



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA



STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

iariw2008
Slovenija Portorož

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***International Association for Research in Income
and Wealth (IARIW)
30th General Conference - Slovenia***

CONFERENCE REPORT

Content

1. General information	3
2. Slovenian management for the IARIW Conference (Staff and organisation at SORS).....	3
2.1. Organising Committee and staff.....	3
2.2. Preparations (selection of the venue).....	3
2.3. Costs and Conference packages	4
3. Conference arrangements	6
3.1. Website, contacts	6
3.2. Registration	6
3.3. Welcome letter	7
3.4. Accommodation.....	7
3.5. Transport from/to airport.....	8
3.6. Preconference Training Course	8
3.7. Material / Printing	8
3.8. Visas.....	9
3.9. Reservation guarantee and payments	9
4. Conference week in Portorož	10
4.1. Scientific Programme	10
4.2. Facilities and equipment.....	11
4.3. Signposting at the venue.....	11
4.4. Registration–information desk.....	11
4.5. Material for participants (Conference pack)	12
4.6. Transfer to GH Bernardin	12
4.7. Organising personnel	12
4.8. Services to the participants	12
4.8.1. Internet access and copying	12
4.8.2. Power Point Presentations	12
4.9. Poster sessions	13
4.10. Exhibition space - Blackwell Publishing and Oxford University Press.....	13
4.11. Social programme	13
4.11.1. Welcome Reception	13
4.11.2. Farewell Dinner	13
4.11.3. Excursion – Slovenian trip	13
4.11.4. Programme for accompanying persons.....	14
4.12. Meals and coffee breaks	14
5. Evaluation of the Conference organisation.....	14
6. General problems encountered.....	15
<i>Annex 1: Financial costs</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Annex 2: Evaluation of the Conference organisation</i>	<i>18</i>

1. General information

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SORS) hosted the 30th IARIW (International Association for Research in Income and Wealth) Conference. The Conference was held in Portorož, Slovenia, from 24 to 30 August 2008. The venue was the Congress Centre in Grand Hotel Bernardin.

The language of the Conference was English. The total number of participants at the Conference was 334 persons (290 participants and 44 accompanying persons).

2. Slovenian management for the IARIW Conference (Staff and organisation at SORS)

2.1. Organising Committee and staff

The National Organising Committee of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia was established in November 2006. The Committee had 7 members.

No additional staff was employed for Conference arrangements during the project.

Host Organising Committee of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia:

Ms. Erika Žnidaršič: Chair
Ms. Karmen Hren
Ms. Ana Božič
Ms. Simona Peceli
Mr. Bogdan Grmek
Ms. Andreja Hočevar
Ms. Jana Žužek

Public Relations:

Ms. Ida Repovž Grabnar

Others:

Purchasing office, printing office, IT support and translators

2.2. Preparations (selection of the venue)

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia had gathered different offers for Conference venue in different parts of the country. Initially we were planning to hold the conference in Bled, but in autumn 2006 after we reevaluated all the advantages and disadvantages of the venue we decided to organise the Conference in the Bernardin Congress centre, which is located in the Grand Hotel Bernardin **in Portorož**.

The advantages of Portorož are that it has good conference facilities, good experiences, adequate number of rooms in hotels of different standards and that accommodation facilities are located in the same place (hotels are close to each other). A minor disadvantage is that

transport connections to and from Portorož are from 3 airports (but connections to and from airports were organized by the hotel transfer agency).

Preliminary reservations for the conference facilities and hotel room quotas were made in March 2008. The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia made a rental agreement about the facilities with the Grand Hotel Bernardin.

Grand Hotel Bernardin tasks were:

- Assistance in the designing of registration forms
- On-site activities relating to registrations, payments, hotels and tours desk during the Conference
- Correspondence with participants about their reservations/registrations
- Monitoring of payments made by bank transfers and credit cards
- Monitoring of hotel reservations during the registration process
- Reporting to SORS during the registration processes
- Transportation (Transfer Agency Suntours – GH Bernardin)
- Providing all the agreed facilities during the Conference
- Arrangements for the excursion (Wednesday)
- Accompanying persons' tour arrangements
- Reporting and cooperating with SORS during the preparations.

2.3. Costs and Conference packages

The first budget for the Conference was drawn up towards the end of 2006 (more information can be seen in attached Annex 1). IARIW contributed to SORS 5.000 USD.

The participation amounts (full board packages) were settled in 2007 and confirmed in spring 2008.

There was no registration fee for the Conference. However, all persons registering for the Conference were required to be IARIW members in good standing, i.e. either paid-up individual members or employees of an institutional member.

Participation packages of three price categories were offered for the 30th IARIW Conference in Portorož. The package price for one person ranged from EUR 1.162 to 772.

Three registration packages were available.

All of them included:

1. Accommodation for 6 nights with breakfast,
2. 4x business lunch (one was included in the trip),
3. 5x dinner,
4. 8 x coffee break,
5. Farewell dinner supplement (including live music),
6. Welcome Reception (including live music),
7. 1xSlovenian trip,
8. VAT and tourist tax.

Conference packages also included rentals for conference rooms, staff, material and technical equipment.

