



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
STATISTICAL OFFICE

SURS

We count. Today for tomorrow.

Response burden database and response burden indicators at the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

Session 26
3 June 2016

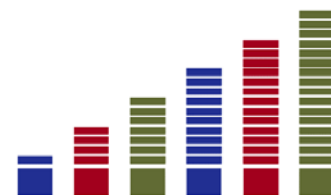
Vojko Šegan
Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia
vojko.segan@gov.si

IN Instituto
e Nacional de Estadística eurostat 

Madrid, May 31 - June 3

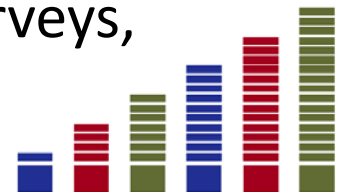
Managing response burden of respondents – current activities

- Use of administrative data
- Introducing electronic questionnaires
- Optimization of sample design and coordinated sampling
- Establishment of central help desk for communication with businesses
- More user-friendly and simpler instruments for collecting the data (questionnaires)
- Other (indirect) activities



Managing response burden of respondents – future possible activities

- Further development of coordinate sampling
- Advertising about the importance of statistics
- Tackling the negative perception of statistics
- Motivation of businesses and individual reporters
- Personalized statistical feedback
- Specific approach to large businesses
- Publishing information on response burden imposed by SURS
- Survey calendar at the level of individual businesses
- Defining the maximum load threshold
- Eliminating hot-spots
- New approaches to survey design (special questionnaires for small businesses, joining the surveys, modular surveys, reduction of frequency)

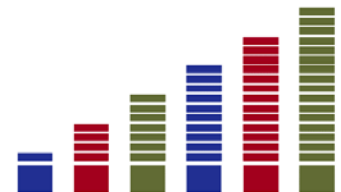


To apply, evaluate and present the results of those activities we need...

Appropriate system of measuring:

- actual response burden
- perceived response burden

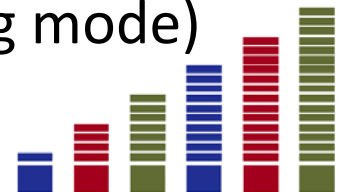
Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SURS)
Project:
Measuring Response Burden for Business Surveys (MOPS)
October 2014 - March 2016



MOPS - Key principles

1. The measurement system should follow international recommendations.

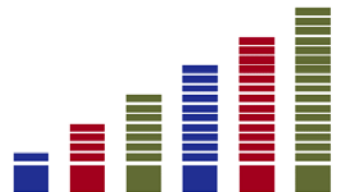
- Handbook for Monitoring and Evaluating Business Survey Response Burdens (Dale et al. 2007)
- Handbook on Methodology of Modern Business Statistics – MEMOBUST (Eurostat 2014)
- Standard Cost Model
- Actual and perceived response burden
- Time and monetary dimension
- Core questions
- Monitoring the calendar year where the burden took place
- Basic differentiations (size class, activities, reporting mode)



MOPS - Key principles

2. The principles have to be adapted to national economic environment.

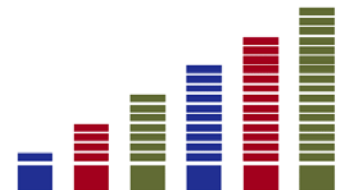
- Although the Slovenian economy is very small, requirements for statistical data are almost the same as in other countries.
- Businesses in Slovenia can be relatively more burdened than businesses in larger economies.
- Fewer possibilities to exclude businesses from the survey.
- Other measures for managing the response burden.



MOPS - Key principles

3. The measurement system should be on one hand integrated in regular process and on the other hand cover all exemptions.

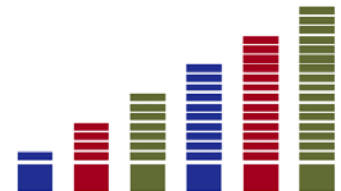
- Robust system that can cover all of differences.
- Minimal impact on regular statistical processes.
- The usage of existing methods, programs and databases was given a priority over completely new solutions.
- Some of the most burdensome surveys, e.g. Intrastat or the Labor Force Survey, have (because of their complexity) often separate collection systems, which had to be incorporated into a common measurement system.



MOPS - Key principles

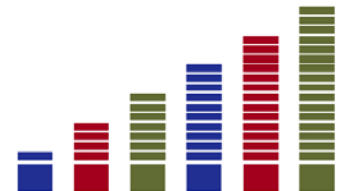
4. The measurement system should be established at the appropriate level.

