



Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States

Assuring Data Quality and Comparability Through International Statistical Classifications: *The case of the OECS Member States*

Caribbean Thematic Conference

Managing a Statistical Organisation in Times of Change

25-27 November, 2019



The Role of International classifications in the Regional and National Statistical System

Classifications are to the NSS what common currency is to an economic market. It is the medium through which data are compared and analysed within and across countries.

Classifications give the user the assurance that any statistical unit that is classified, such as an establishment, that is, given the code “**1104**” from the International Standard Industrial Classification for All Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 4, would be interpreted internationally as an establishment whose main activity is **‘manufacturing of soft drinks, mineral waters and other bottled waters’** - this is the power of classification codes.

UNSD: ‘statistical classifications are a key requirement for the production of reliable, comparable and methodologically sound statistics’ .



The Role of International Classifications in the Regional and National Statistical System



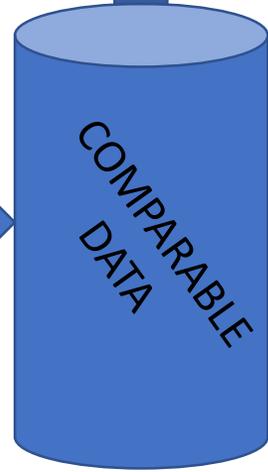
ISIC

ISCO

CLASSIFICATIONS

ISCED

HS



For all people,
everywhere.



The Case of the OECS Member States

The Process of Investigation

- Assessment was carried out in the first quarter of 2019
- Electronic questionnaires were distributed and direct interviews carried out

Coverage

- National Statistical Offices
- Ministries of Health
- Ministries of Education
- Social Security Offices
- Customs Departments



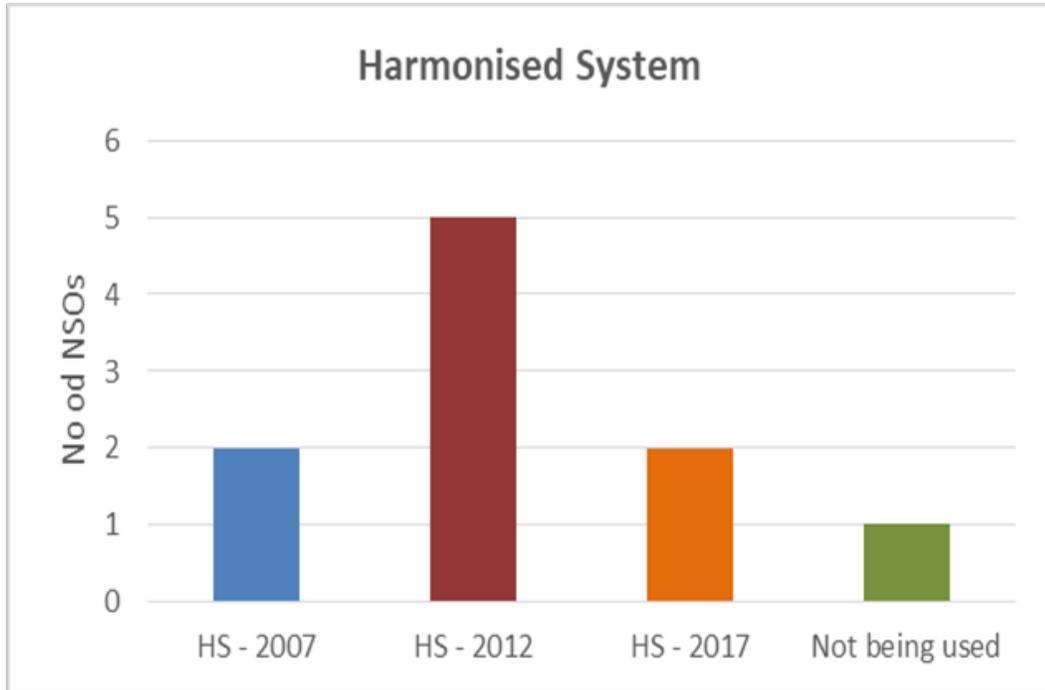
The Results



	ISIC CODES							
	REV.4						Rev 3.1	
Establishment	Country A	Country B	Country C	Country D	Country E	Country F	Country G	Country H
The Government Treasury	8411	8411	8411	8411	8411	8412	7511	7511
ECCB Resident Office	6411	6619	6419/ 7010	6411	9900	6411	6719	6511
An offshore University	8530	8530	8530	8530	8530	8530	8030	8030
The Teacher's Credit Union	6419	6419	6419	6419	6419	6419	6519	6519
Ministry of Agriculture	8413	8411	8412	8413	8413	8412	7511	7513
LIAT	5110	5110	5223 / 7911	5110	5110	7911	5510	6210
John's Consultancy Services	<i>unable to code</i>	7020	7020	<i>unable to code</i>	7020	6920	7414	7414
B and D Electricals	more information required	9521	4321 / 4762 / 4759	4321	4752	9521	5260	4530
Jake's Grocery Store	4711	4711	4721	4711	4711	4711	5211	5211
Fred's Tire Shop	4530 / 2211	4530	4520	4530	4520 / 4530	4520	5030	5030