Accommodation was included in three hotels located close to each other:

PACKAGE 1: FULL CONFERENCE PACKAGE		
PACKAGE 1	Single room Price per person	Double room Price per person
Grand Hotel Bernardin 5*	EUR 1.162	EUR 922
Hotel Histron 4*	EUR 1.042	EUR 859
Hotel Vile Park 3*	EUR 922	EUR 772

Accompanying persons paid the same price inclusive of the same meals and excursion as actual participants. There was a possibility of **discount for children**.

Transfer was not included due to the difference in transportation costs. Transfer costs had to be settled directly before departure to the Transfer Agency Suntours – GH Bernardin.

Full day trip included:

1. Postojna cave + concert + aperitif
2. Lipica stud farm with programme
3. Lunch
4. Guide, transport

Technical equipment:

1. 4 x Hostess (conference rooms)
2. 2 x Hostess (registration–information desk)
3. 1 x Technician
4. Lcd + screen + basic sound system + decoration
5. INTERNET CORNER: 15 computers
6. 4 x notebook
7. 2 x printer
8. Photographer
9. Photocopying

Daily package:

For those who were not attending the Conference for the whole week a daily package was available. The daily package included conference materials and services, one overnight stay in a single room at the most expensive hotel, one dinner, one lunch, and one morning and one afternoon coffee break.

The price for the daily package was different depending on the day (daily package for Sunday included also the Welcome Reception, daily package for Wednesday included also the Slovenian trip, daily package for Friday included also the supplement for the Farewell Dinner).

PACKAGE 2: DAILY PACKAGES		
PACKAGE 2	Single room Price per person	Double room Price per person
Sunday, August 24, 2008	EUR 218	EUR 163
Monday, August 25, 2008	EUR 206	EUR 151
Tuesday, August 26, 2008	EUR 206	EUR 151
Wednesday, August 27, 2008	EUR 257	EUR 202
Thursday, August 28, 2008	EUR 206	EUR 151
Friday, August 29, 2008	EUR 258	EUR 203

All the participants had to pay for weekly or daily package. It was also written on the website that the participant who wants to register has to choose one of the packages. **The package without the accommodation was not available.**

The registration deadline for the Conference was **June 20, 2008**.

3. Conference arrangements

3.1. Website, contacts

Information about the Conference was disseminated by the organisation of the IARIW and via the website of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia.

Planning of the web pages started in spring 2007 and they were opened in August 2007.
<http://www.stat.si/iariw2008>

There was also an official e-mail address: iariw2008.surs@gov.si.

3.2. Registration

The **registration** (reservation) to the Conference was made in advance – there was a registration form on the Slovene IARIW website – but registration was possible only via e-mail or fax (not internet). In five days participants received confirmation about the reservation.

The registration **started in** February 2008.

The **content** of the registration form was concluded together with the GH Bernardin.

The **registration–information desk** was located in the GH Bernardin - Bernardin Congress Centre and was opened from Sunday, 24 August 2008 to Friday, 30 August 2008.

3.3. Welcome letter

Two weeks before the Conference a welcome letter was sent to all the participants; the letter contained basic information regarding the online access to the Conference programme, papers, information on transportation from airports and Ljubljana (city centre) to Portorož (designated hotels) with the price list and information on how to book this transport, information on the opening hours of the registration–information desk, Welcome Reception, venue and other useful tips (Slovenian trip, weather, etc.).

3.4. Accommodation

Initially three options of accommodation were offered:

The Grand Hotel Bernardin (****) is the first and largest hotel and convention centre in Slovenia. This high quality hotel providing remarkable tourist services is located in a quiet and natural environment directly overlooking the sea.

The Hotel Histrio (****) and **Hotel Vile Park** (***) are located near by the GH Bernardin - Bernardin Congress Centre.

SORS **pre-booked** 170 rooms at the Grand Hotel Bernardin (Conference venue), 55 rooms at the Hotel Histrio and 55 rooms at the Hotel Vile Park. Rooms were distributed on the "first to come, first to serve" basis.

Due to late registrations and overbooking of St. Bernardin Hotels, some of the participants and accompanying persons (46 persons) were offered an alternative accommodation with the **corresponding package price** in LifeClass hotels (Grand Hotel Portorož****, Hotel Slovenija****, Hotel Riviera****, Hotel Apollo****) or Metropol Group hotels (Grand Hotel Metropol****, Hotel Lucija***), which are approximately 2 km from the GH Bernardin Congress Centre (the transfer to the conference venue was organized).

Arrivals before August 24/Later departures

We arranged special prices for persons who wished to come earlier (before August 24, 2008) or stay longer. Participants could have indicated this on the Conference registration form or wrote a short sentence in the e-mail when registering.

EXTRA NIGHTS PRICES		
BB Accommodation	Single room Price per person	Double room Price per person
Grand Hotel Bernardin	EUR 120	EUR 80
Hotel Histrio	EUR 100	EUR 69,50
Hotel Vile Park	EUR 80	EUR 55

Prices included: accommodation for 1 night (bed and breakfast), VAT and tourist tax.

3.5. Transport from/to airport

Transfer was **not included in the package** due to the difference in transportation costs. Transfer costs had to be settled directly before departure to the Transfer Agency Suntours – GH Bernardin. Transfers with the difference up to 15 min were merged.

For all participants and accompanying persons transfer was organized from:

	One way price per person
Trieste airport - Portorož - Trieste airport	40 EUR
Ljubljana airport - Portorož - Ljubljana airport	70 EUR
Venice airport - Portorož - Venice airport	90 EUR
Ljubljana (city centre) - Portorož - Ljubljana (city centre)	70 EUR

The notice about the transfer was put on the website – registration form.

