Collaboration with private sector data providers

Outcomes of the in-depth review

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Approach

• Overview of the activities in the field of collaboration with private sector data providers
  • principles for accessing privately-held data (PHD)
  • communication and agreements with stakeholders
  • legislation
  • guidelines and handbooks for the use of PHD
  • common IT infrastructure
  • training and competency-building delivery
• Further exploration of the topic through case studies (34 NSOs)
Case studies

- Successful stories
- Attempts of collaboration
- Impact of COVID-19 crisis
What we found
Wide range of privately-held data (PHD)
Privately-held data successfully accessed by the National Statistical Offices (NSOs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scanner data</td>
<td>Mobile phone data</td>
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<tr>
<td>Companies’ websites</td>
<td>Accommodation or ticket platforms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation system operators</td>
<td>Data from companies / their associations in specific industries</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Electricity system operators</td>
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<td>Data from market research companies</td>
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What we’ve found
Many cooperation models

- PPP model
- Secondment model
- Outsourced data collection
- Agreed dataset specification
Cooperation models

- **PPP model**
  - The institutional arrangements
    - with the Association of the Automotive Industry, National Association of Bus, Truck and Tractor Producers, and each one of the involved enterprises
  - The goal of the PPP is
    - to collect raw data, process, and disseminate more granular data on the specific industry
Cooperation models

- **Secondment model**
  - The NSO’s employee is sent to the private company
    - to help with the methodology and data analysis
  - The employee could share the acquired knowledge with the NSO’s colleagues
    - but could not share the data
Cooperation models

- **Outsourced data collection**
  - The NSO cooperates with a specialized enterprise
  - that collect and/or processed data
  - The information on
    - the research methodology and the set of provided variables
    - described in the agreement
  - The data are obtained **free of charge**
Cooperation models

- **Agreed dataset specification**
  - The NSO receives strictly defined datasets from the data provider (a third party)
    - which processes mobile network data
  - The cooperation is based on the agreement
    - regulating methodological and technical issues of data exchange
    - as well as *financial compensation*
Lessons learned

- **Enablers**
  - trust to the NSO
  - referring to the public interest (ref. COVID-19 pandemic)
  - communication, understanding and accepting each party’s interests
  - attempts to achieve a win-win situation
Lessons learned

- **Enablers**
  - a flexible approach of NSOs (limitation the requests to the most important data)
  - NSO’s organizational capabilities (competencies, IT solutions etc.)
  - a solid legal framework
Lessons learned

- **Impediments**
  - the low motivation of private companies to cooperate
  - concerns about the privacy, public perception or disclosing trade secrets
  - the expectation of cost compensation
  - lack of solid legislation
  - data quality
    - incompleteness and low usefulness of the data for statistical purposes, lack of quality assessments of the data
Impact of COVID-19 crisis

- Increase the possibility of accessing PHD for nearly 50% of the NSOs surveyed
- Greater openness of private companies to share the data, but preference to enter into collaboration directly with the government
- Collaboration is regulated by bilateral agreements
- The urgency of accessing and using PHD has faded as the pandemic situation stabilized
- NSOs expect legislative steps to ensure a solid legal basis to maintain access to companies’ data
Recommendations

- **International level**
  - to strengthen the cooperation
  - between the task forces and dedicated working groups dealing with the access to PHD
  - to strive for
    - the coherence of work and complementarity in terms of various levels of international cooperation
Recommendations

• **National level**
  
  • to leverage the potential of government agencies
  
  • to connect with private sector data providers
  
  • to invest in partnerships

  • that could enable sustained access to data
  
  • and a better understanding of the data specifics (e.g. by seconding employees)
Thank you
for your attention!

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