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**Exploiting crowd sourced platforms for
statistical purposes**

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Outline

- Internet and statistics beyond GDP
- The contribution of EU FP7 e-Frame Project
 - e-Frame Networking experience
- The new EU FP7 Web-COSI project
- Quality challenges for statistics beyond GDP
- Some final remarks



Internet and statistics beyond GDP

The last 10 years represent a new era characterized by two revolutions for statisticians and beyond

- **Internet explosion** that has radically changed the way in which information is produced and shared. ICT tools have been widely used for supporting statistical activities from data collection to data dissemination
- **“GDP & Beyond” debate** that has dominated the scene of statistical and economic research for the new measurement of well-being, societal progress and sustainability

Web 2.0 technologies - networks and platforms - have deeply contributed to enlarge and to foster the debate and have been **exploited** to share information and data for the **“definition” of better statistics** beyond GDP involving society at large

- **Bridging top-down and bottom-up approaches**

The contribution of EU FP7 e-Frame Project

e-Frame project - *European Framework for Measuring Progress* - (2012-2014) has been funded by DG Research and Innovation

with the general aim to streamline the European initiatives beyond GDP looking together at the social, economic, environmental components of the new measurements, taking into account also the **implementation of the technologies** to “support” statistics

On ICT side the main project activities carried out are:

- The set up of a **survey** addressed to the EU NSIs on **ICT delivering tools**. It has brought to a “**Catalogue**” which identifies and recommends best practices in the presentation and visualisation of official statistical information
- The development of the **EU Social Monitoring and Reporting Web-Platform**. A tool to present continuously update social monitoring and reporting information as well as research results on individual and societal wellbeing in Europe
- The set up of the **e-Frame Network on Measuring Progress**

e-Frame Networking experience

The [European Network Measuring Progress](#) (e-FrameNET)

was set up by ISTAT as an offshoot of e-Frame project to contribute to the establishment of a European position

The **Members** of the Network are organised in a database managed by Istat

e-FrameNET has a dedicated section on [Wikiprogress.org](#) - the global platform hosted by OECD, alongside the Regional Networks of [Africa](#) and [Latin America](#)

- Offers [interactivity](#) in a global dimension through [online discussions](#), [blogs](#), [eBrief](#), [monthly News Alerts](#),...
- Represents a [consolidated community](#) of academics, analysts, opinion leaders, citizens and society at large belonging to 20 European countries. [Key members](#) include National Statistical Institutes, civil society organisations, academia and research centres

The Network will remain active after the end of e-Frame project

The new EU FP7 Web-COSI project (1/3)



Web-COSI
Web Communities for
Statistics for Social Innovation
INCREASING TRUST IN COLLECTIVELY
GENERATED STATISTICS

Web-COSI – *Web Communities for Statistics for Social Innovation*, led by Istat, kick offed in 2014. Funded by the DG CONNECT within the area of “Collective Awareness Platforms for Sustainability and Social Innovation”

- The general aim is to **use the opportunities given by Web2.0** to foster the **engagement of citizens and society at large** in the area of statistics beyond GDP
- The specific objective is to implement tools for collecting, producing and visualizing **locally generated** information and data for a better integration and complementarity of official and non-official statistics, **empowering the usage of crowd sourced data**

Based on a four-partner consortium sees the collaboration between two relevant institutions (**Istat, OECD**), alongside Lunaria – the Italian Association for Social Promotion (www.lunaria.org), and i-genius - the Social Entrepreneur Business and Enterprise Community in the UK (www.i-genius.org), which represent society at large

The new EU FP7 Web-COSI project (2/3)

The 24-month work plan envisages the following activities:

1. starting from the **mapping** of beyond GDP existing digital initiatives **distilling the best practices** of the involvement of the communities
 - the set up of **an interactive crowd-sourced map**
2. in the next months, with the aim to empower the engagement of communities, reaching a high level of citizens' involvement at the end of the project, the work plan, will carry on :
 - **specific initiatives** - European Wikiprogress University Programme, 'youth section',..
 - **target on- line campaigns** - citizens campaign, data visualisation competition,..

