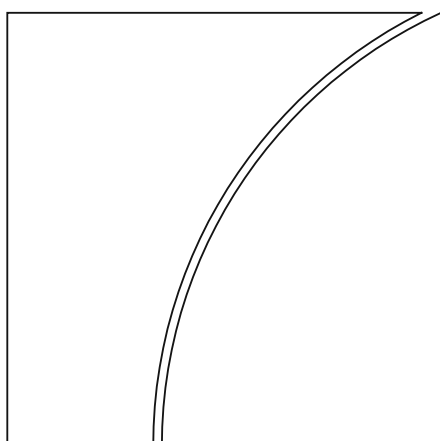


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The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the IFC, its members, the BIS and the institutions represented at the meeting.

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Tunis, Tunisia, 22 November 2019

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Data Governance: issues for the National Statistical System

Irena Krizman and Bruno Tissot¹

Executive summary²

The IFC together with the International Statistical Institute (ISI) organised a High-Level Meeting on Data Governance in Tunisia on 22 November 2019. The event was a key occasion to discuss the issues faced by public institutions in general, and national statistical authorities in particular, **when dealing with, and using, official data**. It also proved to be a useful opportunity to show how statistics can play a decisive role in measuring, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of major international initiatives supporting development. This is particularly the case in respect of United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which requires countries to produce a standardised list of indicators, and the Agenda 2063 for the development of Africa.

A first main message from the meeting is **the need to have an all-encompassing approach to data governance when collecting, managing, disseminating and making use of official statistics**. This should cover all the related principles, policies and procedures, structures, roles and responsibilities.

Another key lesson is the importance of proper data governance frameworks for those organisations composing national statistical systems (NSSs), especially National Statistical Offices (NSOs) – or National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) – and central banks' statistical departments,³ to **reap the full benefits of the ongoing "data revolution"**. Such governance frameworks should cover the entire organisations and be an integral part of their strategic plans.

As regards first **data collection**, traditional statistical surveys and censuses can be usefully complemented with new types of information, eg alternative data sources including administrative records and "the internet of things" (big data) – described by some as the new oil of the 21st century (The Economist (2017)). This can be a great opportunity for those less developed statistical systems, not least considering the high costs associated with setting up and maintaining standard exercises. One risk from this perspective is the hoarding of the vast data resources collected outside the

¹ Respectively, former Vice President of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) and Director General of the National Statistical Office (NSO) of Slovenia (iren.krizman@gmail.com); and Head of Statistics & Research Support, Bank for International Settlements (BIS), and Head of the Secretariat of the Irving Fisher Committee on Central Bank Statistics (IFC) (Bruno.Tissot@bis.org).

² The views expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the African Union Commission (AUC), the BIS, the IFC, the ISI, the National Institute of Statistics of Tunisia or any of those institutions represented at the meeting. We thank Maria do Carmo Moreno and Rafael Schmidt for helpful comments and suggestions.

³ In addition to NSOs (NSIs) and central banks (with the support of relevant international organisations), the NSS can comprise a wider combination of statistical organisations and units within the country that jointly collect, process and disseminate official statistics on behalf of government; for instance, national ministries in charge of specific data collections.

official perimeter of statistics if one fails to incorporate them properly to support the measurement of economic indicators.

Second, there are clear challenges related to NSSs' **management of the evolving data ecosystem**. In particular, what is unclear is how to deal with "organic" information sources, whether private commercial data sets or public registers that were not initially set up for a statistical purpose, and which may not pass the test of time. Sticking to long-established and internationally agreed practices and standards, preserving sufficient "traditional" statistical capacity in the NSS and favouring a complementary use of both traditional and alternative data sources are **central to maintaining well-founded trust in official statistics**.

Third, turning to **data dissemination**, digitalisation techniques allow for easier, almost cost-free access to information for the public. However, the increasing complexity of economic and financial activities in a data-rich world puts a premium on statistical education and financial literacy. In addition, official statistics are essential to provide reference, objective information and in turn support economic development and well-being.

Fourth, there has been a growing interest globally **for the better use of data for policy purposes**, especially when designing, calibrating, assessing and modifying policy actions. But the development of such indicator-based frameworks is facing important obstacles, reflecting existing limitations to effective and seamless data access and the sharing of official statistics (IAG (2017)) – for instance, when trying to make use of information collected from supervisory reports. One way to go is to promote the exchange of experience among institutions and countries in addressing these challenges in an effective and practical way.

Looking forward, well-defined data governance frameworks can be instrumental in supporting official statisticians' task to collect and analyse data of the highest quality possible. However, an **institution-level approach to data governance should be complemented by a broader focus covering the entire production and use of statistics, including alternative sources**. For instance, ensuring the following of adequate Codes of Principles by private data providers, clarifying the responsibilities in the national governance landscape, and establishing proper international guidelines and cooperation mechanisms.

Perhaps more importantly, while **NSS organisations are facing a decline in their traditional function of "data collectors", they have a key role to play as reference custodians of the quality of the data used by society**. Needless to say, establishing sound data governance frameworks can be a central element in supporting this "data curator approach".

"It is essential to consolidate and make sure that agreed figures only are used. The utmost confusion is caused when people argue on different statistical data."

Winston Churchill⁴

1. Introduction

Several international initiatives have underlined the **role of economic and financial statistics in supporting evidence-based policy making** in the recent past. This was particularly the case with the statistical response to the Great Financial Crisis (GFC) of 2007-09 in the context of the Data Gap Initiative endorsed by the G20 to enhance economic and financial stability (FSB and IMF (2009, 2015)). The 2030 UN Agenda for sustainable development (UN (2015))⁵ has also recognised the crucial role that statistics can play to monitor, evaluate and track progresses on economic development. As regards Africa more specifically, the implementation of the development Agenda 2063 has been set up as "a results-based approach with concrete targets that are measurable and can be tracked and monitored" (African Union Commission (2015)). More recently, the Covid-19 pandemic underscored the need for good and reliable statistics on a wider range of topics that are not properly covered by the "traditional" statistical apparatus, especially on environmental topics (eg climate change) and socioeconomic factors (eg inequalities).

A holistic approach to data governance

The renewed interest in the interaction between economic policy and factual evidence highlights the sheer **importance of establishing proper governance when dealing with, and using, official statistics**. Yet this concept of data governance can be unclear, reflecting the proliferation of approaches developed over time across institutions and countries. In some places, data governance may be considered in a narrow way, by focussing essentially on data protection and its associated legislation. Yet the focus could be broader, covering various intertwined topics from data management to data use.

A **holistic approach to data governance** is to consider "everything designed to inform the extent of confidence in data management, data use and the technologies derived from it" (British Academy and The Royal Society (2017)). The frameworks put in place to govern corporate data ecosystems will typically include three layers: strategic, tactical, and deployment (delivery); cf Table 1 in the case of the public sector.

For **NSS institutions, data governance will in practice refer to the various organisational features put in place for dealing with official statistics and cover all the related principles, policies and procedures, structures, roles and**

⁴ *Note to the secretary of the War Cabinet*, 8 November 1940, as quoted by Prévost and Beaud (2012).

⁵ Cf [The SDGS in action website](#).

responsibilities.⁶ The objective is to ensure the “quality” of this information considered as “a strategic institutional asset” (Diokno (2019)).

Table 1: Data governance frameworks in the public sector – the OECD three-layer approach

Layer	Main components	Core elements
Strategic	Leadership - vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Data strategy & policies → Leadership roles → Policy levers
Tactical (coherent implementation)	Capacity for coherent implementation Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Data committees & communities, data stewards → Skills & competences, training & funding → Data innovation, value extraction → Data-related rules & guidelines (data openness, publication, protection & sharing)
Delivery (day-to-day deployment)	Data architecture Data infrastructure Data value cycle (from production to openness & reuse)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Standards, reference data, interoperability, relationships → Data registers, catalogues, lakes, IT solutions → Actors, roles and technical skills (eg data validation, sharing, integration, ownership, integrity)

Source: OECD (2019).

It is certainly the case that there is **no single definition of “data quality”, the safeguarding of which is the main objective pursued by data governance frameworks** (cf Box 1). In practice, one can define quality as referring to the various elements that support the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. “Quality” will therefore be understood as a generic term covering the various characteristics sought for official statistics, ie their accuracy and trustworthiness, integrity and security, and that they are documented and easy to find/access. Yet the approach will also cover the user side, for instance to ensure that the data are fit-for-purpose, that their value is maximised, and that they can be traced, reused, and eventually adequately deleted. Perhaps more importantly, it will also include more ethical aspects, such as preserving public trust in official statistics and ensuring that the information collected is not misused and does not undermine personal privacy, confidentiality or democratic principles.

⁶ Cf for instance in the EU/Eurostat case: “**data governance** entails defining, implementing and monitoring strategies, policies and shared decision-making over the management and use of data assets”; “**data policies** are a set of broad, high level principles which form the guiding framework in which data assets (...) can be managed. More specifically, data policies govern data management, data interoperability and standards, data quality, data protection and information security”; (European Commission (2020b)).

Box 1: Selected international definitions of data quality

There are several international approaches to defining data quality (cf [OECD Glossary of Statistical Terms](#)):

- The **IMF's Data quality assessment framework** (IMF (2012)) includes five dimensions of data quality: integrity; methodological soundness; accuracy and reliability; serviceability; and accessibility. In addition, there are a number of prerequisites for quality, comprising legal and institutional environment; resources; and quality awareness.
- The **European statistics code of practice** (Eurostat (2017)) highlights five main principles supporting the quality of statistical output: relevance; accuracy and reliability; timeliness and punctuality; coherence and comparability; accessibility and clarity.
- The **International Organization for Standardization's ISO 8000** global standard for data quality and enterprise master data refers to quality as the "degree to which a set of inherent characteristics of an object fulfils requirements". Data quality will thus comprise the totality of features and characteristics of a product or service that bear on its ability to satisfy stated or implied needs.
- The **OECD** (2002) approach recognises that quality is viewed as a multi-faceted concept and that the quality characteristics of most importance depend on user perspectives, needs and priorities, which vary across groups of users. Nevertheless, quality can be viewed in terms of seven dimensions: relevance; accuracy; credibility; timeliness; accessibility; interpretability; and coherence.
- The **ECB** definition emphasises relevance, accuracy, reliability, timeliness, consistency, cost-effectiveness, non-excessive burden on reporting agents and statistical confidentiality (ECB (2008)).

In addition, the **UN National Quality Assurance Frameworks Manual for Official Statistics** has been developed to guide countries in the implementation of quality assurance frameworks, including for new data sources, new data providers, and for data and statistics of the SDGs, with the ultimate goal of ensuring trust and quality of official statistics across the entire NSS (UN (2019)).

Progress on data governance appears necessary so that NSSs can reap the full benefits of the ongoing "data revolution". The reason is that to make use of "non-traditional" types of data sources, statisticians need to revisit and preserve trust in the four main steps involved in the information chain, ie the collection, management, dissemination and use of data.

Addressing the four main steps in the information chain

As regards **first data collection, "traditional" statistical surveys and censuses can increasingly be complemented with new information sources**, especially big data and administrative records – the (micro) data revolution (Bean (2016)). This can be a great opportunity for those less developed statistical systems, such as in many African states, not least considering the high costs associated with setting up standard data collections.

Yet there are a **number of governance challenges posed by accessing these new data**, for instance in terms of quality and accuracy, privacy, ownership, and reputation. In particular, one issue of key relevance for public statisticians is how alternative information sources (being private commercial data sets or public registers

that were not initially set up for a statistical purpose) and the data producers located outside of the NSS feature vis-à-vis the Fundamental Principles that have been defined for the perimeter of Official Statistics (UN (2013)). For example, the production of the statistics in a professionally independent way, based on scientific methods and rigorous quality criteria. Indeed, a major point is that, by using alternative data, authorities would be perceived as endorsing the methodologies applied by third parties; hence, any concerns about the quality of these data could damage the credibility of official numbers, as well as of data-driven public policies. This also raises the question of whether and how national statistical legislation and quality assurance frameworks should be revised accordingly (UN (2019)).

Turning to the **second area of data management, the combination of new and more heterogeneous data types and evolving analytical needs requires more, and sometimes different types of resources** (in terms of IT equipment, staff skill mix, budget for acquiring new databases, etc; cf IFC (2020)). This may prove particularly difficult in the least advanced countries, where an important issue is how to build and keep sufficient technical expertise in the NSS. In the light of frequent and acute budget constraints, capacity building can be ensured both by joining forces between relevant national bodies and drawing on all international support available. Another important topic for official statistics is related to the implications of globalisation: national compilers have to access information sources that are not locally available, and this can be difficult given budget constraints, technical considerations, and/or data sharing limitations.⁷

Third, disseminating data also poses clear challenges. On the one hand, new digitalisation techniques allow for easier, almost cost-free access to information, which can be a great opportunity for populations with limited resources, especially in developing countries. On the other hand, the increasing complexity of economic and financial activities puts a premium on statistical education and financial literacy. National financial inclusion policies have been particularly sensitive to this issue, given that measures to facilitate households' and small firms' access to credit and payment services can only be effective if economic agents have a good understanding of the related financial aspects including data (IFC (2018a)). Again, this topic is clearly relevant for a region like Africa, where financial inclusion has been progressing only slowly.

Fourth, there has been **increasing interest globally in using data better for policy purposes, especially when designing, calibrating, assessing and modifying public actions** (Tissot (2017)). Their experience has underlined the importance of having highly granular and flexible data sets. This can facilitate the capturing of distinct, specific dimensions in the data that are relevant for analysing policy actions – in turn supporting ex-ante impact assessment, understanding feedback effects and unintended consequences, and identifying areas of improvement (IFC (2021b)). Yet what is still unclear is how such indicator-based frameworks should be developed so that adequate lessons can be drawn from the actions of public authorities. Moreover, the implications for official statisticians are yet to be fully incorporated, especially as regards the national rules governing data access and data sharing possibilities and associated challenges in terms of data

⁷ Data on derivatives trades reported to trade repositories (TRs) constitute a case in point (IFC (2018b)). Transactions can be reported to TRs in different countries and no single jurisdiction alone can have a complete global overview, making it difficult to assess group-level positions on a consolidated basis.

protection, privacy and confidentiality (Norwegian National Research Ethics Committees (2019)).

The contribution of the central bank statistical community

The above considerations clearly **underscore the importance of revisiting data governance frameworks for organisations in charge of official statistics – a matter particularly high on the agenda of central banks, given their distinctive dual role of being both producers and users of official statistics** (Lane (2021)). A relevant initiative from this perspective was the joint organisation by the IFC and the ISI of a High-Level Meeting on Data Governance in Tunisia on 22 November 2019. This meeting, hosted by the National Institute of Statistics of Tunisia and benefiting from the support of the African Union (AU) Commission, targeted the heads of the statistical function in the NSSs. The aim was to provide a platform for facilitating cooperation between the NSOs and statistics divisions in the central banks in jointly analysing data governance issues and with a specific focus on Africa. Participants from more than 60 organisations, including central banks, NSOs, international organisations, the private sector and academia, convened to discuss innovative strategies that would help improve official statistics in a structural way.

This event proved to be another **important milestone in the IFC's ongoing work on data management – including rapid improvements in technology (the "big data revolution") and issues related to data dissemination, sharing and standards** (eg IFC (2017,20,21a)). Moreover, it provided another occasion to share experiences and highlight existing best practices and potential opportunities, especially to support data-driven policymaking. It was also an opportunity to take stock of the challenges to be addressed as a priority, with a focus on the African perspective. In order to make concrete progress, participants concentrated on the four main topics at the core of data governance frameworks:

- (i) data collection, with the need to complement "traditional" statistical surveys and censuses with "new" data sources (Section 2);
- (ii) data management, as the combination of new data types and evolving analytical needs requires more, and sometimes different types of processes and resources (Section 3);
- (iii) data dissemination, with a focus on the public usability of the data produced and the associated ethical aspects (Section 4); and
- (iv) the use of data for policy purposes, especially when designing, calibrating, assessing and modifying policy actions (Section 5).

These governance issues also highlight the need to reflect on the evolving role of the NSS looking forward (Section 6).

2. Collecting data and dealing with new information sources

The impact of the data revolution

Big data is playing an increasingly important role in official statistics and this was particularly evident when the Covid-19 pandemic struck in 2020. Data producers

were confronted with sudden and acute data disruptions and had to develop new methodologies to address compilation challenges (De Beer and Tissot (2020)). This “wake-up call” reinforced the ongoing push for using alternative indicators to add up to the “traditional” offering of the NSS (Biancotti et al (2021)). Indeed, the opportunities provided by connecting different statistical sources are not new. In Uganda, the accuracy of poverty estimates (primarily derived from the NSO’s household surveys) has been enhanced by linking to other types of data derived from an international programme measuring health conditions.⁸ Turning to the United Kingdom, the population census has gradually evolved in recent years to make a greater use of administrative data sets. The aim has been to produce results that are more up to date, more continuous and granular, and more relevant to address the needs of users (and potential users). These needs are becoming more complex, more detailed, and less stable over time.

This trend is clearly gaining momentum. In Thailand, for instance, the central bank has played an active role in trying to reap the benefits of the “data revolution” by setting up an adequate data acquisition process. This has been done by:

- (i) seeking all the new data sources available in the country (eg internal, regulatory, administrative, collaborative and “next generation” sources);
- (ii) developing new types of data science and analytical methods, not least to avoid a situation where the institution is “drowning in data, but starving for knowledge”; and
- (iii) designing appropriate data management rules and processes, especially to deal with data quality, security and privacy, as well as auditing and monitoring tasks.

Similarly, in Tunisia, the **central bank has launched a fundamental upgrade of its statistical system so as to incorporate data and technology innovation**. The goal was to integrate a variety of internal and external sources (based on clear data exchange agreements), manage them according to high-level principles (eg confidentiality, transparency), and produce reliable data in compliance with international standards (eg the IMF Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)). The concrete implementation relied on a business intelligence (BI)-based statistical information system. This system had a unique data and metadata repository, automatic collection and validation processes ensuring data quality, and the offering of an “hybrid” BI architecture for data management tools (with both a centralised data warehouse for “standard” production processes and data lab facilities for more complex analytics). It also had easy data access (by internal senior management as well as external stakeholders).

Substituting or complementing official statistics?

One question is **whether new data sources being contemplated will simply replace traditional statistical exercises**, eg those surveys or censuses that are complicated and/or time consuming and that can be particularly difficult to organise in poor economies and/or remote areas. For instance, smartphone location data can

⁸ Namely the demographic and health surveys (compiled in the context of the international programme implemented by ICF International for developing countries), which do not collect data on household income or expenditure but do record several household characteristics that are likely to be related to standards of living (Development Initiatives (2020)).

now help to monitor geographic commuting patterns or consumer habits; in the past, getting such information required detailed questionnaires, filled in by only a limited sample of households and at infrequent points in time. Experience in Rwanda also shows that existing records such as satellite images and price scanner data can replace expensive surveys for compiling, respectively, agricultural and price statistics.

However, **it would be a step too far to declare that traditional statistical exercises have become irrelevant**, as they are likely to continue to be in demand despite the development of the “internet of things”. First, there are still lingering uncertainties as regards the robustness and accuracy of alternative data, their associated underlying methodologies, and data quality assurance processes to be set up (eg to control for potential bias or population under coverage; Tissot (2019)). In view of this uncertainty, official surveys/censuses represent irreplaceable benchmarks against which to judge whether new big data sources are exact (“precision”), correct (“accuracy”) and representative of the situation analysed (“veracity”). Such elements should be carefully assessed before adopting any alternative indicators to compile official statistics – cf the difficulties faced by Google in setting up advanced indicators of the spread of influenza a few years ago.⁹

Moreover, **one can be concerned about the future availability of sources that would be selected as an alternative to official statistical exercises**. The risk is that the statistical infrastructure would depend on public or private organisations whose primary objective is not data collection (House of Commons Science and Technology Committee (2012)). This could lead to sudden compilation changes and breaks in series; it could also constrain the ability to study new or unexpected phenomena as times goes on.

Furthermore, **sticking to long-established and internationally-agreed practices and standards can be essential in maintaining well-founded trust in official statistics**; for instance, as regards private data protection and professional secrecy and independence. In contrast, external sources can be characterised by insufficient documentation and transparency, potential conflicts of interest (at least in the perception of the general public) and the absence of ethical standards that would provide a degree of confidence comparable to the one provided by the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (Box 2).

The first implication of the above is **the need to preserve sufficient “traditional” statistical capacity in the NSS** – including sampling methodology, ability to set up questionnaires, training for staff like census/survey enumerators. This can be an important issue in developing countries, where NSSs with high workload may have insufficient time and resources to explore alternative sources without compromising the core of their mandate, ie the compilation of “conventional” official statistics.

⁹ The Google Flu Trends indicator initially intended to provide estimates of influenza activity based on Google Search queries. It was discontinued in the mid-2010s, reflecting the difficulty of identifying stable patterns in the data (Lazer et al (2014)).

Box 2: From the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics to private sector quality assurance processes

Fundamental principles govern the production of appropriate and reliable official statistics that have to adhere to certain professional and scientific standards. A number of private firms involved in the production of alternative sources have also adopted dedicated and transparent mission statements and principles pursuing similar objectives. Yet these various initiatives are still fragmented and the official statistical community may play a role in fostering their development in a more comprehensive way. **The main goal should be to set up a framework allowing the usability of (non-official) private data sources for national statisticians in supporting public policy.** This Box summarises key ethical considerations related to the statistical profession, documents some recent private initiatives and lists a number of key issues when dealing with alternative data sources.

1. Key elements of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics:

The 10 Principles of Official Statistics adopted in 1994¹⁰ were specifically targeted to support the role of high-quality official statistics in analysis and policy decisions. They stress the **essential importance of public confidence and call for effective fundamental values to govern statistical work (UN (2013))**. **The following are the key objectives** (summarised excerpts):

1. Being the indispensable element of the information system of a democratic society, by compiling and making available statistics of practical utility.
2. Retaining trust in official statistics / following strict professional considerations.
3. Facilitating a correct interpretation of the data.
4. Commenting on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics.
5. Drawing data on all types of sources.
6. Preserving strict confidentiality of data about individuals and ensuring data is used exclusively for statistical purposes.
7. Making public the laws and rules under which the NSS operates.
8. Ensuring coordination among statistical agencies.
9. Using international concepts / classifications / methods.
10. Promoting international statistical cooperation.

