



EUROPEAN  
STATISTICAL  
SYSTEM

# **IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS SLOVENIA**



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
STATISTICAL OFFICE

**PEER REVIEWERS' RECOMMENDATIONS AND  
IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS  
OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA IN RESPONSE TO THE  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

**1. Recommendation:**

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia should clarify the legal status of the National Statistics Act as *lex specialis*, especially concerning the reasons for the dismissal of the Director General of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicator 1.8)

**Current situation:**

The Public Employees Act lists the reasons for heads of government offices to be dismissed:

- Upon their own request
- If no contract of employment or annex to the contract of employment is concluded within a month after the appointment
- If it is ascertained by the prescribed procedure that they are not competent to perform tasks in the position
- Pursuant to an order determining the responsibility for a disciplinary violation
- After the termination of the period for which they were appointed
- If the body headed by them has been abolished
- Regardless of reasons specified above, the functionary/body responsible for appointment may dismiss a head of government office within one year after the functionary or a head of government office came to office

The National Statistics Act also defines reasons for the dismissal of the Director-General of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia:

- Upon his or her own request
- If the Government establishes that important disturbances in the operation of the Office have occurred due to inadequate organizational solutions.

**Improvement sub-action 1.1:** Clarify the legal status of the National Statistics Act

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SURS) will ask the Government Office for Legislation about the legal status of the National Statistics Act as *lex specialis*, especially concerning the reasons for the dismissal of the Director-General of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia.

**Deadline:** Q4 2024

**Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 1.1:** Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

**Improvement sub-action 1.2:** Propose amendments to the Public Employees Act

SURS will propose that an exception should be added to the Public Employees Act regarding the dismissal of SURS's Director-General, namely that the provisions in the Public Employees Act do not apply to the dismissal of SURS's Director-General and that the provisions of the National Statistics Act shall be applied.

**Deadline:** Q4 2025

**Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 1.2:** Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

**2. Recommendation:**

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia should prepare and discuss an internal document to consider the advantages and disadvantages of opening the process of modernising the National Statistics Act, and in particular consider reasons for the dismissal of the Director General that do not compromise professional or scientific independence, access to new data sources, data privacy and the Statistical Council. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 1.8, 2.4, 5.1 and 11.2)

**Current situation:**

The National Statistics Act was adopted in 1995 and amended in 2001. Article 11 stipulates that the Director-General may be prematurely discharged from office if the Government establishes that important disturbances in the operation of the office have occurred due to inadequate organizational solutions. The Public Employees Act also lists the reasons for heads of government offices to be dismissed, which are different from the provisions in the National Statistics Act.

Since it is an older law, the National Statistics Act also does not contain provisions relating to new data sources. There have also been changes in the data privacy legislation; however, the National Statistics Act has not been amended since 2001. It is also necessary to reflect on the role of the Statistical Council in the national statistical system.

**Improvement sub-action 2.1:** Define the list of needed changes in the National Statistics Act

SURS will prepare a document with a list of all the needed changes to the National Statistics Act. This document will take into account the need to amend and modernise the law due to the provisions relating to reasons for the dismissal of the Director-General not compromising professional or scientific independence, access to new data sources, data privacy and the statistical council.

**Deadline:** Q4 2025

**Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 2.1:** Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

**Improvement sub-action 2.2:** Analyse the possibility of opening the process of modernisation of the National Statistics Act

SURS will prepare an internal document regarding advantages and disadvantages of opening the process of amending the National Statistics Act.

**Deadline:** Q4 2026

**Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 2.2:** Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

**3. Recommendation:**

The National Institute for Public Health should strengthen the procedure for recruiting and appointing its statistical head, ensuring that it is transparent and based on professional criteria only. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1.8)

**Current situation:**

The head of the statistical department at the National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ) is appointed by the Director-General of the NIJZ for the same mandate as that of the Director-General (4 years). While wishing to underline the current statistical head's high level of professional qualifications in the field of statistics, the peer review team determined that the procedure does not sufficiently ensure that the statistical head of the NIJZ is recruited and appointed in a way that is transparent and based on professional criteria only, and therefore needs to be strengthened.

