Country Report Slovenia

by David Reichel

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### Table of contents

A. Key data sources and responsible institutions ........................................... 4

B. Historical evolution of the national data collection system/data collection practices and policies on data collection ......................................................... 6

C. Coordination and linking ............................................................................. 7

D. Concepts and definitions ............................................................................. 7

E. Availability of data ....................................................................................... 9
   E.1. Core demographic data on immigrants and migration control .................................. 9
       E.1.a Population stocks and general demographic characteristics ........................................ 9
       E.1.b Migration flows and characteristics of migrants at the time of migration ............ 10
       E.1.c Residence permits ........................................................................................................ 10
       E.1.d Change of citizenship .................................................................................................... 11
       E.1.e Asylum seeking and refugees ....................................................................................... 12
       E.1.f Irregular migration ......................................................................................................... 12
   E.2. Measuring integration, discrimination and diversity ...................................... 13
       E.2.a Employment .................................................................................................................. 13
       E.2.b Incomes, transfers and social benefits .......................................................................... 14
       E.2.c Housing and residential patterns ................................................................................. 14
       E.2.d Health and access to Healthcare .................................................................................. 14
       E.2.e Education ..................................................................................................................... 15
       E.2.f Family and household ................................................................................................... 15
       E.2.g Political Participation .................................................................................................... 16
       E.2.h Crime and justice ......................................................................................................... 16

F. Accessibility of data ...................................................................................... 16

G. Quality and scope of data collection ............................................................ 17

H. Conclusions - Recommendations ............................................................... 18

Bibliography ....................................................................................................... 20
A. Key data sources and responsible institutions

The Ministry of Interior is the main institution responsible for the registers used in migration related research. These registers have been developed for administrative purposes and concern population, citizenship, migration, integration, asylum and refugees. Within this Ministry, the Internal Administrative Affairs Directorate is responsible for the maintenance of the following registers:

- The **Central Population Register (CPR)** (*Centralni register prebivalstva, CRP*) which is the key register for population stocks in Slovenia and which collects its data from various sources.

- The **Permanent Population Register** (*Register stalnega prebivalstva*) where all persons residing in Slovenia have to register their residence. This register is electronically linked to the CPR.

- The **Asylum Register** (*Azilni register*) which is under the responsibility of the Directorate for Migration, Sector for Asylum of the Ministry.

- The **Register on Citizenship** (*Register državljanstev*) which stores data on all persons who apply for naturalisation and who already have obtained the citizenship of the Republic of Slovenia.

- The **Register on Foreigners** which contains information on the legal status of foreigners living in Slovenia.

- The **Register on Civil Statuses** which contains records on events, such as births, marriages and deaths which take place in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia (including citizens and foreign nationals).\(^1\)

Moreover, the Slovenian Police, as part of the Ministry of the Interior, are responsible for the collection and maintenance of data on illegal migration.

The second main institution is the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SORS) which produces statistical figures mainly derived from data received from the Ministry of the Interior. The SORS conducts the programmes of statistical surveys, which are defined by law as collection, processing, storing, analysing and disseminating of data on important mass phenomena in the economic, demographic and social fields (cf. Article 22 et seq., National Statistics Act, Uradni list Republike Slovenije No 45/1995, Uradni list Republike Slovenije No 9/2001 – amendments). Additionally, the SORS is responsible for providing the data requested by the EU regulation and therefore uses data received from the CPR and the Register on Foreigners.

\(^1\) Other changes of the civil status are registered only with respect to Slovenian citizens by virtue of the Act on the Register of Civil Status, including recognition, establishment and disproval of fatherhood/motherhood, adoption, changes of personal name, extension and withdrawal and restoration of legal capacity, acquisition and cessation of citizenship, change of sex, invalidity and cessation of marriage, data on the registration of same-sex partnership, invalidity and cessation of same-sex partnership (information provided by Ministry of Interior via email, 26 Nov. 2008).
The important registers and databases under the responsibility of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SORS) are:

- The **Census Database** including data of the last census, which was carried out in 2002, and was part of the 2000 round of population censuses. This census included amongst others questions on the date and reason of last migration, country of previous residence, citizenship and place of birth. For 2011 the SORS is going to carry out a register-based census.