3.6. Preconference Training Course

Preconference training course on national accounts was offered to the members of the IARIW. This free of charge course was held from 23 to 24 August 2008 in GH Bernardin - Bernardin Congress Centre. The costs of the course room and coffee breaks were covered by IARIW.

3.7. Material / Printing

No printed brochures of advance information were published about the Conference.

The following materials were printed by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia:

- Abstracts,
- List of Participants,
- envelopes for the Welcome Reception and for the Farewell Dinner,
- mini badge programme,
- badges,
- evaluation papers,
- nameplates of lecturers,
- signs for the venue (conference rooms, hotel, buses, etc.),

The following materials were printed by external organizations:

- Scientific Programme
- Practical Information
- posters, penguin posters
- logo on the bags
- logo on the pens
- compliment cards,
- invitations for the Welcome Reception and for the Farewell Dinner.

3.8. Visas

Persons wishing to enter Slovenia must have a relevant travel document. EU/EEA citizens need only a passport or a valid identity card, besides them also holders of normal passports for a period up to 90 days from Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands Antilles, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, San Marino, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia helped to arrange visas for all the participants who contacted us – finally 7 visas were arranged. Some of the participants encountered problems due to their late start of procedures to obtain the visas (mainly participants from Africa).

3.9. Reservation guarantee and payments

Conference reservation guarantee could have been booked by Credit card or bank transfer.

Final payment: Credit card details and bank transfer payment were required as a reservation guarantee. Package costs (guarantee payment deducted in case of bank transfer guarantee) and possible extras were payable upon check-out to the hotel directly. Attendees settled their incidental charges (extras) in accordance with applicable Hotel policy upon departure from the hotel in cash or by credit card (VISA, American Express, MasterCard and Diners Club Card).

There was also an opportunity to pay in advance or to use alternative methods of payment by contacting the booking department of St. Bernardin.

4. Conference week in Portorož

4.1. Scientific Programme

The Scientific Programme of the Conference was carefully prepared and in the Conference week 160 papers (134 regular session papers and 26 poster session papers) were spread over 23 regular sessions (3 plenary sessions and 20 parallel or concurrent sessions) and two poster sessions. There was also a prestigious Ruggles Memorial Lecture which was being delivered by long-time IARIW member Professor Dale Jorgenson of Harvard University.

Time	Sunday 24 August	Monday 25 August	Tuesday 26 August	Wednesday 27 August	Thursday 28 August	Friday 29 August	Saturday 30 August		
08:30				Full day SLOVENIAN TRIP (including lunch)			D E P A R T U R E		
09:00-09:30		Opening Plenary 1	Plenary 3		Plenary 5	Parallel 7			
09:30-10:00									
10:00-10:30		<i>Coffee</i>	<i>Coffee</i>		<i>Coffee</i>	<i>Coffee</i>			
10:30-11:00		<i>Session continues</i>	<i>Session continues</i>		<i>Session continues</i>	<i>Session continues</i>			
11:30-12:00		Lunch	Lunch		Lunch	Lunch			
12:00-12:30									
12:30-13:00		Parallel 2	Parallel 4		Parallel 6	Parallel 8			
13:00-13:30									
13:30-14:00		<i>Coffee</i>	<i>Coffee</i>		<i>Coffee</i>	<i>Coffee</i>			
14:00-14:30	IARIW Executive Council Meeting	<i>Session continues</i>	<i>Session continues</i>		<i>Session continues</i>	<i>Session continues</i>			
14:30-15:00		R E G I S T R A T I O N	Poster Session 1		Memorial Lecture	Poster Session 2			
15:00-15:30									
15:30-16:00									
16:00-16:30									
16:30-17:00									
17:00-17:30									
17:30-18:00									
18:00-18:30									
18:30-19:00		<i>Dinner</i>	<i>Dinner</i>		<i>Dinner</i>	<i>Dinner</i>			
19:00-19:30	Welcome Reception								
19:30-20:00									
20:00-20:30									
20:30		Editorial Board of the Review of Income and Wealth	IARIW Members Meeting		PM IARIW Executive Council Meeting	Farewell Dinner			

4.2. Facilities and equipment

Bernardin Congress centre is located in the Grand Hotel Bernardin, overlooking the Adriatic Sea. The Congress was held on the 11th floor of the hotel.

There were 5 conference rooms, one for the panel session and four for the parallel sessions.

Day	Sun	Mon	Tue	Thu	Fri
Date	8/24	8/25	8/26	8/28	8/29
Meeting room	Pharos	Emerald Adria Mediterranea I Mediterranea II Pharos	Emerald Adria Mediterranea I Mediterranea II	Emerald Adria Mediterranea I Mediterranea II Pharos	Emerald Adria Mediterranea I Mediterranea II

The Pharos room was available for Council meeting. There was also a business room for the Organizing Committee. Emerald was used for the plenary sessions, members' meeting and the memorial lecture. For the parallel sessions there were: Adria, Mediterranea I, Mediterranea II.

- There were 4 Hostesses in conference rooms.
- One technician was available.
- Conference rooms were equipped with notebook, Lcd + screen + basic sound system. A USB stick was used for loading the presentations.
- Four notebooks in conference rooms: Windows XP, Office 2003. Also Acrobat Reader, PowerPoint and Word were included. The presentations could be loaded with a USB stick.

