Open virtual IAEG-SDG Meeting
Covid-19 impacts and responses on data collection, SDG monitoring and on vulnerable groups

France’s Covid-19 responses

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2 June 2020
Continuing of service during lockdown

➢ An increase in needs of statistics, of new analysis and new and reliable output in real time while Insee’s staff is lockdown

➢ Insee has adapted its working practices to ensure continuity of its missions thanks to widespread remote working and the adaptation of certain household surveys from face to face interview to telephone interview

➢ Insee has redefined its priorities and made few adjustments to some operations. But most of international reporting requirements are met

➢ Nevertheless, the quality of information collected was degraded because the response rate for several business surveys has deteriorated dramatically and the availability of administrative records, particularly tax records, is disrupted in part.

➢ The question of the relevance of certain statistics is raised. Therefore, a temporary drop in the level of accuracy of statistics is expected and would need more explanation to assess their significance

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New collaborations for original statistical output

➢ The crisis has accelerated collaboration with private data producers that had been in the pipeline for a long time.

➢ Population movement were analysed thanks to a partnership with mobile network operator

➢ A real time estimates of the fall of GDP and consumption is based on information communicated by professional bodies and businesses, corroborated with instantaneous data on electricity consumption and credit card transactions

➢ These new partnerships will remain crucial issues as the lockdown eases.

➢ Traditional statistical sources and the new data sources used since the beginning of the health crisis are not in competition, but rather complementary.
New surveys carry out in regard of specific features of the present situation

➢ The French Ministry for Labour has adapted its survey on working conditions in order to measure the impact of the health crisis on working conditions.

➢ Through a partnership with medical and research institutes, the French national public health agency, the Paris-Saclay university and the French Ministry for Solidarity and Health, INSEE will be taking part in a survey on 200,000 individuals in order to measure the prevalence of the virus and its symptoms through a huge internet survey followed by tests on sub-samples.

➢ INSEE has added a specific questionnaire related to the health crisis in its monthly survey in May on the households’ sentiment (Camme survey).

➢ Specific questions on the impact of Covid-19 on health problems caused or made worse by work and on working conditions will be added to INSEE’s labour force survey as from Q3 2020.

➢ INSEE is planning to adapt a business survey scheduled for September, on sub-contracting, to assess the impact of the crisis on the organisation and activity of businesses, on supply and value chains, etc...
Will official statistics come out of this, stronger?

➢ Insee has done its utmost to bring relevant information to the public with highly visible statistics on its website and on Insee’s blog. Insee has also increased its methodological comments and explanation to qualify significance of these statistics.

➢ Insee has shown it was able to adapt its working practices, to develop innovative methods and new collaborations for original statistical output, and to adapt or launch new surveys in regard of specific situation.

➢ Statistics were essential during the crisis. But they will still play an active role in shaping the world of tomorrow.

• References

• “Official Statistics and the Challenge of the Current Health Crisis”

published on INSEE's blog.
Many thanks for your attention

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