

Business Case for Core Ontology for Official Statistics: Phase 2 (2022)

This business case was prepared by the Supporting Standards Group and is submitted to the HLG-MOS for their approval.

Type of Activity			
<input type="checkbox"/>	New project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New activity
<input type="checkbox"/>	Extension of existing project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Extension of existing activity
Purpose			
<p>Providing an “integrated view” to the ModernStats standards is a priority area for the Supporting Standards Group. Developing solutions that integrate ModernStats standards and also external models and vocabularies is an important milestone for modernising official statistics. The COOS is integrating GSIM elements, also building heavily on the GSBPM and the outcome of the Linking GSBPM-GSIM Task Team. The Core Ontology for Official Statistics Task Team, launched in 2021 has delivered key outputs: an ontology specification, a governance document, a URI policy and OWL ontology.</p> <p>As there is still a lot of potential in further developing the model and support the use of the outputs by providing use cases and user guides and explaining the ontology, the Supporting Standards Group is dedicated to continue the work on the COOS.</p>			
Description of the activity			
<p>Building on the outputs of the COOS 2021 Task Team, the activity includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of concrete use cases and user guides; Operationalization: the ontology will be loaded in an RDF database and toy client applications will be developed (e.g. Model Explorer); Communication and promotion; Further development of the COOS outputs based on feedback from the expert reviews and those elements that have already been flagged with a specific "v2" milestone by the COOS 2021 work; More links to external models and vocabularies (DDI-CDI, SSN, DQV...), and other semantic assets (SDMX content-oriented guidelines); The ontology is also excellent to be used to organize and present the results of the GSBPM tasks (ongoing task team connection), and to support the activity of the "linking GSBPM and GSIM" task team, based on reflections already conducted in 2021; Further reflection on global governance of ModernStat models. 			
Alternatives considered			
<p>The following alternatives were considered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Doing nothing: Even though the already available material from the COOS 2021 activity is a huge step towards the base semantics for official statistics, with no action the good progress made so far will be lost by not operationalizing the work, providing no uses cases and not strengthening its links to external models and vocabularies. We also expect a great added value from COOS to the future of new/refined ModernStats models and no action would mean a loss for the community of official statistics. This would be a huge step back from the “integrated view” concept. Losing momentum: communities outside of HLG-MOS are investing resources into semantic standards and linking different models and vocabularies. In case of no action, the opportunity to actively direct the way of integrating different ModernStats standards and their connections with external semantic models would turn into passive adaptation. 			

How does it relate to the HLG-MOS vision and other activities under the HLG-MOS?

Core ontology is a very important development for the ModernStats community not only because it integrates different ModernStats models but also because it connects that work to the external community directly, by its links to external models and vocabularies. In order to ensure high relevance of outputs produced by the HLG-MOS community, these integrating activities have a huge value added. Apart from the external view, the “integrated view” of our ModernStats standards is basically the ontology itself, therefore its development and support by the HLG community is a key priority.

Proposed start and end dates

Start: January 2022

End: December 2022