4.3. Signposting at the venue

The host organiser (SORS) planned the positioning of signs. We used also two LCD big screens outside the conference rooms to present the ongoing programme and other important information. Besides Conference posters and notes there were also two panels with all important and relevant information. The locations of all meeting rooms were also marked in the printed programme to make finding them easy. In the Conference rooms lecture tables were equipped with nameplates of lecturers.

4.4. Registration–information desk

The total number of participants was 290 (plus 44 accompanying persons), 191 of them attended the Conference programme for the entire week (6 days).

The registration–information desk was located on the 11th floor of Grand Hotel Bernardin and was open from Sunday, 24 August 2008 to Friday, 30 August, 30 minutes before the first session to 30 minutes after the last session (except Wednesday).

The opening hours of the registration - information desk on Sunday, August 24 were from 14.00 pm to 19.00 pm.

4.5. Material for participants (Conference pack)

For the Conference we prepared the following material which was distributed to the participants upon their registration:

Identification badges with names, conference bags, Scientific Programme, Practical Information, List of Abstracts, List of Participants and invitations to the Welcome Reception and to the Farewell Dinner, pen, map of Portorož, Tourist information, some statistical publications, Form of Inquiry on IARIW2008 Conference, Slovenia in Figures pocket book of statistics, Annual Report of Slovene Statistics, Brochure of Slovene Statistics, CD with conference contributions.

4.6. Transfer to GH Bernardin

For some of the participants and accompanying persons who were due to late registrations and overbooking of St. Bernardin Hotels accommodated in LifeClass hotels or Metropol Group hotels, which are approximately 2 km from the conference venue, daily transfer to the GH Bernardin - Congress Centre was organized.

4.7. Organising personnel

Two persons from the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia did the general arranging during the Conference and at least one of them was present all the time at the registration–information desk. Five persons from GH Bernardin worked as hostesses, one or two of them were present at all time at the registration–information desk, the other where inside the conference rooms. One person from the GH Bernardin was responsible for the functioning of IT during the sessions.

A photographer was available and photos were put on the website.

4.8. Services to the participants

4.8.1. Internet access and copying

Internet access was available in rooms of GH Bernardin and in the internet corner with 15 computers and a (free of charge) printer. There was also a business centre in the GH Bernardin which was available for the participants and accompanying persons with four computers and two printers.

Copying was possible.

4.8.2. Power Point Presentations

Presentations for all session were loaded in the conference rooms' computers before the start of the session (in the morning or during the breaks).

4.9. Poster sessions

There were 2 poster sessions in the lobby of the Conference venue – on Monday and Thursday. Wine served during the poster session was paid by IARIW. The price list was available in advance for IARIW information.

The host organiser (SORS) acquired the boards for the poster presentations and provided the material to put the posters on the boards. Presenters of the poster sessions were asked to bring posters with them.

4.10. Exhibition space - Blackwell Publishing and Oxford University Press

The free of charge exhibition space was available for Blackwell Publishing, Oxford University Press and the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia in the lobby of the Conference venue.

4.11. Social programme

IARIW Conferences usually also have a Social Programme (Welcome Reception, Farewell Dinner and Excursion – Slovenian trip) which was organized by SORS in co-operation with Grand Hotel Bernardin.

4.11.1. Welcome Reception

The Welcome Reception which was held on Sunday evening in front of the church, was included in the package. The reception included aperitif, and a warm-cold food and drink package. There was also live music.

Transportation to the Welcome Reception was arranged for some of the participants and accompanying persons who were due to late registrations and overbooking of St. Bernardin Hotels accommodated in Lifeclass hotels or Metropol Group hotels, which are approximately 2 km from the conference venue.

The Welcome Reception was attended by 240 persons.

4.11.2. Farewell Dinner

The Farewell Dinner, which was held on Friday evening at the beach, was included in the package. The Dinner was a BBQ party with live music and dance. Also aperitif and a glass of drink per person (wine) were included. The price list was available in advance for IARIW information.

Transportation to the Farewell Dinner was arranged for some of the participants and accompanying persons who were due to late registrations and overbooking of St. Bernardin Hotels accommodated in Lifeclass hotels or Metropol Group hotels, which are approximately 2 km from the conference venue.

The Dinner was attended by 214 persons.

4.11.3. Excursion – Slovenian trip

The Excursion – Slovenian trip was included in the package. There was a full day trip to Lipica stud farm, where the Lipizzaner horses originate from, and to Postojna caves on Wednesday. At the farm they thought us about the breeding, raising and training of Lipizzaner horses and we saw an equestrian show. After a coffee break we continued our trip

to the Postojna cave complex, an impressive underground world of stalactites and stalagmites. There we had lunch in Jamski grad restaurant. We continued our trip inside the Postojna cave with a short ride on an electric train followed by a guided walk through a series of floodlit subterranean caverns, halls and corridors carved out by the Pivka River through the centuries. During the walking we heard three performances by the Postojna choir (octet); the first one hidden at the top of the Mountain cave, the second one close to the Spaghetti cave and the last one in the Concert cave where the glass of aperitif was served. Guide and transport were included.