HS Classification

Version of HS Classifications in Use by NSOs

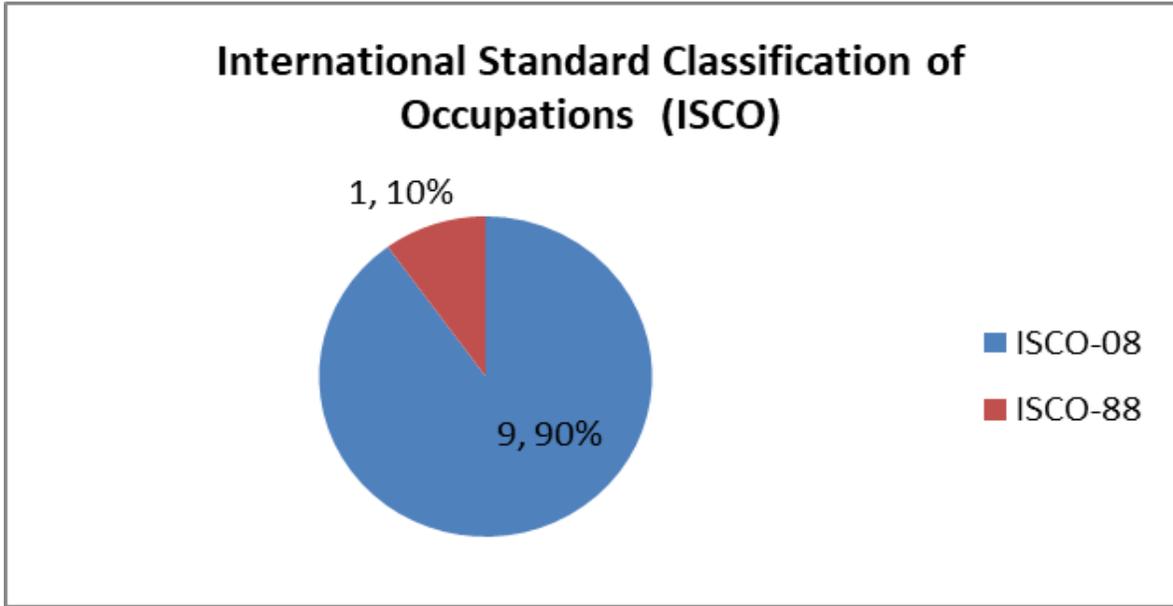


Number of Persons Trained in NSOs in the use of HS

No. of Staff Trained	No. of NSOs
No trained staff	3
	3
	1
	1
	1
	1

ISCO Classification

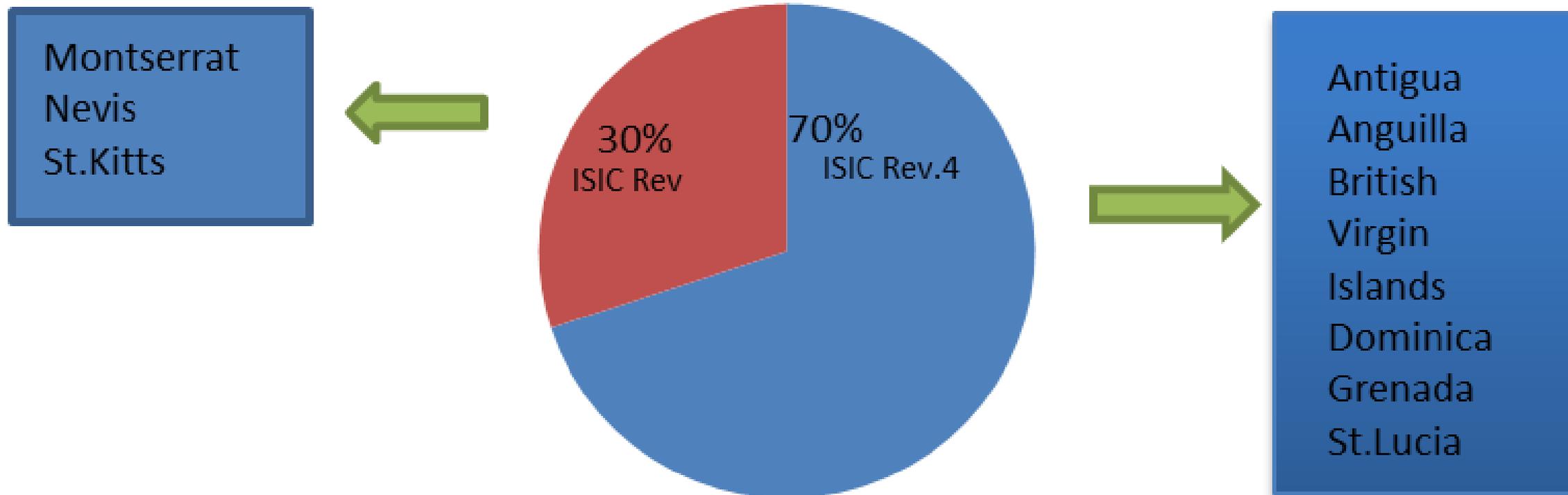
Use of ISCO by version within NSOs