A number of regional initiatives have been developed to promote adherence to these principles, for instance the European Statistical System (ESS) adopts 15 principles set out in the European statistics code of practice to cover three main statistical areas (ie institutional environment, statistical processes, and statistical output) and complemented by an official Quality Declaration (Eurostat (2017)).

2. Professional values shared by statisticians

In 2010 the ISI adopted a declaration on professional ethics (ISI (2010)). Its principles are comparable to the UN principles but with the **aim of covering the wide range of the statistical profession working within a variety of economic, cultural, legal and political settings**. It notes that the definition of who is a statistician goes well beyond those with formal degrees in the field to include a wide array of creators and users of statistical data and tools.

The declaration consists of a statement of three shared **professional values (ie respect, professionalism, and truthfulness and integrity)** and the following set of **12 ethical principles** derived from these values:

- Pursuing objectivity
- Clarifying obligations and roles
- Assessing alternatives impartially

- Conflicting interests (to be avoided)
- Avoiding pre-empted outcomes
- Guarding privileged information
- Exhibiting professional competence
- Maintaining confidence in statistics
- Exposing and reviewing methods and findings
- Communicating ethical principles
- Bearing responsibility for the integrity of the discipline
- Protecting the interests of subjects

3. Examples of recent private sector initiatives

Commercial data providers have been also working **on providing transparent information on their data offerings**, following the example of Google that has developed public “[FAQ about Google Trends data](#)”. Most of the principles put forward by the industry focus on particular aspects of data governance. For instance, public communication by Apple – which produces mobility trends derived from smartphone location data¹¹ – emphasises that privacy is a fundamental human right and one of the core values of the firm. Yet, while such disclosure practices are welcome, private data producers do not generally refer to a set of universally accepted principles governing data management and that would be comparable to the established ones for official statistics. Indeed, there have been a number of calls among statisticians for this gap to be filled.¹²

Certainly, a number of private data providers have already taken steps to **establish “principles” that govern their activities with the objective of ensuring trust in the data they provide**.¹³ For instance, and as regards data privacy specifically, four key privacy principles have been set up by Apple (Apple (2021)):

- data minimisation: collecting only the minimum amount of data required;
- user transparency and control: making sure that users know what data is shared and how it is used, and that they can exercise control over it;
- on-device processing: processing data on the device, wherever possible, rather than sending it to the firm’s servers, to protect user privacy and minimise data collection;
- security: hardware and software working together to keep data secure.

Another example is the US online real estate company Zillow, whose data are now being used by the Board of Governors of the US Federal Reserve System for official statistical purposes (see Hume McIntosh (2021)). Zillow’s [Research Mission Statement and related Principles](#) states that its research “aims to be the most open, authoritative source for timely

¹⁰ These Principles were initially developed by the Conference of European Statisticians in 1991, when countries in Central Europe began to change from centrally planned economies to market-oriented democracies, to ensure that NSSs in such countries would be able to produce appropriate and reliable data that adhered to certain professional and scientific standards. As statisticians in other parts of the world soon realised that the principles were of much wider, global significance, the very same set of principles were adopted in 1994 by the UN Statistical Commission as the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. The principles were then formally endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 2013. They have been also complemented by comprehensive guidance on implementing quality assurance frameworks (UN (2019)).

¹¹ See covid19.apple.com/mobility for information on the Apple Mobility Trends Reports; and www.apple.com/uk/privacy/ for the firm’s commitments on privacy.

¹² See the call by Nuti et al (2014) for “a discussion and collaboration between Google Inc. and the research community [...] to create a set of best practices to ensure that the [Google Trends] tool is being used responsibly”.

¹³ As regards financial institutions, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision has developed principles to ensure that a strong governance framework, risk data architecture and IT infrastructure are in place (BCBS (2013)).

and accurate housing data and unbiased insight. Our goal is to empower consumers, industry professionals, policymakers and researchers to better understand the housing market". The related research principles comprise:

- the provision of unbiased data and analysis in a transparent way including, whenever possible, by making code and underlying data available so work can be replicated independently and clearly explaining methodology;
- being independent from the firm's business goals, and not being a revenue centre;
- being open about how data sources and data quality impact research, and transparent about potential issues with data used;
- benchmarking findings against outside data sets whenever possible to ensure accuracy and appropriate context; and
- respecting the integrity of data and using it honestly, and never manipulating data to create a desired result; being data- and fact-driven.

4. Towards a set of self-commitments for providers of alternative data?

One way to go would be for commercial data providers to simply state publicly that they adhere – for the relevant part of their activities – to already existing principles such as the fundamental ones governing official statistics or the ISI Principles, and to document how this is being organised in practice. Another solution would be **to adopt a set of recommendations that would be specific for the private data industry**. For instance, a key objective should be that the data involved are unbiased and produced with high professional standards and in a transparent way (eg with adequate metadata information). Another would be to ensure that the provision of this kind of information is made independent of the data providers' business goals. A third aspect is to favour benchmarking exercises, especially against other (non-alternative) data, to ensure accuracy and appropriate context. A final point would be to certify that the integrity and confidentiality of the data are respected and that the information is used honestly.

NSSs and international organisations could play a role in developing such a "principle-based" approach and support good data governance. A key point is to build on the comparative advantage of high-quality official statistics when the necessary proof of quality may be lacking for other data sources (Eurostat (2016)). Policy makers have indeed already underlined the importance of this topic to address the challenges associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. In particular, the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors have stressed that, "harnessing the wealth of data produced by digitalisation, while ensuring compliance with legal frameworks on data protection and privacy, will be critical to better inform our decisions". They invited the main international financial organisations to reflect on a possible new Data Gaps Initiative that could address these issues (G20 Italian Presidency (2021b)). Such public/private cooperation could be guided by a set of high-level principles covering three main groups, ie all the parties involved, NSS members, and private data providers (cf Table 2).

In conclusion, by highlighting the urgent need for new statistics to support a move towards sustainable development, the Covid-19 crisis has shown that official statistics could play a new, essential role to enhance the public statistical infrastructure (SJIAOS (2020)). **Key to this is creating new forms of cooperation with other data players located outside the NSS**, possibly by: (i) setting up an adequate "Code of Practice"; (ii) providing appropriate labels/quality certificates based on the know-how/reputation of NSS bodies; (iii) and/or providing data management support services (eg IT tools and methodology advice).¹⁴

¹⁴ In a way that could be similar to the role played by the official statistical international community in providing a range of free, open source and commercial software tools to support the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) standard, as listed on the [SDMX website](#).

Table 2: High-level principles for public private partnerships supporting better official statistics

For all the parties involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose and time limitation • Proportionality • Controlled flexibility • Data anonymisation / privacy-preserving techniques • Application of professional standards • Transparency • Fair / ethical data use • Risk mitigation / safeguards • Timeliness • Accountability
For official statistical agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall responsibility / accountability on process & output • Overall responsibility on methodological standard-setting • Safeguard individual & business interests • Collect only once
For private data providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data & metadata availability • Technical accessibility • Cooperation on formats and standards • Mitigation of limitations • International comparability

Source: G20 Italian Presidency (2021a).

A second consequence is to **favour a complementary use of both traditional and alternative data sources**. The Covid-19 pandemic underlined the importance of the financial big data chest built since the GFC (eg large micro databases) as well as of the “internet of things” to support policies at a time of high uncertainty (Lane (2021)). Indeed, alternative data can be exploited to improve the modelling of existing surveys, reduce their costs/frequency, provide more up-to-date estimates, or act as statistical buffer in times of disruption / high uncertainty (INSEE (2020)).¹⁵

Coordination between data providers

Achieving such complementarity **puts a premium on fostering coordination between members of the NSS and non-traditional data providers**, especially to clarify the sources involved and the underlying methodologies. In Ghana, for instance, this helped to provide confidence in the robustness of private telephony records, in turn enhancing the official estimates of quarterly GDP.

In practice, good **coordination often requires a formalised framework undersigned by the respective parties**. A key point is to have clear agreements/partnerships to ensure that the NSS can leverage big data by accessing all the best sources possible in a transparent way. This must be done while ensuring confidentiality protection, safeguarding the legitimate interests of the data owners

¹⁵ For concrete applications, see the specific page set up by the German Federal Statistical Office (Destatis) to display “Corona statistics”, including experimental indicators such as the “truck toll mileage index”.

and avoiding the perception that the data may have been altered because of organisational deficiencies and/or business considerations.

Such a framework would be **essential to reassure official statisticians willing to control the quality of the new data sets incorporated**.¹⁶ It is particularly important for those countries where the NSS is not entitled by law to have access to other national data providers, or when the legal arsenal at their disposal is not well adapted to the peculiarities posed by new big data sources (especially when this information is not stored within domestic borders). For instance, “community-based data-sharing agreements” have been developed as part of the OECD project on enhancing safe and ethical access to data, with “data trusts” being set up as legal structures to provide independent stewardship of data (OECD (2019)). Further, such partnerships can cover additional aspects including the compilation of “new” indicators, the technologies involved and dissemination channels (UNECE (2018)). The experience of Kenya is that this approach can successfully help to exploit untapped data sources and integrate them in the production of official statistics, in turn reducing their collection burden and enhancing their accuracy.

Yet the experience of Rwanda shows that even when the NSI is empowered with a sound legal basis to access private databases, **practical considerations also matter when ensuring effectiveness**. Formal partnerships may not be sufficient, and good coordination at the working level is required to ensure that data produced outside the NSS are correctly integrated into the national statistical framework. The reason is that official statisticians need to have a good understanding of the new and evolving data universe, access relevant documentation (“metadata”) and conduct research work before going to the production stage of new indicators. This puts a premium on having a constant dialogue with external data producers, which can be challenging in practice. Such a dialogue is reported to be easier with public institutions compiling administrative data sets compared to private big data firms, suggesting that government staff may be better placed to understand the challenges faced by official statisticians and their specific requirements.

3. Managing data: facing new capacity requirements

Data governance as a way to structure data work

The official statistical system is facing an avalanche of data that can be difficult to manage properly. On the supply side, rapid IT innovation means that databases are becoming larger, easier to access (eg “open data”) and also more numerous and heterogeneous – cf the expansion of non-structured data. This calls for more capacities to store, preserve, link, transform and analyse the data. It also requires setting up adequate and standardised procedures for combining all the information together (eg taxonomy-based data dictionaries, catalogues, registries, transformation

¹⁶ See the example of Statistics Netherlands which launched the Center for Big Data Statistics in 2016 to develop (in close collaboration with knowledge institutions and market players) experimental statistics or “beta products”; important attention is put on examining the stability of the data sources, validating methods and assessing operational requirements.

rules and cross-sector interoperability standards).¹⁷ On the demand side, the potential usefulness (or “value”) of the new information has gone up especially for policymaking. For instance, real time statistics can help understand complex changes to the economy faster and improve how policy decisions can be made. Moreover, data is an asset that must be adequately safeguarded and controlled, to ensure that it remains safe, reliable and appropriately used, and also to protect confidentiality, privacy and intellectual property (eg prevention of data leaks and compliance with legal frameworks).¹⁸

These evolutions are clearly **putting pressure on NSSs’ IT and budget resources as well as on staff skills**. In the case of Senegal, for instance, the implication of the information revolution is not just that more indicators have to be produced by the NSI: for the data to be useful, they need to be transformed and exploited. Moreover, there are specific issues posed by the integration of alternative sources. These include issues related to data documentation (or “metadata”, to have reassurance on the quality and fitness for purpose of these data), calibration (to ensure that the new indicators compiled provide an accurate view of the underlying reality) and curation (to ensure the adequate organisation and integration of data collected from various sources, including the ones collected by other data communities). In addition, the processing and analytical tools at disposal are subject to rapid innovation, while new data usages are constantly emerging. Furthermore, official statistical bodies have to deal with the specific responsibilities entailed in accessing new, potentially sensitive data, especially in terms of transparency and public accountability.

A data governance framework can alleviate these challenges as it can help to better understand these various issues and address them effectively. In Portugal, for instance, the central bank has launched an integrated data management programme to make better use of the information available in the whole organisation and rationalise the various processes involved in its collection. More concrete objectives are to combine multiple data sets, promote data sharing, allow for both regular data exploration and (irregular) experimental analysis, and maximise the usefulness of the data for internal and non-internal (research community) users. The implementation of this programme included two main aspects:

- the definition of a governance model with clear differentiation of responsibilities between the different types of staff involved in data management; and
- the development of a logical data architecture encompassing the data (comprising all potential sources and “core” master data), storage facilities (with a data lake for all raw data and a corporate data warehouse repository), and data exploration tools (with both data lab facilities based on data science techniques and BI-based tools supporting corporate production tasks).

¹⁷ Cf Witt and Blaschke (2019) for the importance of these elements supporting the Data Intelligence Service Centre (DISC) platform set up at the ECB.

¹⁸ See for instance the ECB communication on commitment to data protection, which is a fundamental right enshrined in the European Union (EU) by various legal texts. These include the Charter of Fundamental Rights, the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU and the data protection rules set out in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). These apply to any organisation established in the EU, as well as to organisations based outside the EU that intentionally offer goods or services to the EU, or that monitor the behaviour of individuals within the EU.

Implementation

A **key feature of a sustainable data governance framework should be comprehensiveness in covering the entire institution** so that it can become more data-driven. The objective is to make the best use of the data available, enable their access, sharing and integration, and increase overall efficiency and accountability (OECD (2019)). In the BIS case, the developed framework includes a wide range of data policies, standards and guidelines that can support extracting value from all of the data assets in the institution. Its set up comprised the design of a general data processing architecture (with the structural role played by the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) information model (IFC (2016))), the clarification of the business cases across various units, the development of appropriate IT solutions, and the integrated implementation of related software and hardware components. Comprehensiveness was ensured by defining clear data governance principles, setting up data stewards mandates, and clarifying the main technology underpinnings (cf Box 3).

Because of their broad scope, **data governance frameworks are often considered as an essential part of the organisations' strategic plans**. In the case of the BIS, for instance, it is a key building block supporting its overall Innovation 2025 strategy, ensuring its robustness and comprehensiveness. It can also speed up its secure implementation by acting as a potential "car break", allowing the pursuit of multiple ambitious objectives in parallel – eg improved user services, novel data-driven capabilities, (operational and cyber) resilience and business agility.

The **European Commission** has also developed a fully fledged "European strategy for data", based on four pillars:

- a cross-sectoral governance framework for data access and use, based on a set of high-level guiding principles;
- enablers (investments in data and strengthening Europe's capabilities and infrastructures for hosting, processing and using data, interoperability);
- competences (empowering individuals, investing in skills and in SMEs); and
- common European data spaces in strategic sectors and domains of public interest (see European Commission (2020a).

Turning to the **IMF**, its overarching strategy on data and statistics focusses on three "I"s: Integration, to connect the various data provision work streams; Innovation, to take advantage of big data; and Intelligence, to leverage artificial intelligence (AI) to analyse data and statistics (IMF (2018)). Moreover, two governing bodies have been created: the Standing Committee on Data and Statistics to shepherd the implementation of the data strategy; and the Data Governance Group develops and monitors the implementation of good management policies, practices and guidelines.

Box 3: Data governance framework supporting BIS statistical processes

The data governance framework supporting the architecture developed for BIS statistical processes in the context of the Bank's Innovation 2025 programme relies on three key components: high level data governance principles; selected key IT underpinnings; and dedicated staff resources (eg data stewards).

1. High-level data governance principles

- Data is an asset
- Data has an owner
- Data that has shared value should be shared
- Data is accessible
- Data quality is actively managed
- Data is described with a common vocabulary and data dictionaries
- Data security is actively managed
- Interoperability: software and hardware should conform to defined standards that promote interoperability for data, applications, and technology (to ensure consistency and improve the ability to manage and design systems, the protection of existing IT investments and user satisfaction).

2. Key IT underpinnings

- Interactive Data Exchange and Analytics (IDEA): consolidated platform architecture supporting the statistical data lake / factory / lab
- SDMX-based information model, with two key aspects:
 - (i) Content-Oriented Guidelines (COG) as recommended practices for creating interoperable data and metadata sets using the SDMX technical standards in all statistical domains.
 - (ii) A focus on harmonising specific concepts and terminology that are common to a large number of statistical domains; such harmonisation supports a more efficient exchange of comparable data and metadata.
- Data catalogue
- BI tools (dashboards)
- BIS data portal and dissemination toolsets

3. Leading role of dedicated data stewards in:

- Promoting data governance principles
- Developing / maintaining data catalogue
- Managing metadata
- Promoting awareness of data sets
- Selecting and implementing IT tools

The various experiences above show that success will often depend on a few “best practices”, including high-level commitment in the organisation, a transparent inventory of all data assets,¹⁹ the design of controls to ensure that agreed procedures are followed and staff resources specialised in data management tasks. In

¹⁹ With the structural role of establishing **proper data catalogues** to support this inventory; cf Zaidi and De Simoni (2019).

particular, there is a need to differentiate clearly between responsibilities, for instance with the following split:²⁰

- system owners: in charge of using specific information systems;
- data owners: responsible for information sets in the data warehouse;
- data custodians: responsible for the safe custody, transport, storage of the data;
- data stewards: their role is to ensure the quality of the data assets stored, in line with the governance processes established by the organisation; as “day-to-day” contact points between business areas and the information management programme, they often play a key role in the success of data governance frameworks;
- data experts: specialised in specific business contents; and
- data users (cf Sections 4 & 5).

It is also important that the **various stakeholders are closely associated, both within the organisation and outside** (other data producers, business communities, cybersecurity experts, etc). Yet the major change is often cultural, by promoting organisational changes and developing effective partnerships between business and technology areas. In other words, data governance is not exclusively a technical issue confined to IT departments, as it applies to all of the organisational structures of an institution. This calls in particular for establishing strong data coordination groups.

The benefits of cooperation

In practice, the establishment of a fully-fledged data governance framework may be hindered by the important resources to be mobilised – an issue of clear importance in view of the budget constraints faced by many NSSs. **One way to go is cooperation.** Setting up formal associations of statisticians as well as more informal forums can be a good first step to share experiences and spread innovative practices – in turn avoiding the so called “NIH (not invented here) syndrome” when different institutions seek to address problems in parallel. This can be particularly useful in developing regions like Africa, where statistical capacity is limited: (big) data skills can be scarce, and local talents may be attracted by more lucrative positions in other countries. Addressing these challenges requires considering a wide range of issues, ie not just training for internal staff, but also the available infrastructure in terms of budget, IT equipment and project management tools, as well as development opportunities (both from an academic and managerial perspectives).²¹

Cooperation can take place at various levels to support capacity building, as documented by the [AU Commission](#). First and foremost, it can be organised within

²⁰ This list is just indicative and the exact repartition of these interdependent roles will in practice depend on the specific organisation of the corporate data governance framework; see for instance the leading role played by data owners, stewards and users in the case of the European Commission / Eurostat (European Commission (2020b)). In addition, organisations may wish to establish a single function of chief data officer responsible for enterprise-wide governance and the utilisation of information as an asset, and/or dedicated governing bodies eg data sharing / access committees.

²¹ Cf UNECE’s work on the various aspects related to human resources, organisational frameworks and cultural change at the very core of the modernisation of official statistics.

the NSS, with a leading role to be played by the NSO and the central bank as key compilers of official statistics; this can be facilitated by establishing proper legal frameworks, effective statistical planning and strong coordination mechanisms. Second, cross-country cooperation can help to publicise “best practices” or “success stories”. For instance, the NSI of Rwanda has decided to set up a Data Science Campus to investigate the use of alternative sources and promote new generation data technologies, leveraging the experience of the UK Office of National Statistics (ONS).²² Third, NSS capacity challenges can be addressed through the support of international organisations. As an example, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century, or PARIS21, has developed a comprehensive approach to implement and monitor capacity development to strengthen national statistical governance. Statistical planning has already significantly improved with the development of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics, though limited funding remains a challenge.

4. Disseminating data: How to make everyone benefit from the data revolution

Official statistics as reference information

A major feature of official statistics relates to their contribution to the public good, underlining the importance of adequately disseminating them to the general public. Indeed, one can argue that “communicating evidence effectively is as important as the quantity and quality of evidence itself” (CSQ (2019)).

A first aspect is that official statistics should provide a reference and an objective basis for answering questions posed by society. This means presenting evidence-based facts effectively so that they can be understood, accepted and used without question, as argued by the former Head of the UK ONS John Pullinger in UNECE (2018). Data compilers should not only communicate in a clear and understandable way but also present a comprehensive picture of the analytics provided, including the degree of uncertainty associated with the data and techniques used. It also puts a premium on developing statistical literacy in the population, and on ensuring that the public understands what official statisticians are doing and is comfortable with that. These issues have clearly gained prominence with the emergence of big data and “black box evidence”, reflecting the difficulties of communicating on the basis of complex and automatised analytical tools relying on AI (Wibisono et al (2019)). Lastly, it may require NSS bodies to challenge misrepresentations or bad use of numbers put forward by private producers in the public debate.

There is evidence that the role of the NSS in **providing reference information can be instrumental in supporting economic development**. Indeed, the conduct of IMF multilateral surveillance exercises requires cross-country comparable data, and past financial crises have underlined the importance of providing better and transparent information to markets (Fischer (2002)). One example is the research

²² See the ONS Data Science Campus initiative that aims to develop data science projects and capacity building in partnerships with academics, industry and government departments at www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/whatwedo/datasciencecampus.

conducted by the Deutsche Bundesbank that shows that information asymmetry problems between investors and project owners, a key obstacle to FDI expansion in poor countries, can be relieved by the dissemination of accurate and trusted data. The importance of reference statistics is also one key driving force of the push made in recent years to improving countries' statistical production in line with the IMF data dissemination standards.²³ Indeed, Choi and Hashimoto (2017) estimate that such data transparency efforts can significantly reduce the spreads of emerging market sovereign bonds.