4.11.4. Programme for accompanying persons

The hotel prepared additional proposals for accompanying persons, some of them were:

EXCURSION	4 people	8 people	10+ people	INCLUDES
TASTE OF COUNTRYSIDE	€ 55	€ 45	€ 35	Transfer, guide, entrance fee, wine tasting
TRIEST-MIRAMAR	€ 45	€ 35	€ 25	Transfer, guide, entrance fee
LIPICA STUD FARM	€ 50	€ 40	€ 35	Transfer, entrance fee, local guide
LJUBLJANA	€ 50	€ 35	€ 30	Transfer with waiting hours (up to 4 hours)
POSTOJNA CAVES	€ 50	€ 40	€ 35	Transfer, entrance fee, local guide
PIRAN GUIDED TOUR	€ 35	€ 17	€ 13	Transfer
CYCLING TO THE SALINAS	€ 45	€ 27	€ 23	Guide, bike rental (2 hour)

There was also a newly opened **Wellness centre** GH Bernardin which was offered to participants at a reduced price.

4.12. Meals and coffee breaks

All meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) were included in the package (as a self-service buffet). Breakfast was served in each hotel, except for participants staying in Vile park, who had breakfast in Hotel Histron. Lunch and dinner were served at GH Bernardin together for all the participants.

For those who were accommodated in Lifeclass hotels or Metropol Group hotels, breakfast was served there, while all other meals were served in Grand Hotel Bernardin as for other participants.

There were coffee breaks (for all the participants) twice per day including also tea, water, soft drink, fruit and cookies.

5. Evaluation of the Conference organisation

The participants were polled about the success of the Conference. The response rate to the poll was 30%. Judging by the answers the Conference and its organization succeeded.

The results of the survey can be seen in attached **Annex 2**.



6. General problems encountered

Some of the participants encountered problems due to late start of procedures to obtain the visas so we would recommend advising participants who need visa to start the procedures earlier.

We encountered some problems not having the on line registration, as people tried to perform their registration without taking into consideration the registration rules, that accommodation is included in the package price. On line registration would help to avoid these problems.

A lot of people registered after the registration deadline. So we booked additional accommodation in nearby hotels.

Annex 1: Financial costs

The budget was realised in accordance with expectations.

Confidential

EURO

No.	ARTICLE	Quantity	Price/piece with VAT	TOTAL with VAT
	Different small material (SORS)			
1.	pens, maps, registrars, staplers, punches, pads, clips, envelopes, CD-ROMs, toner,...			373,34
			TOTAL:	373,34
	Material for poster session			
2.	felt tips, scissors, scotch tapes, glues, drawing pins,...			289,76
			TOTAL:	289,76
	Conference bags + print			
3.	print (bags and pens)		99,60	452,73
4.	conference bags	319	5,13	1.636,47
			TOTAL:	2.089,20
	Various publications (SORS)			
5.	ANNUAL PROGRAMME OF STATISTICAL SURVEYS 2007	330	5,27	1.739,10
6.	SLOVENIA IN FIGURES	330	2,60	858,00
7.	SLOVENIA IN REGIONS	330	3,61	1.191,30
8.	PORTRAIT OF SLOVENIA IN EU	330	2,55	841,50
9.	DISABLED PERSONS, THE ELDERLY AND OTHER PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS	150	3,61	541,50
10.	FACTS ABOUT WOMEN AND MEN IN SLOVENIA	5	3,61	18,05
11.	STATISTICAL YEARBOOK	4	32,76	131,04
12.	CD with music	30	14,59	437,70
			TOTAL:	5.758,19
	Printing by outside company – posters, invitations			
13.	Slovenija-Portorož - PENGUIN (colour print)		203,90	203,90
14.	Slovenija-Portorož - PENGUIN (coating)	3	74,88	224,64
15.	Slovenija-Portorož - POSTERS A2	10	7,22	72,19
16.	Slovenija-Portorož - POSTERS A3	35	3,61	126,35
17.	Slovenija-Portorož - POSTERS A4	25	1,80	45,12
18.	Print (invitations Farewell Dinner/Welcome Reception, Compliments cards)	730	0,60	441,50
19.	IARIW Scientific Programme, Practical Information (preparation for printing)			426,95
20.	Computer-preparation digital setting up - IARIW	2 hours	33,60	67,20
			TOTAL:	1.607,85
	Hoteli Bernardin d.d. Portorož			
21.	Bed and breakfast, IARIW package			7.259,00
22.	water			249,60
			TOTAL:	7.508,60
	Printing by outside company – for conference brochures			
23.	Abstracts, List of participants (covers)	2x400		244,80
24.	Practical Information	400		995,04
25.	Scientific Programme	400		787,20
			TOTAL:	2.027,04
				TOTAL: 19.653,98