- Lowest possible level - individual questionnaire
 - Calculation of a vast range of possible indicators
 - Potential for simulating effect on burden
 - Evaluate burden imposed and burden avoided



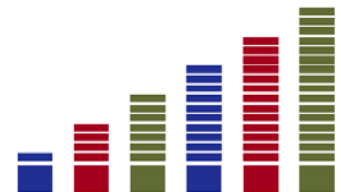
5. The measurement system should cover all present and future needs.

- Detailed set of indicators for the internal annual report on the response burden
- Basic indicators for the general public (e.g. Burden Barometer)
- Indicators for the needs of Standard Quality Reports at the level of the individual survey
- Information on inclusion of the selected business in the statistical survey and its reporting times
- Input for upgrade of the system of coordinated sampling
- Complex ad-hoc analysis and simulations

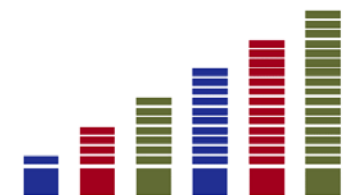
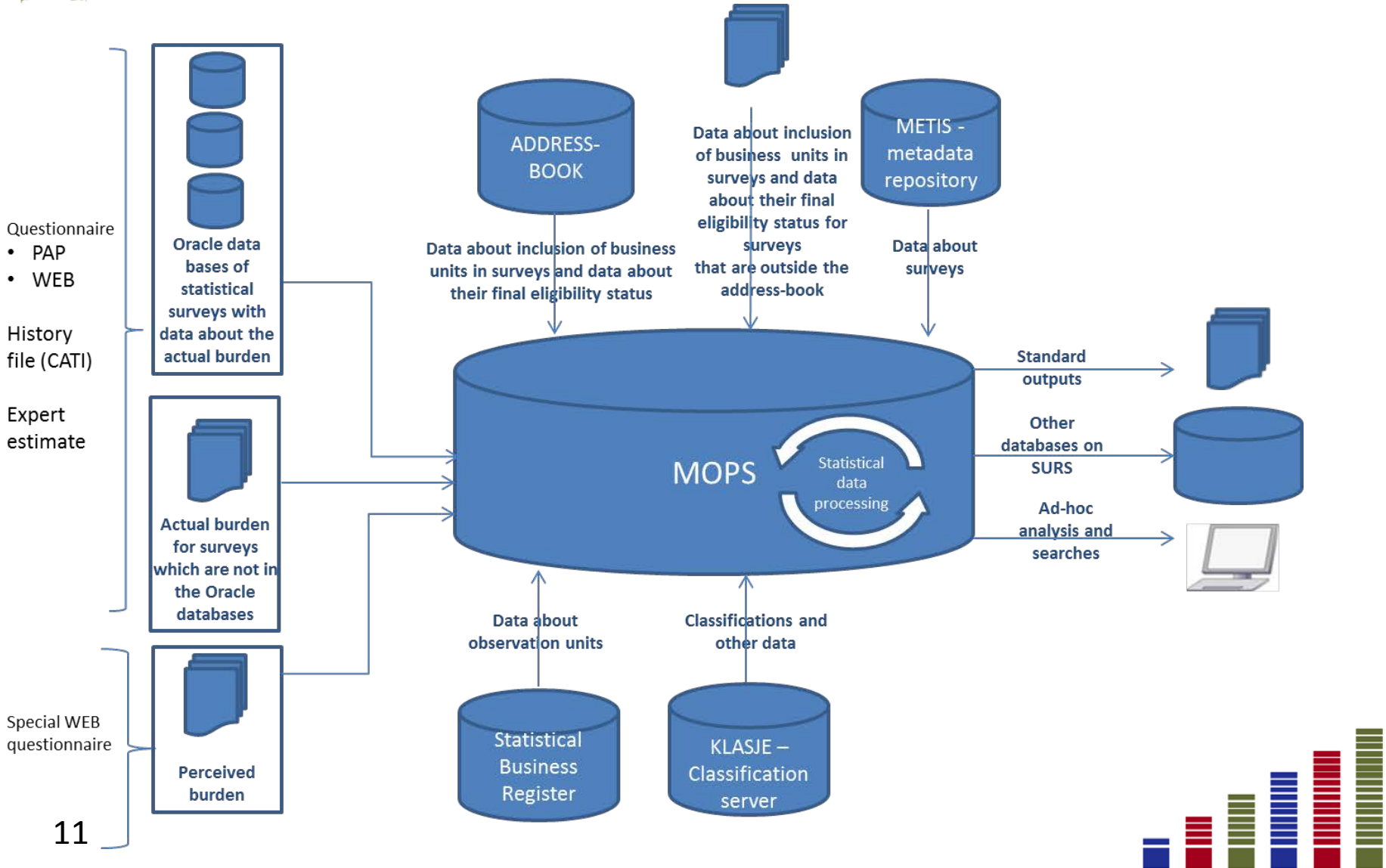


