We know where they work, but do we know them? Creating a Survey of Public Officials at National Statistical Offices

February 4, 2022 (Friday)
9:00 – 10:00 AM EST (New York Time)

The event is open to all and will be conducted using Zoom. Registration is available at:

https://iadb-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PRQM9X76RNWgkJMBkGFSmiw

Concept note and agenda

The greatest asset of an organization are its people. National Statistical Offices (NSOs) are not the exception, but how much do we really know about their personnel. Timely and high-quality official statistics are an essential input for the design, implementation, and evaluation of public policies in a country. This puts a premium on safeguarding the capacity of NSOs. This capacity in turn is contingent on the competence and integrity of public officials in the NSOs, whose actions can foster or undermine the validity of national statistics.

Against this backdrop, management practices in NSOs which maximize the statistical competence, integrity, work motivation and public sector commitment of public officials in statistics functions are central. Surveys of public officials in NSOs are one key source of evidence to understand (i) how public officials are managed in practice; (ii) how motivated, ethical and competent public officials are; and (iii) which management practices are associated with greater work motivation, statistical competence and statistical integrity.

The session will start with a presentation on the design of a pioneer survey of public officials at NSOs, which will be followed by comments from an expert on the impact of similar surveys in other areas of government, and from the NSO that piloted the instrument. The objective of the session is to learn how the global statistical community can increase its exchanges of best practices and lessons learned to the realm of management practices and competencies of human resources at NSOs. Expanding the perspectives to evaluate statistical capacity.

Moderator: Ximena Clark, former director of the National Statistical Institute of Chile (INE).

Main presentation: Christian Schuster, Professor in Public Management in the School of Public Policy at the University College London (UCL); and José Antonio Mejía, Lead Modernization of the State Specialist at the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB).

Commentators: Jan-Hinrik Meyer-Sahling, Professor of Political Science in the School of Politics & IR, University of Nottingham; and María Esther Cutimbo, at the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI) of Peru.