

## Business Case for Core Ontology for Official Statistics : Version 2

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

Type of Activity	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New activity	<input type="checkbox"/> Extension of existing activity
Purpose	
<p>ModernStats standards have been developed independently over the course of more than a decade by a diverse group of specialists with different viewpoints, stakeholders and ideas. This created misalignments and impedance mismatches between the underlying models that should otherwise work well together and complement each other: Information objects (GSIM) describe the data and metadata necessary to produce statistics where capabilities (CSDA), activities (GAMSO) and business sub-processes (GSBPM) are the essential building blocks.</p> <p>The Core Ontology for Official Statistics (COOS) was developed between 2019 and 2022 to serve as an integration model for the core set of ModernStats standards, backed by elements of well-known standard vocabularies. COOS provides semantic coherence across these models based on a common vocabulary of terms, definitions and a well-defined set of inter- and intra-model relationships using standards from the Linked Open Data community.</p> <p>Currently COOS consists of an ontology specification, a governance document and a document describing the principles used for the naming and identification of the COOS artifacts. There is still a lot of potential in further developing the model and enhancing the usability of COOS by providing use cases and user guides and explaining the ontology.</p> <p>Also, model management is a big part of the standards integration story. The underlying models have been recently updated or are being reviewed. To maintain alignment the COOS needs to evolve with them.</p>	
Description of the activity and the Work Packages/sub-activities	
<p>The activity will be carried out by a task team under the oversight of the Supporting Standards Group.</p> <p>The main sub-activity will consist of addressing feedback received on the current version of COOS, which will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● enhancing coherence and integration of the underlying models</li> <li>● updating to conform to the state of art regarding Linked Open Data standards</li> <li>● discussing possible extension of the core elements supported in the ontology</li> <li>● capturing the ongoing evolution of the underlying models.</li> </ul> <p>Other key sub-activities will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● integrating recent changes from ModernStats models</li> <li>● developing use-case and guidelines</li> <li>● providing communication and promotion documents</li> </ul>	

### Deliverables and timeline

The main output of this activity will be a revised and updated COOS specification document.

### Offices/Countries committed

 INSEE France,  Statistics Canada,  ILO

### Alternatives considered

1. No action
2. Delay until 2025

For both of these alternatives COOS will be left outdated. As its role is to provide an integrated view of the ModernStat models this would greatly lessen the value added of COOS.

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

The 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 linked open data and open source communities, with 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 integration, 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:** Mid-2024

**End:** Mid-2025