**Improvement action 3:** Define a transparent procedure to appoint the statistical head of the National Institute of Public Health together with implementation of the procedure

With the new procedure, a transparent process of appointing the statistical head will be defined with necessary criteria and conditions. After the endorsement of the procedure by the Director-General of the NIJZ and the Scientific Director of the NIJZ, it will be implemented immediately.

**Deadline:** Q2 2025

**Responsible institution for improvement action 3:** National Institute for Public Health of Slovenia

#### **4. Recommendation:**

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia should review the governance of its advisory committees and continuously review their composition and membership structure, and should consider strengthening the relations between the advisory committees and the Statistical Council to fully realise the Statistical Council's potential within its current mandate. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 11.1)

#### **Current situation:**

As part of the statistical system in Slovenia there are also the Statistical Council of the Republic of Slovenia and statistical advisory committees. The Statistical Council is a professional methodological advisory body for strategic and development questions of national statistics, and the highest representative of users and the professional public. Statistical advisory committees are established by SURS as professional methodological advisory bodies for individual fields of national statistics. Currently, there are 22 statistical advisory committees with around 400 members. Members are representatives of users, data providers, the academic community, SURS and authorized producers. Documents and minutes of the meetings of both advisory bodies are made public.

**Improvement sub-action 4.1:** Review the governance of the statistical advisory committees  
SURS will review the current Rules of Procedure of the Statistical Advisory Committees to identify areas that require improvements. SURS will enhance the cooperation and interaction between statistical advisory committees by sharing knowledge and good practice between different statistical advisory committees as well as by inviting members to present cross-cutting issues or other important and innovative topics to other relevant advisory committees.

**Deadline:** Q3 2025

**Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 4.1:** Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

**Improvement sub-action 4.2:** Review the composition and membership of statistical advisory committees

SURS will regularly review and update the composition and memberships of all statistical advisory committees prior to the meetings in order to assure that all important user groups are adequately represented and will go also beyond the traditional users. SURS will also take into consideration the proposals given by members of statistical advisory committees and the Statistical Council.

**Deadline:** Q4 2024

**Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 4.2:** Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

**Improvement sub-action 4.3:** Strengthen relations between Statistical Council of the Republic of Slovenia and statistical advisory committees

SURS will strengthen the relations between the Statistical Council of the Republic of Slovenia and statistical advisory committees by co-ordinating the exchange of information between both advisory bodies. In the meetings of the Statistical Council, SURS will regularly inform its members on important topics discussed and initiatives proposed by statistical advisory committees. SURS will also include relevant topics discussed by statistical advisory committees on the agenda of the Statistical Council and invite representatives of statistical advisory committees to present them. These topics can be also proposed by the Statistical Council. SURS will provide the statistical advisory committees with the strategic guidelines, support and initiatives given to them by the Statistical Council.

**Deadline:** Q2 2025

**Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 4.3:** Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

### **5. Recommendation:**

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia should upgrade the templates for methodological explanations and quality reports based on the Single Integrated Metadata Structure (the standard of the European Statistical System). It should also consider combining its reporting on methodology and quality in one overarching concept, presenting it in a layered approach that reaches different groups of users. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 15.1)

#### **Current situation:**

SURS publishes two standardized structures for reference metadata: methodological explanations and quality reports, both in Slovenian and in English.

Methodological explanations contain information on statistical surveys, data collection methodology, calculated statistics and other methodological information and are published with the first release. Quality reports contain a description of the statistical survey and a detailed overview of quality components (relevance, accuracy, timeliness and punctuality, accessibility and clarity, comparability, and coherence) together with the values of quality indicators and are usually published no later than three months after the first release.

In order to reduce the heavy burden caused by quality reporting, a generic IT solution was built for preparing and storing metadata, which has improved the management of reference metadata. The application was named STATMIK (Slovene acronym for Statistical Metadata and Quality Indicators). Reference metadata were mapped to the ESS standard for quality reporting - SIMS (only the first two levels). For now, concepts that are only in SIMS are not fulfilled. The application supports two output reports: Methodological explanations and Slovenian quality reports. The SIMS output report has not yet been implemented.

**Improvement sub-action 5.1:** Analyse the differences of the structure of templates between SIMS, national methodological explanations and national quality reports

SURS will conduct a comparative analysis regarding the existing structure of methodological explanations and quality reports in order to examine the possibility of introducing the conformity of reports using the Single Integrated Metadata Structure.