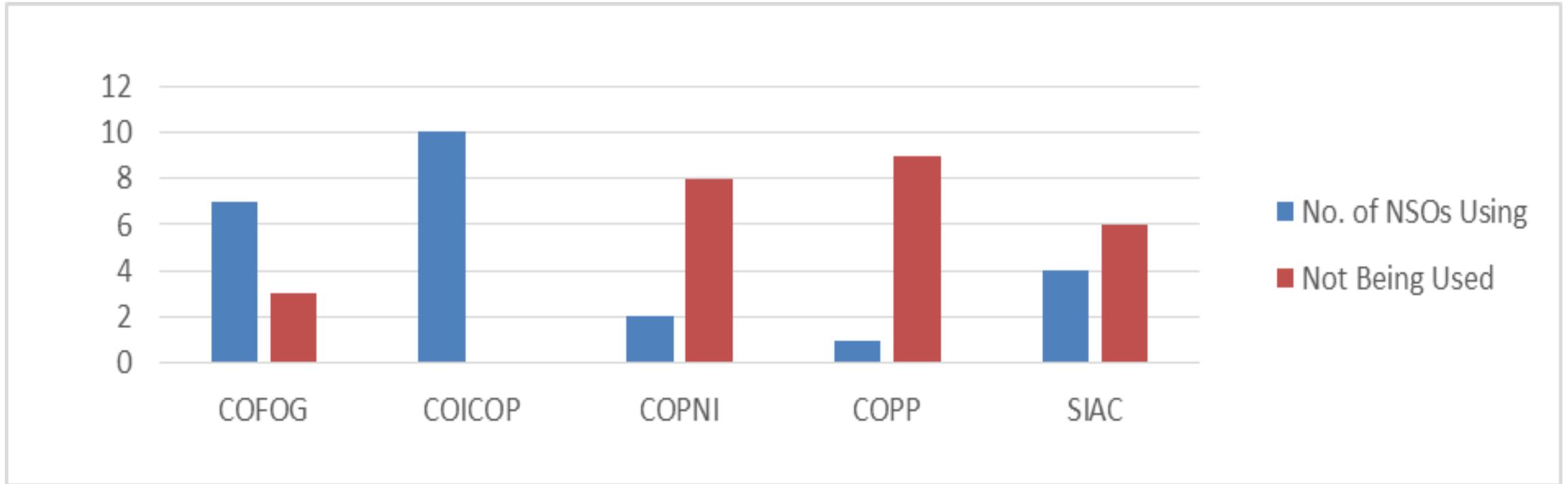
Number of Persons Trained in NSOs in the use of ISCO

No. of persons Trained	No. of NSOs
1 person icon	2
2 person icons	2
3 person icons	2
4 person icons	2
5 person icons	2

Q2a. International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC)



