Supplying evidence based international statistics for decision-making

The undiscovered wealth of international statistics

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**饮用思源** (*yin-shui-ssu-yüan*)

“When you drink water (of the spring), think of its source”.

*Chinese proverb related to “Gratitude”*
Serve international policy needs with comparable national, regional (e.g. G20) and global aggregate statistics

Define concepts and methodology, collect statistics from official national sources, perform quality assurance, produce and release international comparable statistics and aggregates

In some cases may issue statistical legal acts

Data sources originate mainly from national statistical offices or national central banks, depending on the type of statistics

International organisations provide international reporting templates for their respective fields of expertise as guidance for national statistical authorities
Enhancing the use of statistics

Good sustainable decisions

Professional users and citizens

Knowledge-based society

Policy accountability

Analysis & assessment

Statistical and financial literacy

Policy-making

Policy validations

Policy decisions

Policy options

Analysis & assessment

RELIABLE AND INDEPENDENT STATISTICS

“Make an impact” in the decision making process and enrich the public debate

Trust in Statistics
“The low level of trust is unsustainable and will lead to polarisation of the political spectrum, risk of protectionism and social unrest”

Here also statisticians play an important role!

One of many examples: QA12: For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it? (% of trust)
## The added value of international statistics

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<td>1</td>
<td>Supports sustainable and sound international policies</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Assists the acceptance process of international policy decisions and facilitates the implementation process at national level</td>
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<td>Enhances the effectiveness of resource allocation and priorities</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Facilitates the functioning of our societies and markets</td>
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<td>Builds trust in statistics and contributes to positive reputation</td>
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<td>Contributes in being transparent and to accountability for decisions</td>
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<td>Enriches the analytical contribution and enhances the political debate</td>
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<td>Fosters a knowledge-based society</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Enhances statistics literacy</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Increases welfare in society</td>
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The importance of statistics

Generating trust and confidence in statistics

- Our statistics profession should be better communicated
- Equal playing field within the political system – direct reporting at board level and minister of statistics
- Promote statistics methodology and research
What are the practical issues?

**Reporting templates**
- underdeveloped!
- further methodological specifications are needed (e.g. agreements on revisions & seasonal adjustments)
- weak governance

**Comparability**
- missing values
- country statistics are presented using different concepts & definitions
- if any, too many and too long footnotes and endnotes
- little quantitative information of deviations

**Accessibility**
- timeliness of statistics
- overview of availability
- easily presentable
- search and findable
- re-usability
- structure towards user centric

**Institutional**
- exchange format of statistics
- capacity to perform adjustments/estimations & other sources
- statistics production capacity
- statistical resources
What are potential solutions

Reporting templates - International institutions

- need to be significantly more developed
- much closer involvement of national statistical authorities
- strengthened governance
- enhance the metadata for national statistical sources
What are potential solutions

Comparability - International institutions

- perform adjustments and estimations of national statistics
- input from other sources (private and public)
- be transparent in selection of methods and sources
- release breakdowns and timely international statistics
What are potential solutions

Accessibility - International institutions

Who are our three core users and what do they do?

- Which policy users?
- Which journalists/media?
- Which financial analysts/research centres?

- Serving the core professional market segments will amplify the statistical message and reach a significantly broader audience, including the general public.

Strategy

- Facilitate the use of and working process of core users;
- Extract wisdom from statistics; what is the statistical message?
- Guide the users in using quality statistics, simplify!
What are potential solutions

Accessibility - International institutions

✓ Combine *text, statistics, tables and graphs* for easy reuse

✓ Boost the use of *visualisations* and graphics

✓ *Tailor* internet portals for *core professional users* based on *economic concepts and a user centric approach*

✓ *Policy of free (re-) use of all statistics*!
What are potential solutions

Institutional

- Enhance statistical production facility
- Implement and use SDMX data model facility (sharing of data)
- Enhance statistical capacity and resources
- Ownership of aggregates and international statistics
Panel and open discussion

- National reporting templates may be sufficient for national policy purposes but are they aligned for comparing across countries and regions for multilateral surveillance purposes?

Should international organisations always present official national statistics as supplied by national sources in case different concepts and methodologies are applied at national level?

what do we want to compare?
Discussion

Q&A

好友如近亲 - A good friend is the nearest relation

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