Communicating statistics

A comprehensive governance framework can help to strengthen the reference role of official statistics. For instance, the German NSO has developed a communication strategy to ensure that the data produced are understandable and explicable as well as relevant and easily accessible. This strategy relies on key data governance elements, such as:

- strong official statistics "brand" especially in terms of quality and trust;
- improved data access: eg user friendliness, search engines, demand-driven content, and link management tools;
- focus on meeting users' needs, by moving away from a culture of users retrieving information to delivering data to targeted groups;
- dialogue with external stakeholders: users' forum, newsrooms, social media, feedback surveys; and
- improved data comprehensibility: eg visualisation, literacy, comprehensiveness.

Another successful experience is the open source approach adopted by the Statistics Department of the African Development Group as part of its capacity-building program. The increasing demand for official indicators is addressed by a unified statistical portal (the "Africa Information Highway"²⁴) based on live open data platforms electronically linking all African countries. This approach has been particularly effective to support the monitoring of the SDGs in Africa. As part of its new strategy on data and statistics, the IMF is also working to establish "global data commons", ie an integrated cloud-based network of country websites publishing data essential for surveillance (IMF (2018)).

Yet, **in practice communicating statistics also requires paying concrete attention to the specific groups of users involved:** the data compiled are of little use for them if they do not meet their expectations. NSSs' bodies should thus clearly identify and understand users' information needs before deciding on new dissemination projects as well on respective priorities. In turn, the receivers of statistical information should be able to digest it properly. This calls for helping them

²³ See dsbb.imf.org/. The IMF dissemination standards comprise, amongst others, the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS), established in 1996 to guide countries that have, or that might seek, access to international capital markets in the dissemination of economic and financial data to the public; and the enhanced General Data Dissemination System (e-GDDS), established in 2015 to guide countries in data dissemination by supporting transparency and helping to create strong synergies between data dissemination and surveillance – with a particular focus on developing countries in Africa and statistical capacity development.

²⁴ See dataportal.opendataforafrica.org/.

to understand, access and make use of the data through adequate visualisation and dissemination tools (eg infographics, dashboards and other BI tools; cf IFC (2019b)). To this end, purely quantitative information needs to be transformed to be knowledge accessible for non-statisticians, by providing visualisations, narratives or “stories”, and short “key facts” pages (Drozdova (2017)).

Attention has focussed on specific groups of users of statistics, in particular academic researchers (and also policy makers, cf Section 5 below). To make further progress in this area, a number of central banks, NSOs and international organisations have joined forces in the context of the International Network for Exchanging Experience on Statistical Handling of Granular Data (INEXDA) (IFC (2019a)). The network’s ultimate aim is to help others use granular data for analytical, policy and research purposes. Yet one difficulty in practice is to balance the utility of making information more accessible and the risks involved in terms of confidentiality (eg risk of identification or data leak). One successful example is the Research Data Center and Innovation Lab unit set up by the Bank of Italy to promote the dissemination of microdata and address these challenges. Since all the data cannot easily be anonymised, different processes have been developed depending on the type of information considered. For instance, by producing so-called Public Use Files (PUFs) consisting of micro-level records prepared in such a way that individual entities cannot be identified; this allows working on micro data sets but at the price of a loss in information value. Other solutions include the set-up of remote restricted access facilities or the provision of on-site access for selected researchers.²⁵

5. Increasing the use of data for policy purposes

A specific aspect of data dissemination relates to policy makers, who have proved to be increasingly important consumers of official statistics. Data governance frameworks should facilitate the provision of good quality, trustworthy and relevant evidence, and ensure that this evidence is correctly used at the right time. This in turn leads to better decisions by supporting the design, calibration, assessment and modifications to public actions. These tasks can be facilitated by the ongoing data revolution, with the increased availability of new data sources and statistical tools, including predictive analytics such as propensity score matching techniques²⁶ that can support the assessment of policy effectiveness. Yet three fundamental issues arise. First, what are the key elements to focus on when supporting policy makers in making use of data? Second, what are the implications for the NSS in interacting with public authorities? An third, how can countries learn from each other, since most public policies are undertaken at the domestic level?

As regards the first issue, **the starting point is to provide information that is relevant to policymakers.** An important requirement is to have real-time data as much as possible. Timeliness can be enhanced through better coordination among the various stakeholders involved, such as the official data community, media hubs,

²⁵ For the examples related to Eurostat’s dissemination of microdata, see ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cros/content/public-use-files-eurostat-microdata-0_en; for the various possibilities set up at Statistics Canada to access micro data, see www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/microdata.

²⁶ Allowing for a probabilistic comparison of two groups of similar characteristics, with only one of them subject to the policy intervention.

etc. It can also be improved by streamlining data management processes, for instance, with a greater use of alternative, high-frequency indicators as a complement to conventional statistics. Another point is to translate policy requests into information needs, eg in terms of types of data and potential sources. This means that users should not be asked which data they want, but rather what their analytical needs are. This calls for a close interaction between official statisticians and public authorities, while still preserving independence that is key for ensuring public trust.

A second issue is how NSS organisations should manage their communications with policy-makers. Obviously, official statisticians are best placed for selecting and transforming raw data to produce high quality information. But they should also put themselves in the position of the users and focus on “what are the data sources that can answer that question?” instead of saying “here’s a survey, what can it tell you about the world?” – to quote the former UK NSO Head (CSQ (2019)). Moreover, data experts should not just produce statistics that reflect the reality, but also present these indicators in an easy and attractive way. To this end, NSSs are developing in-house capacity, for instance by setting up dedicated communication units, investing in writing analytical reports and preparing simple statistical outputs that can be easier for use. A last communication aspect is to ensure that authorities are also well equipped to understand the data at stake. Indeed, one important paradox is that despite the increased push for conducting data-driven policies, many decisions continue to be taken without due consideration of statistical basics. To this end, the AU-related regional statistical training centres have emphasised the need to define capacity programmes dedicated not only to producers of statistics, but also to users including public servants.²⁷

The last issue is **how to promote the exchange of experience among countries** since communication with policy makers is mostly organised at the country level and often reflects national idiosyncrasies. One suggestion is to provide more international platforms to provide successful examples of best practices that may not be widely known. For instance, by promoting the dialogue between users and producers of statistics. This can be done by organising “wiki-type based” sharing exercises showcasing successes, setting up adequate user surveys, and outlining the public value of official statistics (UNECE (2018)). Another initiative has been to communicate about statistical “champions”. For instance, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data has engaged a number of such champions to support the SDG data initiative and provides a platform for them to report on progress. One of these champions is Ghana, where the NSI is working across ministries, departments and agencies to improve the way administrative data is collected and connected to other sources so that disaggregated statistics can be derived for SDG monitoring (Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (2019a)).

²⁷ For instance, the Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre has been releasing [a series of courses](#) devoted to narrowing the gap with policy makers in the fields of the production and application of statistical information for public concern, covering, in particular, data management issues.

6. Looking forward: data governance and the evolving role of the National Statistical System

The international statistical community has established a number of principles to ensure that the production of official statistics relies on strong ethical considerations. In particular, one of the **key objectives enshrined in international codes for public statisticians is to collect and analyse data of the “highest quality possible”**, with due respect for privacy and confidentiality, as emphasised by Stephen Penneck, ISI President-Elect.

A well-defined data governance framework can clarify how this “data quality” can be ensured at the level of individual institutions participating in the NSS. It would, in particular, clarify what “high level principles” are followed to secure confidence in data and public trust.²⁸ It would also document that adequate methods are applied to preserve confidentiality, clarify data ownership and responsibilities, provide a frame to balance the benefits against the risks posed by using confidential information, and help to promote debates on these issues in the profession and publicly.

Such an institution-level approach to data governance should be complemented by a broader, NSS-wide scheme focussing on the protection and dissemination of the key features of official statistics. This is important to:

- (i) ensure a coherent approach of the various bodies participating in the NSS that have to work in close cooperation, for instance in the context of the System of the National Accounts (European Commission et al (2009)); and
- (ii) deal with the new stakeholders brought by the data revolution, especially those data providers sitting outside the NSS, since public statisticians have to gain legal access rights or negotiate agreements with them; obtain data in an identifiable and secure way; and ensure that this information is used for well-defined statistical purposes, respects personal privacy, and is based on appropriate consent.

In view of this need for a holistic framework, **there is a case for clarifying responsibilities related to the evolution of the national data governance landscape as a whole** (British Academy and The Royal Society (2017)). In the United Kingdom, a dedicated and independent advisory body (the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation) has been set up to steward the country’s data governance framework and, in particular, connect policymakers, industry, civil society and the public to develop the right governance regime for data-driven technologies. This initiative has been complemented by the set-up of a National Statistician’s Data Ethics Advisory Committee²⁹ to provide transparent and timely ethical advice to official statisticians

²⁸ According to the UK British Academy and The Royal Society (2017) the “overarching principle is that systems of data governance should promote human flourishing”. It is complemented by four high-level principles which are to: (i) protect individual and collective rights and interests; (ii) ensure that trade-offs affected by data management and data use are made transparently, accountably and inclusively; (iii) seek out good practices and learn from success and failure; and (iv) enhance existing democratic governance.

²⁹ See uksa.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/the-authority-board/committees/national-statisticians-advisory-committees-and-panels/national-statisticians-data-ethics-advisory-committee/.

more specifically. The goal is to ensure that access, use and sharing of public data for research and statistical purposes is ethical and conducted for the public good. This body also reviews the appropriateness of the various projects and policy proposals for using novel alternative data. Turning to Norway, the groups of Norwegian National Research Ethics Committees (2020) have worked on identifying ethical challenges associated with big data tools and sources, especially as regards the issues of human dignity, responsibility, transparency, dissemination, uncertainty, privacy, fair data access and data quality.

At the international level, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data has established an Ethics and Integrity Framework to ensure the application of ethical considerations in carrying out the work of the global network of data communities. This network is working together to ensure that the new opportunities of the data revolution are used to achieve the SDGs (The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (2019b)). In addition, a data charter has been set up that emphasises key data governance principles, such as the need to cover all the population, the promotion of data for public use, the need for data granularity and for drawing from all available sources, the accountability of data collectors, and human and technical capacity requirements.

NSS organisations and in particular NSOs and central banks are playing a driving role in these developments to reinforce the value of official statistics at national, regional and global levels. **This suggests a fundamental evolution in their mission, given that their traditional function of “data collectors” is diminishing** (at least in relative terms) with the growing ability of alternative sources. As highlighted by Irena Krizman, former ISI Vice President and Head of the NSO of Slovenia, official statisticians have to adapt to a range of new challenges. These include competencies (impact of IT innovation, understanding of new big data sources and tools), legal frameworks (to get access to data but also coordinate the compilation of statistics and ensure quality assurance including for data collected from outside the NSS), and political support (to secure public commitments and the provision of adequate resources).

NSS bodies therefore have a key role to play as reference custodians of the quality of the data used by society. In other words, they need to become “data curators”, by developing the use of (external) secondary data, providing managerial, methodological and technical standards and guidance, and ensuring trust in all the stakeholders involved in statistical compilation. One view is that they should get an expanded mandate to provide assurance on the quality of statistics derived from big data sources. In the absence of internationally accepted standards, a related certification process could, for instance, be established when designing national quality assurance frameworks. Whatever the specific institutional arrangements considered, the main objective should be to strengthen the national statistical infrastructure by enhancing the relationship between the NSS and external data compilers. Needless to say, establishing **sound data governance frameworks would be an essential element in developing this “data curator approach”**.

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IFC High Level Meeting on Data Governance, co-organised with the International Statistical Institute
22 November 2019, Tunis, Tunisia

Collecting data: new information sources¹

Somsajee Siksamat,
Bank of Thailand

¹ This presentation was prepared for the meeting. The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the BIS, the IFC or the central banks and other institutions represented at the meeting.



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BANK OF THAILAND

Session 1 : Collecting data New Information Sources

Dr. Somsajee Siksamat
Senior Director

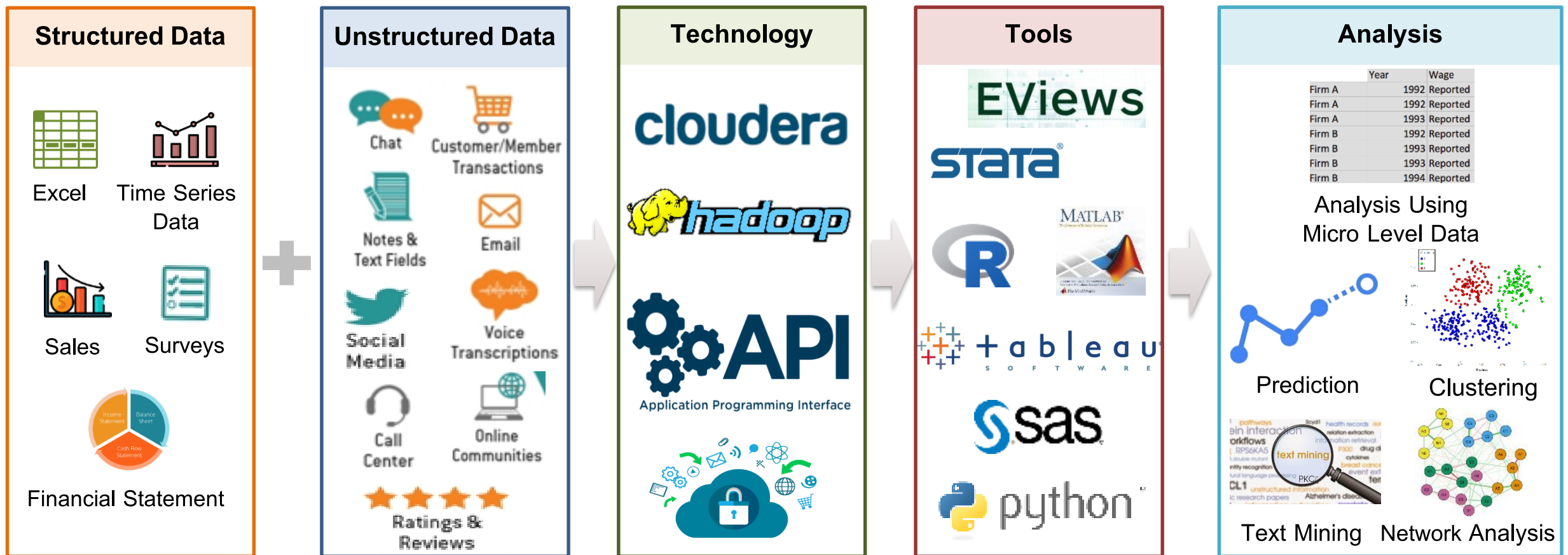
Data Management Department, Bank of Thailand

22 Nov 2019



1. Data Revolution and Implications

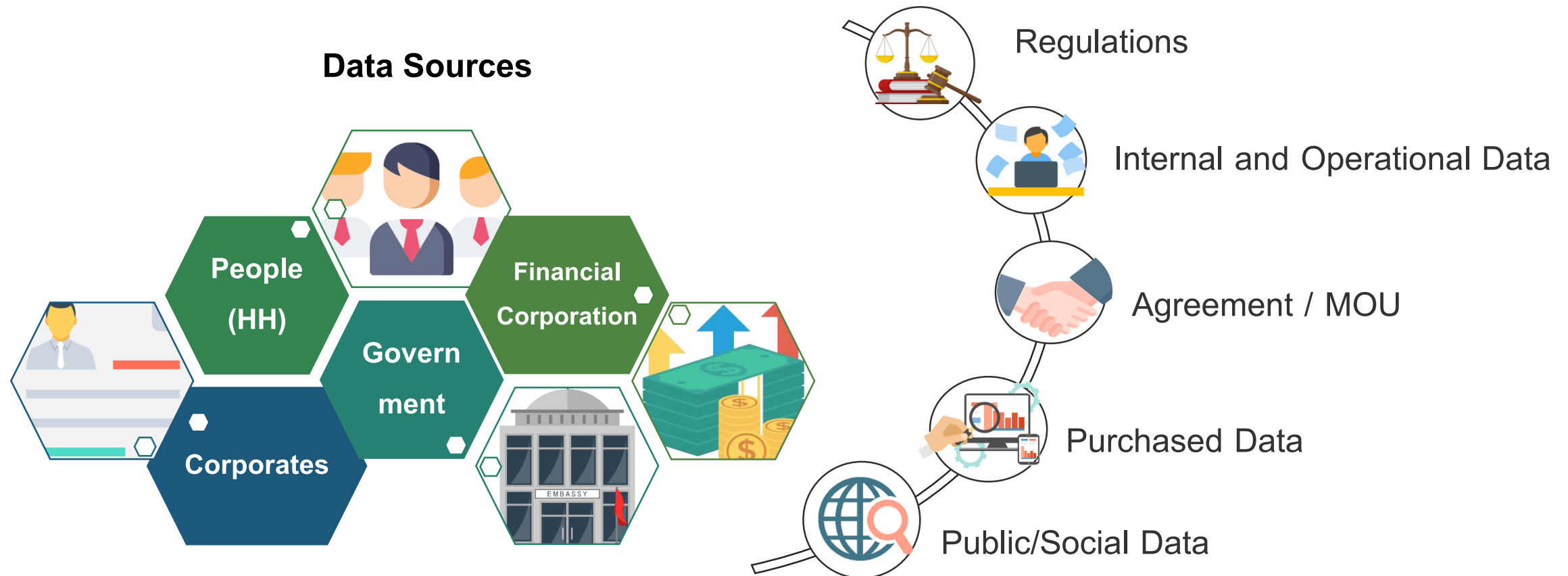
Data is one of the strategic asset and can make large benefits to an organization.
Right acquisition process and right data are crucial steps to reap the benefits of the data evolutions
for achieving sustainable growth, stability and development.





2. Response to the Data Revolution: Data Acquisition (1)

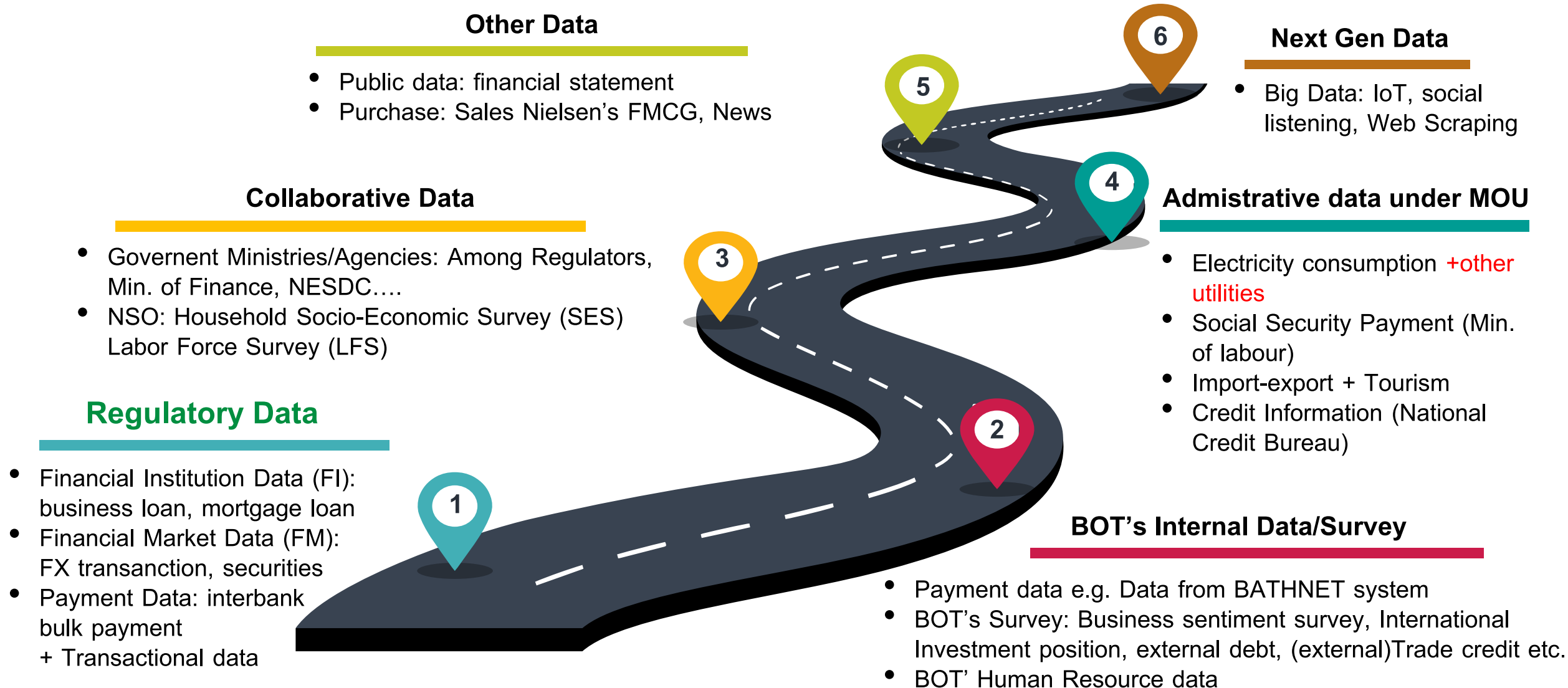
Seeking to acquire new sources and new types of (micro /unconventional) data and analytic methods, under the good “Data Governance”, we need to understand the new business model and policy objectives.