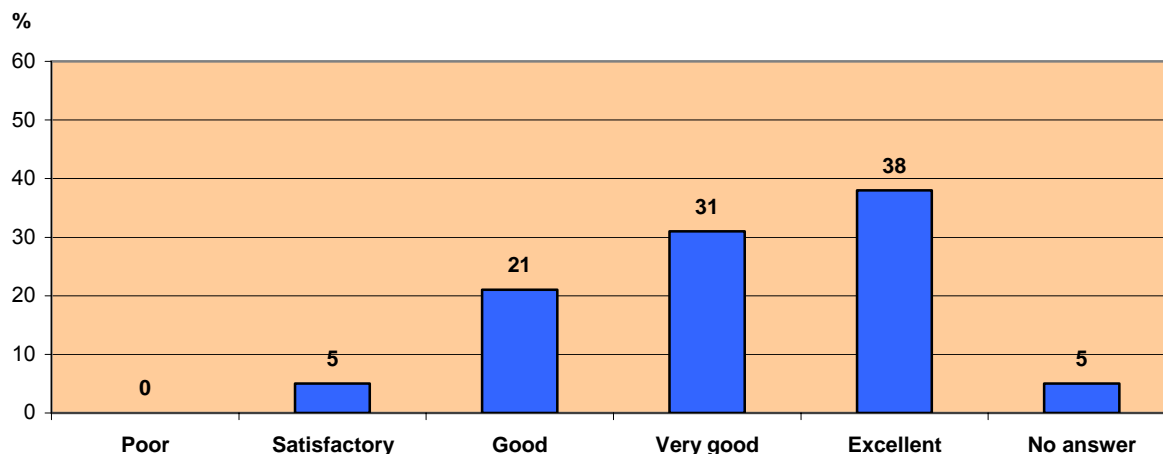


Material printed at SORS: evaluation papers (400), mini badge programme (370), Abstracts (400), List of Participants (400), print on envelopes for the Welcome Reception and for the Farewell Dinner (670), badges (330), nameplates of lecturers (110) and signs for the venue (conference rooms, hotel, buses, etc.).

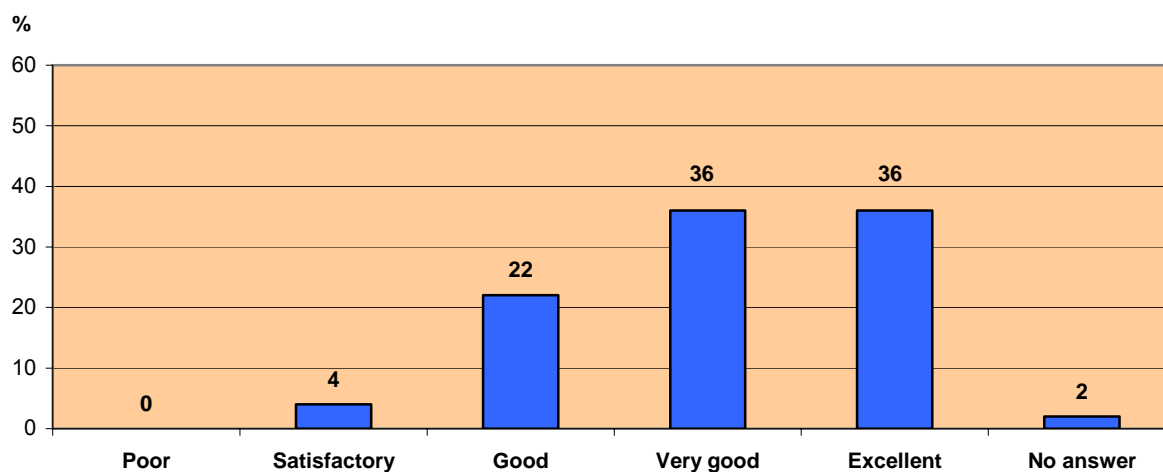
Material provided by SORS: big plastic covers for the badges (350), ribbons for badges (350), small plastic covers for the badges (330), computer mouse pads (350), (big) writing pads (350), (small) writing pads (350), badges for participants (300) and perspex stands (40).

Annex 2: Evaluation of the Conference organisation

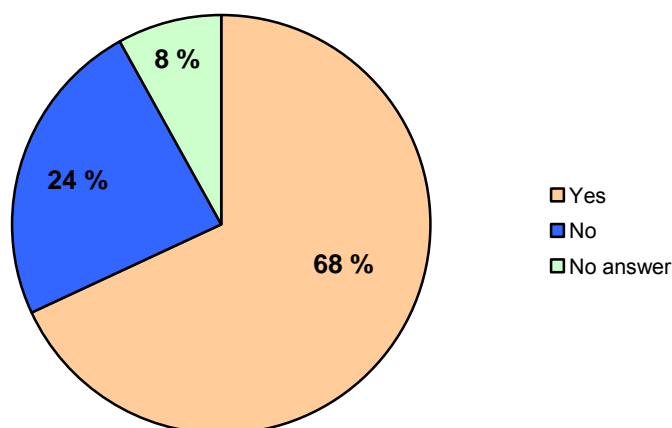
Advance information about the Conference on the website of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia



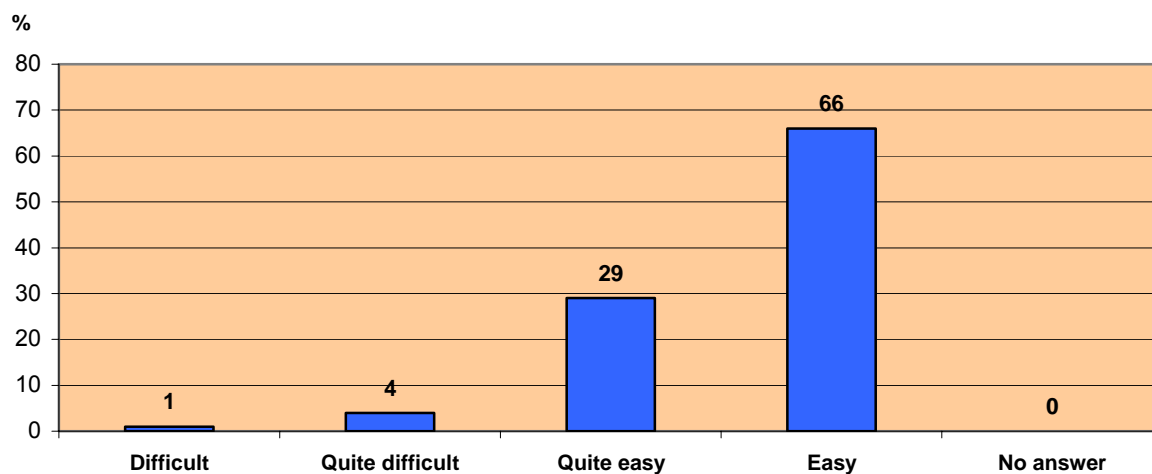
Advanced information about the Conference on the website of IARIW



