

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

ModernStats World Workshop

21-22 October 2024, Geneva

Simplifying the Reuse of Concepts Across Organisations

Speaker: Fabian Santi, Federal Statistical Office (FSO)

Author(s):

Abstract

The National Data Management (NaDB) is a programme launched by the Swiss Federal Council to lay the foundations for the implementation of the "once only" principle. The long-term goal is to align the federal data landscape in such a way that individuals and companies no longer have to report any information more than once.

As part of this programme, the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (FSO) is responsible for developing and maintaining an interoperability platform. The first version of the interoperability platform I14Y went live in 2021 and is being continuously developed and expanded. One of the goals of the platform is to provide a centralised metadata repository that facilitates the reuse of standardised nomenclatures and code lists.

This presentation will focus on the technical and organisational aspects needed to promote the harmonisation and reuse of standards. We will give an overview of recent and planned developments. We will also present some successes and obstacles which are of interest to organisations developing and using similar platforms.

Technically, concepts are published in a catalogue and made available via APIs, some in SDMX and LOD form. Our multilingual platform allows the reuse of concepts as data elements to describe dataset structures. This explicitly shows which organisations endorse a specific standard and which data is not yet harmonised and thus not interoperable. These structures can also be used in metadata-driven statistical production processes.

Each organisation using the platform - which could be from the public or the private sector - must appoint a data steward responsible for the maintenance of its concepts. A status is attributed to each nomenclature to indicate its progress in the registration process, and can be published once approved by the local and Swiss data stewards.