**Deadline:** Q4 2024

**Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 5.1:** Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

<p><b>Improvement sub-action 5.2:</b> Analyse metadata reporting in other countries</p> <p>SURS will analyse how other countries publish methodological materials, in what form and if they have adopted SIMS. SURS will review the websites of various countries and, if necessary, contact them through members of the Quality Working Group and the Standards Working Group.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q2 2025</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 5.2:</b> Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 5.3:</b> Analyse the needs of users regarding methodological documents</p> <p>SURS will prepare a questionnaire regarding the published methodological documents (Methodological explanations and Quality reports), to find out how satisfied the users are, if the structure and the fact that there are two documents suit them, or whether they prefer one document based on SIMS. SURS will also organize focus groups, both with external users and with their employees, where SURS will get feedback from various users. Based on the results of the analysis of users' needs regarding methodological documents, SURS will assess which structure of the methodological documents is the most suitable.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2025</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 5.3:</b> Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 5.4:</b> Prepare a proposal for upgrading methodological explanations and quality reports, including the possibility of implementing the layered approach in one overarching concept to reach different groups of users and analyse the possibility of implementing it in STATMIK</p> <p>SURS will examine the possibility of introducing a layered approach for combining the reporting on methodology and quality in one overarching concept that would reach different groups of users.</p> <p>SURS will decide what changes need to be introduced and define the specifications for implementing the changes in the STATMIK application. If SIMS-based reports will be published, additions to the database itself will be necessary and a new report will need to be made.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2026</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 5.4:</b> Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 5.5:</b> Adopt the upgraded template and develop an implementation plan for methodological explanations and quality reports to be drafted in accordance with the upgraded template</p> <p>SURS will review the proposal for upgrading methodological explanations and quality reports and the results of the analysis of possible implementation of reports in STATMIK. SURS will adopt the upgraded template and develop an implementation plan for methodological explanations and quality reports in accordance with the upgraded template.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2027</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 5.5:</b> Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia</p>

**6. Recommendation:**

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia should update its statistical process model to the latest version of the Generic Statistical Business Process Model. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 7.2)

**Current situation:**

SURS adopted its process model in 2012 and then supplemented and updated it in 2017. It is an adapted version of the internationally accepted General Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM). The SURS process model is basically used in the following systems: STATDOK, PIN and METIS. STATDOK is a system for preparing and storing all necessary documentation for conducting statistical surveys. The list of internal instructions (PIN) contains all internal instructions related to the statistical process. The list is structured according to the sub-processes of the SURS process model. In the METIS application SURS plans all activities necessary to carry out regular surveys and renovation research as well as development tasks. The SURS process model is a basis for the Guidelines for Quality Assurance with a general detailed description of individual parts of the process of conducting a statistical survey and guidelines that survey methodologists must follow to provide the best possible quality of survey implementation and the quality of final results.

**Improvement sub-action 6.1:** Examine the differences between the SURS and GSBPM process model

SURS will prepare an analysis in which the aim will be to determine the differences in the SURS and GSBPM process models. The identified differences will form the basis for further consideration of the GSBPM implementation. As the GSBPM is currently undergoing a renovation phase, SURS will wait until the new version is implemented.

**Deadline:** Q4 2025

**Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 6.1:** Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

**Improvement sub-action 6.2:** Assess the feasibility of implementing an updated GSBPM process model in SURS

Bearing in mind the limited resources (human and financial) available, SURS will conduct a comprehensive review of the existing process model and identify areas and systems that require adjustments to determine the feasibility of implementing the updated GSBPM in SURS.

**Deadline:** Q4 2026

**Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 6.2:** Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

**Improvement sub-action 6.3:** Analyse the impact of adopting the GSBPM on other systems in SURS

Conducting a thorough analysis of the potential effects of implementing the GSBPM would be crucial in determining whether the benefits outweigh the costs. Factors such as system compatibility, user training, and resource allocation would need to be taken into account. Once a comprehensive analysis is performed, it will be easier to decide whether SURS should update its statistical process model to the latest version of the GSBPM process model.

**Deadline:** Q4 2026

**Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 6.3:** Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia



**Improvement sub-action 6.4:** Update the current SURS business process model

SURS will review changes to its statistical processes and based on the results of the previous sub-actions, update the business process model accordingly.

