

Innovating Statistics

Serbia's Path from Global Projects to Regional Integration

Branko Josipović – Director General, SORS

Nevena Mitrović - Assistant Director, SORS

www.stat.gov.rs

www.istportal.net

INTRODUCTION

AGENDA: Digital Revolution: 2022 Population
Census and 2023 Agriculture Census

Strengthening International
Statistical and Global Partnerships

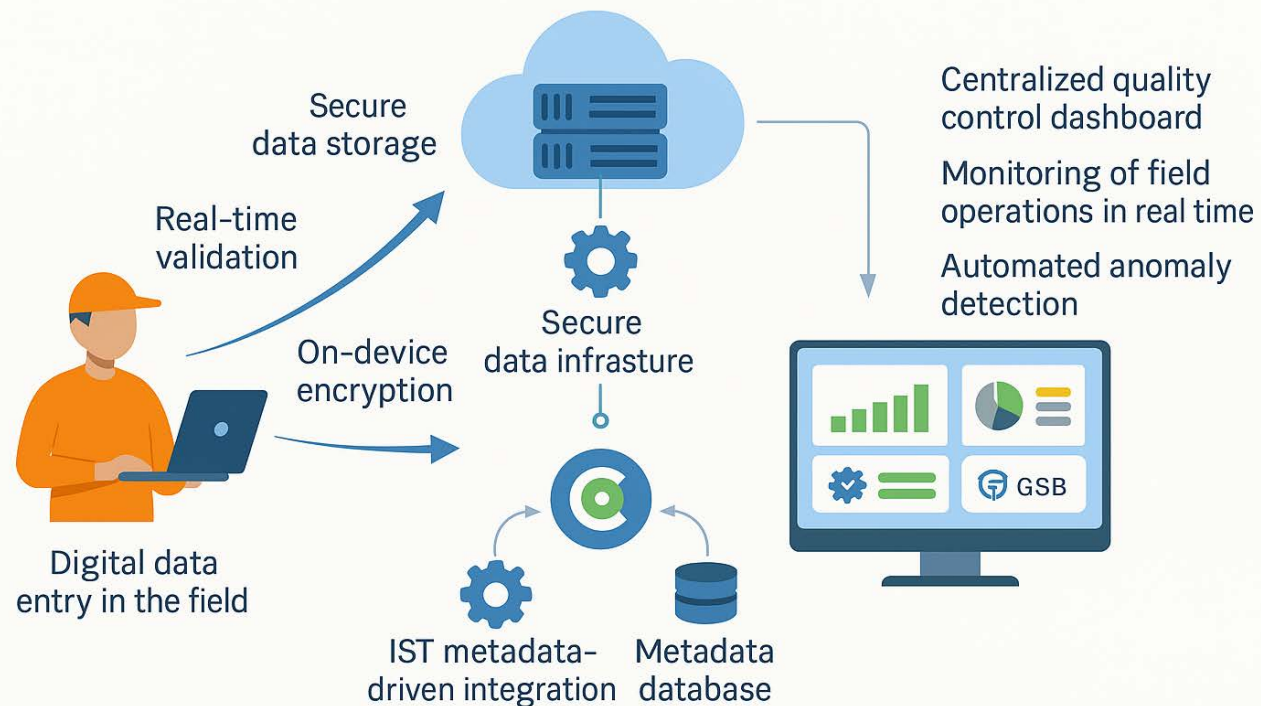
Key Enablers of Statistical
Transformation

Lessons Learned and Future
Challenges

FROM PAPER TO DIGITAL: A NATIONAL MILESTONE

Digital Revolution: 2022 Population Census

- First fully digital census in Serbia
- Use of laptops, real-time validation
- 100% digital data flow and processing