- **Migration Statistics** contain variables which present movements of the population of Slovenia defined as registrations and de-registrations of permanent or temporary residence in the Republic of Slovenia as well as the registration of temporary departure from Slovenia or the return to Slovenia. Furthermore, these statistics include estimations on emigration of foreigners, which is necessary as foreigners who emigrate rarely de-register their residence. Estimations of emigrated foreigners are derived from the expiration of the validity of temporary residence permits which have not been prolonged or renewed.

- Statistical data on population stocks, namely the **Population Statistics**. These statistics include citizens of Slovenia with permanent residence in the territory (excluding those who have been residing abroad for more than three months and gave notice of their departure) and foreigners who have a registered permanent or temporary residence, foreigners under temporary protection and refugees.

- **The Statistical Register of Employment (SRDAP)**, which includes all persons who are employed in the territory of Slovenia. However, certain groups of persons, such as persons working under contracts for work and services or Slovenian citizens working in Slovenian enterprises or on construction sites, etc. abroad, are excluded.

- **The survey Socio-economic Characteristics of the Population and international Migrants**, which provides several variables on the population by country of birth and by citizenship.

- Moreover, the SORS is the authority responsible for conducting the **Labour Force Survey (LFS)** and the **European Community Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC)**.

In addition, data on social insurance are collected by the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute, Health Insurance Institute, the Employment Service of Slovenia and the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs. Furthermore, the Employment Service of Slovenia holds data on unemployment and work permits issued in Slovenia. The SORS receives data from those institutes for compiling statistics on the active population in Slovenia.

Under the responsibility of the University of Ljubljana Slovenia has also participated in the European Elections Study and in the European Social Survey, which both could be useful studies for certain areas of migration research.
B. Historical evolution of the national data collection system/ data collection practices and policies on data collection

Even though Slovenia has been an independent state only since 1991, official statistics for Slovenia have existed since the Second World War, launched with the founding of the Statistical Office in 1944 (SORS, 2004: 9). In 1995 the National Statistics Act was adopted and the Statistical Office became an independent Government service and acquired its current name (SORS 2004: 59 – 61 and 66).

Under the responsibility of the Statistical Office, the Central Population Register was established in 1979 when Personal Identification Numbers (called EMŠO) were assigned on the basis of the census data of 1971 (SORS 2004: 42). On 25 April 1991 the number of people counted in the CPR changed due to the independency of Slovenia. Until this date the number of residents included all people with permanent residence in the territory of Slovenia who were citizens of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia and citizens of other republics of the former Socialist Federal Republic Yugoslavia; afterwards the number of residents includes citizens of the Republic of Slovenia and persons who were registered in the territory but did not acquire the citizenship of the Republic of Slovenia or of any other country. In 1995 the definition of population was modified by excluding Slovenian citizens who are residing abroad and by including foreigners with temporary or permanent residence as well as data on refugees (SORS, 2006a).

In 1998 the CPR was taken over by the Ministry of the Interior. Since this transfer, the SORS still uses the CPR for statistical purposes (SORS, 2004: 68). During the last years, the Ministry of the Interior made efforts to further data administration which led to the emergence of certain advanced electronic registers, the so-called e-CPR, the Register on Foreigners, the Register on citizenship and the Register on Asylum, which are all linkable with a personal identification number. Accordingly all personal data are connected to the eCPR. Personal data are disseminated to all users – including the SORS – by means of the e-CPR. The function of the e-CPR is to provide outputs of all the integrated registers to authorised users.

Finally it is important to mention that there were some changes in migration statistics which make the comparison of data for certain time periods impossible. Until 1991 the migration statistics of Slovenia only considered citizens of the then SFR Yugoslavia who immigrated to or emigrated from Slovenia. Between 1992 and 1994 the migration statistics included citizens of the Republic of Slovenia only. Since 1995 most statistics included international migration of foreigners due to the supply of aggregated data on immigration of foreigners by the Ministry of the Interior. The data on international migration of all persons do not include emigration of persons who did not give notice of their departure but data on expired residence permits. Since 1998, there are also data on temporary absence\(^2\) of citizens of the Republic of Slovenia (SORS, 2006b: 23).