Other Classifications



Classifications of Functions of Government – COFOG

Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose - COICOP

Classification of the Purposes of Non-Profit Institutions -COPNI

Classification of the Outlay of Producers According to Purpose - COPP

Standard International Age Classification – SIAC

The Use of ISIC in SSOs Compared to its Use in NSOs

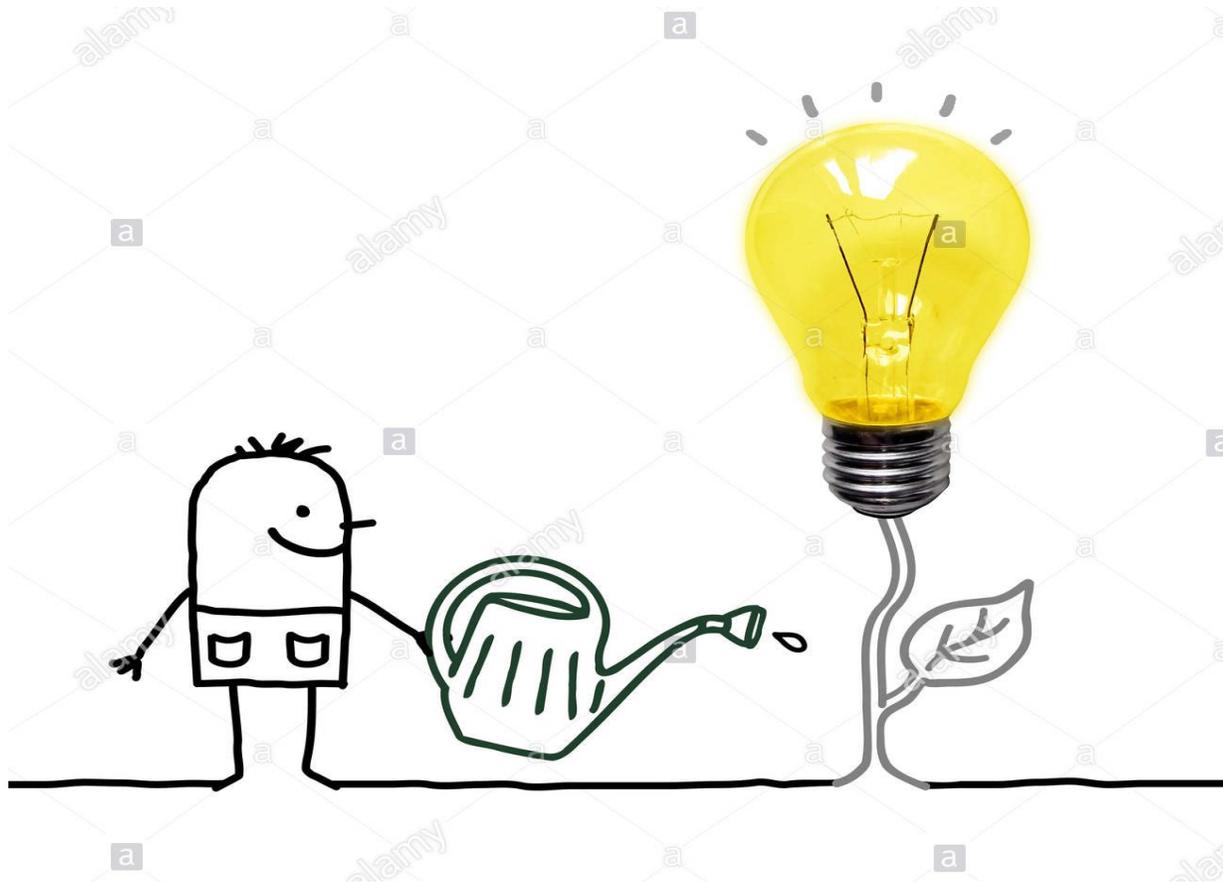
Country	Classification	
	Social Security Office	NSO
Antigua and Barbuda	ISIC Rev. 4	ISIC Rev. 4
Dominica	ISIC Rev. 3	ISIC Rev. 4
St.Kitts and Nevis	ISIC Rev. 3.1	ISIC Rev. 3.1
Anguilla	ISIC Rev. 3.1	ISIC Rev. 4
Bristish Virgin Islands	ISIC Rev. 2	ISIC Rev. 4

Summary / Conclusions

1. There is a strong need for collaboration with the use and application of classification codes. Not only is there a lack of synergy with the version of classifications being used but also considerable differences in the application of those codes. This results in misclassification and consequent erroneous statistical analysis – the implication of which can be astronomical. Note that analysis of data informs evidence-based policy which impacts the welfare of the people to which the policy intervention applies.
2. Offices within the system that are transitioning or would like to transition, lack the capacity to make the transition . For instance, the use of concordance tables or manipulations of macros in excel to convert the tables were areas of support that were highlighted. Respondents made special requests for training in the use of concordance or mapping tables, to move from one version or one classification to the next.
3. Where codes are not uniformly applied within the NSS it makes the use of administrative datasets difficult. As in the case of the NSO, SSO and Inland Revenue Department, that all collect data on economic activity but apply different versions of the codes. One of the offices stated ‘We are aware of the importance of classifications and would welcome any opportunity for training, especially with regards to economic activity and occupation. We are using some form of classification for occupation but I am not sure of its source.’



Conclusion



It therefore suggests that in order for any NSS to function effectively and efficiently, it requires not only a legal framework and harmonised methodology, but also a **common language** within the system – classification codes.

Thank You