**Deadline:** Q4 2027

**Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 6.4:** Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

**7. Recommendation:**

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia should review, and eventually adjust or confirm, the objectives and the design of the planned internal quality audits. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 4.3, 4.4 and 8.3)

**Current situation:**

In accordance with quality assurance at the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, SURS conducts reviews of methodological explanations and quality reports, and regularly carries out cognitive testing of questionnaires before conducting surveys.

SURS also has a system for preparing and storing all necessary documentation for conducting statistical surveys, called STATDOK. SURS conducts annual documentation reviews, approximately 10 per year. Within these reviews, questions and dilemmas are formulated, comments are then coordinated with the methodologist, and survey documentation is completed.

In 2023, SURS conducted a pilot study of internal quality audits. SURS concluded that the objectives of planned internal quality audits were too ambitious, as the tested procedures were very time-consuming and were not feasible on this scale. In the pilot study, SURS noticed that it has a good practice of reviewing documentation within the STATDOK application, and SURS will continue with this practice in the future. In connection with the pilot study, SURS has already reviewed the practice of another country and these experiences will be taken into account in the future. Final findings of the pilot study were that SURS' documentation in the STATDOK application almost fulfils the needs for implementing internal audits, so SURS will build further procedures for internal auditing on the practice of reviewing STATDOK.

**Improvement sub-action 7.1:** Prepare an overview of practices of internal quality audits by other countries

SURS will examine the available documentation on internal quality audits of other countries and, if necessary, contact members of the Working Group on Quality in Statistics regarding the implementation of internal quality audits. With this action, SURS will gain information on the existing good practices and implementation of internal quality audits in their NSIs and furthermore examine different operating practices.

**Deadline:** Q4 2024

**Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 7.1:** Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

**Improvement sub-action 7.2:** Review pilot results of internal quality audits and prepare guidelines and instructions for conducting internal quality audits

SURS will conduct a detailed review of the results of the pilot internal audit activity. On the basis of the results of an analysis of good practices in other countries and pilot internal audit activity, SURS will establish instructions and guidelines for implementing internal quality audits.

**Deadline:** Q4 2025

<b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 7.2:</b> Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 7.3:</b> Educate and train employees to carry out internal quality audits</p> <p>In order to carry out internal quality audits, a certain number of professionally qualified employees are required. To this end, training will be organised and conducted by employees who already have the specific expertise needed for conducting internal quality audits. Each completed audit will be followed by an evaluation of the process and an exchange of experience between the internal reviewers.</p>
<b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2027
<b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 7.3:</b> Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

<p><b>8. Recommendation:</b></p> <p>The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia should provide direct links from published data to methodological and quality information and provide more user-friendly explanations and easy-to-understand methodological messages with all additional, readily available information. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 15.6)</p>
<p><b>Current situation:</b></p> <p>SURS publishes all methodological explanations and quality reports in one place on its website. Directly in the news releases, the links to methodological explanations are added in case of major methodological changes. In the SiStat Database, links to methodological explanations are always added to the tables. The methodological information is also added to the Data collection website, which is intended for reporting units.</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 8.1:</b> Analyse and assess the current situation</p> <p>SURS will prepare a report that not only provides an overview of added quality information and links to methodological explanations in the news releases but also assesses the user-friendliness of these explanations and the accessibility of additional information.</p>
<b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2025
<b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 8.1:</b> Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 8.2:</b> Upgrade internal guidelines</p> <p>SURS will revise and update the internal guidelines for better integration of published statistics with methodological explanations and quality information based on the analysis and capabilities of integration into internal infrastructure and applications.</p>
<b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2026
<b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 8.2:</b> Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 8.3:</b> Communication among employees</p> <p>SURS will communicate to its employees the updated guidelines and importance of adding easy-to-understand methodological explanations and quality information when publishing statistics.</p>
<b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2026
<b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 8.3:</b> Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

