

CES 24.06.2020 – comments and questions chat

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Item 8: Data stewardship – NSOs in the changing world

Juan OVIEDO: Since the COVID19 crisis has been centered on citizens, households and enterprises, we strongly believe that the challenged of approaching and measuring subjective wellbeing should be faced by NSOs in an urgent but rigorous and relevant way.

JAPAN Akira TSUMURA: Currently in Japan, meaning of statistics is traditional and the statistical system is decentralised. So the current role of NSO is to keep in track the traditional survey. However, some members of statistical commission think NSO should do more and there will be some discussion.

Marina Egorova: Could you give us the link to this Recommendation here, please

UNECE Taeke Gjaltema: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=53838>

UNECE Taeke Gjaltema: direct download:

<http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/publications/2019/ECECESSTAT20193.pdf>

AUSTRIA_Tobias_Thomas: Thank you Michael for referencing to our prevalence study in your presentation. Indeed, in Austria, we have conducted three country-wide Covid-19 studies in cooperation with the Austrian Red Cross and the Medical University of Vienna. All of them were commissioned by the Ministry. Two of the studies aimed at tracking the prevalence of the virus in a representative sample and combined a questionnaire and a PCR test. The third study was an experimental validation study on antibody tests performed in coronavirus high-risk areas.

UNECE_Gosia_Cwiek: and here is the link to UNECE COVID-19 platform:

<https://statswiki.unece.org/display/COV/Home> - please don't hesitate to share new examples with us

NZ_Drew_Broadley: Kia ora/Hello New Zealand - here are some examples of what we've been able to achieve using partnerships with major telecommunication companies and mobile location/mobility data: <https://reports.dataventures.nz/population/20200622-covid-19-population-report-22nd-june-2020.html>

I'm interested to see what others have been able to achieve with this data.

Anil: An excellent summation Mart!

AUSTRIA_Tobias_Thomas: We fully support the idea of a common platform and sharing of best practices. Thank you for your excellent presentation Mart!

JULIO.SANTAELLA: We should be aware that, following the UN Statistical Commission mandate, the HLG PCCB is working on a scoping paper on NSOs and Data Stewardship. UNECE's work should definitely be central for the HLG PCCB paper so more international coordination is desirable.

Finland, Marjo Bruun: Thank you Mart! good points and look ahead!

Francisco Lima: Excellent Mart

Juan OVIEDO: Excellent presentation Marti! As a matter of example, In Colombia, DANE as the statistical authority of the Colombian NSS proposed and implemented an updated legal framework to optimize the access and use of the data, increasing the scope of its members to acknowledge the role of private actors in the production of data with statistical potential, and promotes collaborative work to generate the official statistical information that is needed to support decision making in society.

In view of the lines of future work proposed in the document, DANE agrees that it is important to: (i) think about strategies for the dissemination and consolidation of good practices based on the experience of the countries, (ii) discuss with different national and international stakeholders the issues related to data administration, and (iii) include other strategic issues in the discussion such as communication, ethics and statistical culture, aspects where current work is being carried out.

Poland_Dominik_Rozkrut: Good points, Mart!

Anil: Where should the role of an independent NSO start and end and where should politics enter into the realm of data access?

Anil: Without access to data, there are no statistics. Responsible data use is how we maintain trust with citizens.

AUSTRIA_Tobias_Thomas: Great food for thought, Bert. Thank you!

Juan OVIEDO: Anil makes a point! Such trade-offs reiterate the importance of having Data Stewardship at the top of the agenda of the International Statistical Community as it is necessary to develop and share experiences in the configuration of the role of NSOs in the management of data within the new data ecosystem.

JULIO.SANTAELLA: Agree with Anil

CZECH REPUBLIC-Marek Rojcek: Very good presentation, Bert. Many good points!

jilboudo: Can we learn more challenges on data quality provided by Ministries of Health and WHO?

Anil: We do find ourselves in this situation where companies with high volume and timely data are producing statistics as a public good and statistical agencies have major impediments to data access for public good. What does this mean for where trusted independent statistics emanate in the future?

JULIO.SANTAELLA: NSOs play in the trade-off between public and private data; we need to find the right balance that preserves trust through data sharing and data dissemination.

Juan OVIEDO: It is very important to include other strategic issues in the discussion such as communications, ethics and statistical culture, aspects where current work is being carried out.

Republic of Korea_Shin-Wook_KANG: Thank you for nice presentation, Bert.

Marco Lavagna: Excellent presentation, Bert

Anil: You raised some good issues for us to tackle as a statistical community Bert!