2. Response to the Data Revolution:

Big data: from macro towards micro data and from conventional to unconventional data (2)





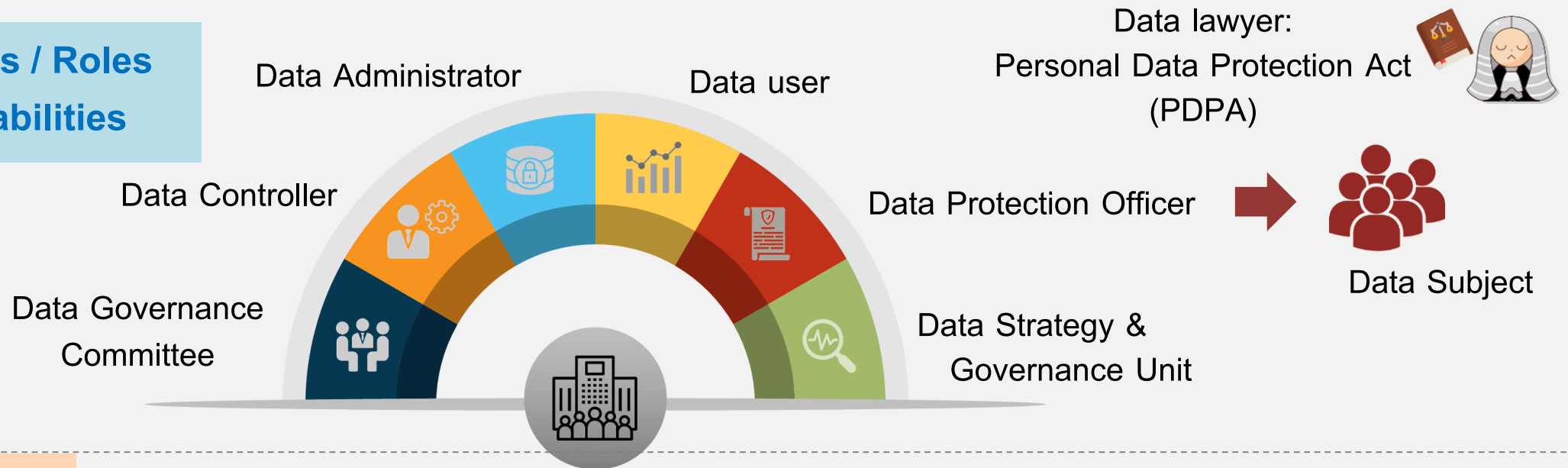
2. Response to the Data Revolution:

Data Governance leading to appropriate and lawful data management (3)

Coverage

- All data and information (electronics and non-electronic format)
- Employees and related persons

Involved parties / Roles and Accountabilities



Data Management (thru Information Life Cycle)



Data Quality

Data Security and Privacy

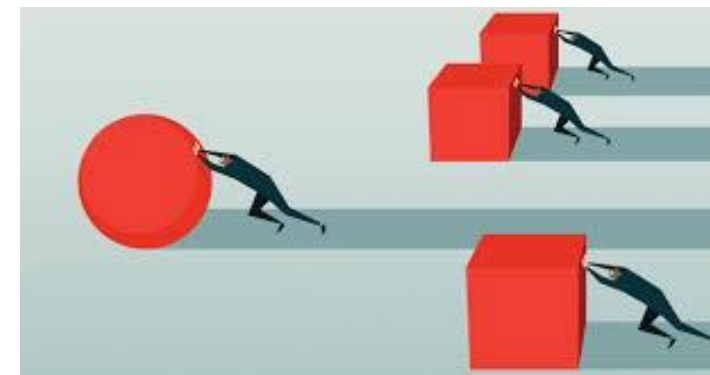
Auditing and Monitoring

Data Leak Prevention (DLP)



3. Challenges in Data Revolution (Collections and Uses)

- 1 Change in business model related to economic and financial transformation: ➔ New economy
 - Demand for and Supply of data: Content analysis, what needed, what data do we have or need more
 - Data cost rationalization
 - Data literacy
- 2 Data quality assurance / trade-off in Big data
 - Accuracy, Accessibility, Comprehensiveness, Consistency, Currency, Definition, Granularity, Precision, Relevancy and Timeliness
 - Regulatory vs. Statistical data, Small amount vs. Large amount
- 3 Legal binding: Data Protection / security and privacy plus stakeholder engagement
- 4 Data flooding / Drowning: Manage and Use of data issues
 - People: skills and awareness
 - Process: Management system and Governance conduct
 - Technologies: Tools and Platform
- 5 Data sharing/Data inclusion: Open central bank data and Linked data
 - Scope and details / To whom / Benefits / Access Channel
 - Data standard and Masking (encryption)
- 6 Leverage (Big) data for improved decision-making : aware of the difference between correlation and causation, a potentially dangerous pitfall for decision-making





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BANK OF THAILAND



Thank you

Somsachs@bot.or.th

IFC High Level Meeting on Data Governance, co-organised with the International Statistical Institute
22 November 2019, Tunis, Tunisia

Current statistical system and future developing projects¹

Hela Zghal,
Central Bank of Tunisia

¹ This presentation was prepared for the meeting. The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the BIS, the IFC or the central banks and other institutions represented at the meeting.



Banque Centrale de Tunisie



CENTRAL BANK OF TUNISIA CURRENT STATISTICAL SYSTEM AND FUTURE DEVELOPING PROJECTS

Department of Statistics

Irving Fisher Committee on
Central Bank Statistics



22/11/2019

Central bank of Tunisia

Legal background

Laws n° 2016-35, laying down the statute of CBT and n° 99-32, regulating the national system of statistics

• Mission

Compiling statistics on money, credit, balance of payments and international investment position

• Requirements

- Respect the duty of **confidentiality**
- Ensure **transparency** in compiling statistics
- Develop statistical data in compliance with **international standards**
- Ensure data **reliability**
- And, **disseminate** statistical data and metadata periodically.

Economic, monetary and financial data governance

- Data sources

Banking sector, administrative data and customized surveys.

- Compilation methodology

BoP and IIP manual, external debt statistics guide and monetary and financial statistics manual.

- Projections

Econometric models in forecasting economic and financial indicators for decision-making and research purposes.

- Dissemination

On CBT website and via various publications.

Strategic developing projects

3-year strategic plan 2019-2021

- Transition to the 6th edition of the IMF's BoP and IIP manual.
- Adopting monetary and financial statistics latest methodology.
- Enhancing CBT website with more dynamic, ergonomic and modern features and redesigning the SDDS data delivery platform based on the SDMX standard.
- Concluding data exchange agreements with the National Institute of Statistics, and other public agencies in charge of collecting or producing statistical data.

Implementing a **business intelligence** system

3-year strategic plan 2019-2021

- **Flexible, up-to-date** and secure statistical **information system**.
- **Unique repository** for the bank statistical data and metadata.
- **Automatic collection** and **validation** processes for internal and external data, and developing tools for maintaining **data quality**.
- Data management : **data warehouse, analysis** and **simulation** tools.

Implementing a **business intelligence** system (Ctd)

3-year strategic plan 2019-2021

- **Hybrid** business intelligence architecture
 - Data warehouse
 - Data lab
- Data science **innovations**, developing cutting-edge econometrics and statistics modeling based on :
 - Big-data analytics
 - Artificial intelligence
 - Machine learning



THANK YOU!

IFC High Level Meeting on Data Governance, co-organised with the International Statistical Institute

22 November 2019, Tunis, Tunisia

New information sources: coordination of NSS & data producers outside the NSS¹

Zachary Mwangi,

NSO Kenya

¹ This presentation was prepared for the meeting. The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the BIS, the IFC or the central banks and other institutions represented at the meeting.

New information sources:

Coordination of NSS & Data Producers outside the NSS

Presented

During the High Level Meeting on Data Governance

Tunis: 22nd November, 2019

By

Zachary Mwangi

DIRECTOR GENERAL, KNBS

Outline

- Introduction
- What Opportunities Exist?
- Challenges
- Action Points

Introduction

The evolving data ecosystem is here with us today and challenges the role of official statistics.

In order to deliver requisite data for Agenda 2030, continental, regional and national initiatives, its not lost on us of the need to expand and modernize statistical development.

Whereas NSOs are custodians of data quality as guided by existing standards and frameworks, not limited to FPOS and SHaSA, this may not be at the centre of statistical processes for the wider NSS and non NSS data producers

What Opportunities Exist?

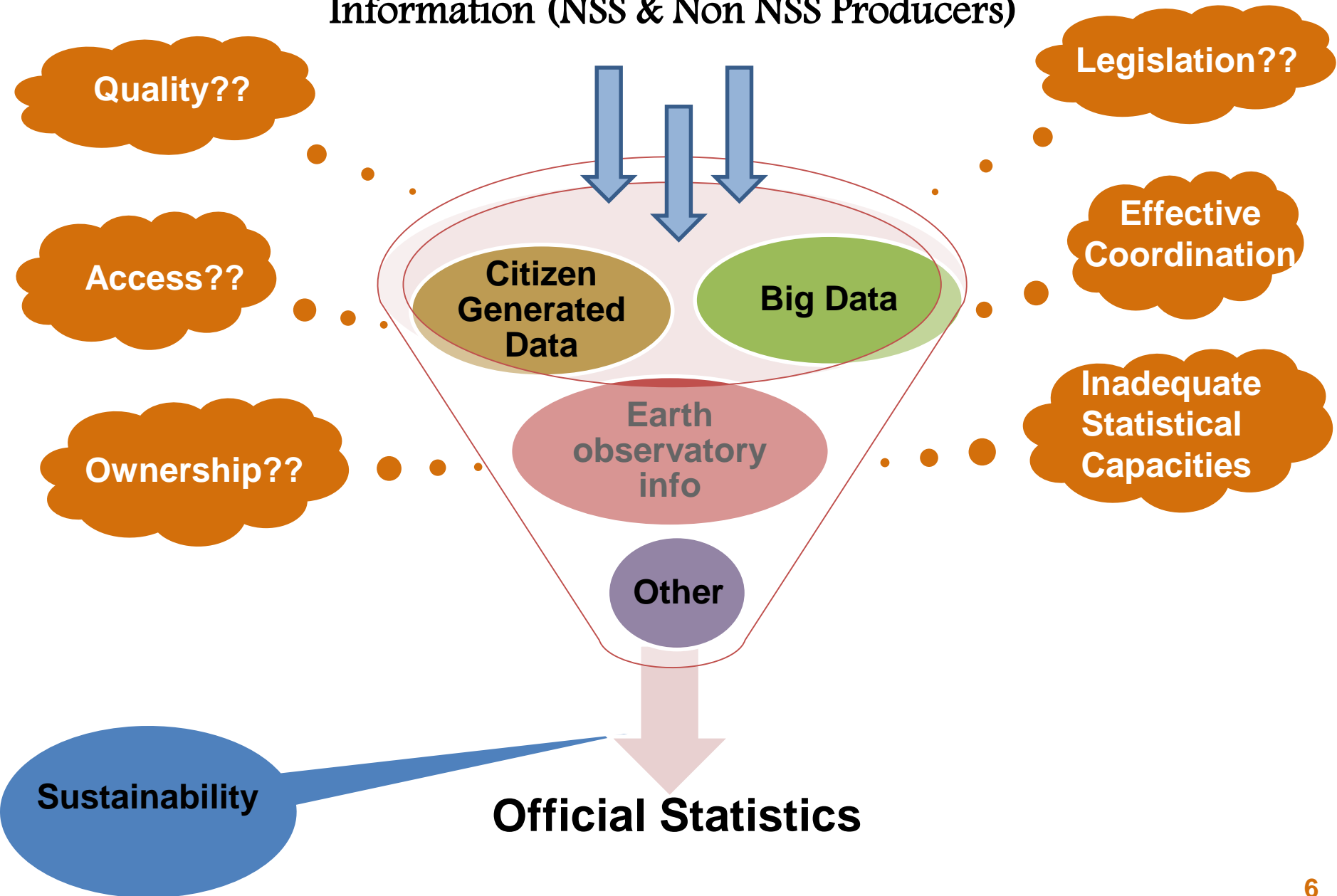
- (i) Alternative data sources:* embrace & exploit the changing landscape by using new/other data sources that are cost effective in the long run
- (ii) Remaining relevant:* as custodians of good data governance with a possible diminished role as producer of statistics

What Opportunities Exist?

- iii) Expanded mandate of NSOs/NSAs:* provide assurance on quality of statistics derived from these sources, and where possible designate/certify statistics produced as ‘Official’
- (iv) Partnerships/Collaborations:*
- Important for implementation of Agenda 2030, particularly with regard to data disaggregation and frequency.
 - Enhanced capacity building

Challenges

Information (NSS & Non NSS Producers)



Action Points

- Explore increasingly using new, administrative and other data sources in the production of official statistics
- Strengthening legislation on coordination of NSS and designation of statistics as official
- Establishment of National Quality Assurance Framework (NQAF)
- Within the framework of NSDS, establish/strengthen sector statistics working committees
- Enhancing statistical capacities for production of official statistics

Q & A

END

THANK YOU

IFC High Level Meeting on Data Governance, co-organised with the International Statistical Institute
22 November 2019, Tunis, Tunisia

Collecting data: configuring / defining the national statistical system (NSS)¹

Yusuf Murangwa,
NSO Rwanda

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13TH Session of the Committee of Director-Generals

CoDGs of the National Statistics Offices

High Level Meeting on Data Governance

Tunis, 22 November 2019

Collecting Data: New Information Sources

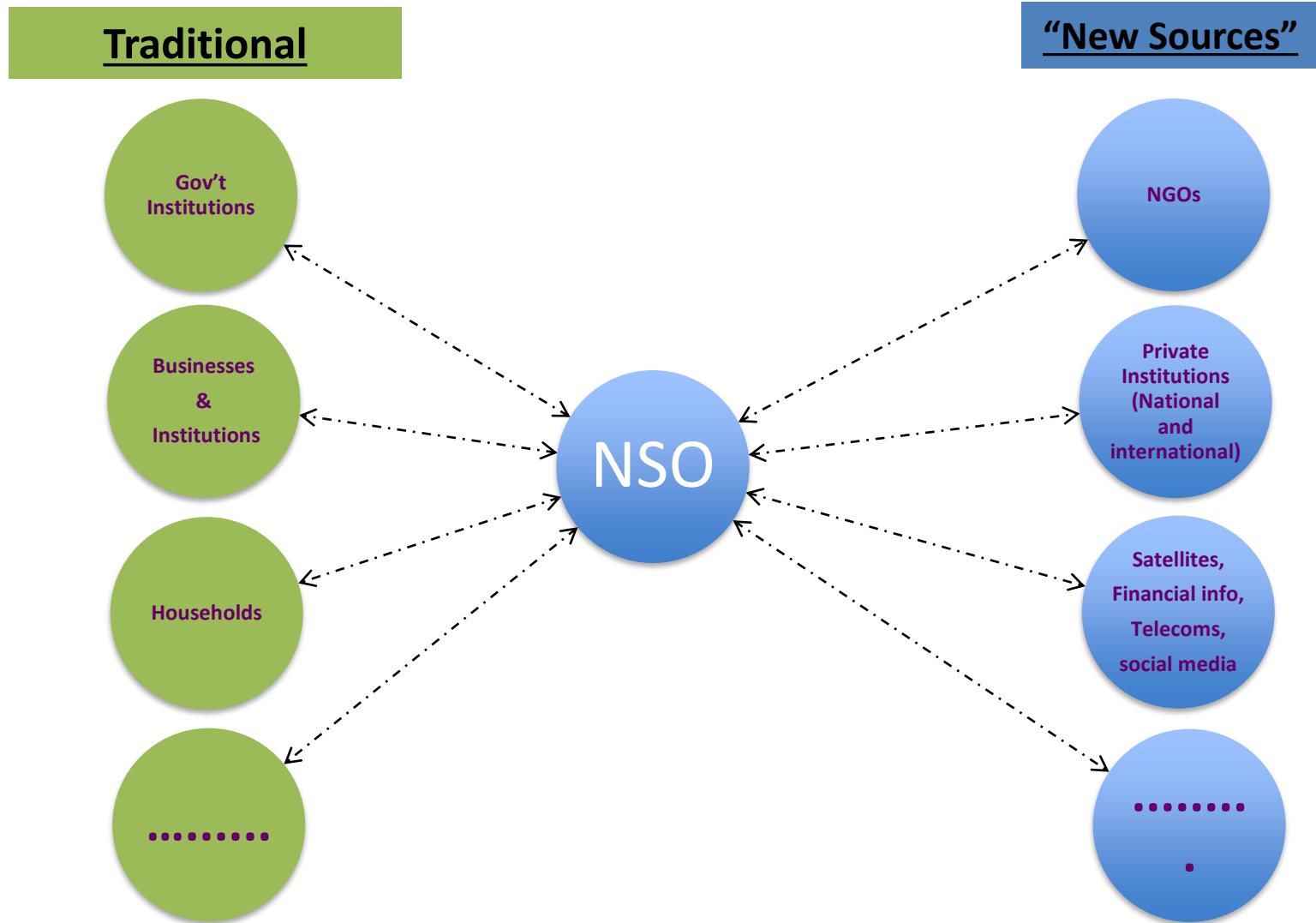
November 2019

Outlines

- Collecting Data
- Legal Dimension
- Practical Dimension
- Key considerations (methodology)

Collecting Data: Configuring/Defining the NSS

Are? Can? “New Data sources” (be) part of the NSS



Legal Dimension:

A good statistics law should empower the NSS and its coordinator (NSO) to access data for official statistics from the best sources possible (Traditional or New Source)

- Ensure confidentiality
- Safe guard legitimate interests
- Guarantee no conflict of interest issues

Practical Dimension:

Caution: Laws will not address all pertinent issues

- Emphasise partnerships
- Minimise collection burden
- Provide reasonable facilitation (only if necessary) otherwise rely on corporate responsibility.

Practical examples:

1. Telecom call and data log information in estimating telecommunication activity replacing financial reports in National Accounts
2. Telecom positioning signals estimating tourism and transport activity replacing migration and other data
3. Satellite images for agriculture sector, environment, water, forestry...replacing expensive surveys...
4. Price scanner data for price statistics replacing expensive price surveys
5.

Key consideration:

Before adopting any source for official statistics, the data and the underlying methodology should be reasonably robust. It should also be generalizable in measuring the phenomenon.



Thank You
Merci Beaucoup

IFC High Level Meeting on Data Governance, co-organised with the International Statistical Institute
22 November 2019, Tunis, Tunisia

For a data revolution mastered¹

Babacar Ndir,
NSO Senegal

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High Level Meeting on Data Governance

POUR UNE RÉVOLUTION DES DONNÉES MAÎTRISÉE

(((((((((((((((())))))))))))))

Tunis, 22 Novembre 2019

CONTENTS

1. Un monde « dataifié »
2. Une sécheresse de données
3. Mobiliser la révolution des données
4. Pour une révolution des données maîtrisée

UN MONDE OÙ TOUT CE QUI N'EST PAS MESURÉ N'EXISTE PAS

- L'Agenda 2030 confère aux données un rôle primordiale pour conduire les Etats à accomplir de réels progrès au bénéfice de leurs sociétés
- L'Agenda 2030 est un programme d'action basé sur les données
- Les ODD, de par leur nature, visent ainsi à faire de nos Etats, des « Data-driven States » pour faciliter la réalisation des Objectifs mondiaux, tout en ne laissant personne de côté.

UNE SÈCHERESSE DE DONNÉES

- Absence de données suffisantes pour le suivi des ODD
- Faiblesse de la capacité statistique des pays en développement :
 - Faible appropriation des normes et standards internationaux de production de données statistiques
 - Production irrégulière de la plupart des données statistiques qui existent
 - Granularité insuffisante des données
 - Accessibilité à temps des données difficile
- Faiblesse des cadres juridiques
 - Absence de l'importance scientifique et démocratique d'une statistique publique fiable et indépendante
- Inadéquation des ressources financières

MOBILISER LA RÉVOLUTION DES DONNÉES

➤ Responsabiliser d'avantage nos gouvernements

- Offre aux INS à produire une information plus diversifiée, intégrée, opportune et fiable pour une meilleure prise de décision et à une redevabilité régulière
- Améliore la transparence des politiques publiques et l'engagement en temps réel des citoyens

➤ Une opportunité qui n'est pas sans risques pour les INS

- les données statistiques usuelles produites par les INS relèvent de processus actif et pensé de collecte issue d'observations, de questionnaires. Un travail encadré par des normes ou règlements internationaux et soumis, dans certains cas, à des procédures de revue par les pairs pour garantir à la fois la qualité et l'indépendance de la production statistique
- Dans l'ère du big data, les données sont principalement « émises » de façon passive et collectées à des fins différentes. Leur utilisation n'est pas si simple et toujours judicieuse (questions méthodologiques et éthiques).

POUR UNE RÉVOLUTION DES DONNÉES MAÎTRISÉE

➤ Plus de gouvernance des données

- Le cadre juridique à partir duquel sont élaborés les mécanismes de leadership et de coordination, et qui définit les conditions entourant la collecte de données à des fins statistiques
- La protection des valeurs fondamentales. Trois valeurs fondamentales caractérisent au moins tout SSN : la crédibilité, la pertinence et la pérennité
- Un leadership et une coordination de perfectionnement

➤ Amélioration de la maturité et des compétences

- Développer les formations destinées aux leaderships et aux staffs des INS,
- Intégrer aux formations de statisticiens existantes l'enseignement de nouvelles compétences en matière de données et de résolution de problèmes, et créer des programmes d'apprentissage et des stages de reconversion

MERCI POUR VOTRE ATTENTION

Babacar NDIR, DG ANSD
Babacar.ndir@ansd.sn

RÉPUBLIQUE DU SENEGAL

Agence nationale de la Statistique et de la Démographie (ANSD)

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IFC High Level Meeting on Data Governance, co-organised with the International Statistical Institute
22 November 2019, Tunis, Tunisia

Data Governance: an orchestra of people, processes and technology¹

Maria do Carmo Moreno,
Central Bank of Portugal

¹ This presentation was prepared for the meeting. The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the BIS, the IFC or the central banks and other institutions represented at the meeting.



Data Governance: an orchestra of people, processes and technology

ISI / IFC High Level Meeting on Data Governance

Tunis, 22 November 2019

Maria do Carmo Moreno

Data Integration and Sharing Unit | Statistics Department

**THE NEW DATA
LANDSCAPE OF THE
POST-CRISIS HAS
PERMEATED
CENTRAL BANKS IN
MANY WAYS**

- Information is a major asset
- NCBs deal with massive amounts of data and a large share of these data is managed by Statistics Departments
- Projects involving microdata and big data are more frequent
- Integrated reporting schemes addressing multiple purposes within the central bank are already in place and will continue to be developed
- New data architectures are being implemented to address the need to:
 - Combine data** from multiple datasets
 - Promote **data-sharing** throughout the institution
 - Allow the **regular** data exploration and also **experimental** analysis
 - Increase the **usefulness** of the data available not only to the internal users but also, e.g., to the research community
- However, data integration is still a challenge:
 - Data integration requires more than a technical evolution: there is the need for a **cultural change** in the organization which has to be supported by a strong **governance model**.