<p><b>Improvement sub-action 8.4:</b> Implementation of guidelines</p> <p>SURS will ensure the implementation of the guidelines and their execution, providing support to employees as needed.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2027</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 8.4:</b> Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 8.5:</b> Annual review of implementation</p> <p>SURS will monitor compliance with updated guidelines on including methodological explanations and quality information in published statistics, and prepare an annual review and suggestions for future improvement. The review will also focus on the user-friendliness of methodological explanations and the availability of quality information, leading to continuous improvement.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2027</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 8.5:</b> Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia</p>

### 9. *Recommendation:*

The relevant authorities should ensure that the budgetary and human resource needs of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia are met to balance current and future increases in statistical needs and new policy priorities, which will involve using new data sources and technologies, bearing in mind the need to fulfil its mission independently and effectively. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 3.1)

#### **Current situation:**

In 2024, SURS does not have sufficient resources to meet all current national statistical needs and the needs of the current European Statistical Programme. Furthermore, the development of the society and the economy constantly imposes new tasks on SURS (publication of new, different, more relevant statistics). At the same time, there are also growing user requirements. Future challenges related to new statistical needs and the development of methodologies for exploring and using new data sources can only be met with additional resources.

#### **Improvement sub-action 9.1:** To maintain or increase the existing personnel plan

SURS will continue to make efforts to maintain or increase the existing personnel plan, which is adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia. SURS will inform and continuously discuss with the Office of the Prime Minister about the required number of employees. SURS will endeavor to ensure that the Prime Minister, when determining the permitted number of employees, considers the planned changes in the direction of optimization and rationalization of business processes and anticipated changes in the scope of public tasks in SURS.

**Deadline:** Q4 2027

**Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 9.1:** Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

**Improvement sub-action 9.2:** To increase the internal budget

SURS will continue to make efforts to increase integral budget items adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia. SURS will prepare financial projections, inform and continuously discuss with the Ministry of Finance the necessary funding for the implementation of tasks and the operation of the office, in advance of the preparation of the national budget. Correspondence and meeting notes will be documented. SURS will also comment on the government's budget proposals, when the proposed budget is not sufficient. SURS will use the recommendation from the peer review report and point out the need for sufficient resources at meetings at a higher level (Statistical Council, Economic Committee) and with national data users.

**Deadline:** Q4 2027

**Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 9.2:** Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance

**Improvement sub-action 9.3:** To obtain additional funds

SURS will strive to obtain additional funding for development and new tasks through EU grants and cooperation with state authorities that manage other financial resources (cohesion, recovery, and resilience plan fund). SURS will also participate in partnerships with other NSIs regarding the absorption of funds and the development of joint solutions.

**Deadline:** Q4 2027

**Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 9.3:** Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

**10. Recommendation:**

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia should evaluate the long-term harms and benefits associated with the migration from its IT infrastructure to the government cloud and, drawing from the examples of other National Statistical Institutes in this area, analyse the effects on data confidentiality, costs and availability of storage for future use of new data sources, methods and tools. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 5.5 and 3.1)

**Current situation:**

A few years ago, SURS began transitioning its IT infrastructure and data processing systems to the national government cloud, coordinated by the Ministry of Digital Transformation. In accordance with the State Administration Act, the IT infrastructure is managed by the central IT service of the Ministry of Digital Transformation. The transition must take into account the rules for the development, deployment, hosting, and reuse of information solutions on the state computer cloud (DRO). The transition is being carried out gradually, depending on the capabilities of SURS and the Ministry, which also conducts the transition for other state bodies. SURS regularly meets with the Ministry, where it emphasizes the specifics related to the implementation of the statistical process.

**Improvement sub-action 10.1:** Analyse the existing SURS infrastructure on the state computer cloud (DRO)

Experiences of migration to DRO will be analysed, including the benefits and risks associated with the transition of SURS's IT infrastructure and data processing systems to DRO (e.g. long-term harms, the effects on data confidentiality, costs and availability of storage for future use of new data sources, methods and tools).