Timo Koskimaki: Good point, Anil, we see similar developments

Poland_Dominik_Rozkrut: Data access and trust are crucial. Good presentation, Bert, thanks!

Mark Sowden: agree about how crucial public trust and confidence are in our use of new data sources. Thanks Bert

PDalton: Great presentations all. Fantastic work underway in very many NSIs. The challenge now is to identify how we build on these successes.

Timo Koskimaki:

- If we act as a data broker, whom will we serve? Citizens, politicians, businesses, tax administration, police...?
- Would it be data steward's task to preserve the privacy of the data subjects of the data we manage, or should the data and services of the data steward be provided also for any legal administrative and fiscal purpose? Does this create issues vis a vis NSOs traditional privacy preserving professional practice?

AUSTRIA_Tobias_Thomas: Thank you to Manuela Lenk for your very structured presentation

FSO International: Manuela Lenk FSO responsible for innovation

NORWAY Geir Axelsen: yes we can :-)

Finland, Marjo Bruun: Thank you Manuela! Excellent presentation!

Juan OVIEDO: Very interesting approach FSO! In the case of Colombia we have established a national conversation on the importance of data stewardship and a legal system that supports it. We have designed a data stewardship body as a unit of articulation between the production of statistical information (NSO) and the needs for information in the public policy cycle (Ministry of Planning), promoting collaborative agreements for functional access to data under a safe, responsible and ethical environment.

Marco Lavagna: Marco Lavagna Indec Argentina: let me thanks the Conference (CES-UNECE) and the Committee (CSSP) the opportunity to participate.

Concerning the matter of data stewardship, INDEC is part of the subgroup on Data Stewardship established at the High-Level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building for the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (HLG-PCCB).

We are coordinated with Latin American countries that participate in the HLG-PCCB and with ECLAC, the possibility to have a series of regional meetings and common positions on this matter. In this regard, INDEC emphasize the importance to take into account the different starting points that NSOs might have to adopt a data stewardship approach. Even, the experiences about the difficulties NSOs might have in exercising the coordination role of the national statistical systems (in example, access to administrative data).

FSO International: to Timo: we are a metadata broker ;)

Timo Koskimaki: Yes, you are; do our stakeholders' generally see the DS role that way?

Mark Sowden: Absolutely agree Padraig

ESTONIA Mart Mägi: Also agree with Padraig!

Patrick Kelleher: Link to CSO Ireland's Covid-19 information hub for information purposes:
<https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-covid19/covid-19informationhub/>

Anil: Fully agreed with Padraig....as Winston Churchill said, a crisis is a terrible thing to waste!

Mark Sowden: I agree with Padraig. The international statistical community now has a considerable wealth of information and learnings recent and current leadership and stewardship activities. There is a unique opportunity for NSO's to develop this into international good practice guidelines and to build on the visibility of the value of NSO's in leading the stewardship of data ecosystems, particularly in times of crisis and national emergencies.

New Zealand is willing to participate and contribute to the leadership of this work.

Poland_Dominik_Rozkrut: Thanks Padraig, important points raised.

Anu Peltola: Yes fully agree with Padraig - staying true to our core values but moving quickly to develop our role!

JULIO.SANTAELLA: Hello Juan. Fortunately there was only minor damage yesterday's earthquake in Mexico--none to INEGI.

JULIO.SANTAELLA: I really liked Padraig's clarity of been stark with what/what not will NSO will do

NORWAY Geir Axelsen: Thanks for very good presentations. I agree that we need to find room for this new role within each country's legal context. in Norway's new statistical act we are given clearer mandate within data collection and sharing, but also limitations. all in all it provides a good platform to develop a more active role within data stewardship, but without undermining or weakening the traditional role. I think several of the presentations described this balance well.

Germany-delegation (Stefan Hauf/Jörg Decker): We would be interested in sharing experiences in creating win-win situations with private and public data providers?

PDalton: Some users in Ireland have indicated a willingness to amend their Quality vs Timeliness trade-off. Have others experienced this? my perspective transparency in relation to the quality of a product/output is the key piece

JULIO.SANTAELLA: Agree with Padraig

PDalton: Does the data have to be perfect to provide insight?

Mark Sowden: Agree Padraig about the importance of this. Yes a number of our users have accepted, at least temporarily, lower quality but faster data. The debate now is whether this continues post-Covid

AUSTRALIA_Teresa_Dickinson: Hi Padraig. Yes, we're finding that early and partial estimates are being well accepted. We are very transparent about the trade-offs and users seem to be accepting these.

