

Mira Nikić, Assistant director, Development department
Statistical office of the Republic of Serbia

Support against IT outsourcing in National statistical offices

mira.nikic@stat.gov.rs

IT in National statistical offices

- To be data scientists you must combine various knowledge – mathematics, economics, databases, algebra, algorithms, programming etc.
- Data scientists, in official statistics, utilize their analytical, statistical, and programming skills to collect, analyze, and interpret large data sets
- IT is not just computer hardware, endless number of servers, network equipment
- IT in National statistical offices:
 - are databases, data maintenance, tailor made software, data security and algorithms, classification servers, metadata
 - is not auxiliary, but fundamental part of National statistical offices
 - is one of core competencies of any National statistical offices
 - leads innovation in statistical production, from introducing machine learning algorithms in everyday production to overcoming stovepipe organization

Official statistical goal was and is
to empower employees to achieve more,
to become data scientists – someone who is
better at statistics than any software developer
and
better at software developing than any statistician.

BUT...

**IS THIS POSSIBLE WITH
OUTSOURCING?**



IT in National statistical offices

- Technology is key part of innovation, even more, technology leads innovation in any institution
- National statistical offices are project-oriented organizations and teams behind projects are multidisciplinary teams
- Outsourcing any part of team means unanticipated costs and complications
- What is most dangerous about outsourcing is its ability to affect company culture even if outsourced part is not fundamental part of company business
- In case of National statistical offices there is big chance that IT outsourcing will result in more harm than good



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!