Measuring Response Burden for Business Surveys (MOPS) – 3 aspects

1. Architecture of IT solution for measuring response burden
2. Indicators on actual response burden
3. Measuring of the perceived burden



Architecture of IT solution for measuring response burden



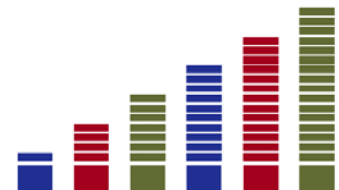
Indicators on actual response burden

Set of indicators for the annual report on the response burden:

- Number of observed units
- Number of businesses
- Number of questionnaires (total and returned)
- Time taken to respond (hours and minutes, man-days and man-years)
- Average time taken to respond (hours and minutes)
- Cost of reporting (EUR)
- Survey and response rate (%)
- Number and share of electronic questionnaires

Grouped by:

- Year
- Institutions collecting the data
- Type of period
- Activity (NACE)
- Size class (number of employees)
- Individual survey



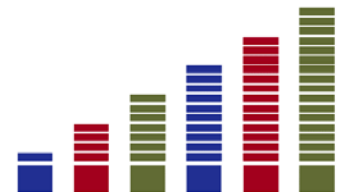
Indicators on actual response burden

Detailed information on participation of an individual business in surveys and its reporting times includes:

- Information on reporting time for an individual business for each survey that it participated in
- Comparative data for other, similar units
- Detailed data on inclusion, response status and reporting time for combination of each individual survey and period (each questionnaire)

Data needed for calculating the indicators for the needs of Standard Quality Reports include input data for the calculation of two main indicators for quality dimension “Cost and Burden”:

- Total and average time taken to report the data for the survey
- Total and average cost of reporting for the survey

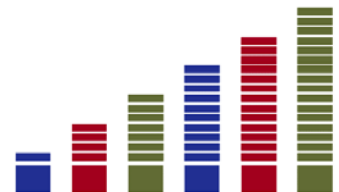


Measuring of the perceived burden

Model questionnaire:

- Guidelines from the Handbook for Monitoring and Evaluating Business Survey Response Burdens (Dale et al. 2007)
- Examples of questionnaires from other countries.
- Adjusted and prepared for both paper and electronic reporting.

There was not yet opportunity for testing questionnaire. The questionnaire is long and complex, so it is necessary to carefully consider when we should use it.

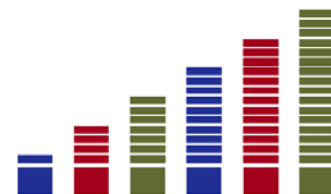


Measuring of the perceived burden

Questions were partially tested as part of the project Evaluation of the Burden and Costs in Intrastat due to the implementation of SIMSTAT.

Special survey to assess:

- The existing burden in Intrastat
- Reporting costs of reporting units
- The burden reduction if collecting only data variables required by EU legislation
- Additional increase in reporting burden due to the introduction of the proposed new data elements to be reported
- Decrease in reporting burden due to the exclusion of some reporting units from the Intrastat reporting obligation

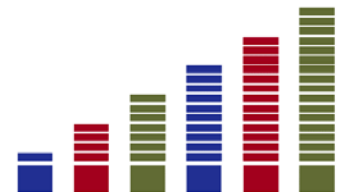


Measuring of the perceived burden

- Two sub-studies: May and June 2014
- Thirteen different questionnaires
- Around 7,700 observed and reporting units

Conclusions regarding methodology of measurement of perceived burden and structure of survey:

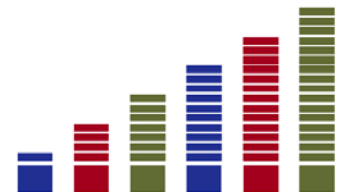
- Good response
- Appropriate questions
- Suitable methodology



Measuring of the perceived burden

Some issues (should be further tested):

- The response rate very high (Clear purpose).
- Observed units (reporting for the basic survey by themselves) more likely to respond than reporting units (answering the basic survey for other).
- Perception of usefulness for society higher for reporting units (compared to observed units).
- Perception of usefulness for themselves more or less the same for reporting and observed units (very low).
- Reporting units take less time to report for the basic survey than observed units / higher perception of time and perception of cost.
- Observed units are not pleased if surveys are conducted too frequently.
- At opinion questions many middle values (hard to analyse).



Thank you for your attention!

