

**Measuring what matters:  
Broadening official statistics  
Problems and Challenges**

**Yoel Finkel - Associate National Statistician, ICBS  
Conference of European Statisticians**

**Geneva, 18-20 June 2018**

# Background remarks

- Demand for updated data, "here and now"
- No more monopoly on data or data sources
- Transparent to users, indifferent to source of information
- **and yet, by law**, the **National Statistician** (in many countries) is expected to guide **all** the official statistics produced by **Governmental Offices**.
- **Mission impossible??!!**

# Areas of consideration

- 1. Multiple data sources: surveys, administrative data, big data**
  - 2. New subjects/themes: Quality of life, subjective well being, SDG's by sector, region, population group, gender, diversity**
  3. Advanced statistical methods: mixed mode, informative sampling, proxy, web panels, seasonality and trends, forecasting?, small area estimation
  4. Technological issues: storage, data protection, disclosure control (privacy vs. utility in social science research or even govt. policy)
  5. Administrative and judicial issues: the need for a "real" National Statistical System, public - private initiatives in the big data era
- "Analogue governance in a digital society" .....

# **Summary of emerging issues: France, Slovak Republic, Israel**

## **France: Measuring Security and Governance for Sustainable Development Goals**

1. Motivation: SDG's
2. Integration of surveys and administrative sources
3. Not hesitant to produce statistics that are partially covered, are new fields and are difficult to understand conceptually

# **Slovak Republic: Measurement of subjectivity in social statistics**

1. Motivation: reservations of solely depending on GDP as the indicator of well being of the individuals and households in the society
2. willing to invest in subjective surveys vs the traditional objective surveys
3. a robust source, harmonized European Survey on on income and living conditions (EU SILC) including a well-being module
4. stress the need for cooperating with social scientists
5. communication issues: cultural bias, survey design, contradictory results from different sources (not only official statistics)

# Israel: emerging issues

1. Well being, Sustainability and National Resilience Indicators
2. Social Economic Index for Local Authorities
3. Diversity Index: level of representation and salaries for "discriminated" groups in society

In general, an exponential demand for statistical partnerships with ICBS by government agencies, non profits, private sector (big data) and researchers.

# Questions for authors and delegates

1. Motivation?
2. Procedures in place for making decisions on broadening statistics?
3. Challenges that you are facing?