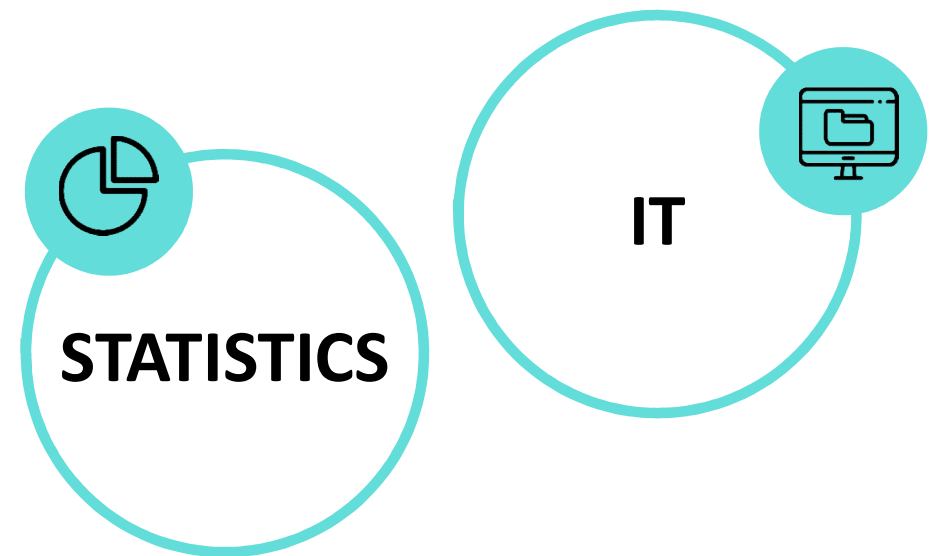


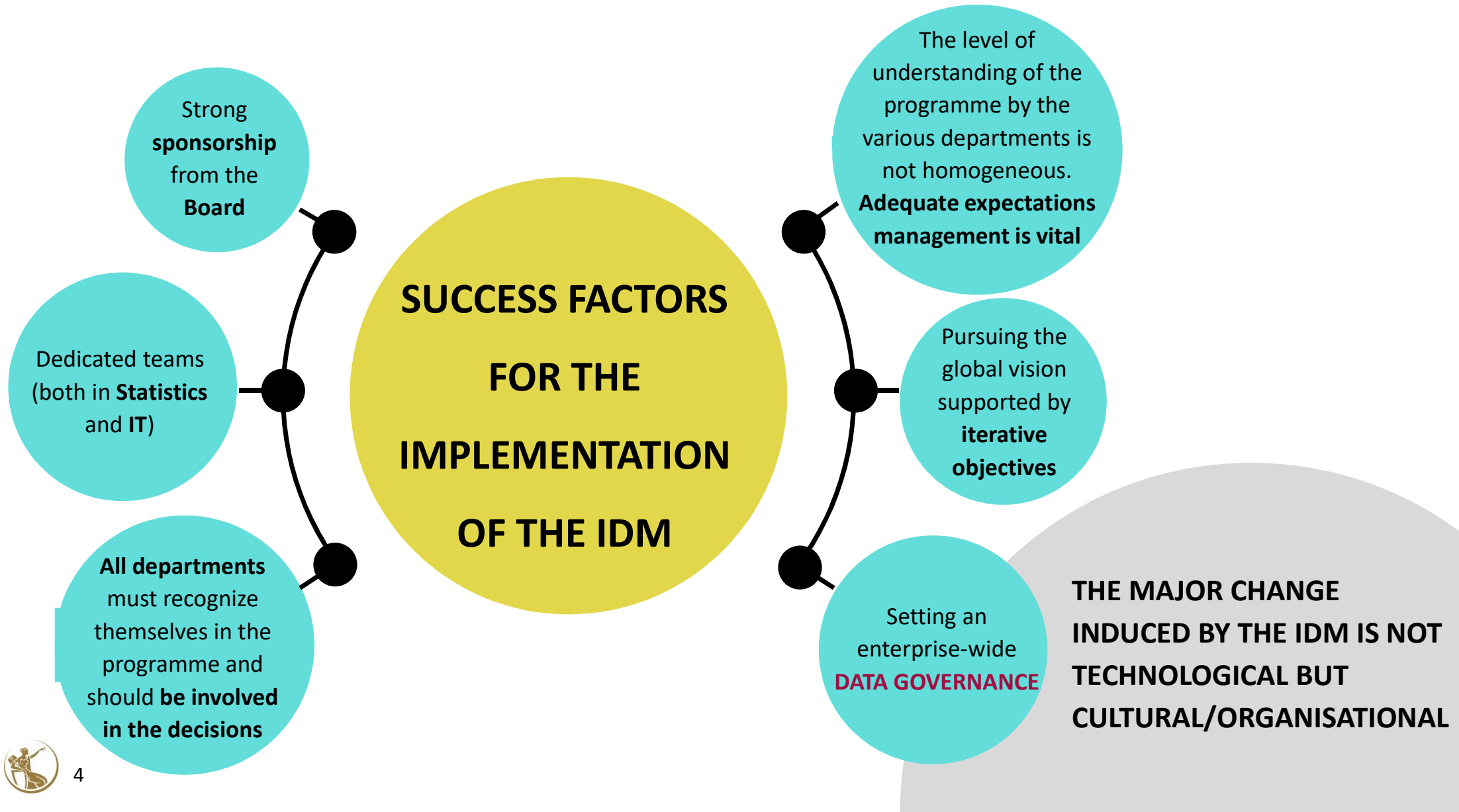
In 2017 Banco de Portugal launched the INTEGRATED DATA MANAGEMENT (IDM) programme

The IDM is a major transformational initiative of the Strategic Plan 2017-2020.

The goal of the IDM is to strongly contribute to a better use of the available data in the Bank by means of rationalisation of the processes associated with its collection and processing and to promote its effective sharing throughout the whole organisation.

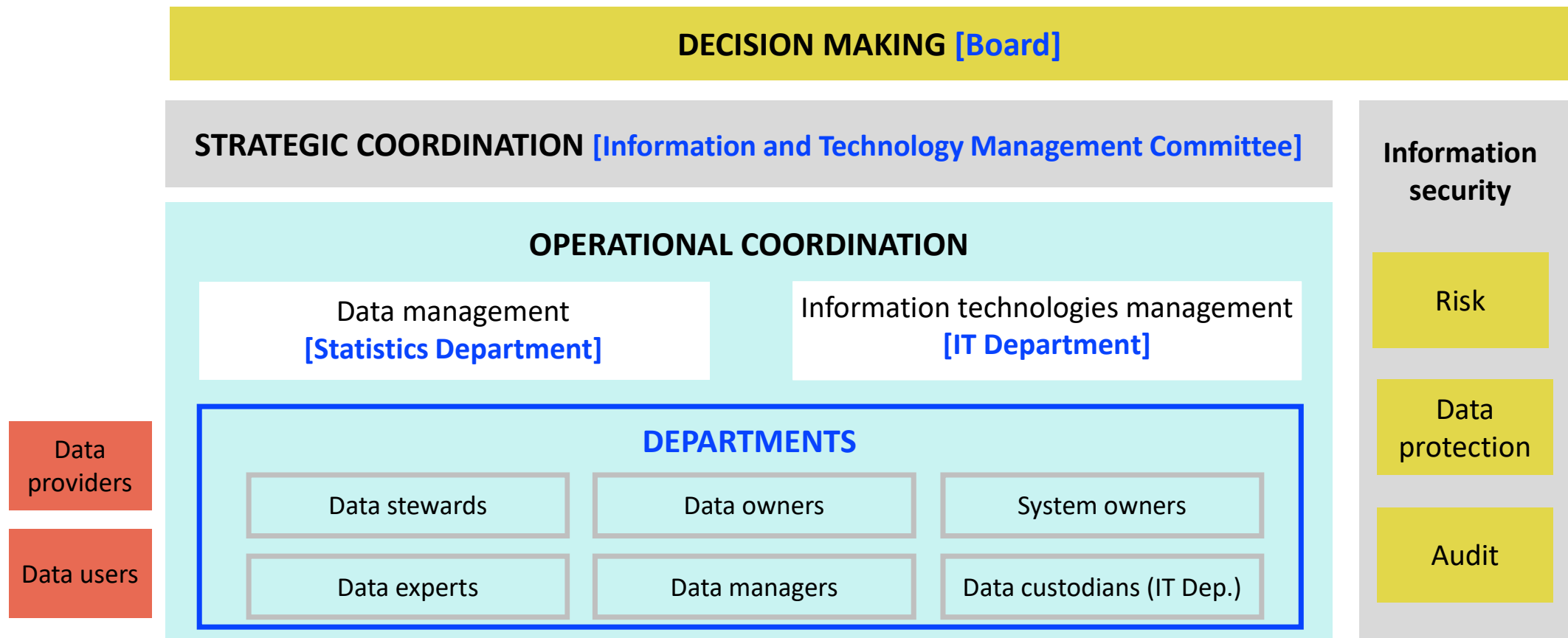
The IDM is **jointly coordinated** by 2 departments:





THE GOVERNANCE MODEL

Centralized coordination with decentralized roles and responsibilities across the organisation



Who is who in the Governance Model

SYSTEM OWNER

Department responsible for launching the development of an information system and typically the main user of that system

DATA OWNER

Departments responsible for a set of information within the corporate Data Warehouse

DATA STEWARD

Employees appointed by the Directors of each department to be the prime point of contact in their business area, promoting the implementation of the IDM Programme.

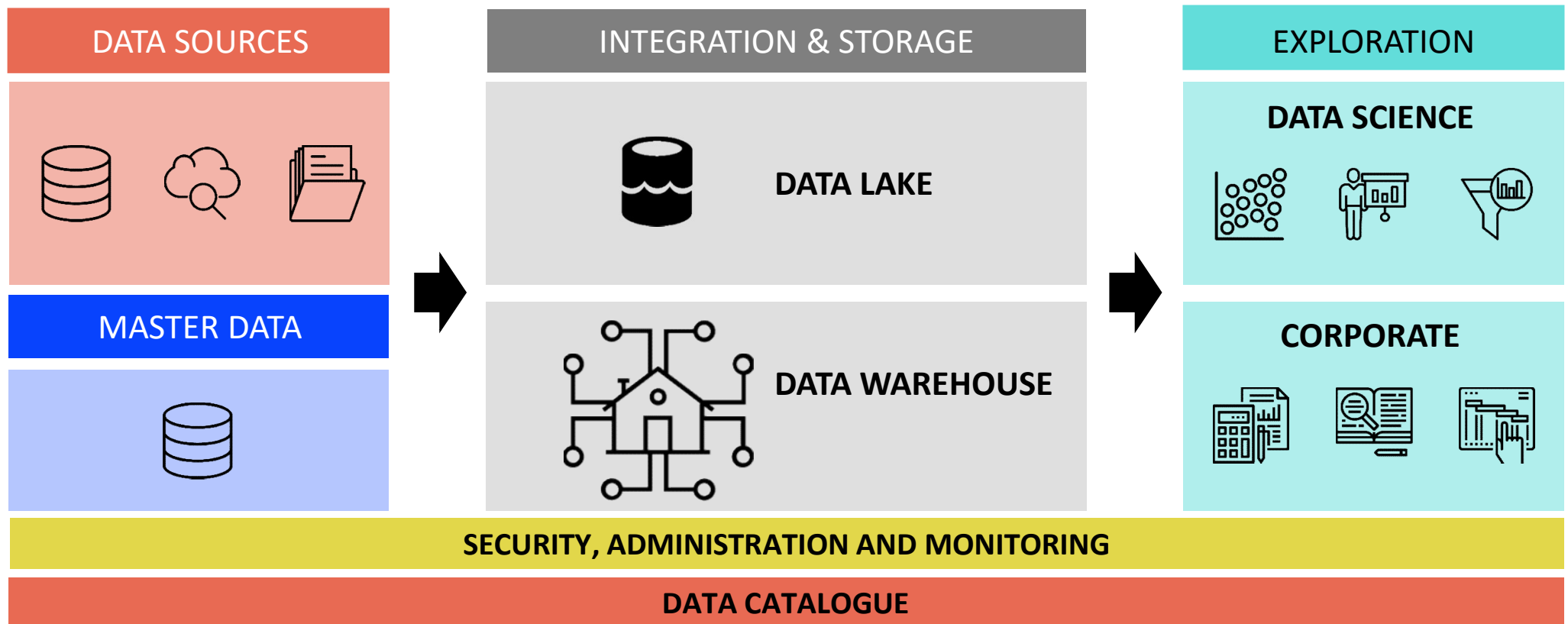
DATA EXPERTS

Business specialists responsible for managing the content of their area of expertise - whether business data, reference data or catalogue information

Data management is a shared responsibility implying individual (business areas) commitment in contributing to the overall data quality



THE LOGICAL DATA ARCHITECTURE



CONCLUDING REMARKS

- Central banks today have incredible amounts of data to support their different missions. DG ensures these data are trusted, well-documented, and easy to find and access within the whole organization, and that it is kept secure, compliant, and confidential – **DG is not optional!**
- Effective DG encompasses the right levels of **policies** and **procedures, structures, and roles** and **responsibilities**
- Besides clear decision making, a successful DG strategy implies a solid **partnership between business and technology** and combining the use of **top-down and bottom-up approaches**
- DG policies will lose their value if they're not followed in day-to-day operations across the organization. **Data stewardship** (in all business areas) is now looked as a critical function for the success of the DG
 - Data governance brings the **human dimension** into a highly automated, data-driven world



IFC High Level Meeting on Data Governance, co-organised with the International Statistical Institute
22 November 2019, Tunis, Tunisia

Updating BIS statistical processes to face the challenges of the data revolution¹

Edward Lambe,

BIS

¹ This presentation was prepared for the meeting. The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the BIS, the IFC or the central banks and other institutions represented at the meeting.



Updating BIS statistical processes to face the challenges of the data revolution

IFC High Level Meeting on Data Governance
Edward Lambe, 22nd Nov 2019

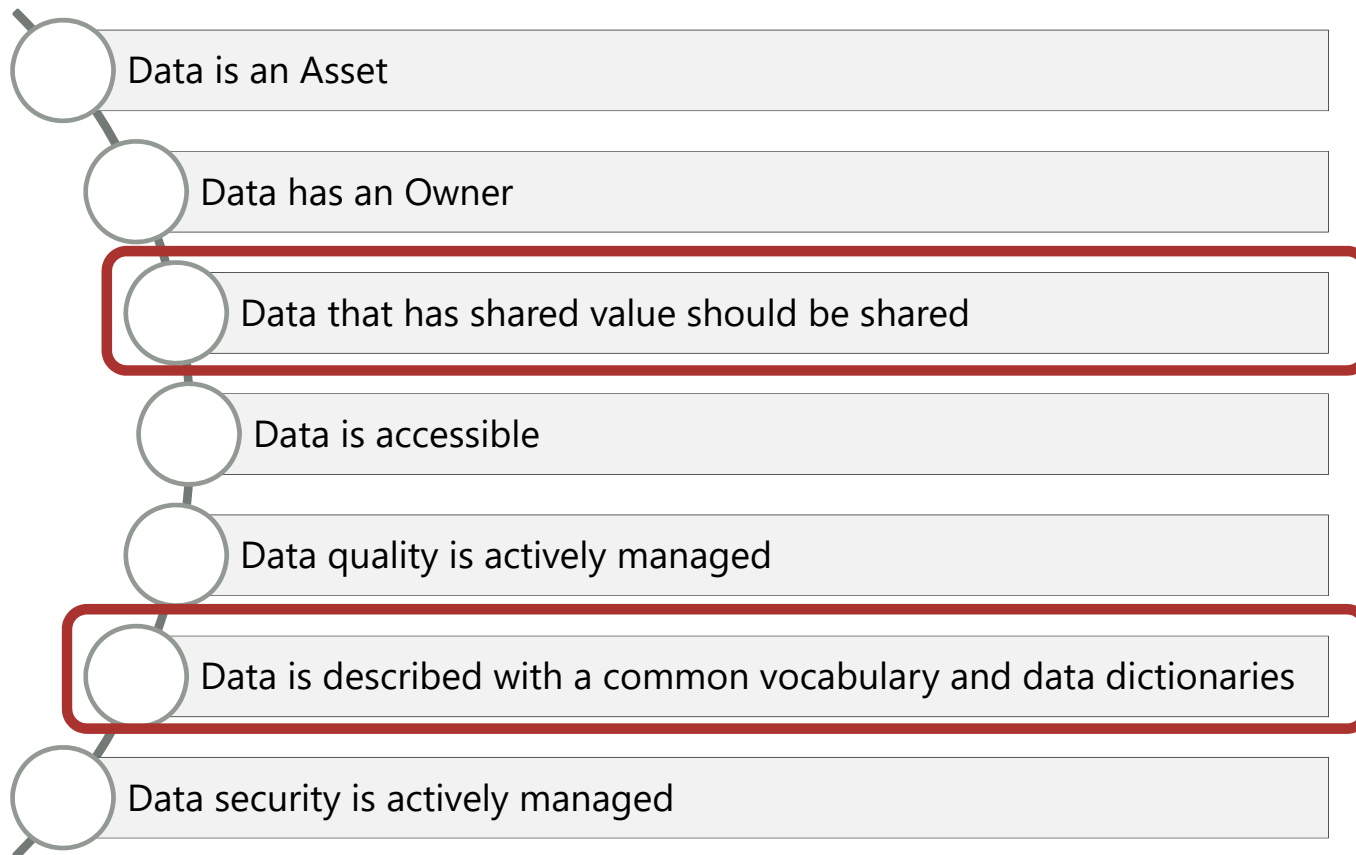
Agenda

- Facing the challenges of the data revolution
- Changing culture
 - Data Governance Principles
 - Data Stewards Mandate
- Changing technology
 - SDMX (Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange) Information Model
 - Future BIS processing architecture (MEDAL)
- Envisaging the BIS Data Portal

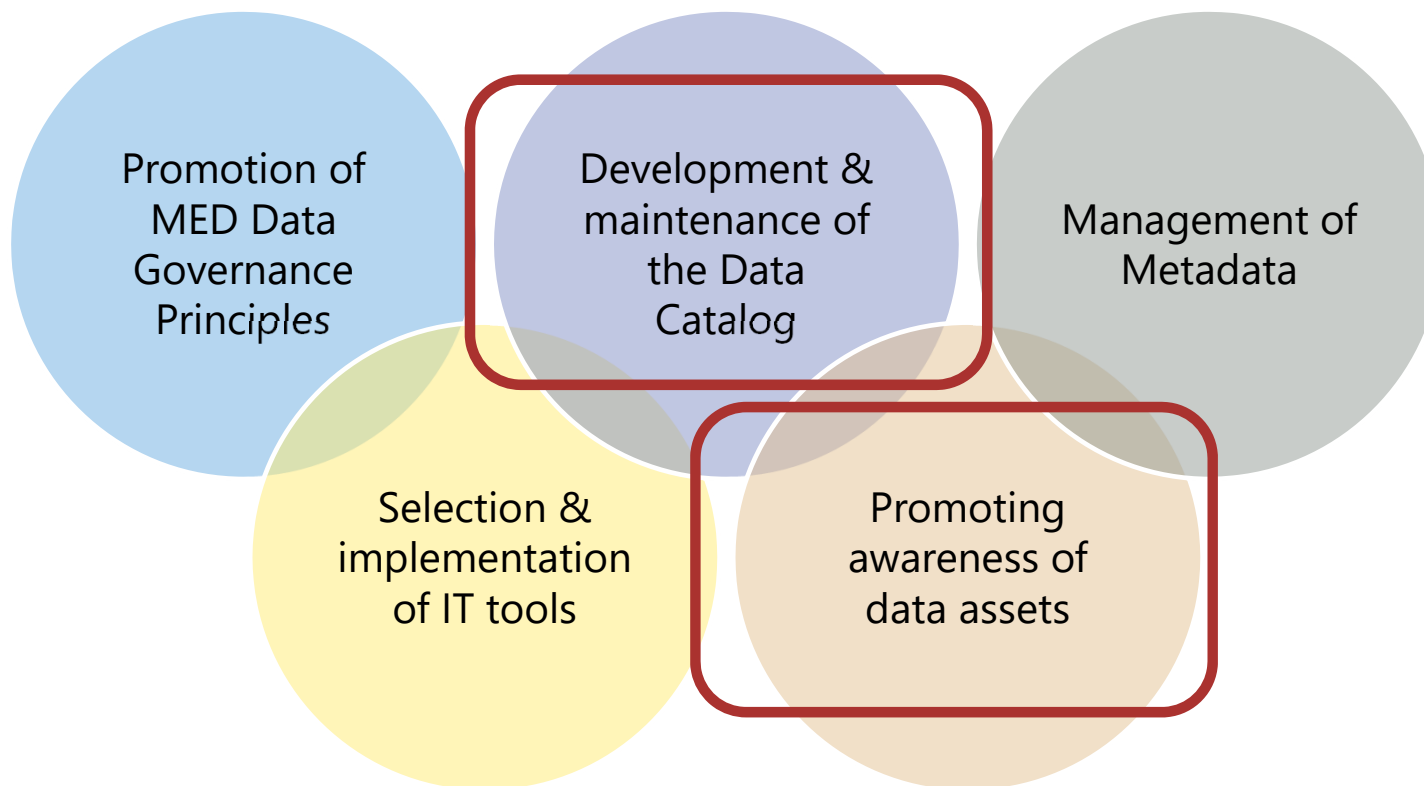
Facing the challenges of the data revolution

- The data revolution offers opportunities for the BIS, Central Banks, IO's and NSI's
 - Access to new data sources
 - 3 V's of Big Data; Volume, Variety, Velocity
 - Internet of things (IOT)
 - Advances in Artificial Intelligence
- How should we adapt to exploit the opportunities presented?
 - Culture
 - Technology

Data Governance Principles



Data Stewards Mandate



Data Catalog

18 Results for

Credit

- Credit to the non-financial sector**
- Credit-to-GDP gaps
- Debt service ratios (DSR)
- Joint External Debt Statistics
- Credit risk
- CCR
- CVA
- Institution-to-institution credit exposure data (I-I Credit data: Template A)
- Institution-to-institution credit exposure data (I-I Credit data: Template B)
- Institution-to-institution credit exposure data (I-I Credit data: Template C)
- Institution-to-institution credit exposure data (I-I Credit data: Template D)
- OTC derivatives outstanding - semiannual data

Credit to the non-financial sector

The quarterly credit to the non-financial sector statistics capture borrowing activity of the private non-financial sector (on average, more than 45 years) and the government sector (on average 20 years) for 44 economies. The private non-financial sector is split between non-financial corporations and households. Total credit is made up on financing from all sources while bank credit includes credit extended by domestic banks. The so-called "core debt" instruments are covered and includes: currency and deposits (which are mostly zero in the case of credit to the private non-financial sector), loans and debt securities.

