



## The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Slovak Statistical and Demographical Society

The Slovak Statistical and Demographical Society (the SSDS) was celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2008. With this regard a ceremonial conference was organized by the Society. Now let's describe the course of the conference shortly and the 40-year history of the SSDS, as well.

### The Ceremonial Conference to the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of the SSDS

The Ceremonial Conference to the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of the SSDS was devoted to the Statistics in a Knowledge Society and Actual Demographic Processes. The Conference took place on the eve of "a birthday" of the SSDS, it means on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2008, at the Congress Hall of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic in Bratislava - Dúbravka.

The professional and social significance of the conference was underlined also by the fact that it was organized under the patronage of the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic, Robert Fico. He appreciated the active approach of the Society to the development of the statistical and demographical science and its use to the benefit of the Slovak Republic.



The Conference was opened by the President of the SSDS, Peter Mach. He welcomed all the guests: PhDr. Ľudmila Benkovičová, CSc., the President of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, Doc. RNDr. Gejza Dohnal, CSc., the President of the Czech Statistical Society, and other participants of the Conference. The beginning of his speech was dedicated to a short summary of all the

activities of the Society since the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Society organises traditional events, but there are also plenty of new ones. At this time a regional cooperation between statistical societies is developing more and more. The result of the regional cooperation was a presentation of the SSDS on the last-year

Congress ISI in Lisbon and the article about our Society published in a well-known magazine AmstatNews of the American Statistical Society.

After the introductory speech RNDr. Jan Luha, CSc. (SO of the SR) presented the history of the Society. This speech was made with the cooperation of doc. Ing. Jozef Chajdiak, CSc. The President of the SO of the SR PhDr. Ľudmila Benkovičová, CSc. was speaking about Statistical Challenges in the United Europe. The President of the Czech Statistical Society Doc. RNDr. Gejza Dohnal, CSc. reminded the importance of a close cooperation between Czech and Slovak Society. What is more, he pointed out joint events, activities and mutual participation of the members on them. RNDr. Peter Mach read the greeting of the Presidents of the Austrian, Polish and Slovenian Statistical Societies.

At the end of the ceremonial part of the Conference the guests and the most prestigious functionaries and members of the Societies were given Commemorative Letters to the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SSDS.



The professional part of the Conference started with a presentation of Ing. Marián Horecký (the SO of the SR) dealing with

Preparations of the Population, Housing and Dwelling census in the year 2011. Ing. Boris Vaňo (Infostat) presented a paper reflecting Expected Population Development in the SR - reason, consequences and measures. The theme was processed thanks to a tight cooperation with Mgr. Branislav Bleha, PhD. (the Faculty of Natural Sciences). As far as Statistical Quality Control is concerned, Prof. RNDr. Michal Tkáč devoted his speech to this issue, while doc. Ing. Jozef Chajdiak paid attention to a Definition of Economic Indicators as an inseparable part of a period of Statistical Assessment of the state of our national economy and its constituent parts pointing out the problem of a definition of added value. Apart from these, the Section of Mathematical Statistics was presented by Prof. RNDr. Rastislav Potocký, CSc. (The Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics UK Bratislava) as a significant part of the SSDS.

The last part of the Conference was devoted to a discussion of main tasks of the statistics and demography. Before the preparations for this ceremonial conference started themselves, the Committee of the Society had discussed the opportunity to formulate the basic tasks of the statistics and demography from a long-lasting view. It proved to be a difficult process and it will take a lot of time to formulate and judge a complete material. Fortunately, the first proposals and a complete article from prof. Jozef Mládek about the tasks of demographical research and

education are already known. During the Conference the importance of this theme was highlighted and in the nearest future the Committee of the Society will be striving to publish obtained materials for their consideration. We strongly believe that our ambition referring to formulation of the main tasks will be successful and it will be a foundation for working out these problems in the future.

The speeches from the Conference to the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the SSDS were fully published in a scientific magazine of the Society FORUM STATISTICUM SLOVAKUM no. 1/2008.

### The History of the SSDS

The establishment was accepted by the Presidium of the Slovak Academy of Science on 18<sup>th</sup> Dember 1967. The SSDS was establishing during its assembly on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1968. It was called the Slovak Demographical and Statistical Society and the Committee were elected: the President Doc. Ing. Milan Kovačka, CSc., the first Vicepresident Ing. Daniel Vojtko, CSc., the second Vicepresident Doc. Ing. Ladislav Ivanka, CSc., scientific secretary Ing. Rudolf Krč, CSc., and treasurer Dr. Doval. At the beginning the Society was orientated on organisation of the scientific professional events in the field of statistics and demography - scientific conferences, professional seminars, and discussion afternoons.

The Society went through qualitative changes concerning its activities during the year 1990. With regard to the greater number of members professionally focused on statistical sciences, the name of the Society was modified to the Slovak Statistical and Demographical Society at the General Assembly of the members in Bratislava on 14<sup>th</sup> March 1990.

Activities in the field of mathematical statistics were supplemented with older activities of the Society in the field of applied statistics, computational statistics as well as demography. The next inseparable part of its work is the Statistical Quality Control.