\(^2\) Temporary absence means an absence for more than three months.
C. Coordination and linking

As the administrative datasets are not maintained under the responsibility of the SORS anymore, the linking of datasets for statistical purposes was a peculiar challenge to the SORS until recently. The co-ordination and co-operation between the SORS and the Ministry of the Interior is also very important due to the reason that the SORS is responsible for providing the statistics on migration requested by the EU Regulation (No 862/2007). Since the registers at the Ministry of the Interior are developed newly as electronically conducted registers, the co-ordination and linking of data and registers cause no more problems.

The unique identifier assigned in the CPR is the abovementioned EMŠO (*Enotna Matična Številka Občana*). The EMŠO is a 13-digit code which gives information on the date of birth and gender of a person. It is assigned to every person at birth or immigration (e.g. when residence is permitted), or if no number exists, at the time of entering the person into the register.

All registers kept by the Ministry of the Interior are automatically linked. For instance, when a person is naturalised, the information is automatically sent to the Register of Foreigners and to the Register of Civil Status.

The SORS uses the SID (statistical identifier, assigned to persons instead of EMŠO) to link several data which leads to a good and comprehensive coverage of data included in several statistics. For instance, the SORS uses data from the Ministry of the Interior, the Statistical Register of Employment, the Employment Service of Slovenia, the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of Slovenia, as well as data derived from the annual statistical surveys to prepare statistics on the socio-economic characteristics of the population of Slovenia and international migrants.

D. Concepts and definitions

Since 1996, the population of Slovenia is defined as citizens of the Republic of Slovenia (excluding those who have been absent from Slovenia for more than three months and gave notice of their departure at the administrative unit of their permanent residence), foreigners with permission for permanent or temporary residence in the Republic of Slovenia who have a registered permanent or temporary residence, foreigners with a valid work permit or a business visa who have registered temporary residence in Slovenia, persons under temporary protection in Slovenia, and refugees according to the Asylum Act (SORS, 2006b: 20).

According to the census 2002, **usual place of residence** is defined as the settlement in which a person spends most nights.

The Registration of Residence Act defines residence as the town or village in which an individual person settles for the purpose of residing in it. Residence includes information on the country (if not the Republic of Slovenia), municipality, town or village, street, and house number. Permanent residence is the town or village in
which a person settles and which is the centre of the person’s vital interests, which is assessed on the basis of professional, economic, social and other relationships demonstrating that the ties between the individual person and the town or village, in which s/he is living, are genuinely strong and permanent. Temporary residence is any other place of residence in which an individual person is staying or temporarily residing for the purpose of working or acquiring education or for other reasons but in which s/he does not reside permanently.\(^3\)

Statistics at the SORS also differentiate between temporary and permanent residence of foreigners. Generally, a temporary residence is defined as a settlement where a person temporarily lives or where a person is temporarily registered which is outside (as a rule) of the settlement of permanent residence (SORS, 2006b: 28). A foreigner with temporary residence in Slovenia is a person with a foreign citizenship and a valid permit for temporary residence in Slovenia who registered her/his temporary residence (SORS, 2006b: 28). Foreigners with permanent residence in Slovenia comprise persons with foreign citizenship who have a permanent residence permit who registered her/his permanent residence in Slovenia as well as refugees (SORS, 2006b: 28).

Foreigners with registered permanent or temporary residence and persons under temporary protection in the Republic of Slovenia (defined as citizens of a foreign country or persons without citizenship to whom the Republic of Slovenia offers temporary protection because of the situation in the country of the person concerned) constitute the foreign population of the Republic of Slovenia according to the SORS (SORS, 2006b: 26 – 28).

In annual demographic surveys conducted by SORS, citizenship is defined as a permanent legal relationship of a person towards the country which acknowledges his/her special status (SORS, 2006b: 25).

In the census of population 2002 the questionnaire contained a question on nationality/ethnicity of persons, however, the answer was not compulsory and there was also the possibility to choose the category “not declared”.\(^4\) A question on ethnic affiliation was asked in all censuses after WWII. Until 2002, certain persons had the possibility to answer the question on ethnic affiliation for other persons (absent persons and children); however, in the census 2002 all persons aged 14 and over had to declare their ethnic affiliation and religion themselves, while for children younger than 14 the answer could be given by their parents, adopters or guardians. According to the classifications valid for the censuses 1981, 1991 and 2002, the population is classified in two groups regarding the ethnic affiliation, namely declared and undeclared. In the Census 2002 the group of “undeclared” comprises persons who declared themselves as Yugoslavs, as Bosnians, persons who declared themselves regionally or “ethnic affiliation undeclared”. People who regarded themselves as Muslims in the sense of ethnic and not religious affiliation were shown as Muslims in the sense of ethnic affiliation (SORS, 2007).