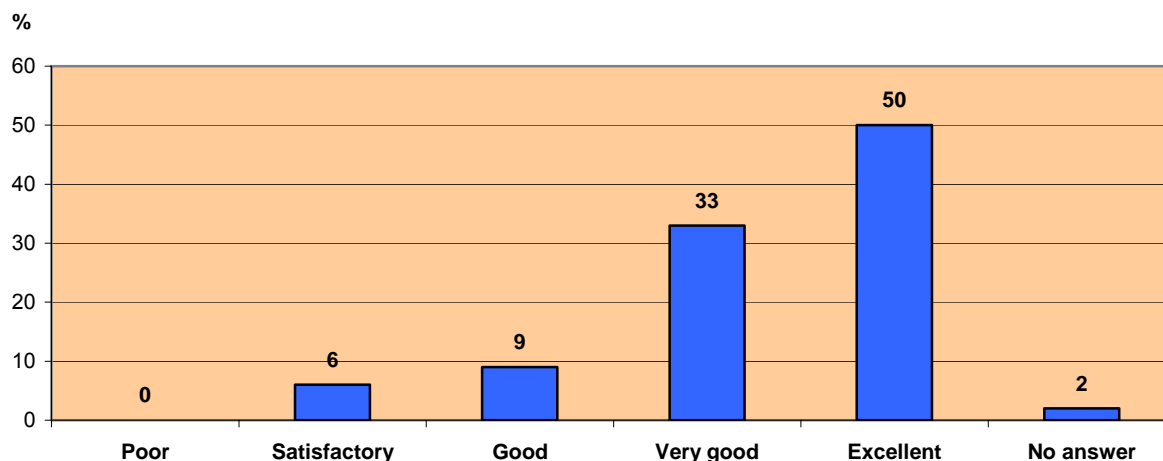
Is it a good system to pay for the full-board package for 6 days?