PDalton: Absolutely. I think if we are to remain relevant we will need to address this, but how do we achieve this. We are thinking about a new suite of clearly labelled outputs but interested in what others might do

Anil: Most NSO's have strong legal frameworks as to what we can do and cannot do. Policy makers and citizens like what we do and what more of it but have a cursory understanding of how we produce statistics and the critical role of data access. We have to do a better job of explaining how we produce statistics.

diamoi: It would be interesting to know what is the reduction in quality that you talk about. We have produced timely data which are very accurate. They are just different. Thank you

Vjollca Simoni: We have a question please for the countries who have produced Covid statistics/ data. How have you categorised these figures in the framework of official statistics? What kind of standarts do you follow? Thank you in advance!

Anil: The work we are doing on proportionality and necessity to address privacy concerns raised could be very helpful. Some of you attended the session in New York; and we need to work much better with the privacy community.

Mark Sowden: We are doing similar for trade, migration and GDP

JULIO.SANTAELLA: Perhaps the core consideration in the timeliness/quality trade-off is "fit for purpose"; in times of crisis, it is very important to be timely, but this urgency may not be so important at other times.

NZ_Drew_Broadley: I feel we are trying to combine what are two types of statistics. Indicators and statistics. Indicators are based on trends, and statistics are based on defendable datasets (usually obtained through legislation/law/fuller methods)

Anil: Agree with Julio and Mark. We are all doing similar things to say good enough is much better than perfectly late!

jilboudo: How can we better support Health Statistics Systems

Anil: Quality has many dimensions....we are making trade-offs between certain elements.

JULIO.SANTAELLA: Ian's point is very important; less quality may or may not mean lower accuracy. In Mexico we are definitely producing some surveys that are not as accurate as they were before.

SWEDEN_Joakim_Stymne: Agree with Anil. There is no trade-off between timeliness and quality, as timeliness is on aspect of quality, as is accuracy.

Anil: We have defined them as: relevance, accuracy, timeliness, accessibility, interpret ability and coherence.

NORWAY Geir Axelsen: And to follow up on Joakim and Anil; efforts to improve timeliness (e.g automatised data collection and editing) may also lead to higher quality for other parameters

Anil: Agreed....we need to be cautious as a starting point thinking that using new sources or working quicker automatically results in a loss of precision. We need to bring our statistical rigour to make these determinations. It provides a really new and exciting opening for some methodological work and partnerships.

PDalton: Quarterly National Accounts at t+30, t+45, t+60, t+75 or t+90 are just one example of the type of trade-off we face time to time.

SWEDEN_Joakim_Stymne: We now publish weekly mortality numbers that we know will be revised upwards when information is more complete. But the information content is relevant for current needs, even though numbers are biased.

Russia_Georgy_Oksenoyt: Thanks to everybody! Great session - great discussion!

AUSTRIA_Tobias_Thomas: Rich discussions, thank you contributing

Vjollca Simoni: Thank you, very helpful

Finland, Marjo Bruun: Thank you all for good comments!

Item 9: Business continuity of official statistics

Poland_Dominik_Rozkrut: Part of the success in behind NSIs' agility these days is the agility of other stakeholders. Will we manage to sustain our agility, if they slowly revert to the "status quo"?

AUSTRIA_Tobias_Thomas: Impressive achievement, Brian, thanks for sharing!

UNECE Stat: The presentations session 9 are grouped together and already on CES website. Direct link is here:

http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/2020/S_9_Business_continuity_of_official_statistics_OECD.pdf

Germany-delegation (Stefan Hauf/Jörg Decker): Thank you Brian for sharing the information about your new household survey. There is also some request in our country.

AUSTRIA_Tobias_Thomas: Thank you for the great presentation Tudorel!

AUSTRIA_Tobias_Thomas: Thank you for your leadership and coordination, Mariana!

Turkey Burcu Ellidört Tunç: may you give us the Eurostat link for covid 19? thank you

Marina Egorova: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/covid-19/overview>

Eurostat_Maria_Santos: pls see here the link to Eurostat COVID-19 pages
<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/covid-19/overview>

Juan OVIEDO: Excellent presentation Mariana! The COVID19 situation in Colombia has highlighted the importance of technological infrastructure to receive, harmonize and dispose strategic information in a safe and efficient way, and to implement new methodologies in statistical processes, understanding the rapid technological change in societies. This has required a public budget bargaining process for additional financial resources for the NSO which are in due course!

CZECH REPUBLIC-Marek Rojcek: These 3 questions are very important

Poland_Dominik_Rozkrut: Good questions 🙏, I'd stress the one on momentum, and add my, what if our partners come back to being slightly less agile and cooperative?

Anil: I think the debate between outputs and outcomes is still an open one. We work in a broader ecosystem where data and evidence inform decision making. I would argue some have been more impactful than others.