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\(^3\) Information provided by the Ministry of Interior via email (27 November 2008).

\(^4\) According to the SORS the statistical analyses of nationality are carried out very carefully, considering that nationality is not a legal category.
Until recently there have been political debates in Slovenia about the relation of ethnicity, national affiliation and citizenship, and the citizenship legislation went through several adjustments (cf. Medved, 2007: 228 – 235).

E. Availability of data

E.1. Core demographic data on immigrants and migration control

E.1.a Population stocks and general demographic characteristics

The CPR is the key data source for the population stocks in Slovenia. It holds information on all persons who are temporarily or permanently residing in Slovenia and it is kept by administrative units and the Ministry of the Interior. All procedures which happen during the lifetime of a person are stored in the CPR. Procedures are kept in form of events and each event is kept separately. The collected events comprise a pin number (EMŠO), names, citizenship, residence and type of residence, marital status, right to vote, PINs of mother, father, spouse and children, identifiers for the linkage to other registers, and dates and information on events, changes or corrections. For foreigners the CPR contains separate events such as issuance of residence permits. The persons included in the CPR are:

- citizens with permanent or temporary residence in the Republic of Slovenia,
- citizens who are permanently or temporarily (for more than three months) absent from the Republic of Slovenia, and
- foreigners with a permanent or a temporary residence permit who registered their residence.

The demographical data in the CPR comprise place of birth, citizenship, age, sex, marital status, permanent and temporary residence. The register derives its data from several sources but mainly from the Permanent Population Register, where all persons have to register their residence.

As mentioned above, the Population Statistics of the SORS are based on the data derived from the CPR; however, the data on foreigners are also derived from the Register of Foreigners, described below. However, in the future the only data source for demographic statistics will be the eCPR2.

The Population Statistics published by the SORS include:

- citizens of the Republic of Slovenia with permanent residence in Slovenia, excluding those who have been abroad for more than three months and gave notice of their departure at the administrative unit of their permanent residence,
- foreigners with a permanent residence permit in the Republic of Slovenia, who have a registered permanent residence,
- foreigners with a temporary residence permit in the Republic of Slovenia, who have a registered temporary residence,
- foreigners with a valid work permit or a business visa, who have a registered temporary residence in Slovenia, and
- persons according to the Asylum Act (OJ RS, No. 51/06) to whom the asylum and refugee status were granted in Slovenia.

Demographical data contained in the Population Statistics are age, sex, marital status, place of birth and citizenship.

**E.1.b Migration flows and characteristics of migrants at the time of migration**

The SORS conducts migration statistics which comprise all registrations and de-registrations of temporary or permanent residence in Slovenia of all persons included in the population statistics. Additionally, for citizens of the Republic of Slovenia data on registration of temporary departure from Slovenia and on their return to Slovenia are included. As for the Population Statistics, the SORS uses data from the CPR and the Register on Foreigners.\(^5\)

The demographic variables included in the database are age, sex, place of birth and citizenship of the persons migrating.

However, since 1995, the data on emigration of foreigners have been estimated on the basis of the numbers of foreigners registered in Slovenia at the beginning and at the end of the year, also considering naturalisations, births and deaths. These movements have to be estimated due to the low number of emigrating foreigners who de-register their residence.

Further inconsistencies are reported for internal migration where the data are not very reliable due to the reason that some persons moving within the country do not register their change of residence.