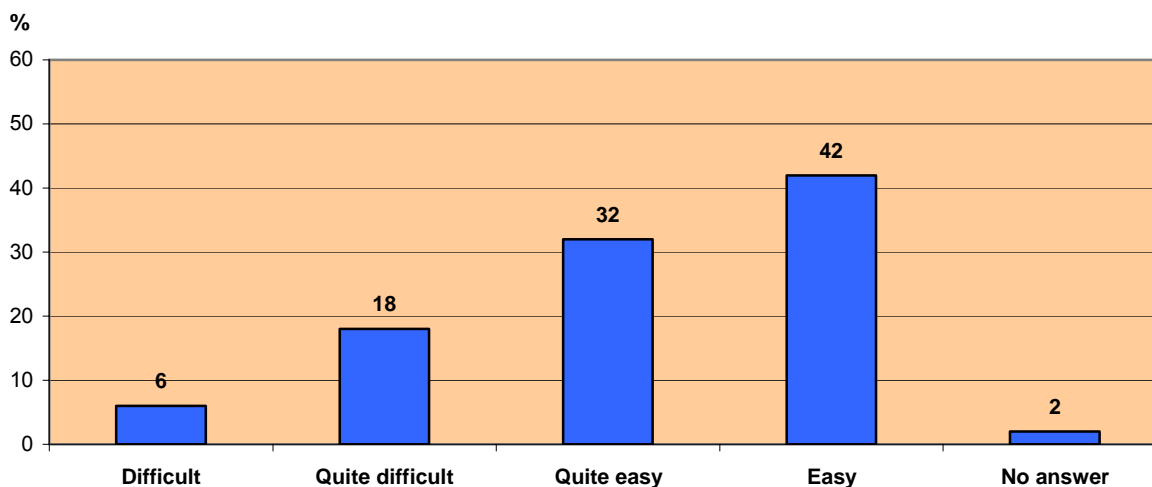
Registration for the Conference



Venue and facilities



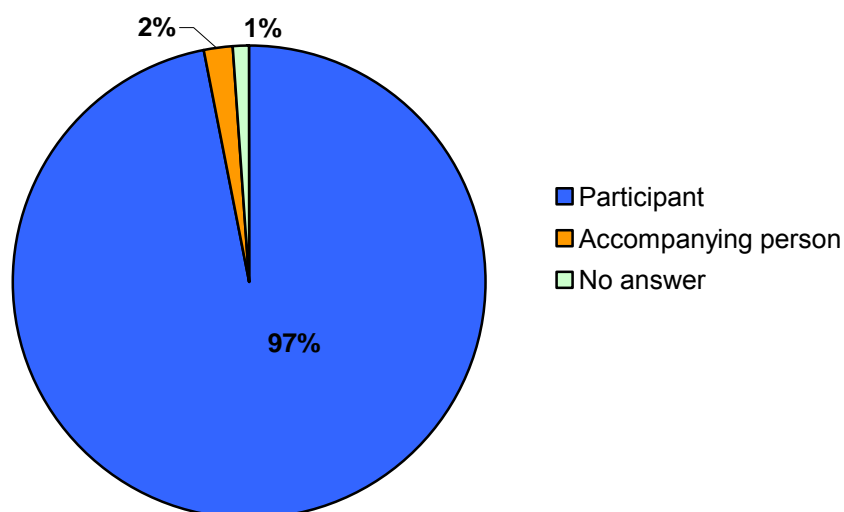
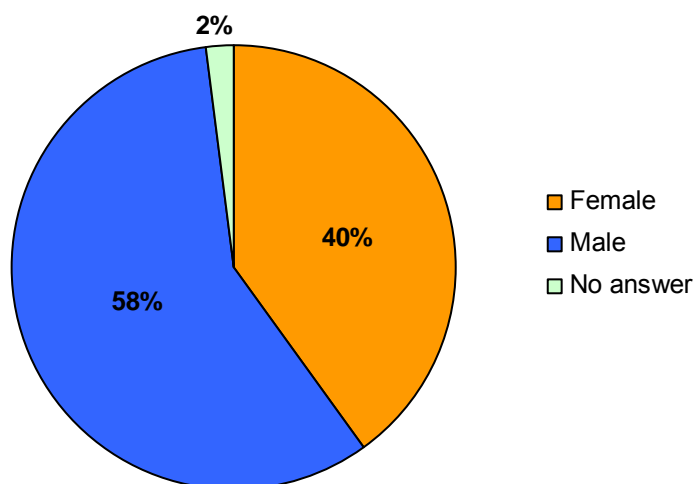
Travel arrangements to Portorož



Scientific Programme, Social events, Excursion on Wednesday - Slovenian trip, Accommodation and meals

	%					
	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very good	Excellent	No answer
Content of the Scientific Programme	0	7	22	43	26	2
Social events	0	6	21	36	30	7
Excursion on Wednesday - Slovenian trip	1	9	11	23	31	25
Accommodation and meals	2	10	17	35	36	0

Background information on respondents



The response rate to the poll was 30%. 97 % of respondents were Conference participants and 92 % of respondents were from abroad.

While asking participants and accompanying persons about **advance information about the Conference on the websites**, around 70% of them answered that they were very good or excellent (69% for the website of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia and 72 % for the website of IARIW).

68% of participants and accompanying persons agreed that is it a good **system to pay for the full-board package for 6 days**, while 24% of participants and accompanying persons disagreed with it (one person suggested to exclude the excursion from the package price, while another suggested that it should be allowed that the accompanying person does not pay the full board price).

95% of participants and accompanying persons found the **registration for the Conference** quite easy or easy (one person commented that it would be better if there was a possibility to register online, while one person complained that the confirmation of accommodation booking was very difficult with no replies to several e-mails).

74% of participants and accompanying persons found the **travel arrangements to Portorož** quite easy (32%) or easy (42%), while 18% found travel arrangements quite difficult and 6% even difficult (two persons complained about the expensive price for the transfer from/to airport).

Most of the participants and accompanying persons agreed that **the venue and facilities** were very good (33%) or even excellent (50%) (one person complained that there were not enough exercise facilities, while one person pointed out that next time the organizers should think also about facilities for old people and handicapped persons and estimated that in Portorož they were poor and/or missing, one person complained that there was no opportunity for shopping).

Most of participants and accompanying persons (69%) estimated the **content of the Scientific Programme** as very good or excellent (one person complained that there were many of the topics in the scientific programme were around the same subject - there was little variation except for a few sessions).

People were generally satisfied also with the **social events, excursion on Wednesday - Slovenian trip** (one person suggested that there should be organized a social event also on Wednesday evening, while one complained about loud live music during the welcome reception).

Most of participants and accompanying persons (71%) agreed that the **accommodation and meals** were very good (33%) or even excellent (50%). However, some of them complained about the expensive price of the accommodation, while some of them missed free water (or even non-alcohol drinks, coffee or tea) during the meals.

Other comments:

- I'd like to see more classes (such as the one on national accounts) before the conference.
- Probably you need to pay more attention to the choice of discussants. In some cases they haven't done a good job and if it is the case the following discussion is too confusing.



- The formula with introducing the paper by a discussant and not by the author does not always work well.
- Make a better distinction between national accounts and income distribution related topics. So, no plenary sessions on national accounts matters.
- Fewer plenary sessions, better grouping of papers, less time for discussants/more for authors.
- Some sessions had papers that were more related to papers in other sessions at the same time than to other papers in same session.
- Could be broadened to include more participants from Asia, Africa and Latin America.
- Shorter to 4 days, perhaps with 1/2 excursion and more poster sessions.
- Too many plenary sessions and consequently too many simultaneous sessions.
- I suggest making the plenary sessions only 1.30 hours (90 minutes???) long rather than the whole morning. I think 15-20 minutes for presentation of the paper is too long to only get a sense of what the paper is about and too short to fully understand all methods and results.

Prepared by: Erika Znidarsic, Ana Bozic