**Deadline:** Q4 2024

**Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 10.1:** Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

<p><b>Improvement sub-action 10.2:</b> Analyse other statistical offices practices</p> <p>Approaches of other statistical offices that have experienced similar migrations will be reviewed.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2024</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 10.2:</b> Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 10.3:</b> Identification and communication of specific requirements for statistical data processing in relation to general state computer cloud (DRO) requirements</p> <p>Needs for conducting the statistical process and solutions that DRO does not support, or areas where challenges arise will be analysed. Identified specific requirements and findings will be communicated to the Ministry of Digital Transformation.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2025</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 10.3:</b> Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia</p>

<p><b>11. Recommendation:</b></p> <p>The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia should provide an overview of the resources used for microdata access service to researchers on an annual basis and include this information in its annual report. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 3.2, 5.6, 15.3 and 15.4)</p>
<p><b>Current situation:</b></p> <p>SURS offers microdata access for research purposes to researchers. The access is free of charge. SURS regularly monitors annual statistics on processed requests, types of access, and the number of researchers accessing the data. The report does not include the resources used and the costs required to offer such a service to researchers.</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 11.1:</b> Review data sources for resource calculation</p> <p>SURS will review the data sources for calculating the resources needed to provide services for researchers.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2024</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 11.1:</b> Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 11.2:</b> Develop a methodology to calculate resources to ensure access to researchers</p> <p>SURS will prepare a methodology for calculating the resources required to ensure the service for data access for research purposes.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2025</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 11.2:</b> Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 11.3:</b> Analyse the resources used for access to researchers</p> <p>SURS will calculate and analyse resources used on an annual basis.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q1 2026</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 11.3:</b> Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia</p>

<p><b>Improvement sub-action 11.4:</b> Strategic discussion</p> <p>The findings of the analysis and their impact on the provision of services for research purposes will be discussed internally at a strategic level.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q2 2026</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 11.4:</b> Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 11.5:</b> Inclusion in the annual report and communication of analysis</p> <p>Information about the analysis will be included in the annual report. A communication plan will be developed and implemented to effectively share the results of the resource analysis with the key stakeholders to promote transparency and encourage stakeholders' feedback and facilitate informed decision-making regarding the enhancement of services offered to researchers.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2027</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 11.5:</b> Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia</p>

<p><b>12. Recommendation:</b></p> <p>The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia should step up its efforts to raise its profile as an attractive employer among the relevant professions and university graduates. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 7.5)</p>
<p><b>Current situation:</b></p> <p>SURS has difficulties in attracting highly qualified specialists, primarily due to uncompetitive salaries. SURS has recently made efforts to enhance its public communication, with a particular focus on using social media platforms to highlight the appealing aspects of working in SURS, but still fails to get enough interest and suitable staff.</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 12.1:</b> Analyse the current situation</p> <p>SURS will analyse the current situation regarding all the measures it has already taken in the field of employment.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2025</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 12.1:</b> Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 12.2:</b> Preparation of strategy</p> <p>SURS will prepare a strategy of the measures, which need to be taken in order to better attract and retain talented specialists that are vital for continued growth and innovation.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2026</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 12.2:</b> Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 12.3:</b> Implementation of strategy</p> <p>SURS will implement its strategy with measures to raise its profile as an attractive employer among the relevant professions and university graduates.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2027</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 12.3:</b> Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia</p>

<p><b>13. Recommendation:</b></p> <p>The National Institute of Public Health should continue optimising its processes, increase efforts to improve dissemination and develop a dissemination policy that regulates quality-related documentation for users. These improvements should be supported by the necessary resources. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 8.3 and 15.5)</p>
<p><b>Current situation:</b></p> <p>The NIJZ has a high level of commitment to the production of quality health statistics. It also has a clear separation between its administrative and statistical activities. It disseminates statistics on its website, but with limited documentation and access for non-Slovenian speakers. The human resources appear adequate for current production, but the NIJZ is experiencing a lack of IT resources. The peer review team noted that improvements could be achieved with further process optimisation, the introduction of open-source statistical tools (accompanied by training on how to use them) and a dissemination policy that clearly states that pre-release access is not granted to outside users.</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 13.1:</b> Strengthening the dissemination team at the NIJZ</p> <p>The NIJZ will strengthen its dissemination team with one additional employee dedicated entirely to dissemination and communication of health data. In addition, further education and training will be enabled for the current team and the newcomer(s).</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q2 2025</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 13.1:</b> National Institute of Public Health of Slovenia</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 13.2:</b> Optimising the process of dissemination together with creation of a new webpage for health data dissemination and communication</p> <p>The NIJZ will review the existing dissemination processes and prepare the action plan of possible optimisation changes. Besides, the NIJZ will prepare a new subpage of the existing webpage for health data dissemination and communication. The page will be dedicated to health data only and will be available in Slovenian and English, with clear and user-friendly content. All necessary documents and services will be available there – from a health data portal to metadata and quality-related documentation.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q2 2026</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 13.2:</b> National Institute of Public Health of Slovenia</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 13.3:</b> Development of a dissemination policy including the quality-related documentation</p> <p>The NIJZ will prepare a dissemination policy including the necessary elements such as quality-related documents, metadata catalogue, and pre-release access with support of SURS.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q1 2026</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 13.3:</b> National Institute of Public Health of Slovenia</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 13.4:</b> Preparation and implementation of strategy to introduce open-source statistical tools</p> <p>The NIJZ will analyse the possibilities to introduce different open-source statistical tools into statistical productions. On the basis of this analysis, the NIJZ will prepare a strategy and introduce open-source statistical tools.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2026</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 13.4:</b> National Institute of Public Health of Slovenia</p>