**E.1.c Residence permits**

The Slovenian law differentiates between temporary residence permits and permanent residence permits, which are needed by third-country nationals who intend to stay in Slovenia. Foreigners arriving in Slovenia with a visa or - according to bilateral agreements - with an identity card or a passport may not stay longer than 90 days within a period of six months, starting from the day of the first entry. For other reasons than those possible on the basis of a visa, a residence permit is necessary. Temporary residence permits are issued for the period of time required to achieve the purpose of residence, however, not exceeding one year (with some exceptions). Temporary residence permits may be repeatedly extended under the same conditions under which they were issued. A permanent residence permit is issued for an unlimited period without specifying the purpose of stay, usually after five years of uninterrupted stay in Slovenia on the basis of temporary residence permits. EEA citizens receive a registration certificate, which is granted for up to five years, if they intend to stay for more than three months, however, the validity may be extended repeatedly. Family members of Slovenes and other EEA citizens can obtain temporary residence permits in form of a “residence card of a family member of

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\(^5\) In the future all data on migration will be obtained from the eCPR2.
Slovenian citizen” or a “Residence card of a family member of EEA citizen”. Family members of Slovene citizens are issued temporary residence permits valid for five years. Family members of other EEA citizens obtain residence permits with same validity as their sponsors’ certificates of registration.

An asylum application identification card is used as a temporary residence permit and a positive decision on granting refugee status is used as a valid permit for permanent residence (Kupiszewska and Nowok, 2006: 601 - 603).

The main source for the legal status of foreigners residing in Slovenia is the Register on Foreigners managed by the Ministry of the Interior. The register is connected to the Employment Service of Slovenia in order to access information on work permits. The Ministry of Interior is therefore able to view application forms for work permits, decisions regarding the applications for work permits and data on already expired work permits.\(^6\)

The register is connected to all other registers kept of the Ministry of Interior (including the CPR, Asylum Register, Register on Citizenship, Permanent Population Register, and Register on Civil Statuses). In addition, the Register on Foreigners (as the Register on Citizenship) is linked to the police evidence (FIO). The register is in operation in its current form only since 11 December 2006. In 2007, the CPR and the Register on Foreigners have been integrated. Data are entered in the register when a person applies for residence in Slovenia. The register contains all data important for the administration of residence permits of foreigners, including the data on legal decisions according to the aliens act. Besides legal information, the register contains data on age, citizenship, country of birth, occupation and gender. As the register covers only ‘regular’ migration, refugees and asylum seekers are not included. Currently, the dataset is not accessible to researchers.

**E.1.d Change of citizenship**

The law regarding the acquisition of the Slovenian citizenship is strongly based on the principle of *ius sanguinis*. A person could acquire Slovenian citizenship at birth if both parents are Slovenian citizens, if only one parent is a Slovenian citizen and the child is born in the territory of Slovenia and if the child is born outside of Slovenia and one parent is a Slovenian citizen and the citizenship of the other parent is not known, not determined or stateless. Moreover, Slovenian citizenship could be acquired through birth in the territory of Slovenia if the citizenship of the parents is unknown, the parents are stateless, or the parents are unknown. This constitutes the only way of *ius soli* in the Slovenian citizenship law.

There is also the possibility to become a Slovenian citizen by registration until the age of 36 (before 2002 the age limit was 23), which applies for people who were born abroad and who have one parent who is a Slovenian citizen. Naturalisation of people is possible after an application under certain conditions, for example the renunciation of a former citizenship, proof of language skills, persons should not constitute a threat to the public order or the security or defence of Slovenia and be residing in

\(^6\) The information is needed for administration of residence permits.
Slovenia for at least ten years. There is also the possibility of facilitated or exceptional naturalisation (Medved, 2007: 221 – 225).

The Slovenian citizenship policy is relatively tolerant towards multiple citizenships and there are many Slovenians holding multiple citizenships, however, the exact number is not known. In 1991, the number of registered Slovenians with dual citizenships residing abroad was 15,000; however, after the independency of Slovenia the number of persons holding multiple citizenships residing in Slovenia and abroad has increased considerably. It is estimated that there were around 60,000 Slovenian citizens residing abroad in 2005 (Medved, 2007: 226 – 227).

The Ministry of the Interior maintains the Register on Citizenship which includes all persons requesting naturalisation. The register, which is in operation since September 2006, includes data concerning the applications for naturalisation and the consecutive decisions on these applications (persons are allowed to apply several times for naturalisation).

The demographic variables included in the register comprise age, citizenship and type of residence. Moreover, there is information on occupation and education stored in the register, however, the declaration of these data is not obligatory which leads to a deficient coverage.

