The case of INDEC of Argentina
IADB Side event: The political economy of Statistical Capacity

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# Introduction

INDEC was established by a 1968 Law (Head of the NSS)

Until 2007: High professionalism, technical accuracy, active international participation


Several challenges were found, mainly grouped into three categories:

1. Reliability of indicators
2. Loss of leadership over National Statistical System (NSS)
3. Institutional weakness

Quick recovery

Sept 2016: Official statistical service was completely re-established
Nov 2016: IMF removed the Declaration of Censure
Dec 2016: End of statistical emergency
Milestones on statistical capacity building

1968. INDEC was established by Law 17.622

1983. Return of democracy. New strengthening of the NSS

1990. Openness. Development of technical capacity and dissemination

2006. Political interference. Lower statistical capacities

Path of development towards 2020

Five strategic pillars:

- International reinsertion
- Strengthening of statistical infrastructure
- Leadership of the NSS
- Improvement of dissemination policies
- Institutional transformation
Integrated System of social, economic and environmental information, oriented towards demand, with intensive use of the new ICTs and according to international norms
INDEC´s transformation - Factors of political economy

a) Role of policy-makers and individuals actors (advocates)
   i) President
   ii) New management
   iii) Recovered technical staff

b) International reinsertion (i.e. OECD)

c) Argentina’s New Administration based on:
   i) Transparency
   ii) Evidence based public policy

d) Role of the crisis / Public awareness and support
Final lessons from the Argentine case

The more institutionally solid an NSO is, the less the chances of political interference.

Fundamental principles, values and codes of good practice should be disseminated.

Critical importance of the international statistical community.

Awareness of institutional reality to preserve the functions of the NSO.
Thank you

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