Classification

public restricted confidential

Publisher
BIS

Business Unit	M55	Identifier	Credit
Data Frequency	Quarterly	Granularity	Country
Temporal Coverage	1940 - today	Spatial / Geographical Coverage	
Release Date		Access	Public
Location	DBSonline, BIS website	Usage	High usage
MEDCS Function	readDbs	Format / Media Type	
Data Asset Status	Actively maintained		

Subject matter expert	Tracy Chan	Data steward	Tracy Chan
Data owner	DBS		

SDMX DSD	BIS_TOTAL_CREDIT2	Theme	Credit
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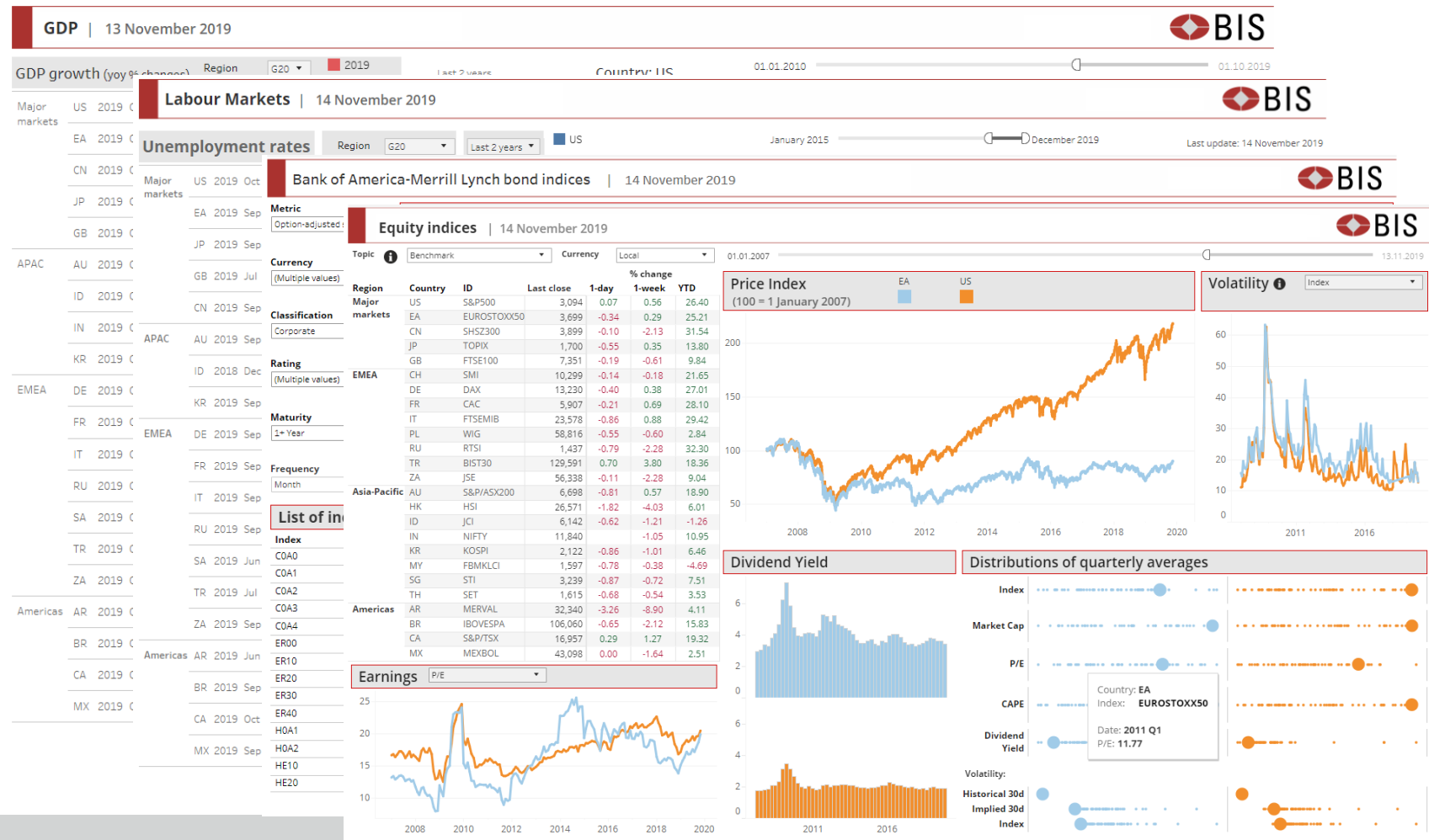
Keywords

Banking core debt credit financial accounts sectoral debt

References

[Click to go to UBL/File](#)

Dashboards

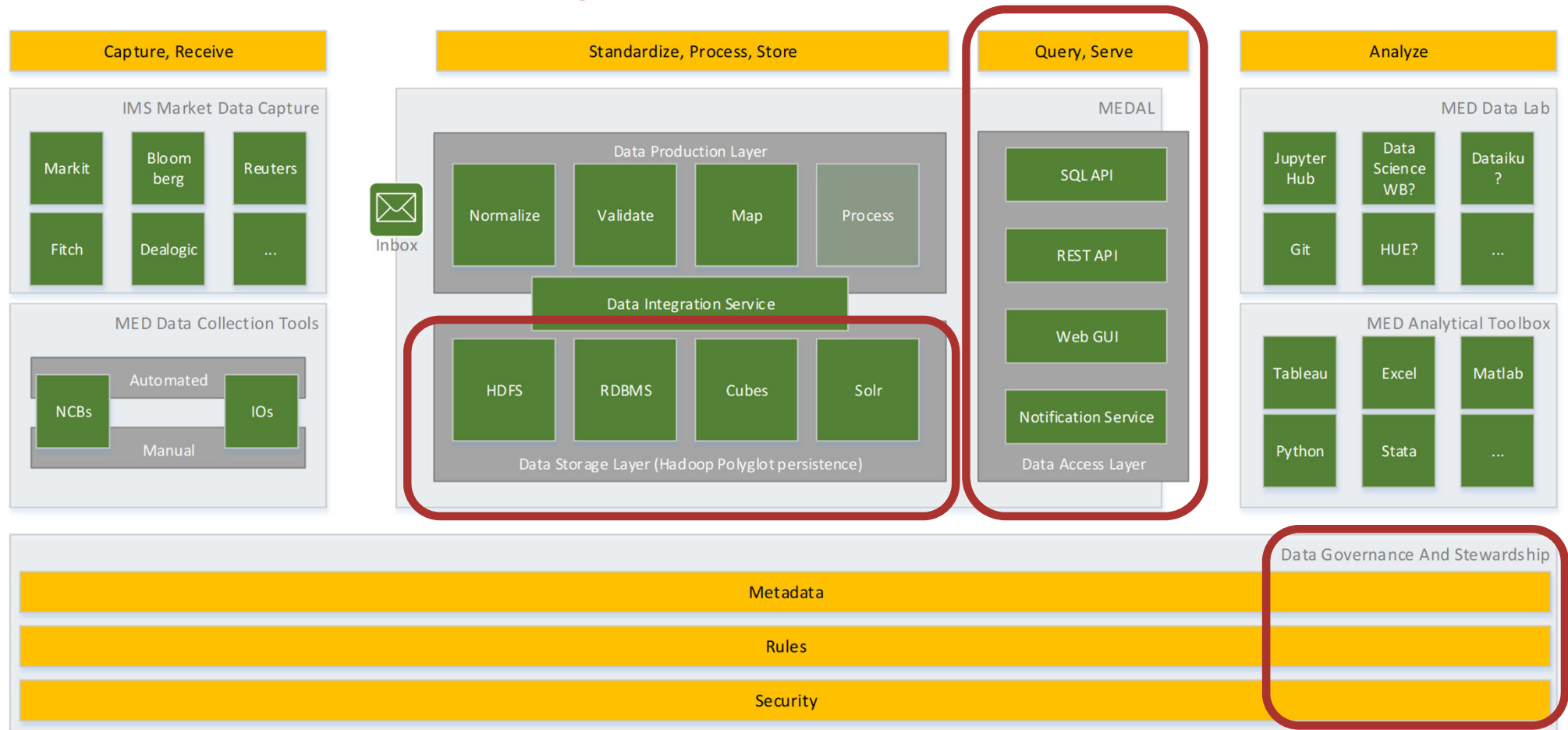


SDMX (Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange) Information Model

- Global standard for statistical data and metadata exchange ([ISO/IS 17369](#))
- Facilitates data exchange between central banks and international organisations
- Provides an information model with which to model data, key elements being:
 - Data Flow
 - Data Structure Definition (DSD)
 - Code Lists
 - Constraints
 - Validation and Transformation Language (VTL)
- The BIS has many years of experience working with SDMX



Future BIS Statistical Processing Architecture (MEDAL)

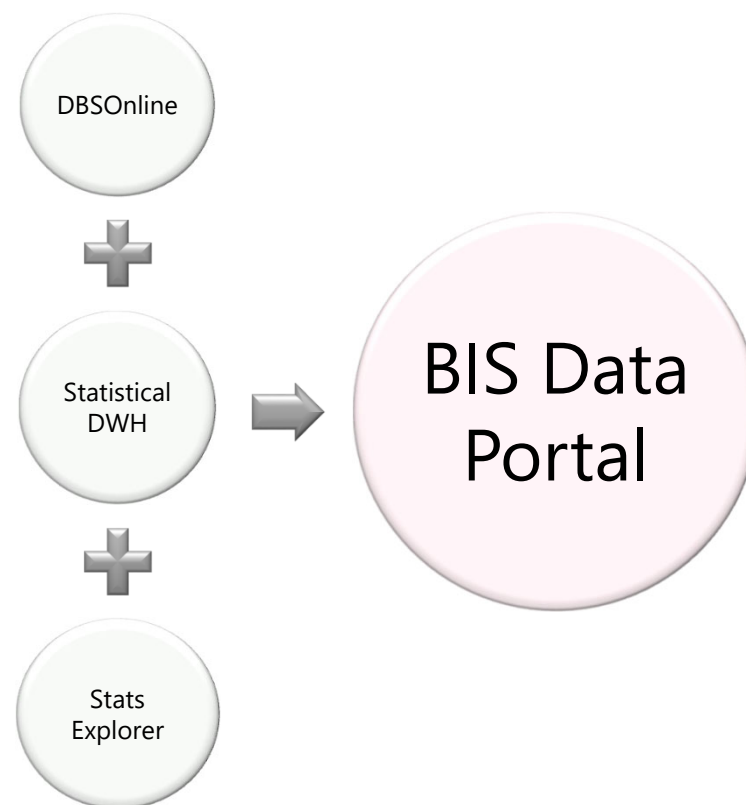


Existing Statistical Dissemination Toolset

- 3 discrete offerings;
 - DBSOnline (Extranet and Internal audience / MED-IT)
 - Stats Explorer (Public / Web Communications)
 - Statistical DWH (Public / Web Communications)
- Lack of consistency in the user experience / design
- They don't share a common architecture

Envisaging the BIS Data Portal (BIS 2025)

- The BIS Data Portal will be a single location for the dissemination of statistical outputs
- Serving the general public, extranet and internal customer needs
- Clean modern interface for BIS statistical output
- Leverage the power of the MEDAL platform
- Unified interface for the querying, downloading and sharing of data
- Enhanced search performance
- Personalisation of content;
 - Tagging content of interest
 - Saving of queries
 - Notification of new releases





Thank you

IFC High Level Meeting on Data Governance, co-organised with the International Statistical Institute
22 November 2019, Tunis, Tunisia

Data strategy within BIS Innovation 2025 program¹

Hiren Jani,

BIS

¹ This presentation was prepared for the meeting. The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the BIS, the IFC or the central banks and other institutions represented at the meeting.



Data Strategy within BIS Innovation 2025 program

Hiren Jani

Head of Platform Engineering

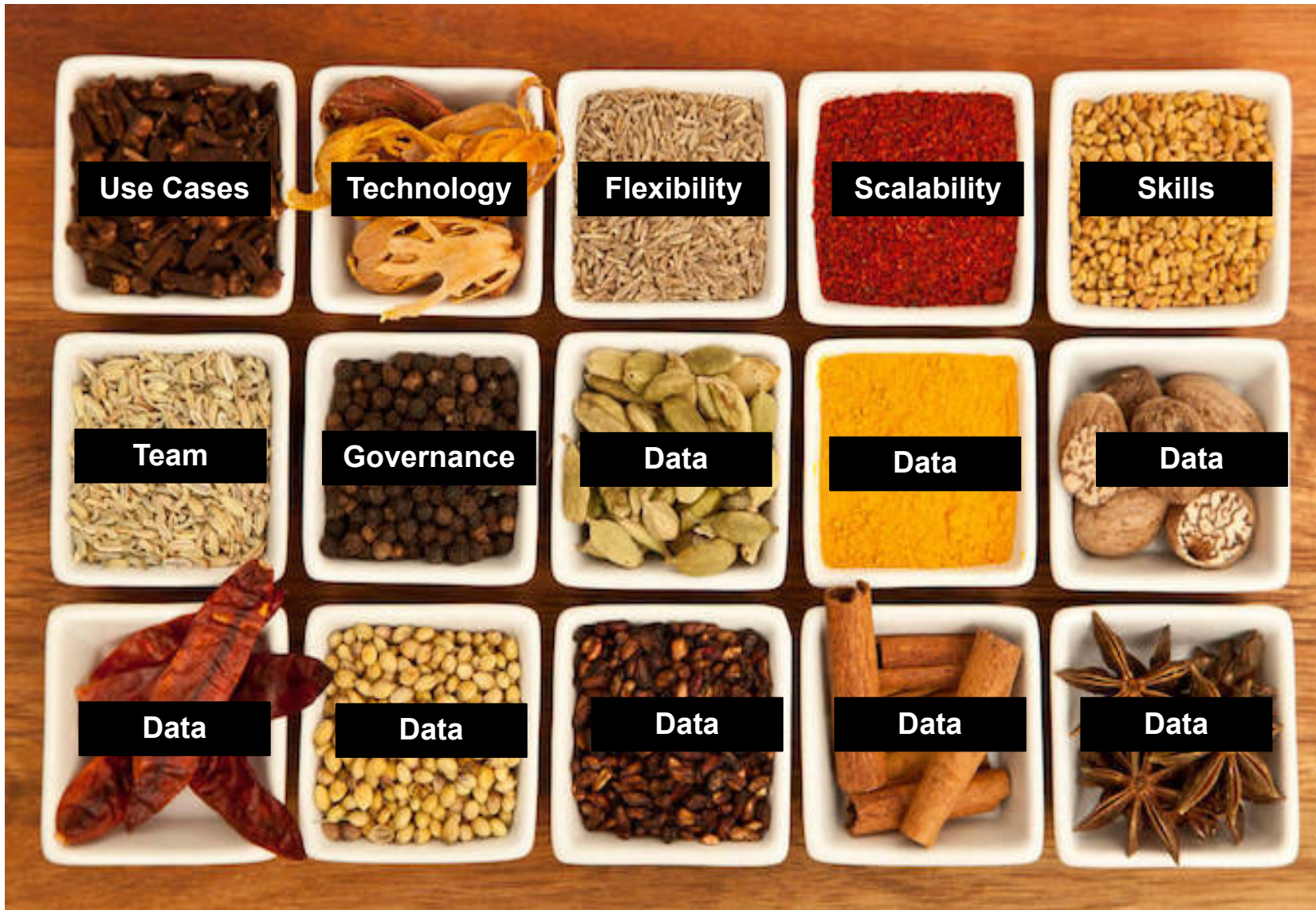
hiren.jani@bis.org



BIS Innovation 2025 strategy has particular emphasis on data management as,

- ✓ **The value BIS can derive from it's data is unlimited,**
- ✓ **How we manage data has direct impact on the services we offer**

BIS data strategy is embedded within the business strategy consists of multiple work streams focusing on enhancing Bank's data and analytics capability



Ingredients of data strategy

Business objectives of BIS data strategy

Enable novel capabilities

Enable new business capabilities that exploit modern data and advanced analytics technologies and practices in the Bank

Provide economies-of-scale and economies-of-scope for Bank's data management needs

Expand existing strength

Expand potential of the Bank's statistical and research capabilities

Extract value from Bank's data assets to support business decisions

Improve services

Increase profit potential and client services in Banking

Enhance collaboration in economic research and Banking activities

Data-driven digital business

Encourage and promote culture of data-driven decision making

Increase trust in data and reporting

Agility

Increase agility and reduce time-to-market for introducing new banking products and services

Enable agile data analytics by delivering insights earlier and more frequently

Operational excellence

Improve cyber security and IT operational excellence

Deliver cost and resource efficiency in delivering and managing data initiatives

Implementation of BIS data strategy

Enable novel capabilities

Develop new data platforms that allows to collect, organise and process large volume and diverse types of data

Enhance data science and data visualization practices in the Bank

Expand existing strength

Provide self-service 'data lab' and 'data discovery' tools that allows researchers to analyse disparate data sources and find new insights quickly

Use alternative data sources for economic research and banking risk & investment strategies

Improve services

Provide next generation collaboration tools for exchanging data, research methodology and confidential documents

Provide real-time reporting to the central banks on their positions

Improve data dissemination channels to communicate insights effectively

Data-driven digital business

Establish effective data management framework, including governance

Develop bank-wide communities to promote best practices and knowledge sharing

Implement bank-wide market and reference data system

Agility

Implement ultra modern business intelligence platform(s) to deliver accurate business insights faster, better

Implement a data transfer backbone to harmonies data collection and data dissemination processes allowing for agility in meeting new business demands

Operational excellence

Implement real-time analytics and machine learning to detect cyber attacks

Implement predictive analytics for IT system monitoring

Automate data quality checks, exception handling and reporting processes

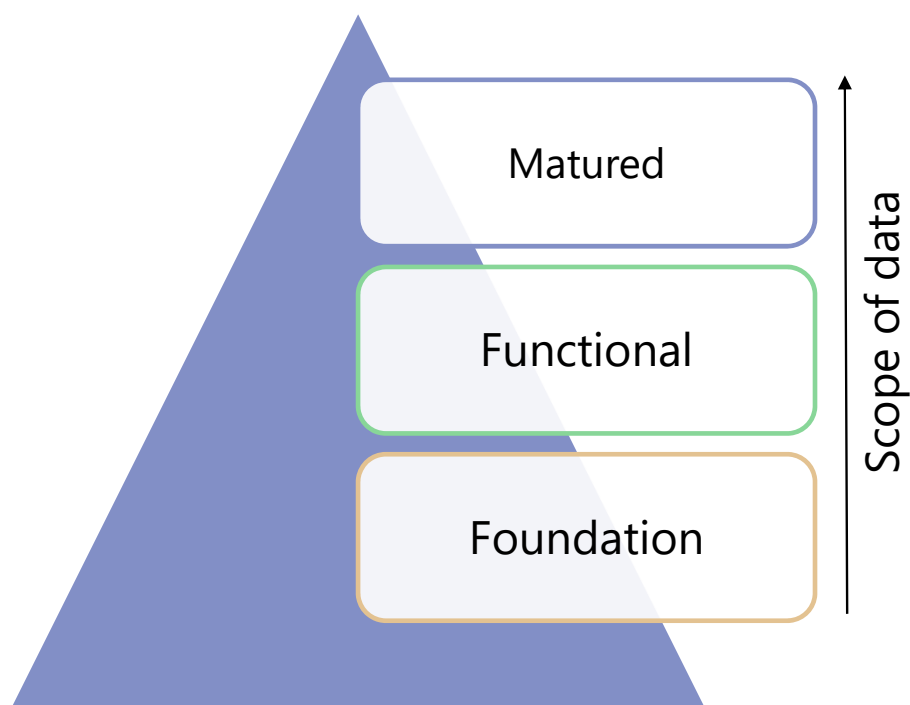
Why do cars have Breaks?