**E.1.e Asylum seeking and refugees**

All events and persons in connection with Asylum procedures in Slovenia (applications and Dublin II requests) are included in the Asylum database managed by the Asylum Division within the Ministry of the Interior. The database was launched in January 2007; however, the data in the register go back to 1991.

The register is very complex and unites all data on persons in all working procedures of the asylum process. This includes all data needed for administering the procedures, such as personal data, data on accommodation, on applications, on decisions, on rights and assistance granted, as well as on Dublin cases.

**E.1.f Irregular migration**

The Slovenian police is responsible for the border control and the implementation of the regulations on aliens, and also participated in the preparations of amendments to the Aliens Act and the State Border Control Act. Annually, the police publishes a report on their work where data on irregular migration are illustrated (cf. Ministry of the Interior, 2007).

In this report the statistics on refused entries at the border, on persons who crossed the border illegally, on persons who misused documents and on persons who were illegally residing in the country are available. All statistics are differentiated by nationality. Moreover, the numbers of different kinds of misused documents at border crossing points are available, as well as numbers of aliens returned due to interstate agreements differentiated by whether a person was returned by the Slovenian police or to the Slovenian police (Ministry of the Interior, 2007: 32 – 34).
Moreover, the statistics contain the number of aliens accommodated in the so-called Aliens’ Centres by country of citizenship. In Slovenia, aliens who are to be deported by law could be ordered to move to the Centre for Aliens awaiting their deportation in case they cannot be deported immediately for whatever reason (see Article 56, Aliens Act 1999, amended 2002\(^7\)).

### E.2. Measuring integration, discrimination and diversity

#### E.2.a Employment

In Slovenia there are several registers, statistics and surveys which could be useful for examining employment issues.

The Register on Citizenship includes data on the occupation of persons included, however, the declaration of occupation is not obligatory and therefore, the coverage is not very consistent and the usefulness of this data source is limited.

The Register on Foreigners includes the data on work permits of all foreigners concerned.

The SORS holds comprehensive information on the employment situation of the Slovenian population including foreigners. The SORS conducts the Statistical Register of Employment which covers persons in paid employment who have employment contracts and self-employed persons who have compulsory social insurance (pension, disability and health insurance, parental protection insurance and unemployment insurance). In this database, data on the employment, occupation, education and status of insured person are available and distinguishable by citizenship. Furthermore, the statistics on the socio-economic characteristics of the population contain several data on the employment of the population, which will be described in the next section.

Moreover, the SORS carries out the Labour Force Survey since 1993 annually and since 1997 quarterly. The LFS contains comprehensive data on the employment situation of the persons included. As crucial to migration research the survey includes information on the citizenship of the respondents, the country of birth and in case of immigrants, the year of immigration and the sending country. The questionnaire is in Slovene but, if necessary most of the interviewers are able to conduct interviews in Serbian or Croatian language too. However, the LFS excludes other persons with no or poor language skills. As a result immigrants could be under-represented in the sample. These constraints, however, have to be considered as very minor due to the reason that most immigrants in Slovenia originate from other successor states of former Yugoslavia and therefore should be able to understand the Slovenian language.

Another international survey conducted at the SORS, providing information on employment issues, is the European Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-
The survey includes data on the citizenship and the country of birth of the respondents.

And finally there is the Slovenian census conducted in 2002, which contained several data and questions important for employment issues. There are data which were taken over from existing registers, namely the employment status, the occupation, the usual working hours and the place of work. Additionally, there were questions asked in the census comprising the current activity status, information about the daily way to work, and whether a person is working abroad or not.

**E.2.b Incomes, transfers and social benefits**

The main international instrument to measure incomes and social benefits of migrants is the Survey European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC), which is conducted in Slovenia since 2005 (with 2004 as a reference year) annually. The same possible constraints as described regarding to the Labour Force Survey apply to the EU-SILC. Hence immigrants with too poor language skills are excluded.

