Timeliness, Frequency and Granularity of Official Statistics

Questions to Poland

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28.06.2023 CES Seminar, Paris
The paper provides a compelling example of the power of administrative data to increase timeliness and granularity with the Employment in the National Economy statistics.

• What steps would you recommend other NSOs undertake to secure public opinion support for the use of the administrative data for transformative changes?
Power of administrative data

1. Communication and information policy of NSOs

The argumentation supporting the use of administrative data, addressed to the whole society, should indicate the benefits of the change to the actors and communities.

e.g. using data from administrative sources we can:
- reduce social costs of official statistics and administration activities. The costs are related to the amount of reporting obligations (excessive bureaucracy). Replacing data from reports with administrative data ensures information needs and releases resources of entities of the national economy, which can be directed to the development of entities;
- get more granularity than with reporting data;
- reduce financial costs of data acquisition.
2. Cooperation with data gestors

The use of administrative data sources in statistical surveys depends on the method of collecting data and their informative value. That is why cooperation and openness to this cooperation of public administration units and a friendly approach of data administrators are so important. NSOs should have an impact on the method and scope of systemically collected data, e.g. by participating in the preparation of the scope of data collected by administrators. In this way, the collection and use of administrative data will be more effective.

3. Continuity and durability of changes

Work on administrative sources will never be finished, because legal, organizational and technological changes are taking place all the time. However, the direction of these changes must be agreed and consistently implemented by public administration bodies. After some time, society must feel the difference in the approach to collecting and using data, and also feel that there is no turning back from this direction of change. The experience gained during the development and use of administrative sources should cumulate to create new value and open up new opportunities.
The satellite remote sensing data is an interesting case of a common data source, available with the same characteristics across NSOs. The statistical information produced, eventually integrated with other data sources, tries to answer questions also common to different national contexts (e.g., land use and agricultural statistics). Developing the right tools – from algorithms to visualization - to harvest these data takes time and resources.

• Do you consider this an opportunity to poll resources and closer cooperation between NSOs?
• What could we do more in that respect?
Opportunity to poll resources and closer cooperation
Earth Observation (EO)

Nowadays, conducting research using satellite data is much simpler than in the past thanks to:
- free and pre-processed data (e.g. ESA - Copernicus data);
- much better open source software;
- much friendlier programming languages.
Opportunity to poll resources and closer cooperation in Earth Observation (EO)

Remote sensing surveys provide data on environmental objects and land cover. The application of EO methods in relation to infrastructure and detection of anthropogenic objects is still limited for public statistics.

Source: https://sdi.eea.europa.eu/catalogue/srv/api/records/d2d17b33-db09-4534-aa96-2ad54f655ba3
Opportunity to poll resources and closer cooperation
Earth Observation (EO)

The implementation of EO methods in official statistics will be faster if we exchange knowledge and solutions. It is necessary to build a network of cooperation with academia and to transfer knowledge to statistics. This is what we do in Poland.

data sharing
cooperation
algorithms, analysis
subcontracting

land cover data
public procurement
Do more

• Collaboration accelerates the transfer of knowledge and solutions to statistics

• The challenge is to prepare staff in NSOs to work with EO methods. It is necessary to run mentoring and educational programs.

• Implementation of solutions ensuring staff retention.

• Providing appropriate computing infrastructure. The infrastructure is used briefly but very intensively. This leads to the conclusion that it is more beneficial to share infrastructure than to purchase it by individual NSOs.
Thank you for your attention