So we can go **faster..**

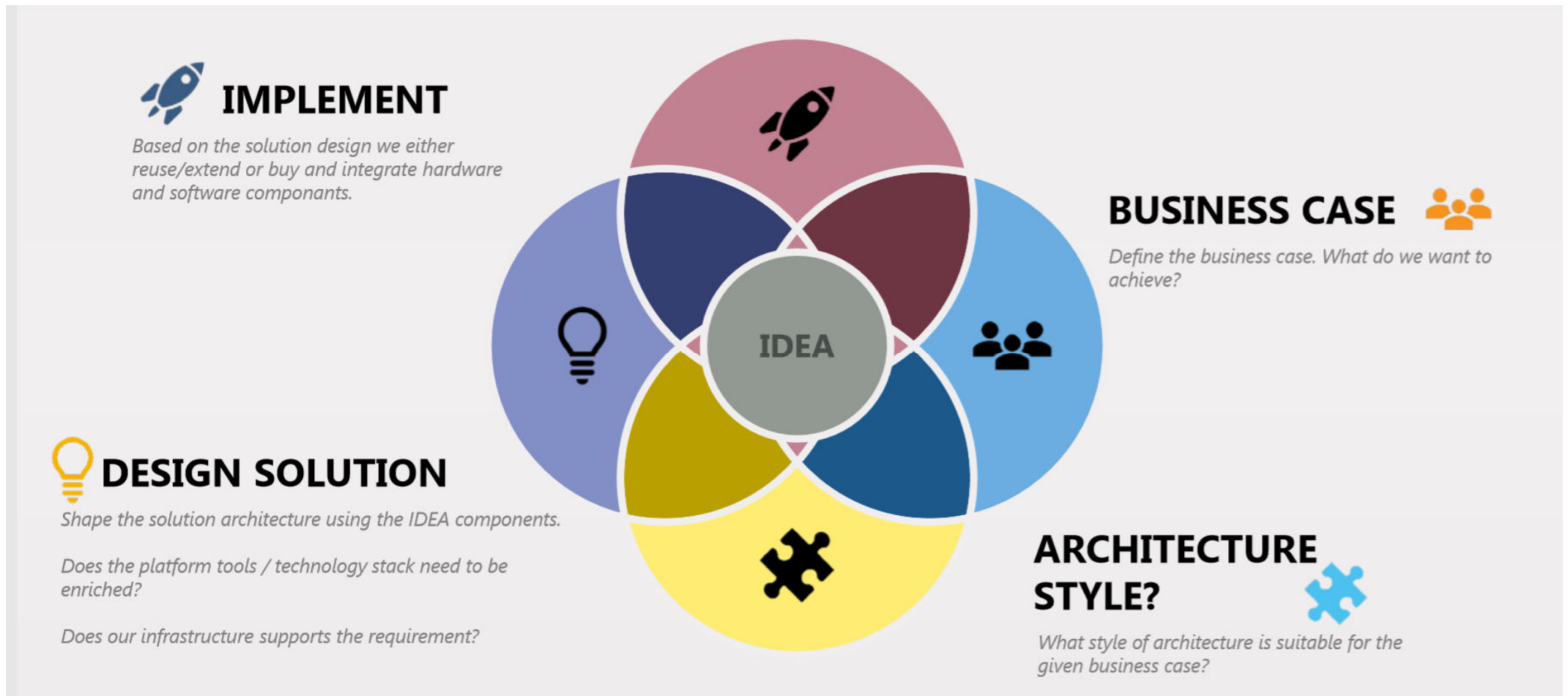
Data Governance provides the same function for a data strategy.

Effective Data Governance processes and framework allows to implement the strategy faster and monitor the progress.

Data Strategy and Governance (Iterative approach)



Data Strategy implementation approach



Plethora of data analytics technology



Thank you
Q&A

IFC High Level Meeting on Data Governance, co-organised with the International Statistical Institute
22 November 2019, Tunis, Tunisia

Building a strong community of innovative and forward looking leaders in official statistics¹

Leila Ben Ali and Nougbodohoue Samson Bel-Aube,
African Union Commission

¹ This presentation was prepared for the meeting. The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the BIS, the IFC or the central banks and other institutions represented at the meeting.



MANAGING DATA: NEW CAPACITY REQUIREMENTS

DATA GOVERNANCE

**BUILDING A STRONG COMMUNITY OF
INNOVATIVE AND FORWARD LOOKING LEADERS
IN OFFICIAL STATISTICS, NOVEMBER 22, 2019,
TUNIS, TUNISIA**

AFRICA UNION COMMISSION

- New Capacity required at:
- National Level;
- International Level.

Role of National partners

- Coordinate with government agencies in data collection and management
- Strengthen the capacity of member states in the collection, analysis and dissemination of data
- Assist the government agencies in working on sectors that require more collaborated efforts
- Development of tools and methodologies used in the collection, production and analysis of data

Role of National partners

- ◉ Organize Knowledge sharing events
- ◉ Conducting capacity training workshops
- ◉ Assist in aggregation of some indicators
- ◉ Policy Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

Role of International Organizations

- Collaborate with Member States and provide expertise on data management
- Bring about the universal adoption of management techniques like project planning, monitoring evaluation and reporting
- Strengthen capacity needs of Member states in providing experts and consultants
- Provision of donor funds to support projects on different thematic areas
- Undertake training programmes and workshops to benefit for more people

Role of International Organizations

- ◉ Financial or lending institutions
- ◉ Introduction of new interventions in the management of data collection on different thematic areas
- ◉ Offer technical and advisory interventions
- ◉ Bring about the universal adoption of management techniques like project planning, monitoring evaluation and reporting
- ◉ Invest on improving data collection and analysis processes
- ◉ Support national and regional systems towards harmonization of concepts, definitions and methodologies to match with the global scene

Role of International Organizations

- Support different initiatives in data management and dissemination
- Training of personnel in data collection, analysis and dissemination as well as the use of modern information technology (IT);
- Training of information users like policy-makers in maximizing the use made of information resources
- conducts research and makes strategic analyses, prepares development policy framework and coordinates the preparation of multi-year rolling development plans and programmes.

Role of International Organizations

Provide support for data capacity needs through:

- human resource development;
- administrative capacity building;
- the adoption of modern management methods and procedures;
- supplemented by the provision of equipment, communication facilities, and materials and consumables.

Thank you for your kind attention

IFC High Level Meeting on Data Governance, co-organised with the International Statistical Institute
22 November 2019, Tunis, Tunisia

Managing data: How to build the capacity needed¹

Philippe Gafishi,
PARIS21

¹ This presentation was prepared for the meeting. The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the BIS, the IFC or the central banks and other institutions represented at the meeting.

MANAGING DATA: HOW TO BUILD THE CAPACITY NEEDED

ISI IFC High Level meeting on Data Governance
22 November 2019, Tunis

Philippe Gafishi



Partnership in statistics
for development
in the 21st century

www.paris21.org



■ ABOUT PARIS21

VISION 1 MISSION

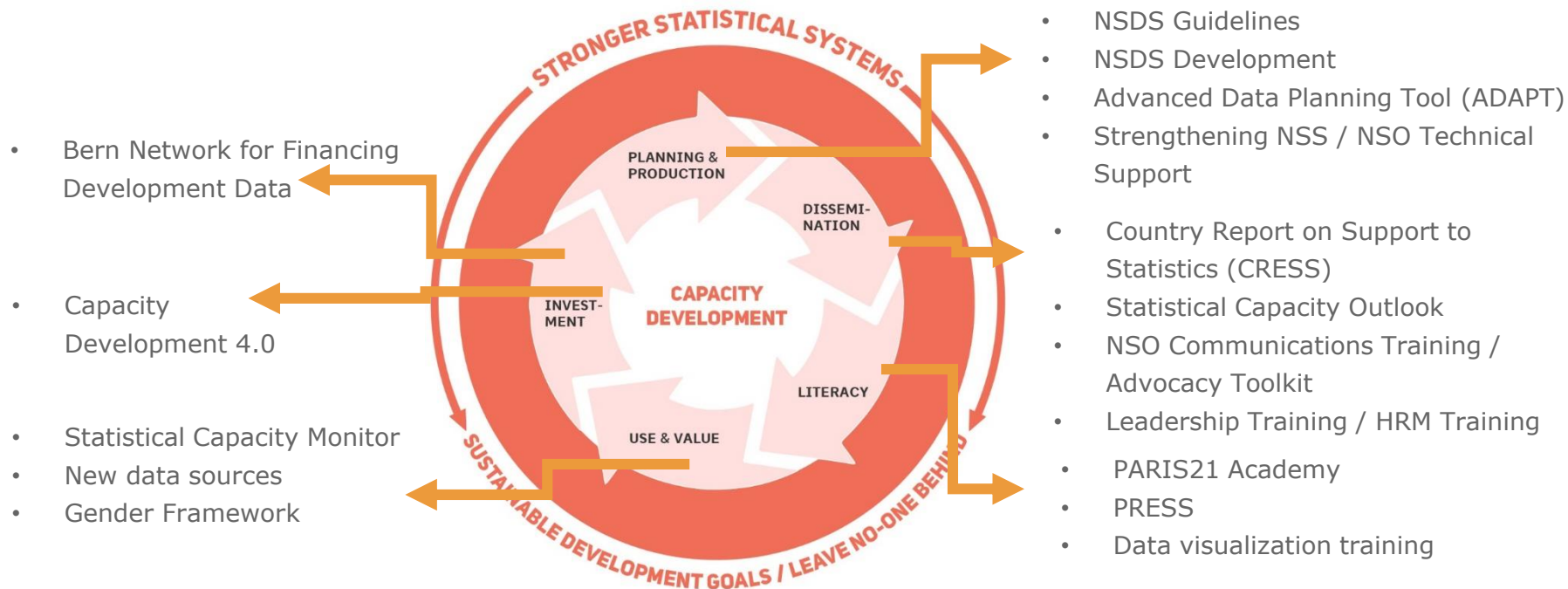
Strengthen statistics and promote the use of robust statistical information by policy makers and citizens with a primary focus on low income countries.

STRUCTURE

- Around 24 secretariat staff (hosted at the OECD)
- 50 board members
- Africa board membership 2019: Cabo Verde, Somalia, São Tomé and Príncipe, Libya, South Africa
- Executive committee (10 members) provides accountability & guidance



GOOD POLICY REQUIRES QUALITY DATA



KEY CHALLENGES FOR NSS CAPACITY NEEDS

- **Every third capacity development programme in Africa fails to meet NSO/NSS needs.**
- **NSS lacks efficient coordination** – coordination is perceived as priority goal in the medium term.
- **Human capacity development remains weak in SSA and dependent on external funding.**
- **Statistical Planning has significantly improved with NSDS development, but limited funding of NSDS implementation remains a challenge.**

STRENGTHENING NSS CAPACITY TO ADDRESS PRIORITY NEEDS:

1. DEFINING A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT : CD4.0

*"The process through which a country's national statistical system, its **organisations** and **individuals** obtain, strengthen and maintain their abilities to collect, produce, analyze and disseminate high quality and reliable data to meet users' needs."*
(PARIS21, 2018)

IMPLEMENTING CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT (CD4.0)

- **Measuring Statistical Capacities**

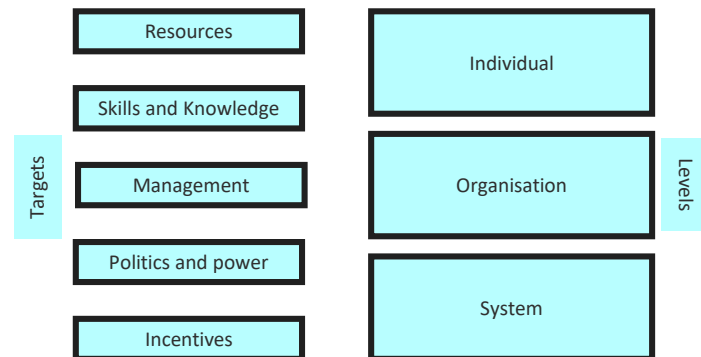
- Flagship Report – Statistical Capacity Development Outlook &
- Statistical Capacity Monitor

- **CD4.0 Guidelines will be launched January 2020**

- PARIS21-UNSD conference 13/14 Jan 2020 in Paris/OECD
- Pilots

SUPPORTING CHANGE MANAGEMENT TOOL IN A MODERN DATA ECOSYSTEM (CD4.0)

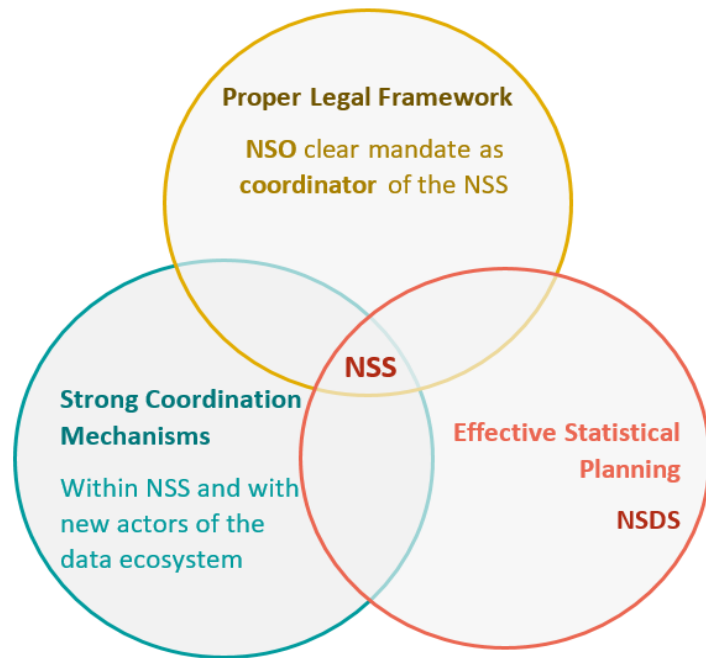
- **Inclusion of new data stakeholders**
→ New data sources + actors
- **A stronger user integration**
→ Relevance, efficiency, trust, accountability
- **Holistic statistical capacity development**
→ Change through 3 levels + 5 targets



2. STRENGTHENING NATIONAL STATISTICAL GOVERNANCE, PLANING (NSDS), COORDINAATION, AND FINANCING

- Aligning NSDS to national development plans and international development agendas
- Supporting statistical leadership and management
- Building NSS coordination capacity
- Improving statistical activities coverage and quality
 - Including new data sources and data disaggregation: big data, Citizen Generated Data (CGD), gender statistics, etc.
- Improving Financing Data for development: internal and external funding (donors coordination/collaboration)
 - Country report on support to statistics (CRESS)
 - : **Bern Network on Financing for Development Data** (January 2019)
- Strengthening Partnership, Collaboration and Cooperation with key stakeholders matters for data development

Enablers of Statistical Coordination





THANK YOU!

Contact: philippe.gafishi@oecd.org

IFC High Level Meeting on Data Governance, co-organised with the International Statistical Institute
22 November 2019, Tunis, Tunisia

Statistical Governance and FDI in emerging economies - the role of official statistics, with a particular focus on Sub-Saharan Africa¹

Ulf von Kalckreuth,
Deutsche Bundesbank

¹ This presentation was prepared for the meeting. The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the BIS, the IFC or the central banks and other institutions represented at the meeting.

Statistical Governance and FDI in Emerging Economies

The Role of Official Statistics, with a particular focus on Sub-Saharan Africa

Irving Fisher Committee High-Level Conference, Tunis, 22 November 2019

Dr. Ulf von Kalckreuth, Deutsche Bundesbank

[Bundesbank Research Centre Discussion Paper No 37 / 2019](#)

This presentation represents the author's personal opinions and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Deutsche Bundesbank or its staff.

Governance and investment

- **G 20 in 2017: Compact with Africa**
- **Fundamental issue with investment: information asymmetries**

The „owner“ of a project knows more than the outside investor

Ex ante (hidden state):

The investors get to see only bad projects, the good projects are reserved for well connected insiders
→ adverse selection, „market for lemons“

Ex post (hidden action):

Project owners are able to manipulate project outcomes to their favour, damaging the investor.
→ principal agent problem



Investment will simply not take place!

Contribution of official statistics

Major role of official statistics in relieving information asymmetries

- Concerning actions of government -- an important player!
- Concerning developments in the country, the sector, the market.

Evolution of international rules for statistics driven by traumatic events and crisis

- „Fundamental Principles“ of UN following the breakdown of Soviet-style communism.
- SDDS and GDDS of IMF, following the “Asian Crisis”

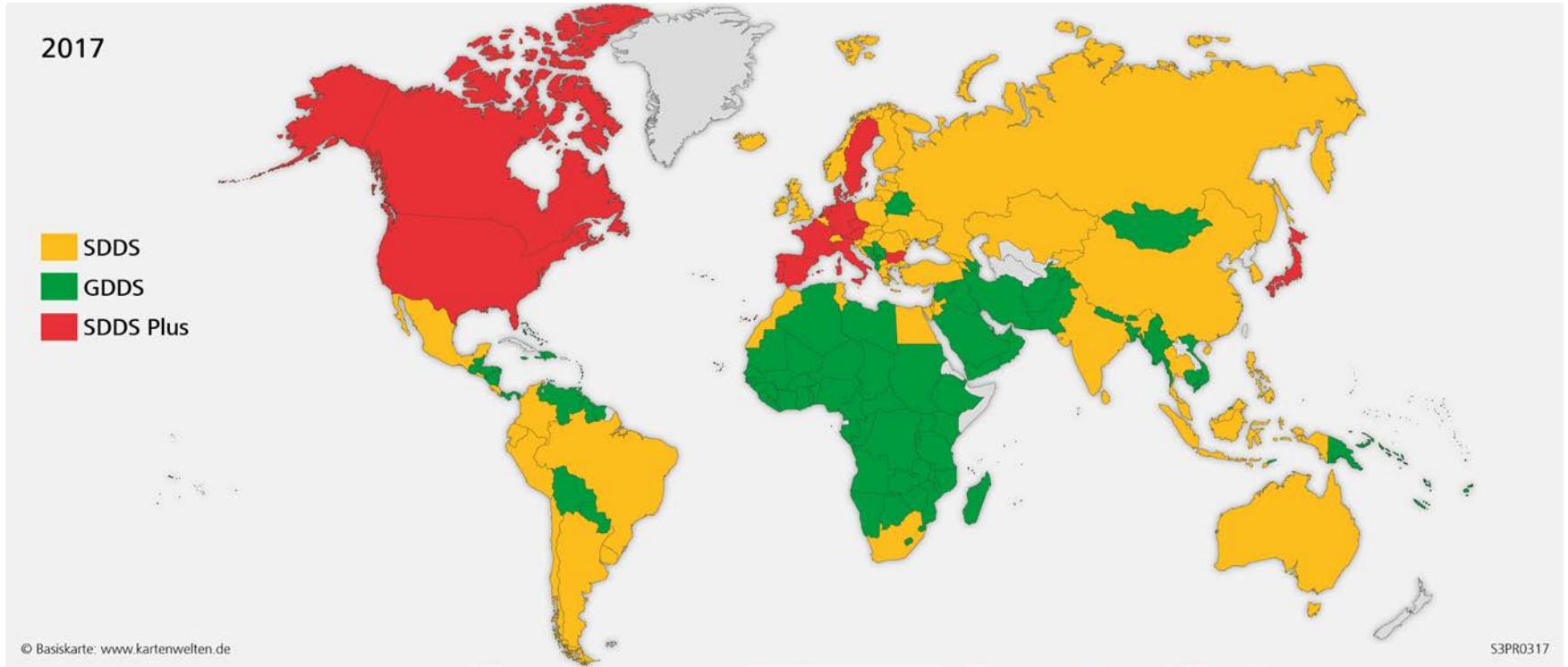
IMF Data Dissemination Standards: The two flavours

- SDDS: Set of rigorous rules for well developed statistical systems. Founding members more or less G20 countries of today. Compliance checked by IMF and evaluated publicly.
- GDDS: Looser set of rules with a lower degree of commitment. Core obligation is to give an exact description of the current state of the statistical system and to commit to a country-specific road-map, using GDDS as a framework. In exchange, the IMF offers a lot of technical help.

GDDS is like a **blueprint for the Compact with Africa**

This paper uses **adoption of GDDS** as an indicator of **statistical governance**

The spread of IMF data dissemination standards

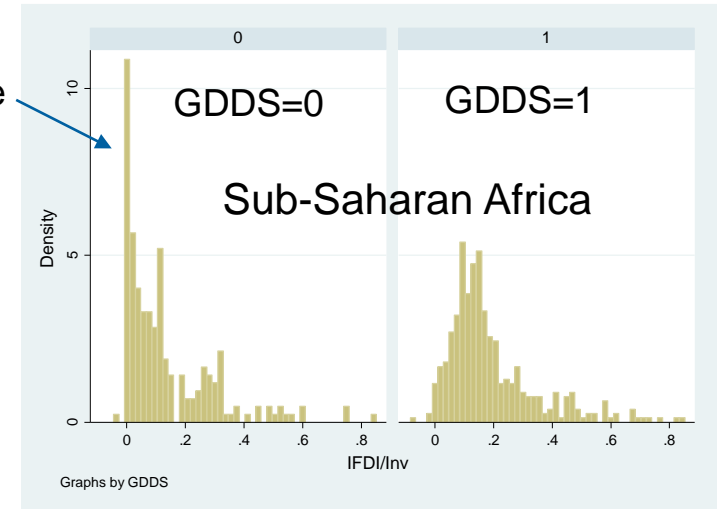


GDDS and FDI -- how are they related?

1) Non-parametric comparisons of episodes with and without GDDS

- Strong and significant differences
- FDI **higher under GDDS**, also under outlier control and eliminating zero episodes
- Raw difference **especially high for SS Africa**

Spike



2) Fixed effects regressions on log inward FDI to remove time and country effects, and quantile panel estimations to account for heterogeneity and outliers

After removing time and country effects we find:

- **Negative effect** of GDDS in sub-sample of rich countries and outside SS Africa!
- GDDS effects **significantly higher** in **poor countries** and in **SS Africa**
- Estimated effects for SS Africa **large, but not significant**. Partly due to restrictive assumptions regarding the autocorrelation of residuals.

What can we take away?

- **Official statistics is an important tool for mitigating information asymmetries** that stand between developing countries and outside investors.
- A German credo: It is the **rules you follow that inspire confidence...**!
- Information asymmetry is **more severe for resource-poor countries**. On poor countries, there is often little information, and not much is generated by commercial providers.
- **Heterogeneity matters**. It matters whether a commitment to fundamental rules of governance is made by a resource-poor country or a more sophisticated emerging economy.
- For rich countries, the **stricter SDDS standard may have been the relevant alternative**, explaining a negative coefficient on GDDS!

[Bundesbank Research Centre Discussion Paper No 37 / 2019](#)

Thank you!

IFC High Level Meeting on Data Governance, co-organised with the International Statistical Institute

22 November 2019, Tunis, Tunisia

Being in touch with our users - how statistics is getting more relevant in our society¹

Sibylle von Oppeln-Bronikowski,

former Director at the Federal Statistical Office of Germany (Destatis)

¹ This presentation was prepared for the meeting. The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the BIS, the IFC or the central banks and other institutions represented at the meeting.

