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COMBINING DATA FROM ADMINISTRATIVE AND STATISTICAL SOURCES IN PRODUCING LABOUR MARKET STATISTICS

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This paper will give a detailed overview of SORS's new methodologies and approaches in producing Labour market statistics.

In order to harmonize activities with European methodology, and to produce statistical data that will be more comparable with EU members, SORS has been working constantly on modernisation of the statistical production processes.

The Monthly survey on employees and their salaries and wages has been carried out for decades on a purposive sample of legal entities. The sample provided the representativeness of data on total average wages and salaries on municipality level, and, for regions, on the level of activity division. Regular semi-annual survey on employees and their salaries and wages, which provided data on level of educational attainment and sex, was carried out on enlarged sample. Collection of monthly data imposed a significant response burden on Serbian businesses. Various analysts and decision-makers are in constant need for quality information, if they want to better understand economic activity and to react quickly.

SORS has made significantly step forward last year. Administrative data of Central Register of Compulsory Social Insurance (CRCSI) and Tax register became available, as source, for Labour market statistics. Labour market statistics represents important input for decision-making process. Analysis of quality of these administrative data started immediately, as well as all necessary actions needed for adapting data to statistical needs. Use of administrative data poses major challenges. For example, two important information are not available from CRCSI: municipality of working place and activity code. In order to overcome these shortcomings in 2016 SORS introduced a new methodology for computing registered employment. New methodology combines data from the CRCSI and Statistical Business Register (SBR). Monthly, SBR active enterprises are linked with the CRCSI data to provide sets of employees in those enterprises. From SBR, also, all local units are extracted with number of employees broken down by activity. Based on these SBR structures, the number of employees from CRCSI database can be broken down by municipalities and activities.

On the other hand, Tax administration data covers all the earnings for which the employer filed a tax return. Tax Administration data lacks important information needed for earnings statistics: activity of local kind of activity unit (LKAU), municipality of working place, educational level etc. This challenge has been overcome, also, by the significant changes in methodology, for example using municipality of place of residence, instead of municipality of working place.

Administrative data, despite all the shortcomings, secure better efficiency, reduce the response burden on reporting units, allow better coverage, more up-to-date data and improve the quality of statistical output. Challenge is to develop new methodologies or significantly improve old ones in order to get better information combining statistical data with administrative sources.