Social science statistics spans across variety of different disciplines. Crucially, it reveals division between empirical and data-oriented, versus analytical and theory-oriented approach to research problems in social sciences. In many respects, this division makes divergence within-a-discipline even greater, then the one between-disciplines. Statistics arises as cohesive element and common ground for those of various social science subdisciplines that share empirical, data-driven orientation.

As for the every day practice, i.e., for experts practitioners, the need for statistical data analysis is ubiquitous. Clinical or educational psychologists, social workers, policy makers, human resource experts and others, need at least some sort of descriptives for the vast amount of data they are dealing with on a daily basis. Moreover, this prerequisite of statistical literacy can decide which of the candidates is the most eligible for a given job.

For all of the mentioned reasons the need for a comprehensive training and education in applying statistics in social sciences and practices becomes more and more pronounced. Undergraduate programs in psychology, educational sciences, sociology and political sciences, traditionally have introductory courses in applied statistics. Some study programs have even primers in advanced and multivariate statistics. However, this seems to be insufficient, and many universities around the world start master's degree programs in statistics. In some of those, social science statistics is one of the modules, while in others, social science statistics is an independent master's program.

At the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, in year 2002 started first graduate program in statistics. It encompasses both the master's degree program, which lasts for two years, and doctoral degree program, lasting four years of education. The master's degree program represents excellent example of the *modular* study program, where five faculties (Biotechnical Faculty, Faculty of Economics, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Social Sciences) organized four study-modules in statistics: Biostatistics, Mathematical statistics, Official statistics and Social statistics. This way, program covers advanced statistical training widely and extensively, at the same time. Since students with different background education enroll this program, it offers seminar in mathematics for those having a weaker mathematical background, and, additionally, core or mandatory courses in probability and statistics, information technology in data analysis, official statistics etc. Statistics for social sciences module is organized by the Faculty of Social Sciences. This module covers topics in both the research methodology and statistics, specific for the field of social sciences.

The University of Oviedo, Spain, has similar proposal for the organization of a master's program in statistics. The Master in Applied Statistics and Statistics for the Public Sector is oriented toward professional training, attracting students with different backgrounds, to familiarize with the different professional tasks, from finances, to public sector expertise. The first year of study is planed to be organized in two semesters. Students will be able choose from a list of modules, which contain a variety of courses. The third semester is for the internships – external practice trainings, and, finally, for the final project. The Master in Applied Statistics and Statistics for the Public Sector is proposed by the Department of Statistics, Operational Research and Didactic of Mathematics, and it should start in September 2013.

The Master of Science in Survey Statistics is a program at the Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary. This program represents independent and highly specialized master's degree program in a particular area of social science research. It came out as an extension of minor in survey statistics for students in sociology, at the same university. Main topics in this two-years program are covering mathematics , probability theory , mathematical statistics , computing and

applied statistics . First year is divided into two semesters, consisting exclusively of compulsory courses. Then, third and fourth semesters offers two tracks: Theory of Survey Methodology Track and Applied Survey Methodology Track. Each track consists of seven up to eight courses, mainly one-semester, while few of them last two semesters. Aim of the Master of Science in Survey Statistics is to bring notion and in-depth knowledge of tools to handle research problems as opposed to various examples to illustrate particular applications. Program also emphasize on the importance of internship for gaining expertise in practice by facing real-life problems that require statistical treatment. In addition to all, students need to pass state language examination and to write and defend master-thesis.

Similar master's degree programs in social science statistics, both organized as a module under wider, more general master's program, and as independent and exclusive master's program, can be found at many European universities. At the Stockholm University, Sweden, Department of Statistics is a part of the Faculty of Social Sciences, and it organizes Master's Program in Statistics. However, students with different backgrounds are eligible to enroll. Program has a goal to provide firm foundation of statistical theory and statistical methods for disciplines such as pharmacology, biology, economy, psychology, and applied sciences. The Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium offers master's program of quantitative analysis in the social sciences, which, in particular, emphasizes training in multivariate techniques of analysis, with a thorough understanding of the premises, the applicability and the results of the techniques in question. Similarly, the Master of Science in Methodology and Statistics of Behavioural and Social Sciences at the Utreht University, the Netherlands, is created as interdisciplinary, relating to all fields of behavioral and social research. On the one hand, social science methodology concentrates on issues in research design and data collection. On the other hand, skilled utilization of statistical methods to support research designs and theories in social sciences.

With all specificities and differences, all master's degree programs and modules in social science statistics have many commonalities, including targeting disciplines and courses offered. Disciplines that are mainly interested in well-founded statistics are such as sociology, psychology and political sciences. Courses offered can be easily divided into general, covering basis in mathematics, statistics, probability theory and informatics, and more specific, which cover assortment of topics, like categorical data analysis, linear modeling, multivariate analysis etc. Finally, all of the programs focus too on the research methodology, comprising courses on data collecting methods, ethical issues, research management and presentation and the like. Moreover, some programs offers relatively independent tracks, one of which stress research methodology, while other offers more in statistics.