The main professional events of the Society are the *Slovak Statistical Conference* and the *Slovak Demographic Conference*, organized alternately every other year. After a short time since the establishment of the Society, the first statistical Conference was hold on 16.- 17. 1. 1969 in Bratislava. The first Demographical Conference took place on 24. 9. 1975 in Bratislva. A tradition of these conferences has continued to this time. In 2007, there was the 11<sup>th</sup> Slovak Demographical Conference on the theme "Migration", while in this year there was the 14<sup>th</sup> Slovak Statistical Conference on the theme "Regional Statistics".

Every year the Society organizes events with a long-lasting tradition, for instance: *School of Statistics - EKOMSTAT* in Trenčianske Teplice. This school is designated for further education of interested experts both from schools and industry. In 2008 the 22<sup>nd</sup> School of Statistics was hold.

This year a conference "*Views on the Slovak Economy*" was organized for the 8<sup>th</sup> time and we are looking forward to taking a part on a seminar "*Computational Statistics*" that will be held for the 17<sup>th</sup> time in December 2008. When talking about the most prestigious events, we should mention a well-known *International*

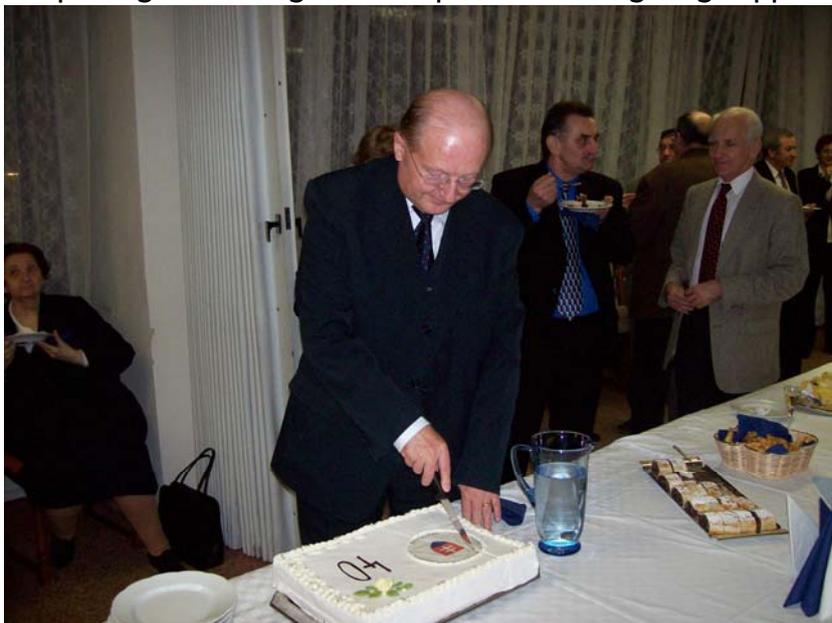
*Scientific Conference - PROBASTAT*, a conference for university and college teachers *PRASTAN/STAKAN*, the *International Conference on Applied Statistics - FERNSTAT*, regular demographic afternoons and last but not least, there are a great number of one-off events (for example this year Nitra Statistical Days). Detailed information about topical events of the Society can be found on the website: [www.ssds.sk](http://www.ssds.sk).

Results of work of the Society are published in a lot of special textbooks and occasional reports. Since 2005 the Society issues the journal FORUM STATISTICUM SLOVACUM. It contains mainly contributions from different events of the Society. There is also an ad hoc publication - FORUM METRICUM SLOVACUM.

Since the establishment of the Society there have been 6 Presidents so far: Doc. Ing. Milan Kovačka, CSc.: 1968 - 1969, Prof. Ing. Daniel Vojtko, CSc. 1969 - 1990, Doc. Ing. Miroslav Abrahám, CSc. 1990 - 1992, Ing. Jozef Brezák, PhD. 1992 - 1997, Ing. Milutín Krištofič, CSc. 1997 - 1999 a RNDr. Peter Mach: from 1999 up to now. The position of Scientific Secretary was hold by Ing. Rudolf Krč, CSc.: 1968 - 1969, Doc. Ing. Emília Kozíková, CSc.: 1978 - 1986, Doc. Ing. Jozef Chajdiak, CSc.: from 1986 up to now. Apart from them, we should not overlook an active approach of tens of other members, such as Vicepresidents of the Society, treasurers, members of Secretary and Committee, and other members without concrete posts who play a significant role when organising events under the patronage of the Society. Therefore we would like to appreciate their work and say thank you.

### The Conclusion

We consider the anniversary of our Society to be a great opportunity to look back at our successful activities and to think about new suggestions at the same time. We are deeply convinced that the Society is working as hard as possible when following its set aims, and as we can see, it is able to meet the majority of its goals only thanks to all functionaries and active members of the SSDS. We would like to thank the leaders of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic who create suitable conditions for work of our Society even in next years. However, there are still great challenges to the Society - professional improvement of our conferences, deepening of our regional cooperation and giving support to young statisticians.



Finally, we wish the best to The Slovak Statistical and Demographical Society in order to develop in favour of Slovak statistics and demography.

Peter Mach  
President SSDS

Ján Luha  
Member of Secretariat SSDS