**14. Recommendation:**

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia should further develop communication activities to promote the value and benefits expected from the use of new data sources, notably privately held data. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 2.4)

**Current situation:**

SURS regularly strengthens trust in statistics by transparently and objectively publishing statistics and their metadata. In recent years, it has also enhanced its communications regarding experimental statistics and SURS operations for the public, especially on LinkedIn. It regularly organizes events on current topics, such as the Statistical Day, and maintains a well-functioning network of statistical advisory committees. Additionally, SURS participates in various events, consultations, and discussions, addressing issues related to new data sources, and in doing so, raises awareness among the public, users, and other stakeholders about the strict safeguards and measures in place to protect individual privacy and data confidentiality. SURS also strives to continue its collaboration with external stakeholders, including the government and governmental bodies on the topic of privately held data. This includes participation in international groups and meetings with private companies.

**Improvement sub-action 14.1:** Analysis of current communication activities

SURS will analyse existing public communication regarding new data sources, with an emphasis on individual privacy and data confidentiality.

**Deadline:** Q4 2025

**Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 14.1:** Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

**Improvement sub-action 14.2:** Enhancing communication activities

SURS will increase public communication on the topic of new data sources, experimental statistics and innovative approaches within its advisory bodies, among users, governmental bodies and other stakeholders, also with an emphasis on individual privacy and data confidentiality.

**Deadline:** Q4 2027

**Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 14.2:** Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

**15. Recommendation:**

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia should further develop and strengthen its innovation agenda, capitalise on the successful production of statistics based on innovative data sources and invest further in the use of new data sources in more statistical domains. This includes an enhanced focus on the development and dissemination of experimental statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 10.3 and 9.4)

**Current situation:**

Innovative and effective statistical production is stated as a strategic objective in the medium-term programme of statistical surveys for 2023–2027. In 2021, SURS began to publish experimental statistics. SURS is committed to integrating both new and privately held data sources into the statistical process. It participates in and encourages meetings with various external stakeholders at both international and national levels, to explore the potential for incorporating new data sources into statistical surveys and processes. In this context, SURS continually innovates within each statistical survey, aiming to increasingly utilize administrative registers and other innovative data sources.



<p><b>Improvement sub-action 15.1:</b> Strategic discussion on new data sources and strengthening the innovation agenda</p> <p>A discussion will be held by the top management on the strategy and direction for integrating new data sources into statistical surveys and further developing and strengthening the innovation agenda.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2024</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 15.1:</b> Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 15.2:</b> Prepare an inventory on potential new data sources</p> <p>SURS will make an inventory of potential new or innovative data sources that could be more broadly incorporated into statistical surveys or experimented with in the future.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q1 2025</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 15.2:</b> Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 15.3:</b> Prepare a strategy for the use of new data sources</p> <p>SURS will develop a strategy for the effective use of new data sources in more statistical domains. The strategy will also focus on development and dissemination of experimental statistics.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2026</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 15.3:</b> Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia</p>
<p><b>Improvement sub-action 15.4:</b> Implement the strategy for the use of new data sources</p> <p>SURS will implement the strategy for the effective use of new data sources in more statistical domains.</p>
<p><b>Deadline:</b> Q4 2027</p>
<p><b>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 15.4:</b> Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia</p>