

A fully metadata-driven platform for the conception of survey questionnaires and the management of multimode data collection

Benoît Werquin, Franck Cotton (INSEE, France)

benoit.werquin@insee.fr, franck.cotton@insee.fr

Abstract

For ten years now, Insee has been developing a survey data collection platform using international standards in a metadata-driven approach. Several components have been developed one after the other: a questionnaire generator (Eno, cf. <https://www.insee.fr/en/information/5014703?sommaire=5014796>), a platform for business surveys (Coltrane, cf. <https://www.insee.fr/en/information/5014714?sommaire=5014796>), a questionnaire designer (Pogues, cf. <https://www.insee.fr/en/information/5014167?sommaire=5014796>), a PAPI case management tool (Sting) and a survey data editing environment (Genesis). More recently, the Metallica project has set up a new platform serving household surveys, which require better support for multimode, additional functionalities for Pogues and Eno, and the possibility to handle CAPI in all its dimensions. Metallica pursues the long-term strategy of standardisation and industrialisation of questionnaires, processes, organisation and services that was at the heart of the metadata-driven approach since its inception, and reaps its benefits. Overall, the collection platform will run 30 surveys in 2021, covering nearly 1 million units, with much more to come in the next years. With this new collection platform, Insee has a tool that is both powerful and flexible, and ready for future evolutions (specific surveys with complex protocols, metadata-driven processes, survey designer). In particular, flexibility was demonstrated at the start of the pandemic crisis, when a new Covid survey had to be launched in urgency: it took 26 days from the idea to the publication of the results.