



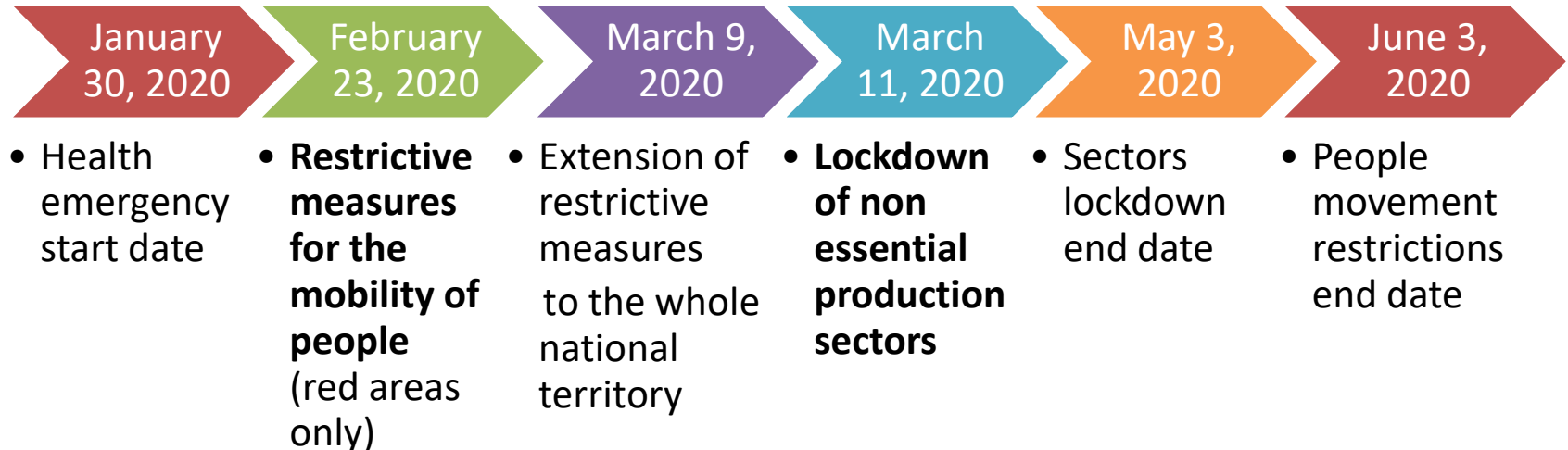
**THE ITALIAN EXPERIENCE IN MANAGING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON
BUSINESS STATISTICS: EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS AND PERSISTENT EFFECTS,
THE USE OF NEW DATA SOURCES**

UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics
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Section 2: Data solutions for business and trade statistics

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The impact of Covid-19 in Italy



The response of ISTAT to Covid-19



✓ **Emergency actions for data collection**



✓ **Strengthening the governance of statistical processes**



✓ **Collection of new business data to better understand the health and socio-economic aspects of Global Pandemic in Italy**



✓ **The role of SBR in generating new and more relevant information for Covid 19**



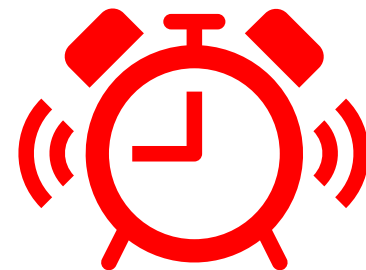
✓ **Exploitation of new data sources**



Emergency actions for data collection

Actions undertaken by ISTAT to mitigate the impact of the global pandemic

- **Postponement of the legal terms** (deadlines) for data transmission for many short-terms **(23)** and structural business surveys **(34)**.
- **Temporary suspension** (April 2020) of data publication for private consumption and business and customers sentiment's surveys due to major failures in external services of data collection
- **Temporary changes in data collection techniques** (5 surveys) from CAPI to CATI
- Technical analysis and **reprogramming of the agricultural, population and public institution censuses** planned for the second part of 2020 in view of the high impact of field operations with CAPI technique



Strengthening the governance of statistical processes

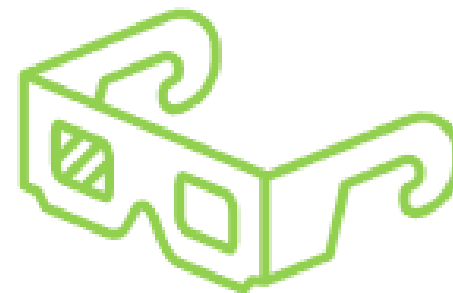
The standard governance of statistical processes was upgraded to better manage the risks of the global pandemic:

- ✓ A Task Force of senior experts on new data sources, data collection and methodology was established to support with technical advice
- ✓ The board of DIPS, DIRM and DGEN Directors, including the President of Istat, has the ultimate decision power on changes in data collection techniques, extension of deadlines for data collection, use of new data sources ...