Being in touch with our users

– How Statistics is getting more relevant in our society

ISI IFC High Level Meeting on Data Governance

Tunis 22nd November 2019



© Sibylle von Oppeln- Bronikowski, Director(ret.), Federal Statistical Office of Germany (Destatis)

The Federal Statistical Office's 2020 Communication Strategy

Strengthening the brand of
“official statistics”

1



2



Easier access



Meeting the needs of target groups

3



4

Broadening the dialogue



Improving comprehensibility

5



1 Strengthening the brand of “official statistics”



- Increase the popularity of official statistics
- Ensure quality of data, trust in official statistics
- Reference to “Official Statistics” serves as a seal of quality

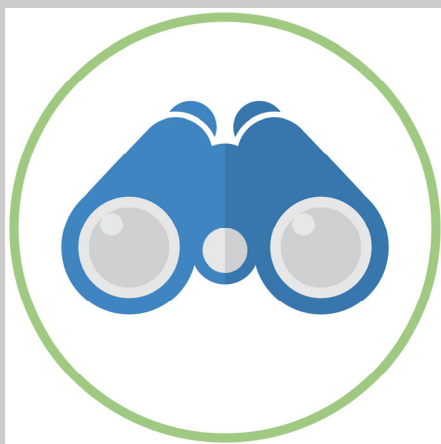


2 Easier access



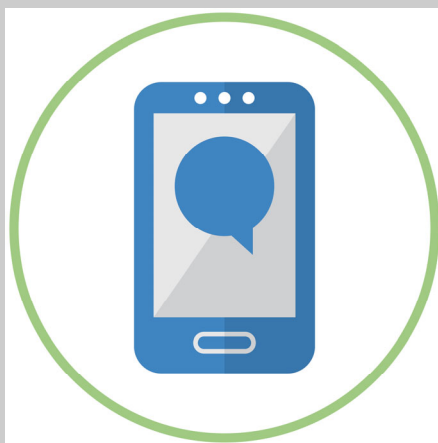
- Information can be easily accessed by popular search engines
- Link building and link management (e. g. WIKIPEDIA)
- Make database more user-friendly
- Information is presented in a media-friendly format
- Demand-driven content

3 Meeting the needs of target groups



- Special service for policy-makers, media, data journalist, students ...
- Development of a target-group-specific **digital content marketing**
- Moving from a culture of users retrieving information to a culture of targeted data delivery
- Concept of Newsroom to be considered

4 Broadening the dialogue



- Use of forums to communicate with target users (e. g. user conference, committee of experts)
- Use of social media esp. twitter
- Users' feedback must be taken seriously

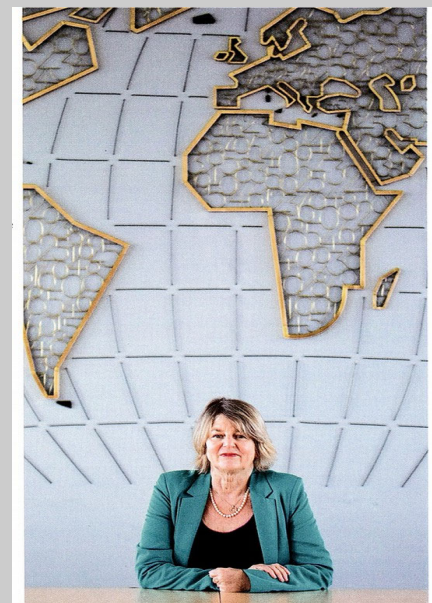
5 Improving comprehensibility



- Clear and comprehensive language
- Visualisations (Interactivity)
- Statistical Literacy (e-learning)
- In the digital age: Leave no one behind!

„We have to do everything
we can to ensure
that people don't just
perceive averages“
Any Questions?

Sibylle.oppeln@pokusa.de



**„Wir müssen viel daransetzen,
dass Menschen nicht nur die
Durchschnittswerte wahrnehmen“**

Sibylle von Oppeln-Bronikowski, Destatis

IFC High Level Meeting on Data Governance, co-organised with the International Statistical Institute
22 November 2019, Tunis, Tunisia

Microdata dissemination in Bank of Italy: now and tomorrow¹

Angela Gattulli,
Bank of Italy

¹ This presentation was prepared for the meeting. The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the BIS, the IFC or the central banks and other institutions represented at the meeting.

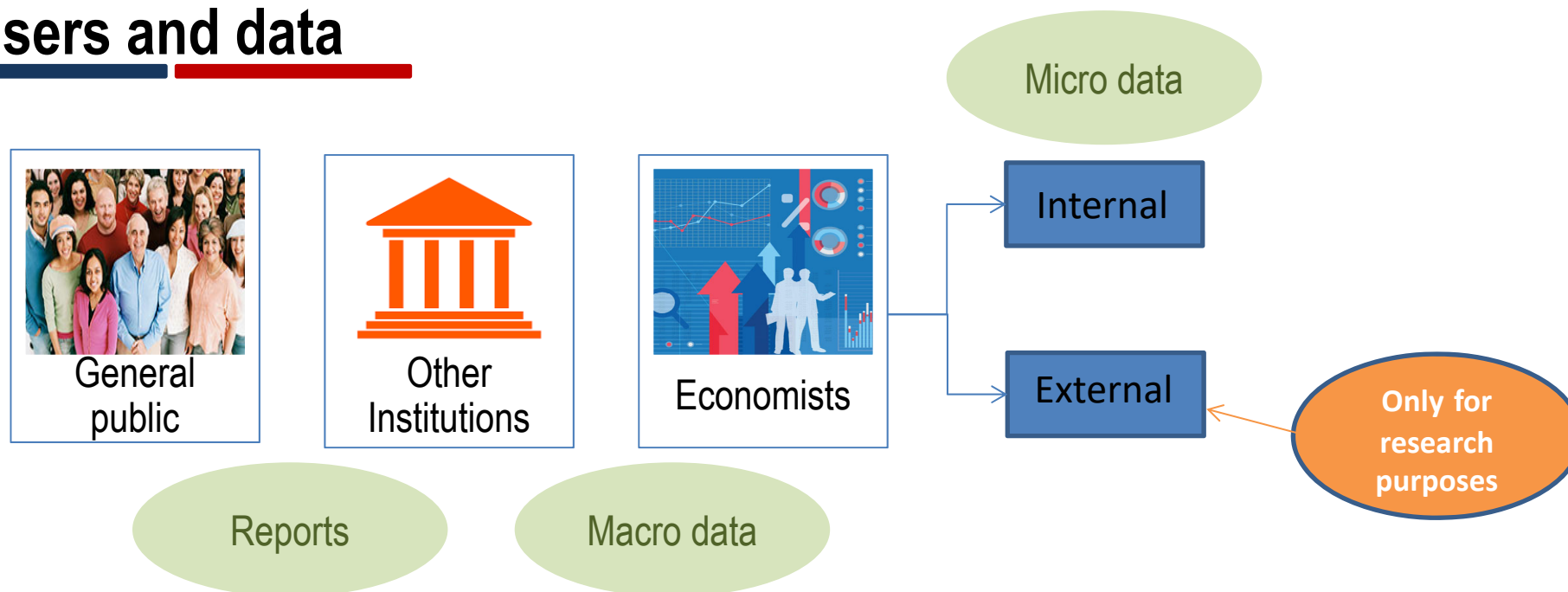
Microdata dissemination in Bank of Italy: now and tomorrow



Angela Gattulli
Banca d'Italia
22 November 2019



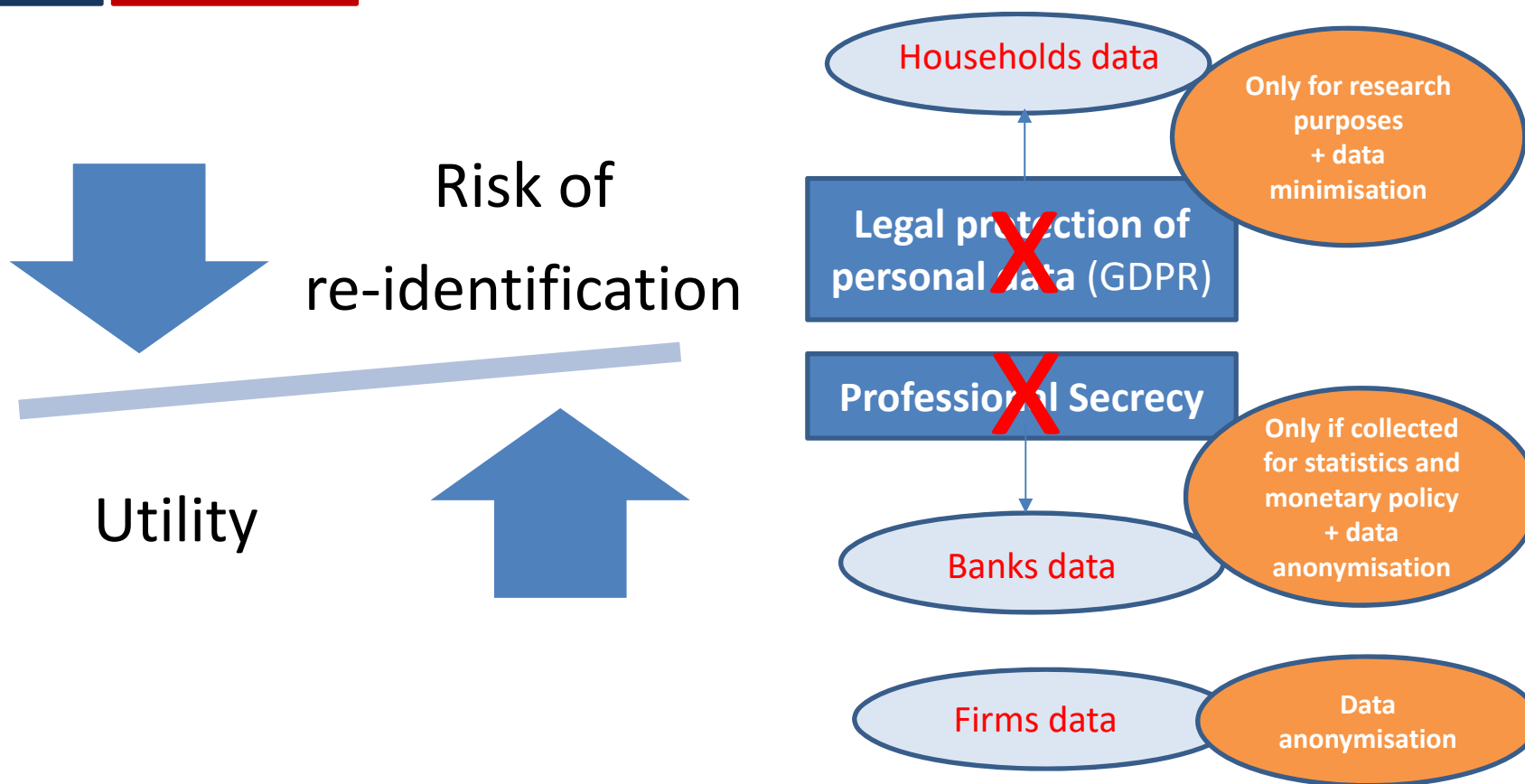
Users and data



There is a need for **increasingly detailed – or «granular» – statistics**, which are useful to analyze phenomena such as the distribution of income and wealth and for monetary policy purposes.

- What are the **choices** to make when disseminating microdata?
- What is the **Bank of Italy's experience** and the way forward?

Granular data: confidentiality vs utility and legal requirements



Granular data: which tool?

But not all data
can be easily
anonymised



**Data
confounding**

**Remote
processing**

Laboratory

Which microdata

Bank of Italy has a long tradition in disseminating granular survey data

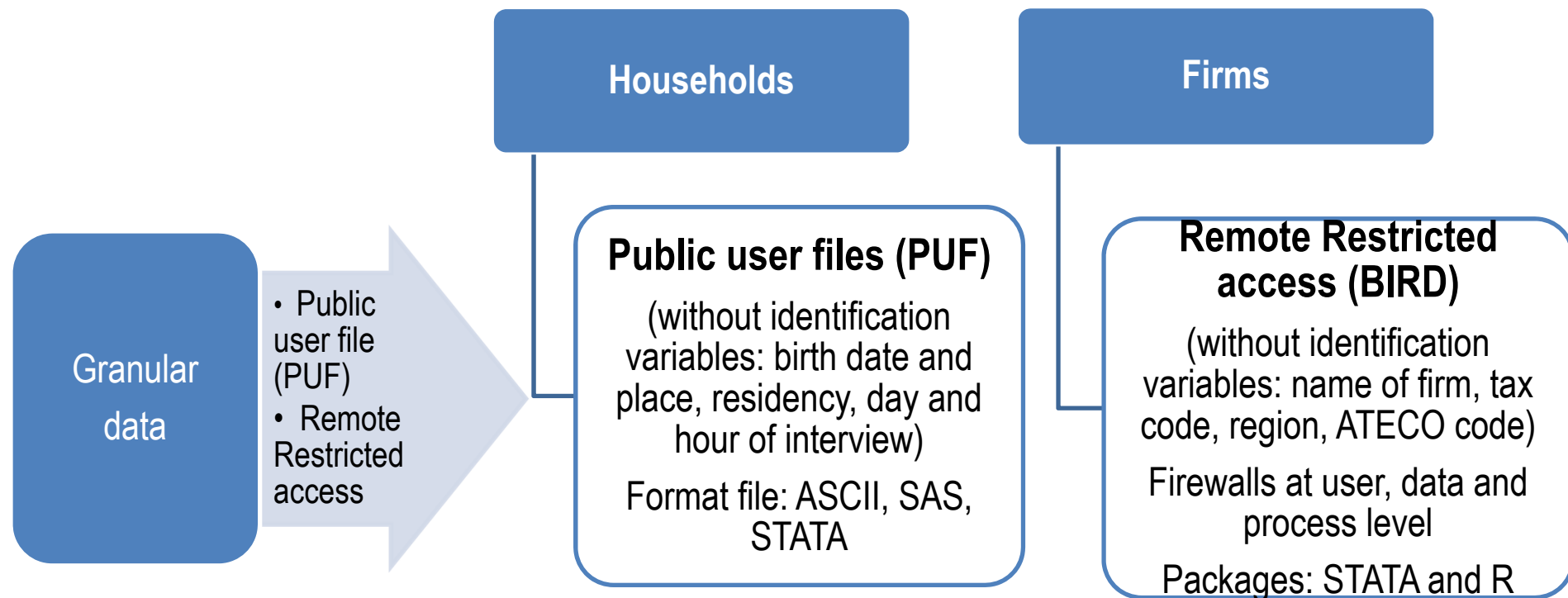
Households and individuals

- ✓ Survey of Household Income and Wealth (collected since 1962)
- ✓ Eurosystem Survey data (HFCS – Italy, collected since 2010)
- ✓ Financial literacy of Italian adults (collected since 2017)
- ✓ International tourism survey (collected since 1966)

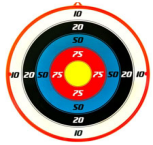
Firms

- ✓ Survey of Industrial and Service Firms (collected since 1974)
- ✓ Business Outlook Survey of Industrial and Service Firms (collected since 1993)
- ✓ Survey of expectations of inflation and growth (collected since 1999)
- ✓ Italian housing market survey short-term outlook (collected since 2009)
- ✓ Survey on cross-border transactions in services by non-financial and insurance firms (collected since 2013)

How



The way forward: Bank of Italy Research Data Center



GOALS

- Expanding the supply of microdata for external researchers
- Facilitating the way internal and external users access microdata
- Exchanging experience in managing microdata** (eg INEXDA and ISTAT)
- Improving methodology
- Fully operational by 2021**



TOOLS

- [PUF](#)
- [BIRD](#)
- [Web Tabulator](#) (New)
- [Lab](#) (New)



ISSUES

- Legal framework compliance
- Harmonization
- IT instruments for data anonimisation, access management, dataset versioning
- Human resources
- Logistic



THANK YOU



IFC High Level Meeting on Data Governance, co-organised with the International Statistical Institute
22 November 2019, Tunis, Tunisia

New information sources – some ethical considerations¹

Stephen Penneck,
ISI, United Kingdom

¹ This presentation was prepared for the meeting. The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the BIS, the IFC or the central banks and other institutions represented at the meeting.



Collecting data: new information sources – some ethical considerations

Stephen Penneck
President-elect
International Statistical Institute (ISI)

What is (are?) Big Data

Examples include

- ▶ Scanner data for price statistics
- ▶ Mobile phone data for migration
- ▶ Traffic sensors for transport movements
- ▶ Social media for consumer confidence
- ▶ Internet purchases for economic statistics

Big Data are:

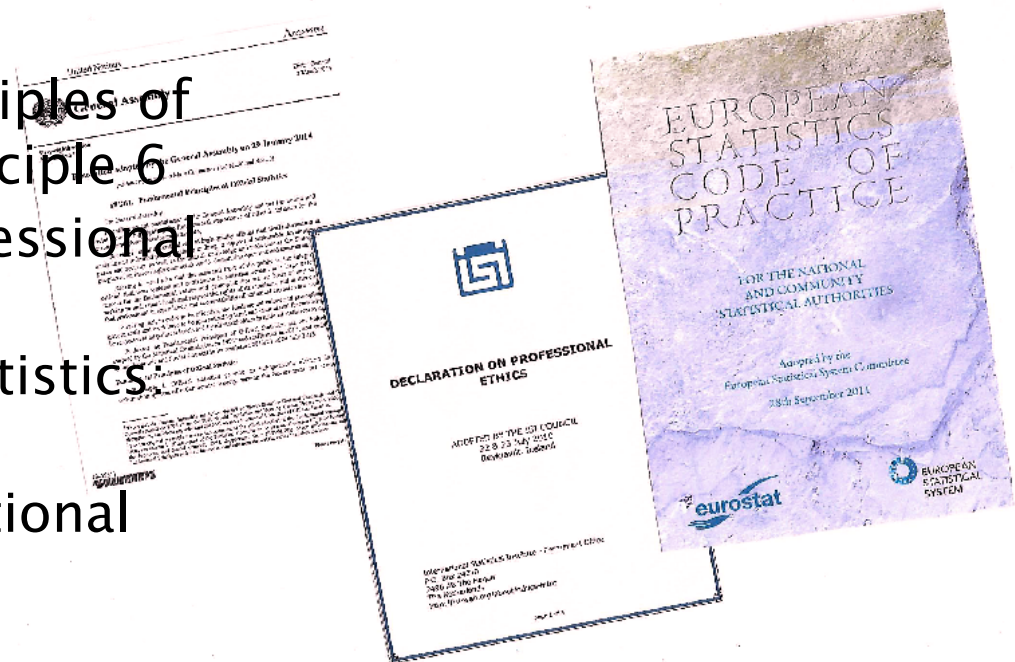
- ▶ Transactional
- ▶ Real time
- ▶ Complete
- ▶ Accessible electronically

The challenge of Big Data

- ▶ Who we are, what we do, who with and where
- ▶ Enormous potential benefits for analysis
- ▶ Data subject may be unaware how their data is collected or used
- ▶ Nonlinearity of Big Data processing may obscure eventual usage
- ▶ Societies views easily affected by high profile cases

Confidentiality of official statistics enshrined in international codes

- ▶ UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics: principle 6
- ▶ ISI Declaration of Professional Ethics: principle 12
- ▶ African Charter on Statistics: principle 5
- ▶ Enshrined in many national statistical laws



Implications for official statistics

- ▶ Using Big Data has the potential to bring new insights
- ▶ Free from many sources of traditional measurement error
- ▶ To gain access, statistics offices need to negotiate agreements or gain legal access rights.
- ▶ Data need to be obtained in an identifiable form to enable them to be used statistically
- ▶ Use of Big Data could reduce public trust
- ▶ UN Global Working Group on Big Data:
 - ▶ China 2014, Abu Dhabi 2015, Dublin 2016, Colombia 2017, Rwanda 2019

How do we resolve these issues?

- ▶ Use the best methods to preserve confidentiality
- ▶ Document and publish these
- ▶ Have good governance and some form of ethics board to balance the risks against the benefits
- ▶ Make sure we have the right risk frameworks
- ▶ Promote debate – in the profession and publicly

IFC High Level Meeting on Data Governance, co-organised with the International Statistical Institute
22 November 2019, Tunis, Tunisia

Changing role of official statistics – NSOs from data collectors to data curators¹

Irena Krizman,

former ISI Vice President and Director General of the NSO of Slovenia

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Changing role of official statistics – NSOs from data collectors to data curators

Irena Krizman
Former Vice-President
International Statistical Institute (ISI)
Director –General, the Statistical Office of Republic of Slovenia (2003–2013)


The context of NSOs' operation

- ▶ Digitalization
 - ▶ Growing demand for granular data
 - ▶ Other data producers
 - ▶ Data curation
-
- ▶ Skills gap
 - ▶ Legislation gap
 - ▶ Political commitment gap

New skills needed

- ▶ to work with owners of the data sources
- ▶ to prepare the processes to collect data
- ▶ to prepare the algorithms to analyse and integrate the data from different sources (AI and ML)
- ▶ to understand and use new technologies and tools (e.g. GIS tools)
- ▶ How big is the skills gap? Do NSO have skills gap analysis and programmes to fill it? What are the ways of co-operation with Academia and private sector? Can official statistics co-create the curricula? How international organisations can help?

Statistical legislation needs to be updated

- ▶ Access and data integration
 - ▶ NSO's coordination of official statistics
 - ▶ Quality assurance of data including published by partners outside the NSS
 - ▶ What are the challenges in closing the legislation gap? What are the procedures to maintain the quality of statistics published including outside the NSS and what is the mandate of the NSO? Do partnership agreements between NCB and NSOs contribute to a better quality of official statistics?
- 

The role of political leaders in the development of official statistics

- ▶ Legislators
- ▶ Resource providers
- ▶ Data users and data providers

- ▶ How statisticians work with political leaders? Who can be ally in acquiring support from politicians? Can media help? What is the role of the international statistical community (e.g. WDF, GPSDD, ISI)?
- ▶ Have political leaders kept promises they have done at the adoption of the SDGs? How this commitment is translated into practical support for the NSOs' and NSS' development?

Factors of success and outcomes of “data curator approach”

- ▶ Skills, legislation, political commitment
 - ▶ Tradition in using secondary data (e.g. Nordic countries, Slovenia)
 - ▶ Good administrative infrastructure (e.g. CRS)
 - ▶ Managerial, methodological and technical standards (e.g. information security)
 - ▶ Trust of all stakeholders
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- ▶ Outcome: Faster, cheaper, granular and good quality data and statistics!
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