Anil: We learn more our failures....what would the panellists do differently?

JULIO.SANTAELLA: One important issue will be the transition between "crisis mode" of operation towards a "normal mode". During the crisis there has been stress on resources (HR, IT, etc) that could hardly be made permanent.

Anil: Agree with Julio....what do we stop doing and what do we do differently going forward?

UNSD Ivo Havinga: is there a greater emphasis on a broader suite of coherent and granular high frequency statistics and indicators as we pivot post COVID? is there a possible need to review our data quality framework to ensure international comparability?

jilboudo: Quality of identifications of causes of deaths are very instrumental to COVID related deaths

GREECE_Athanasios_C_Thanopoulos: Apart the comparability issues at international level, is there any risk in terms of accuracy or quality for the new statistical (ad hoc) products that have been developed in response to COVID-19, out of the strict or broader framework of statistical Regulations and guidelines?

Juan OVIEDO: The POST COVID19 calls for NSOs ability of igniting interdisciplinary dialogues and strategic partnerships among NSS members (both public and private). This could be a sound way of finding a balance between relevance and quality. Therefore, quality assessment frameworks should be reconsidered to foster the availability of "experimental statistics" which represent many of the responses we have tried to provide during the pandemic situation.

The emergence of the COVID-19 promoted a process of statistical awareness that has accompanied the publication of results and consists of pedagogical work on the basic concepts we address. Hence, statistical users' empowerment becomes a must in the future.

Finland, Marjo Bruun: Thank you for these presentations. It is amazing what we all have been able to achieve under these challenging situations. Question is how to keep up the good work?

AUSTRIA_Tobias_Thomas: Very impressive presentation NZ. Thanks for that, Mark!

Russia_Georgy_Oksenoyt: Sorry, CATI not CAYI))

UNSD Ivo Havinga: coherence of time series is affected due to use of new data and changing mode of data collections

BELGIUM_Nico_Waeyaert: Investment and efforts in mixed data sources and mixed mode survey had paid off: we were able to keep producing and introducing new statistics. Need to keep up our efforts.

Vjollca Simoni: A question to anyone who can answer. How did you prioritise the users/government/partners requests in this pandemic situation?

Poland_Dominik_Rozkrut: @Ivo: Yes for both. I think so, Ivo. Good point.

Republic of Korea_Shin-Wook_KANG: I believe that the COVID-19 crisis has showed the challenges of traditional face-to-face mode of data collection. Therefore, the discourse on the use of 'untact methods' and 'big data and other sources for official statistics' has been accelerated. For tackling this unprecedented crisis, the Republic of Korea determines to expedite paradigm shift of producing official statistics by moving toward untact surveys and using big data and administrative data.

UK_Shearman_Nicola: Given NZ are ahead of many countries in coming out of lockdown, are they finding that some new data sources are pulling back (fully or partially) now they are exiting the pandemic to a certain extent.

Yoel Finkel: We are looking at "CAZI" (computer assisted zoom interviewing). since face to face is still not feasible due to sd and potential lockdowns. This way you can still retain some of the higher quality of CAPI. Certain household surveys (like expenditure surveys) are of very low quality if you compromise on CATI.

NZ_Drew_Broadley: Nicola, I can answer if Mark is unable to in his comments now.

Grant Cameron: It's important to remember that the process of policy and program development will also seek a "new normal" post-crisis. The speed of program development was necessary, but consultation and validation were compromised. these aspects will be reintroduced as things stabilize. NSOs will need to stay engaged with policy-makers to align their products/services to policy making as it finds its new equilibrium.

ESTONIA Mart Mägi: CAZI is good name - we also experimenting face-to-face interviews via Skype. First steps are really promising.

Russia_Georgy_Oksenoyt: Thank you, we are thinking about such a strategic shifts as well. And CAZI might be very efficient.

PDalton: @Yoel: Be very interested to hear a bit more about CAZI.....any concerns around Zoom and security emerging

Yoel Finkel: Yes. We are now "taking care" of the cyber issues. Will be happy to update everyone at a later date.

PDalton: @Mart: Also be interested to hear about CASI !!

Poland_Dominik_Rozkrut: CAVI - computer assisted video interviews... but, can this be pronounced differently than CAWI?

Marina Egorova: About CAZI: can you protect the personal data of the respondents?

