
Tourism Data: Integrated Information System (S2S), sharing data and Official Statistics

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Abstract

Since 2018, Statistics Portugal is developing the National Data Infrastructure (NDI) in a strategy of strengthening statistical production through appropriation of administrative data. The main purpose is to provide a single access point to several types of data (administrative and other) and make it available for multiple purposes and users, either to support the production of official statistics by Statistics Portugal or for research activities. The Integrated Tourism Information System (SiT), under development, is a good example of what are the main goals of NDI, regarding both data sharing based on a “System to System” approach, and the adoption of a mixed model for data compilation, through administrative data appropriation and primary data collection. The SiT main goal is to deliver statistical data through a single entry, Statistics Portugal, and share the information with the project partners, which are, Turismo de Portugal (TP) and Banco de Portugal (BdP). This will allow efficiency gains, through easing the statistical burden, eliminating redundancies among the different stakeholders of the sector collecting information. From the dissemination point of view, are expected improvements on coverage, granularity, and data timeliness, with the ultimate output being a deeper knowledge of the tourism accommodation activity in Portugal to support policy evaluation and decision making. Implementing SiT will allow to extend coverage to small Local Accommodation (with less than 10 capacity users) establishments, which are currently out of the scope in collection of statistical information on tourism activity in Portugal. The upstream construction of SiT is based on administrative data collected from the National Tourism Registry (RNT) of the TP, which includes the registration of tourist accommodation establishments (ET) and local accommodation (AL). A webservice allows Statistics Portugal to access daily data on establishments licensing, such as new openings, closures, changes of categories, etc. After quality treatment, these registry data make possible to move forward to the statistical information collection process that is carried out by Statistics Portugal. The set of variables to be surveyed was subject to public consultation, by the project partners, business associations and companies in the sector, as well as by software houses. Their contribution allowed the identification of all information needs and the requested variables available for reporting. Although currently tourism statistics are already reported, on a monthly basis, by hundreds of respondents via automatic data transmission, SiT is being developed to allow for automatic data transmission, via XML (by upload or by webservice), with electronic forms being designed according to the different characteristics of the establishments and their configuration. It is based on a “System to System” approach a mixed model for data compilation, through administrative data appropriation and primary data collection, was adopted. Except for the web services for obtaining administrative data, the entire process will be guaranteed by Statistics Portugal, from data collection to sharing with partners, as well as the dissemination of statistical information. Shift from a multiple data collection model, where several entities collect similar information, to a

centralized data collection and distribution system is being a hard task. At this point, to ensure SiT answers the information needs of the project partners – the national tourism authority and the central bank -, the proper legal framework to allow it to comply with the requirements of the national and the European Statistical System, is being prepared.