

# Rebuilding of the National Statistical System in Argentina: Some Lessons Learned

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*The opinions expressed in this presentation and in the related paper are solely those of the presenters and not necessarily those of INDEC and the OECD.*



# A steady deterioration of the Argentinian NSS and NSO (2007-2015)

## ➤ Political interference between 2007 and 2015 damaged:

- *De facto* professional independence of NSO
- Credibility of official statistics
- Institutional organisation of the NSO
- Human resources
- Implementation of methodological standards
- Planning activities
- Statistical infrastructure, including censuses
- Technical capacity
- Coordination within the NSS, in particular the leading role of NSO

## ➤ IMF “Statement of concern” (2012) and “Declaration of Censure” (2013)

## ➤ Situation widely reported in media, in particular for the official CPIs

# Rebuilding process (2016-2019) - I

## ***Institutions***

- Declaration of Statistical Administrative Emergency (January 2016) for 12 months
  - Consecutive interruption of the statistical production for several months
  - Extended power of the Director general of the NSO
  - Accessing increased financial resources
- Institutional strengthening, including a new human resources policy and a significantly increased budget
- Strengthened coordination of the NSS by NSO

## ***Technical capacities***

- Thorough review of sources and methodologies for each statistical output
- Improved statistical production (censuses, records, surveys, sampling methods, etc.)
- Implementation of international statistical standards
- New dissemination and communication policy → Transparency, facilitated access

# Rebuilding process (2016-2019) - II

## ***International Cooperation***

- Technical assistance (IMF, IDB, etc.)
- Bi-lateral cooperation with other NSOs
- Cooperation with international organisations (OECD, IADB, IMF, ECLAC, UNECE, etc.)
- Adherence to the OECD Recommendation on Good Statistical Practice
- OECD review of the NSS and key official statistics provided a number of recommendations, including :
  - Modernise the law on statistics
  - Improve access to administrative sources
  - Ensure impartiality, objectivity and transparency in the development and presentation of official statistics
  - Implement a comprehensive statistical quality management framework
  - Strengthen the statistical infrastructure
  - Reinforce users involvement
  - Strengthen the coordination within the NSS



# Lesson 1 - importance of professional independence

- ▶ Laws on statistics should protect the professional independence of national statistical authorities
- ▶ Professional independence is multi-dimensional:
  - Guarantee *de jure* independence: explicit provision in the legislation to protect producers of official statistics from any interference
  - Exclusive authority and accountability of NSO for the choice of
    - ▶ Sources
    - ▶ Data collection methods
    - ▶ Statistical methods
    - ▶ Timing and format of the statistical releases
    - ▶ Authority to decide on sources and data collection methods
  - Autonomy and accountability of NSO in
    - ▶ Budget allocation
    - ▶ Human resources management
  - Appointment procedures and term of mandate of the head of NSO
  - Transparency and internal culture of independence and quality
  - Equal access to statistics (no pre-release access)

## Lesson 2 - modernising statistics laws

- GLOS and OECD Recommendation have been key to provide guidance and models for the new draft law, with some adaptation for national circumstances :
  - Explicit provisions for professional independence clearly establish an exclusive authority of NSO to decide on sources, statistical methods and timing and format of releases
  - Clear mandate to collect data (including administrative sources), produce and disseminate statistics
  - Transparent procedures for the selection and appointment of the head of NSO
  - Efficient quality management system
  - Statistical confidentiality
  - Coordination of the NSS
  - Frequency of censuses

# Lesson 3 – role of international organisations

- ▶ Support of international organisations is key but capacity of the international statistical community to intervene against deviations from fundamental principles on official statistics in countries is limited
- ▶ Play an important role in the rebuilding process
  - International guidelines towards modernising statistical legislations (GLOS, OECD Recommendation, UN Fundamental Principles, European Statistics Code of Practice, etc.) are crucial
  - Technical assistance for capacity building
  - Assist national statistical authorities to participate in the modernisation of the law on statistics and in monitoring its implementation, including by liaising with users and policy-makers
  - Promote a transparent and user-oriented dissemination policy
- ▶ Regular reviews of the NSS by international organisations and peers, based on existing international standards are important
  - Publication of the results
  - Monitoring implementation of the recommendations



Thank you