NZ_Drew_Broadley: @UK_Shearman_Nicola: Hi Nicola, yes there is a pull back some of these private sector businesses. They have different priorities shaping now that the impact COVID-19 has started showing effects on their own business and/or their customers. Essentially we are not just consuming data them, but we are also providing data to them also in return. I.e. we are supporting the build of new economic indicators which will help these businesses in measuring the recovery post-COVID-19. Essentially we're treating them as much as a key stakeholder/customer, as they are a data provider and not making this a one way relationship. It's not easy, relationships aren't and constantly need work. We haven't used legislation/law to get this data, and this is how we are ensuring longer term supply and not mandating it.

PDalton: @Mariana: I think you are right about the shift....the challenge is managing the shift in a coordinated way

Russia_Georgy_Oksenoyt: Are there any web sources on CAZIs and CAVIs?

NORWAY Geir Axelsen: We have got access to aggregated debit card data to estimate private consumption etc. But we also need microdata these transactions in order to analyse the pattern and development for different parts of the consumption. Until now we have experienced that the financial sector is more hesitant to share the microdata, despite our strong legal mandate to require it. Any experience others on this?

rom LITHUANIA_Jurate_Petrauskiene: Covid crisis apparently revealed vulnerability of field work based traditional data collection methods (interview, price registration). It accelerated practical use modern data collection methods as webscraping, scanner data, credit card data. Exchange of experience, practical steps to transition to new data sources are very welcomed. Ability in short term to produce fit for purpose statistics of required level of detail and ensuring close collaboration with government institutions (as major users) are the elements which have to be maintained and fostered in the long run. Particular role here could play data stewardship initiatives. SL could be as one of examples of successful leadership in data governance during this challenging period. Strong Government demand for coordinated data governance during the Covid crises led to the Government decision to revisit and expand role and functions of SL by appointing it data steward in the country.

New Zealand_Rachael_Milicich: COVID-19 has also highlighted areas in our statistics and our broader government administrative collections that we are not collecting enough detail about e.g. vulnerable populations like people with disabilities. Have others found this too?

Vjollca Simoni: Very interesting to hear about these new data collection methods (CASI, CAZI, CAVI). Albania is interested to know about the sampling methodology for Household surveys when using these methods. Thank you!

PDalton: Geir we are in the exact same situation. Hopefully we can build trust firstly through the usage of aggregate data and allowing to see how we use their data and more importantly protect data

NORWAY Geir Axelsen: Sounds like a good approach, Pdraig.

UK_Shearman_Nicola: @NZ_Drew_Broadley - many thanks. Yes, it is all down to strong stakeholder management. This crisis has been an opportunity to get our foot in the door, in some cases we will have been able to convince people to let us build longer term relationships, for others it always was going to be a one off

PDalton: I still feel though we need to look at legislating for access.....the demands are so great now, we will need to exploit all available data sources

ESTONIA Mart Mägi: CAZI personal protection is doable, better than in CATI. Estonia also adopted changes in law for web based personal recognition.

NZ_Drew_Broadley: If this is valuable, we have worked with them to invest in their IP/knowledge of their own data and improving their own data and providing that IP back to them as part of the partnership.

UNECE Steven Vale: UNECE's expert group on data collection is meeting virtually today, and a webinar on collection methods under COVID-19 is being discussed

Republic of Korea_Shin-Wook_KANG: Statistics Korea would like to share our experiences to take measures under the COVID-19 crisis. Firstly, Statistics Korea provided relevant government agencies with necessary statistics in a timely manner to take a preventive measure against COVID-19. For instance, statistics on the analysis of population mobility using mobile big data, damage assessment for the service industry using credit card transaction data, and the daily price of face mask, hand sanitizer, and other disease prevention products has been provided. Also, out-of-stock rates for masks and other prevention products with rapid price rise and supply-demand imbalance have been produced to help relevant government agencies for preparing countermeasures on supplying the prevention products.

Anu Peltola: Very interesting. Let's take the opportunity to communicate all these important improvements visibly to the public!

jilboudo: Do we have emerging evidence in changes of cost of statistical operations?

Marina Egorova: Maybe some chat is needed for quick discussion of issues related to the organization of statistics at this period?

Finland, Marjo Bruun: Jilboudo, I think it is a little early for this but this is certainly an important question.

Anahit: Thanks a lot for the excellent presentations and very well organized sessions, Stepan and Anahit.

Juan OVIEDO: Since the COVID19 crisis has been centered on citizens, households and enterprises, we strongly believe that the challenge of approaching and measuring subjective wellbeing should be faced by NSOs in an urgent but rigorous and relevant way.

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JAPAN Akira TSUMURA: Currently in Japan, meaning of statistics is traditional and the statistical system is decentralised. So the current role of NSO is to keep in track the traditional survey. However, some members of statistical commission think NSO should do more and there will be some discussion.