lowers the cost of data collection and makes the compilation sustainable.
The task of the contractor will be IT preparation of the system that will incorporate 15 administrative databases and answers from the questionnaire into one final database.

More information about Phare 2001 and Phare 2002 MB Programmes is available in section 3.1

3.5 Lessons learned

SORS has already been linking various administrative data on persons and our experience shows that with our level of legal system development and SORS’s competence this is possible. The 2002 Population Census – in which we combined more than ten statistical and administrative sources – showed just that. The proposed project is even more complex since more than 15 administrative sources should be used to get data on persons. Results of this activity are seen on SORS web side and will be seen in Eurostat publications.

Within STAT 2000 (Ref: Europeaid/112235/D/SV/SL, Contract title: Alignment of Slovene Statistics with the acquis), we discovered that as regards available sources in Slovenia it is sensible to use the database approach in which administrative data are combined with fieldwork data. It appeared that there is sufficient statistical and IT knowledge in the world for successful implementation of such projects, but that for various reasons such an approach has seldom been used, which makes exchange of experience difficult. Results of this activity will be seen on SORS web side and in Eurostat publications.

The project showed that Slovenia is capable to implement the existing knowledge. We think that because of such approach the quality of data will be much better than if we were to ask overloaded enterprises to answer complex and long questionnaires, taking into account that they have already sent to the Statistical Office or to other institutions in Slovenia a considerable amount of data that would be required in individual statistical surveys.

4. Institutional Framework

The beneficiary is the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia. The partner institutions involved comprise important users of statistics, Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs and Institute for Macroeconomic Analyses and Development.

The project – which will fill the gap in complying Slovene statistics with the AC in statistics – will be part of the medium-term programme of statistical surveys and/or annual work programmes of SORS.

5. Detailed Budget (in MIO EUR)

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6. Implementation Arrangements

6.1. Implementing Agency:
CFCU, Ministry of Finance
Beethovenova 11
1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Responsible person:
Mr Peter Škofič, PAO
Tel: +386 1 478 69 94
Fax: +386 1 478 6204
e-mail: peter.skofic@mf-rs.si

6.2 Implementing Authority

Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia
Responsible person:
Ms. Irena Križman, Director General
Vožarski pot 12,
1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
Tel: + 386 1 2145 300
Fax: + 386 1 2145 344

6.3 Contracting Authority

Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia
Responsible person:
Ms. Irena Križman, Director General
Vožarski pot 12,
1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
Tel: + 386 1 2145 300
Fax: + 386 1 2145 344

6.4 Main beneficiaries

Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia
Responsible person:
Ms. Irena Križman, Director General
Vožarski pot 12,
1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
Tel: + 386 1 2145 300
Fax: + 386 1 2145 344

The project implementation will be monitored by a Steering Committee comprising representatives from SORS, Government Office for European Affairs, Ministry of

6
Finance, Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs and Institute for Macroeconomic Analyses and Development.

The Central Finance and Contracting Unit will have the role of tendering, contracting and financial management.

6.5 Twinning

There will be no twinning in the project.

6.6 Non-standard aspects

No non-standard aspects are foreseen.

6.7 Contracts

There will be one contract worth of EUR 360,000 in this project.

7. Implementation schedule

Start of tendering:
October 2004, contracting finished before 31 December 2004

Start of project activity:
January 2005

Project Completion:
December 2005

8. Equal Opportunity

Selection criteria are based on knowledge with no relation to gender. SORS is an institution with a very high share of female employees, occupying also management posts.

Sections 9, 10 and 11 on environmental impact, rates of return and investment are not applicable.

12. Conditionality and Sequencing

The work foreseen will meet serious difficulties if not substantially co-financed by the project, which will result in the lack of capability of present statistical data in the scope, volume and breakdown as requested by the EU requirements in the areas covered. Without funding, the progress of Slovenian statistics towards integration of the national statistical system into the European Statistical System can be hindered.
ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE

1. Logical framework matrix in standard format
2. Detailed implementation chart
3. Contracting and disbursement schedule by quarter for full duration of programme
4. Reference to feasibility/pre-feasibility studies
5. Expenditure of contracting budget
## Annex 1

### TF log frame

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<td>May 2004</td>
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| Total budget: EUR 360.000 | TF budget: EUR 360.000 |

### Overall objective

- to provide adequate statistical information to the Government of Slovenia and to the EU
- to implement EU SILC regulation

### Objectively verifiable indicators

- Use of statistics in the framework of the European Statistical System
- Availability of annual statistics relevant to the decision making at national and EU level

### Sources of Verification

- Minutes and reports of committee meetings, Eurostat working groups and task forces
- Monitoring reports
- Assessments

### Project purpose

### Objectively verifiable indicators

### Sources of Verification

### Assumptions
- to set up a system of statistical registers that will enable linking of various social data on a person
- to make use of already collected administrative data
- to decrease the burden that the population has participating in various surveys

**Results**
- tailor made software for linking administrative and survey data
- decreased time required for filling in the questionnaires
- better data quality
- provision of data to Eurostat and national users

**Objectively verifiable indicators**
- List of target variables of EU SILC compared with the list of target variables of EU SILC on the questionnaire (2007)
- software produced (2006)
- provision of timely and quality data (2007)

**Sources of Verification**
- methodological documentation of the Slovenian EU SILC (2005)
- SORS annual programme of statistical surveys (2006)
- provision of data to Eurostat (deadline: 2008)

**Assumptions**
- the project will be implemented

**Activities**
- production of software application for linking data from different databases (2005)
- setting up a database (2005) to decrease time required for filling in the questionnaires, improve data quality and provide data to Eurostat and national users

**Means**
- production of the software application for setting up a database needed for implementing the objective of the project

**Assumptions**
- contractor will provide staff with sufficient knowledge

**Preconditions**
Co-financing is the conditionality of the project.
Annex 2: Implementation time chart for Setting up the Social Statistics Database for the implementation of EU SILC

| Contract | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
Annex 3: Contracting schedule (sheet 1)

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NB: all contracting should normally be completed within 6-12 months and must be completed within 24 months of signature of FM.
Annex 3: Disbursement schedule (sheet 2)

Setting up the Social Statistics Database for the implementation of EU SILC

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NB all disbursements must be completed within 36 months of signature of the FM
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**NB:** 1. All contracting should normally be completed within 6-12 months and must be completed within 24 months of signature of the FM. 2. All disbursements must be completed within 36 months of signature of the FM.

**Setting up the Social Statistics Database for the implementation of EU SILC**

Annex 3: Contracting and disbursement schedule (sheet 3)
Annex 4:
EXPENDITURE OF CONTRACTING BUDGET

<table>
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<th>Phase of the project</th>
<th>Profile of IT staff needed</th>
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<td>1. Strategic planning</td>
<td>system analyst - expert</td>
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<td>DBA - expert</td>
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<td>application developer - expert</td>
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<td>2. Analysis of Requirements and Sources</td>
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<td>3. Database Definition, Data Modelling,</td>
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<td>Process Modelling</td>
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<td>4. Development, ETL, Testing</td>
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<td>application developer/programmer - expert</td>
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