Faster data
availability



Fewer errors



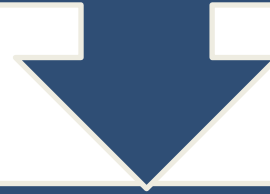
Greater
transparency



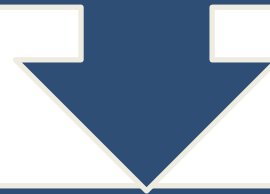
Full alignment
with GSBPM phases

2023
Agriculture
Census:
Extending
the Digital
Model

Methodology aligned with
Eurostat



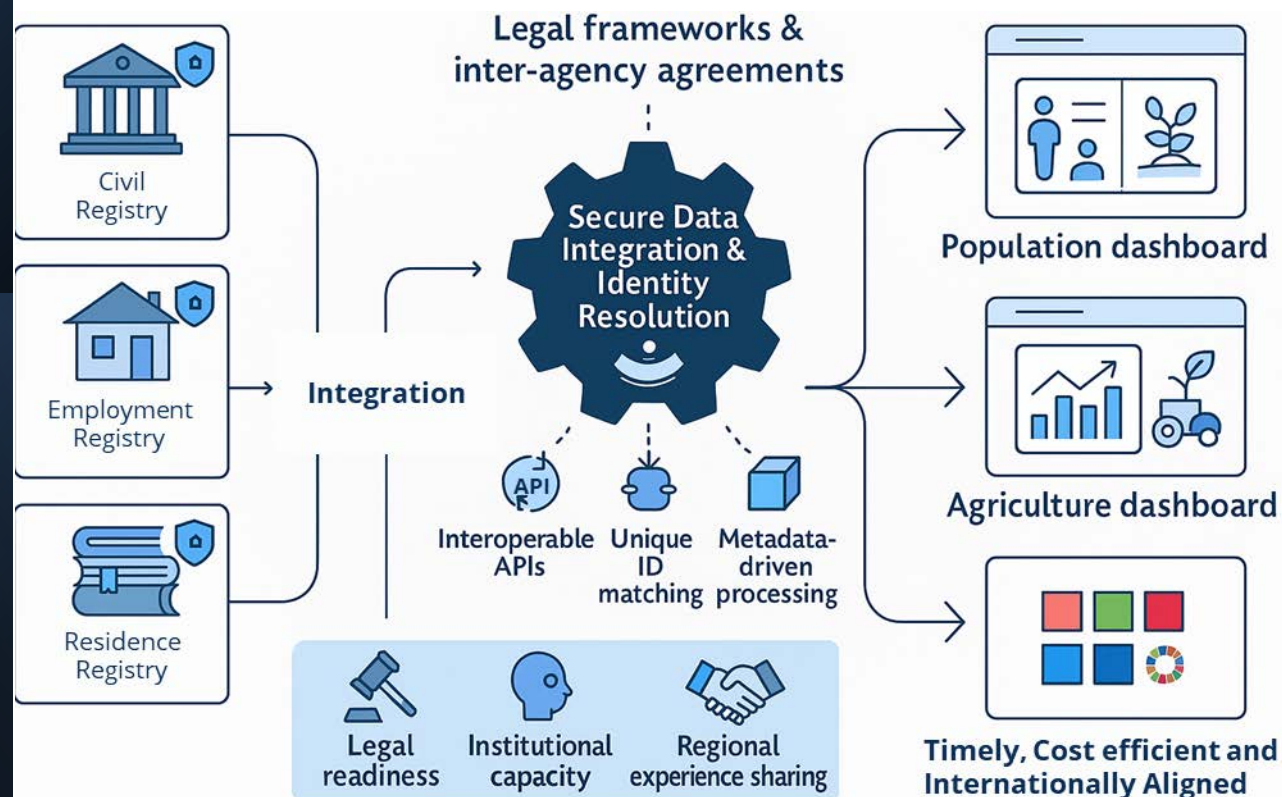
Full electronic data
collection



Integrated platform (IST +
custom tools)

Registry- Based Censuses – The 2030 Vision

- Move toward registry-based population and agriculture censuses
- Legal and IT preconditions in development
- Institutional collaboration planned



STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL AND GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Balkan Collaboration – A Shared Investment in Progress

- IST implementation with Montenegro, BiH and Albania
- Joint training events and missions
- Shared documentation and technical support



Central Asia
Link:
Kyrgyzstan
IST
Cooperation

- IST Desktop implementation
- Deployment of IST Web in 2025
- Stress testing with 1M records
- Technical missions and bilateral knowledge-sharing



Shared Knowledge, Accelerated Growth



Practical support and rapid learning



Cost reduction via shared tools



Peer-based quality improvement

Strategic Cooperation with CIS-Stat



INTERSTATE STATISTICAL COMMITTEE OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

WELCOME TO THE STATISTICS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES



Regular participation in CIS Forums



Contributions to CIS Working Groups



Regional learning network

ПЕРСПЕКТИВЫ РАЗВИТИЯ СТАТИСТИКИ: РОЛЬ МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫХ ПРОЕКТОВ



МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ
СТАТИСТИЧЕСКИЙ

ФОРУМ СНГ

CIS INTERNATIONAL
STATISTICAL **FORUM**

PROSPECTS OF STATISTICS: INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

БАКУ | АЗЕРБАЙДЖАН | 24-26.09.2025 | BAKU | AZERBAIJAN

Global Statistical Commitments



MICS (6 full rounds + MICS7 ongoing)



SDG Monitoring participation



SNA 2025 alignment process

Multiplying
Impact

-
UNECE
UNICEF
UNDP
EFTA

...



