



**An
Phríomh-Oifig
Staidrimh**

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Office

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Statistics

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Irish approach to data stewardship in the environment domain

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Overview of Presentation

- What is 'Data Stewardship'?
- The Irish context for the environment domain
- Stewardship services most relevant for the domain
- Conclusions



Data stewardship – all data organisations

External/internal networking	Data management/technical	Ethics and legal
Supporting acquisition of new data and using new data sources	Maintaining metadata and classifications codes	Link to legal services
Liaising with external providers for metadata and life cycle	Data life cycle management	Management/compliance of Data Governance Model
Liaising internally for quality	Monitoring ‘once only’ principle	Developing rules for acquisition of data
Making internal and external data available based on FAIR principles	Overseeing quality and security processes	



Role of 'the Data Steward'

- Makes sure all the pieces fit together overall and in Public Sector Bodies (PSBs)
- Public sector data needs to be fully exploited in the public interest
- DS ensures technical standards are in place, or develops new standards if not available – mix of strategy, oversight and operational roles
- Ensures right mix of skills is available so that PSBs can exploit their data
- Plans 'who does what' in public service data analysis, and ensures that the system has services in place to facilitate this (or provides them if missing)
- National context crucial in defining this role – formal or informal roles of other PSBs, level of analytical capacity, data maturity, data sharing, etc



Irish context for the environment domain

- Irish statistical system is centralised – not for environment
- PSBs normally have straightforward statistical reporting (operational processes more complex) – not for environment
- Data sharing for policy between PSBs is limited in Ireland
- Most of Irish environmental data is in the public sector
- Mix of CSO stewardship services appropriate to this context



Service 1 - Partnerships

- Partnerships essential for NSO's as 'we don't know it all' (particularly in environment) and we need to increase our influence in the system
- We have a mix of partnerships under Memoranda of Understanding and liaison groups – focus on data management, analysis or both
- Particularly important since GDPR – but 'soft influence' important too as we need data improvements and policy input to analysis projects
- Partnerships with Environment PSBs include liaison groups, joint projects and separate projects of mutual interest and now programmes of work



Service 2 - Secondments

- Secondees are our representatives in PSBs – 38 in 16 PSBs
- Increases our level of day-to-day influence beyond MoU/liaison groups
- PSB's have an incentive to improve their data when they have the skillsets to exploit data for decision making
- Involved in non-statistical data analysis work – PSB decides and pays
- In the environment domain – complementary to existing scientific and statistical skills rather than a 'takeover'! Also, programmes of work
- More scope for intermediation of our stewardship services – more later



Service 3- Multi-dimensional analysis

- Gerry Brady is presenting on environment analysis in Session 3
- Limited data sharing in Ireland for policy analysis – CSO has an important role in linking socio-economic and domain contexts, incl. environment
- We have an excellent and improving system of identifiers for data linkage, despite not having population registers
- In general, we facilitate requests with our Official statistics/open data, ‘pathfinder projects’, microdata access – ‘pyramid of services’
- New service – ‘Data Science and Statistical Support Unit’



Service 4 – Researcher access

- National and EU demands (including ‘Green Deal’ data spaces) to improve access to pseudonymised data
- Our Researcher Microdata Files (RMFs) have been mainly based on primary data collected by CSO so far
- Administrative data access has further governance requirements for ethics, consent, public interest, etc. (COVID experience)
- Huge potential in the environment domain – big data, synthetic data, linked RMFs



Service 5 - Accreditation

- Irish Statistical System Code of Practice – experience to date
- Particularly highly valued by Environment PSBs
- In addition to secondments, acts as a further conduit for CSO stewardship services (including dissemination supports)
- CSO has responsibilities in the European System (ESS) anyway
- ESS Peer Review outcomes



Service 6 – Quality and Methodology

- Quality Management Framework rolling out to PSBs – more detail on the supports available in the paper
- Again, highly valued by Environment PSBs – we in CSO learn from the experience too
- Methodological advice available to PSBs on an ad hoc basis – may also be of value for complex methodologies in the environment domain (e.g. ‘nowcasting’ in energy balances)



Conclusion

- Data stewardship is something we all need to think about
- Potential NSO role as ‘steward’ is specific to the National AND domain/situation context – COVID example and now Ukraine
- Different mix of services required in each domain
- Environment domain is ideal for a partnership based approach
- Apart from partnering services, the NSO role derives from data access and linkage – socio-economic context for the ‘just transition’

