Experience from member States in producing and sharing information, data and statistics on COVID-19 and their use for policymaking

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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.
• Section “Support for managing the crisis”: Currently 50 examples from 19 NSOs
• Updated continuously, examples:
  • 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