
Harmonizing and integrating data: the new architecture for Data Collection Management in Istat

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Abstract

Data collection for statistical surveys was managed until 2015 according to a stovepipe model where each "stovepipe" identified a specific field of statistics and its corresponding production system.

Since April 2016 a new organization that centralizes all functions and activities pertaining to the data collection phase for all surveys has been set up. This new model is aimed at integrating and harmonizing data, reducing duplication and streamlining data collection process. The exploitation of administrative sources and statistical registers, the pooling the methodologic knowhow and the adoption of standards and common practices will be the main means to reach this goal.

A directorate for data collection will manage the new born organization, which is divided in four functional areas: *i*) planning, *ii*) organization, *iii*) execution and *iv*) integration.

The first area concerns the design of the different steps of data collection phase:

- ✓ the questionnaires design which is aimed at harmonizing the questionnaires' layout and structures – same look and feel - and the questionnaires' contents in order to reduce redundancies through the integration of data from different sources;
- ✓ the choice of techniques to be used supported by the analysis of mode effect and of an architecture to manage multi-technique solutions;
- ✓ the design and organization of the interviewers network ;
- ✓ the definition of common methods for interviewers' training;
- ✓ the implementation of the electronic questionnaires through generalized software systems.

The second area is responsible for the organization of data collection as far as all legal and bureaucratic aspects are concerned and takes care of all the formal contacts with respondents.

The third area manages all the processes of the data capturing phase whichever techniques is used: qualitative and quantitative monitoring and the relationships with respondents and with intermediate bodies for all the aspects related to the survey's contents.

The fourth area manages the administrative sources and guarantees the integration of data collected through statistical surveys and of those stored in statistical registers.

The functions assigned to the new directorate and its relationships with the statistical production sectors will be described in the details in the presentation. Besides, a comparison with the old organization will be reported highlighting enhancements and framing them in the long term strategy approved by Istat board of directors.