- High-Level Group for the Modernization of Official Statistics
- Support for MICS, SDG monitoring
- Methodology improvements
- Technical assistance and training



Partnership with Technology Leaders

- Government Enterprise Agreement with Microsoft - framework for innovation
- Capacity building in AI, ML, LLM technologies
- Machine learning modules used in 2022 Population Census
- SORS-led data lake and BI infrastructure for decision support
- Pilots with AI agents for public sector statistics
- Participation in BSTN initiative with Microsoft on emerging technologies (MCP)
- Initial steps toward a partnership with Yandex



KEY ENABLERS OF STATISTICAL TRANSFORMATION

Key Enablers of Statistical Transformation



IT & Digital Tools



Metadata & Data Integration



Human Capacity



Institutional Readiness

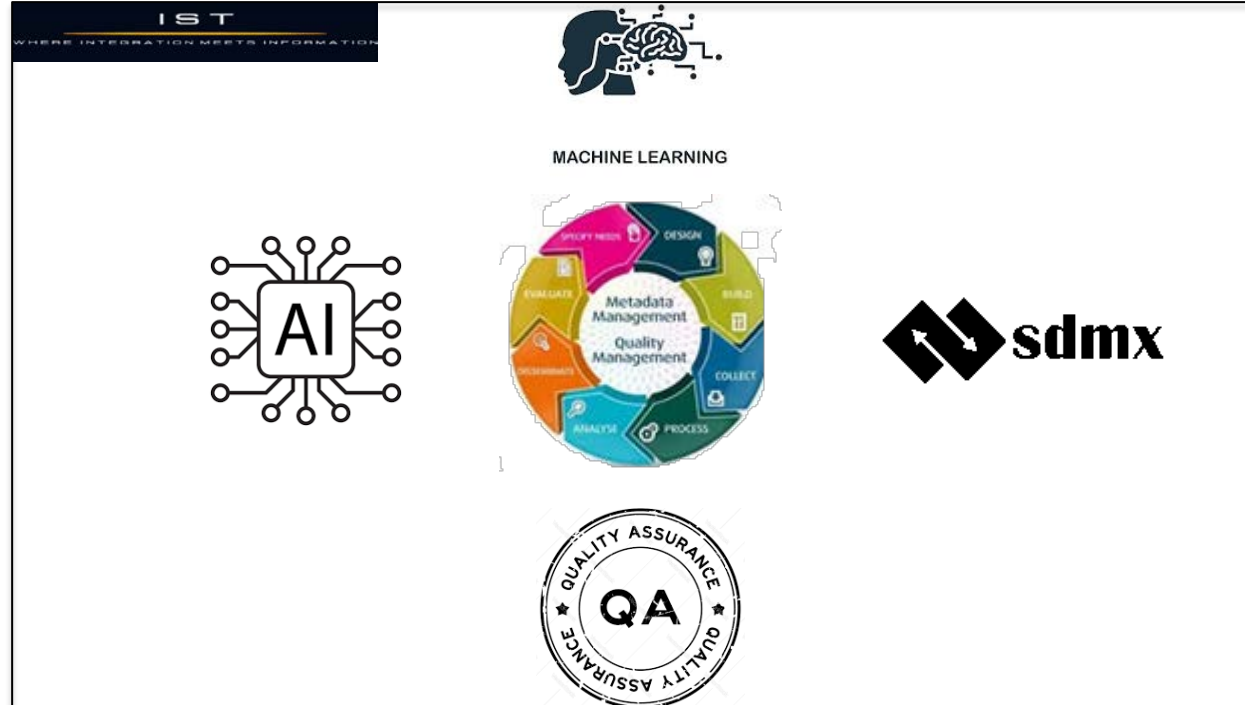
IST
—
A Metadata
Driven
Engine for
National
Statistics

- Developed by SORS and regional partners
- Adopted in Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, BiH, Kyrgyzstan
- Web-based, modular, fully metadata-driven



Smart Integration Through Metadata Standards

- GSBPM and SDMX alignment
- Integrated survey lifecycle management
- Supports indicators reporting and quality assurance
- Machine Learning and AI



People and Institutions Make the Difference



Continuous professional development



Cross-country training programs



Strengthened institutional mandates

LESSONS LEARNED AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

Five Takeaways from Our Experience



Invest in platforms, not one-time tools



Metadata is the backbone



Human capital is a multiplier



Regional partnerships bring speed



Global engagement builds resilience

2025 and Beyond – What Comes Next?



Expansion of IST
modules

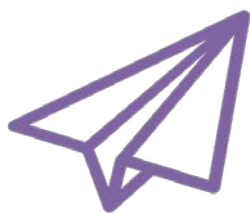


Support for more
countries in transition



Continued investment in
human capacity and
technology innovation

Thank You – Let's Keep Building Together



Email: kabinet@stat.gov.rs
nevena.mitrovic@stat.gov.rs
ist@stat.gov.rs



Websites: <https://www.stat.gov.rs/en-US/>
<https://istportal.net/>