The Statistics on Socio-economic Characteristics of the Population of Slovenia and of International Migrants serve as a very good source for data on social benefits. Through the linkage to other registers, exact data on social benefits, activity, occupation and education are available. These statistics derive its information from several existing registers, statistics and datasets, comprising the CPR, the Register on Foreigners, the Register on Asylum, the Statistical Register on Employment, data on students enrolled in vocational colleges and higher education programmes, regular annual statistical surveys (on graduates), data from the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of Slovenia and the Employment Service of Slovenia (on recipients of financial social assistance). The published statistics include variables such the activity status, educational attainment, employment and unemployment, as well as social benefits.

**E.2.c Housing and residential patterns**

Besides good information on housing and residential patterns in the international surveys EU-SILC and Labour Force Survey, the census 2002 gathered good information on this issue as it includes several questions on the housing situation of persons.

**E.2.d Health and access to Healthcare**

Generally, the EU-SILC collects limited information on health issues, such as whether persons pay voluntary health insurance and information on the general health conditions of the respondents.
E.2.e Education

In Slovenia there are several different sources available to examine educational issues of migrants. Firstly, there are the administrative registers holding data on the education of the persons included. The Register on Citizenship includes data on the education of the persons included, however, like the data on occupation, the declaration is not compulsory which limits the coverage of the data. Secondly, there are official statistics on education provided by the SORS. The SORS maintains aggregate statistics on pre-primary and primary education by citizenship, individual data on tertiary education including data on students and graduates by citizenship and permanent residence. The data includes all persons achieving diploma or degree at vocational colleges and higher educational institutions and universities in the Republic of Slovenia. Concerning secondary education, aggregated data on students and graduates are available, but not differentiated by citizenship or permanent residence. Thirdly, there are surveys conducted in Slovenia which are part of international surveys collecting data on educational issues, namely the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) and Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS). All three surveys include questions on the country of birth of the respondents and their parents. PISA and TIMSS also collect information on the year of immigration. Moreover, Slovenia is a participating country of the European Social Survey (ESS) and the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP), which provide also some information on the education of respondents.

E.2.f Family and household

The EU-SILC and the LFS surveys use households as sampling units and collect the information on all persons living in each household selected. In the course of the Census 2002, information on all persons living in each household was collected, including information on the relation of each person to the household reference person. Therefore, comprehensive information is available on household compositions.

Regarding Registers managed by the Ministry of the Interior, the CPR contains the father’s, mother’s, spouse’s and children’s PIN in a person’s record. In the future this data will be the basic information for preparation of statistics on family. Besides, in 2007 an electronic database on households was launched by the Ministry of the Interior. In this database information on households and their family members is available.
**E.2.g Political Participation**

There are no voting rights of third-country nationals at national elections in Slovenia, however, under certain conditions (minimum of eight years of permanent residence) third-country nationals are allowed to vote at the local level (Bauböck, 2006: 112).

Special data on political participation, such as vote turnouts or preferences of foreigners and migrants are not known. There are two international surveys appropriate to measure the political participation of migrants who have already been naturalised in Slovenia. Firstly, there is the European Election Study which aims to collect information on electoral participation and voting behaviour in several European countries. The share of persons not born in the country included in the Slovenian 2004 sample is 7.6 percent which is equal to 77 persons. Secondly, there is the European Social Survey (ESS) including questions on political issues. The share of persons not born in Slovenia in the ESS 3 sample is 8.9 percent which is equal to 135 persons. Only one person of the sample is not a Slovenian citizen. Hence, immigrants are under-represented in those surveys and, in addition, the low numbers of immigrants restrict the possibilities of statistical calculations.

**E.2.h Crime and justice**

Statistics on crimes and justice are published frequently at the website of the SORS; however, the statistics are not differentiated by any variables relevant for migration research.

**F. Accessibility of data**

**F.1. Access to micro data at the SORS**

The conditions for the general access of statistically protected micro data are clearly defined at the SORS. Generally, all registered research institutions, registered researchers and researchers of government offices are entitled to obtain statistically protected micro data defined as data modified in a way which prevents the identification of the unit to which they refer with no constraints to statistical analyses. The purposes of the data usage have to be statistical-analytical and for scientific research only, and additionally, the analyses have to involve a public benefit or something positive for the people of Slovenia.

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F.2. The SI-STAT data portal and the statistical databank of the SORS

Besides the access to micro data, there is the statistical databank accessible through the website of the SORS where predefined standard tables are contained and the possibility of individual preparation of tables is offered. The SI-STAT data portal provides the possibility to export data of selected categories for all data users and for free.

