

**Informal Meeting of the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians
Virtual, 6 November 2023**

Questions on using alternative data sources and data integration for statistical purposes in support of evidence-based policymaking and other user demands.

1. There are several sources of non-survey data for compiling economic statistics, tables, and accounts:
 - Cleared goods at customs
 - Sales of real estate: price, address (Land Registry Office)
 - Turnover tax and payroll taxes (Tax administration)
 - Subsidies received by companies (Ministry of Finance)
 - Income and social benefits for the population (Tax Administration, Social Affairs, Social Security and Assistance agencies)
 - Scanner data: price, sales, quantity, and characteristics of products transacted (Supermarket)
 - Telecom data
 - Satellite images
 - Social media data

Has your organization explored the use of any of these sources (or others) and with what level of success?

2. The use of administrative data for statistical purposes depends on the data culture in the country, including the practice of applying data and statistics in evidence-based policymaking. To what extent has this transformation occurred in your country, and what are some good examples, such as using macroeconomic statistics, SDGs, etc., in policymaking? Can you indicate some recent transformational successes of using administrative data for statistical purposes and policy making?
3. Using administrative data for statistical purposes is not always easy, as these data were not developed for this purpose. What are some of the successful methods your organization has employed to leverage these data successfully, including transforming administrative data for statistical purposes, training counterpart staff in statistical methods, quality standards, and classifications, supporting the digitization of counterpart administrative data, including creating databases, and introducing electronic data sharing and exchange processes?
4. In some cases, access to administrative data requires a contract and/or agreement with the entity that owns the data. This could be a very lengthy and difficult endeavor. Do you have any recent examples of good approaches that your organization has employed to get such agreements/contracts in place that became operational?
5. Data integration is now a key approach to developing statistical information that responds to user needs. What are recent policy applications for which integrated statistics were applied? Bringing together administrative, census and survey data may require consent from the data owner, and it may also raise privacy concerns from the general public. Have you experienced these challenges and do you have some good practices to share?

6. Do you believe that administrative data and alternative data will become the main statistical information sources? Should NSOs still invest in substantive survey programs, and for which purposes, even with a declining response rate and higher cost?