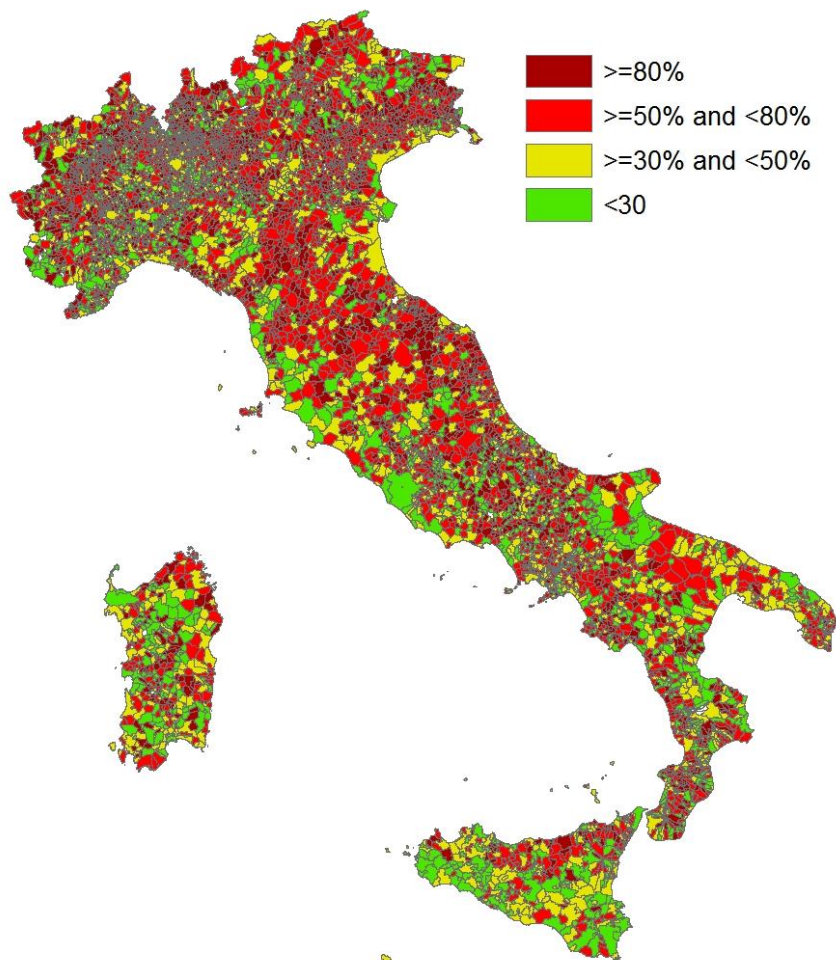


Collection of new business data

- Since the beginning of the global pandemic, the **data gap between what is needed and what is available from official statistics has dramatically increased**
- **A new survey was launched in May 2020 on how companies are reacting to Covid-19** focusing on
 - voluntary or mandatory shutdowns
 - measures adopted secure workers from health risks
 - short terms initiatives to cope with the pandemic
 - Long terms strategies (new businesses, more digital processes, new business models, etc).



The role of SBR in generating new data for Covid-19



Value added of industrial activities under temporary lockdown at the municipality level
(Share in % of the total value added in industry)



The high granularity of data included in the **Extended Statistical Business Register on enterprise' local units** allows to reclassify data on economic activities according to the list of activities under lockdown

Exploitation of new data sources

- The **exploitation of new data sources**, such as big data and new administrative data sources, **was already planned by Istat**. However, the **global pandemic has strongly accelerated the adoption of these new sources in real statistical production**
- A **very interesting business case** is represented by “**Electronic invoicing**”. Data on Electronic invoicing are available in Italy since January 2020 as a consequence of a new fiscal regulation. These **data include on a monthly base both Business to Business and Business to Consumer monetary individual transactions** for the purchase of goods and services between resident economic operators.



Conclusions and lessons learned

- The actions adopted by ISTAT are described in a dedicated section of its website “Istat during the Covid-19 emergency” (English translation is available):
<https://www.istat.it/en/archivio/240106>.
- The **data production framework**, deeply rooted into an integrated systems of basic and extended statistical business registers has proved to be particularly **resilient to the shocks produced by the global pandemic**
- The global Pandemic has also **accelerated the use of new data sources in real statistical production**, however previous in engagement of ISTAT in exploring new data sources has proved to be essential to speed up this process



The SBR at the core of a resilient and innovative data production framework