F.3. Access to Registers conducted at the Ministry of the Interior

Access to registers of the Ministry of the Interior is generally not granted, however, there is a possibility to receive outputs and analyses on request. Furthermore, there is a possibility to access information derived from these registers via the micro data of the SORS.

The data of European surveys such as the Labour Force Survey and the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions are available at the SORS as well as at Eurostat.

The micro data of the European Election Studies and the European Social Survey are freely available online at www.europeanelectionstudies.net and www.europeansocialsurvey.com respectively.

Moreover, there is the central Social Science Data Archives in Slovenia which maintains data to be used for secondary analysis especially for social research and education (See: http://www.adp.fdv.uni-lj.si/en/, 11 August 2008).

G. Quality and scope of data collection

Generally, Slovenia’s data on migration and integration is of high quality and of broad thematic scope. The SORS has direct access to micro data of most existing data sources to implement its programme of statistical surveys. Technically, the possibility to link data via the SID (which is assigned to person instead of EMŠO) allows the usage of several different sources for the statistics. If the EMŠO is not available (as in the EU-SILC for instance) the data can be linked to registers via other variables such as name, surname, date of birth and sex.

However, there are two areas for which only limited or no data are available: unregistered movement of Slovene citizens to abroad and within the country and there is no information on citizenship of students at the secondary level. The absence of data in specific areas such as political participation can largely be explained by the relatively small size of the immigrant population.

In comparative perspective, recent developments in the field of administrative data collection has considerably improved the overall quality and scope of data collection.
H. Conclusions - Recommendations

Despite the overall high quality and broad scope of data collection, several recommendations can be made to improve both data collection itself and accessibility to data, including aggregate statistical information.

Considering the advanced statistical data collection in Slovenia and the many possibilities of data linkages, it would be desirable that more aggregate statistical data would be published especially regarding data collected by the Ministry of the Interior. Comprehensive statistical reports on data managed by the Ministry of Interior and easier access to micro-data via online access would facilitate dissemination of key data to researchers and other data users.

Although both stocks and flows\(^9\) of foreign nationals in Slovenia are relatively low compared to other European countries, Slovenia has a sizable population of immigrant background defined by country of birth. Thus, while the share of non-nationals was only 3.4 per cent in the end of 2007, the share of foreign born was 11.9 per cent. As foreign born is often the more useful variable from a research perspective, statistics published by the SORS should be distinguished by both, country of birth and citizenship.

The fact that the next census will derive its information solely from registers implies that information on certain variables such as ethnicity, religion and language which were available every 10 years will no longer be available in the content of census. However, information on these variables is important in particular regarding minority rights and research on discrimination and inequality. For these specific purposes, complementary surveys should be considered. Generally, surveys present a good possibility to tackle research questions that cannot be answered with administrative data or official surveys (LFS, EU-SILC), for example through the use of target oriented questions.

Data users have to bear in mind various limitations of available data. Apart from specific limitations such as in the case of data on emigration (see above), a major limitation of administrative datasets is that their primary purpose is administrative and that statistics are produced as a by-product and are not necessarily geared towards statistical analysis and research. With the advance of digital database technologies and the greater scope to combine administrative data warehouse systems more easily with statistical applications these limitations are becoming perhaps less severe but still have to be borne in mind. For researchers, the Statistical Office of Slovenia is the first contact point. In its capacity as the main institutions responsible for collecting, processing and dissemination of statistical data in Slovenia, the SORS has access to most data produced by other institutions. In addition, under certain conditions researchers may have access to anonymised data maintained by the SORS. Moreover, there is an online database which allows easy access to aggregate data for free to all users.

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\(^9\) Net migration of non-nationals averaged 2,600 a year between 1999 and 2003 (see SORS, 2006b, 182)
In the past years demands on reliable data have been increasing enormously, both on the national and the EU level. Thus, improvement of data collection and the best possible utilisation of existing data are increasingly important to the benefits for policy makers, researchers and other stakeholders alike.
Bibliography


Website of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia: www.stat.si
## Annex 1 - Datasets on migration/ integration in Slovenia

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<th>Responsible Institution</th>
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