The designed governance for a central metadata system

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Abstract

A well-oriented governance is one of the essential components that has to be defined for achieving and supporting interoperability. The governace includes some crucial aspects such as legal and business policies, the active adoption of standards, and the roles and tasks that should be well identified, recognized and institutionalized. While projecting its central metadata system (METAstat), Istat needed a governance able to support the system in the central reference role for metadata.

The article illustrates the designed governance which specifies the essentials roles for a central maintenance of metadata.

Because the metadata should be reused along all the phases and by all statistical processes, the standard GSBPM was the solution to identify all the lifecycle phases of the metadata. For every phase and sub-process of GSBPM involved in metadata management, the roles were accurately identified. To every role corresponds a detailed description of the tasks. This was done for every kind of process, due to the statistical process which is the main element of connection in the system.

METAstat will contain not only the metadata from the statistical production activity but also from other cross-cutting activities, such as the terminology of the quality, of the IT, of the methodology, of the normative and some production terminology that is not strictly connected to the responsible of the process. The standard GAMSO was used in defining these segments.

With the aim to favorite the semantically interoperability, METAstat is equipped with a terminological component where every term has a proper cyclelife and is connected to the structural metadata and referential metadata. The main references for the terminological component were ISO 1087-2019 and ISO 25964-2013. The ISO 1087-2019 supplies instructions how to correctly manage the terminology. The ISO 25964-2013 helps in documenting the semantic connections.

The standard GSIM modelling the structural metadata facilitate the communication between different processes and, within the same process, between different phases. A unique standard makes easier sharing of tools and methods, playing a crucial role in centralizing metadata.

The governance defined for METAstat focus on roles and rules, interactions and processes in order to achieve metadata always findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable (FAIR).