

## **Process of producing the grid data and the grid data dissemination in Slovenia**

The increasing need for spatial statistical data of high resolution encouraged the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia and the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia to establish the Record of House Numbers at the beginning of the 1980s. To every building or part of the building with a house number a coordinate of a centroid of the building was specified. The Record of House Numbers thus represents a ground database for qualitative GIS analyses in Slovenia. Adding these coordinates already to the 1991 Census data enabled the dissemination of the Census data at the lowest levels of territorial units. At the beginning of the 1990s also first GIS analyses using grid data combined with DEM, etc., were performed.

Although the dissemination of spatial statistical data at different levels of administrative or other territorial units is very systematically organized and adaptable to users' requests, the dissemination of the grid data is at the very beginning. Users can obtain the grid data but there is no system of cells identification and only the number of citizens is available in grid form for the present. When determining the data protection threshold for the grid data many analyses were made where finally the threshold of 10 was accepted and the smallest size of a grid cell 125 m x 125 m. As all other statistical data the grid data are also available free of charge.

Generally users can obtain census or other data at the level of settlements but some entities are also entitled to obtain the statistically protected microdata: registered research institutions, registered researchers, and the researchers of government offices (by definition, the statistically protected microdata have been modified in a way which prevents the identification of the unit to which they refer, while containing the variables on whose basis it is possible to carry out statistical analysis in the same way as this can be done with individual data). Since the results of analyses made on microdata are very limited regarding presenting them to the public, grids are expected to solve this problem as they both guarantee high positional accuracy of the data and meet the statistical confidentiality requirements.

At the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, dissemination of statistically protected microdata and sensitive tables (from the point of view of statistical confidentiality) to researchers is organized through the function of the Data Protection Committee, an advisory body of the Director General. The Committee also examines the requests where the microdata aggregated to users' own territorial units are to be disseminated or where users ask for non-population grid data.