

Session 8: Data stewardship – NSOs in the changing world

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Role and functions of NSOs in measuring Hazardous Events and Disasters



The COVID-19 pandemic fulfills all criteria of the Sendai Framework term “disaster”

In June 2019 CES adopted the [CES Recommendations on the Role of Official Statistics in Measuring Hazardous Events and Disasters](#)

The CES Recommendations:

- Clarify the role of NSOs and NSS in providing information related to hazardous events and disasters
- Identify practical steps to better support disaster risk management efforts in coordination with national agencies responsible for disaster risk management.

Core roles and tasks:

- Provision of baseline data to produce statistics on exposure and impacts
- Support DRM in producing and communicating information
- Setting and enforcing quality standards
- Developing statistics that are internationally comparable
- Communication and dissemination statistics to decision makers

Additional roles and tasks

- Assisting in assessment of direct and indirect impacts
- Collaborative sites for disaster attention
- Development and implementation of methodologies for risk assessment
- Providing services for linking of information from various sources
- Etc.



UNECE Platform COVID-19 and official statistics

<https://statswiki.unece.org/display/COV/Home>



- Section “Support for managing the crisis”: Currently 50 examples from 19 NSOs
- Will be updated with feedback from UNSD/WB survey (49 CES member countries replied) and examples from various webinars, e.g.
 - Austria: COVID-19 prevalence study with Medical University of Vienna and Austrian Red Cross
 - Ireland: National COVID-19 Data Hub in collaboration with Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI), the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government (DHPLG) and the All Island Research Observatory (AIRO) in Maynooth University, and ESRI Ireland
 - Norway: Research on social distancing and other measures, in collaboration with University of Chicago and Norwegian Institute of Public Health
 - Portugal: Weekly “Fast and Exceptional Enterprise Survey” in collaboration with Banco de Portugal
 - Estonia, Ghana, Spain: Use of mobile phone data for monitoring mobility during lockdown
 - Etc.

Some observations from case examples



- NSOs adapted their core tasks quickly under difficult circumstances:
 - Find workarounds to keep most important statistical production ongoing
 - Increase speed of production and dissemination of important statistics
 - Implement new data collections
 - Develop new statistical products
 - Strengthen or establish partnerships with health authorities, research, NGOs and the private sector
- What was new for many NSOs?
 - Modelling and surveillance support in an unusual policy area
 - Measuring mobility with mobile phone data: know-how, data protection, funding, new partnerships needed
 - Finding the right balance between timeliness and accuracy, and maintaining trust in official statistics at the same time

Some lessons learned



- NSOs' core expertise is needed and appreciated in managing COVID-19:
 - Providing official and internationally comparable information
 - Quality assurance
 - Ensuring transparency
 - Communication to policy makers and general public, ensuring trust in statistics and indicators
 - Developing new statistics according international standards
 - Integration and analysis of data
- In times of crisis transparent communication is more important than ever
- Geo-referenced data is key for quick integration of information, analysis and communication
- More efforts towards digitalization are needed
- Collaboration with health authorities is important
- Sometimes there is still lack of coordination of statistical outputs within government
- Difficult to access and make use of new data sources (e.g. mobile phone data)
- Innovation boost in several areas of work