The new EU FP7 Web-COSI project (3/3)

3. at mid term of the project, the development of a **Wiki of progress statistics**
 - a tool for the **collection of civil society grass root locally generated non-official data** to integrate with official data
4. 5 stocktaking and reporting **documents** on the involvements of communities on statistics beyond GDP in Europe and abroad will be delivered
5. communication and dissemination **open events** will be organised: **5 workshops, 4 focus groups and a final conference**

Web-COSI will work to create synergies in connections and interactions with **EU FP7** and **CAPS** projects, and **Eurostat** on-going initiatives

The consortium will be supported by an **advisory board**, composed by outstanding known personalities providing guidance for the development of the project

Quality Challenges for “GDP and Beyond” statistics (1/2)

Background

- The ESS is the main producer of reliable statistical information
- **Quality framework:** principles of Code of Practice
- **Goals and timetable** set by the recommendations of the Sponsorship Group on Measuring Progress, Well-being and Sustainable development
- Well-being agenda is well established at EU level (*Result of e-Frame Initial Conference*)

Quality Challenges for “GDP and Beyond” statistics (2/2)

ROADMAP
2nd Tentative
June 2013

e-Frame Roadmap for future research needs

sets out the next steps for moving forward on “GDP and beyond” agenda

- ✓ Research needs and information gaps identified by **e-Frame activities** (stocktaking reports, workshops discussions, AB advices..)
- ✓ Areas to be further developed in order to empower the **development**, the **understanding**, **dissemination** and **use** of statistics on well-being and sustainable development
- ✓ Proposing topics for future research projects in the context of **Horizon 2020** as well as future **EU projects** according to ESS needs

The Roadmap

Based on project activities, on [Stocktaking reports](#) on subject areas and specific topics including [Guidelines](#) and [Recommendations](#)

*e-Frame Report
on NSIs initiatives*

*e-Frame
ICT Catalogue*

*e-Frame Report on
Subjective well-being*

*e-Frame Guidelines for
stakeholders inclusion*

*e-Frame Report on
macroeconomic indicators*

*e-Frame Report on New
Measures of International trade*

*e-Frame Report on Measuring
Progress at the local level*

*e-Frame Report on Social
Monitoring and Reporting in Europe*

Research areas

Quality Challenges
for “GDP and
Beyond” statistics

- A. topics concerning **official statistics**
- B. topics related to the **usage of non official data**
- C. topics related to a **looking forward perspective**
 - What do **policy makers** and advisors to policy makers still need?
 - What **models for supporting policies** (e.g. trade-offs between dimensions, simulate the effects of doing and not-doing, ex-ante and ex-post evaluation) are needed?
- D. topics concerning **communication side**
 - How do we **reach policy makers, their advisors, journalists**e.g. people supposed to understand and use indicators on GDP and Beyond?
 - How do we improve the **engagement and motivation of citizens** on beyond GDP pushing them to contribute, access and utilize statistics?

Quality Challenges for ESS and EU NSIs (1/2)

Official statistical production

EU COP Quality dimensions

Relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ to continue implementing subjective indicators○ to report indicators at different levels: local, national, global○ to disaggregate for different target groups○ indicators of sustainability
Accuracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ implications of multi dimensional approach for the quality framework○ use of aggregate or composite indicators
Timeliness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ to improve the timeliness of data is vital for policy use
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ not specific to “GDP and Beyond” statistics○ exploitation of visualization tools
Coherence and Comparability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ to harmonize concepts, standards and definitions (e.g. locally collected vs nation-wide data)○ national systems vs EU framework○ to provide metadata

Quality Challenges for ESS and EU NSIs (2/2)

Looking at non-official data sources

- How can official statistical information be enhanced by exploiting **new non-official data sources**?
- How can we foster the **integration/complementarity** of official and non official statistics?
- Can non-official data contribute to **near real-time** information?

Topics at the frontier of the debate

- No definitive answers/recipes yet
- Involves demanding issues (e.g. **quality assessment, labelling, rules, governance,...**)

Some final remarks

The usage of non-official sources is an **opportunity to catch** for better (official) statistics on GDP and Beyond

Increasing investments from ESS and NSIs e.g. for Big Data usage

Besides methodological and quality considerations, important issues are **legislative aspects** for data access and use; **privacy aspects**; **cost-benefit analysis**

To move forward in the exploitation of new data sources it is necessary to **create a large consensus**, also at political level to support research

As available resources are limited, it is vital to **join efforts**, to coordinate research activities at a European level and foster **partnerships** between NSIs, the academia and other relevant actors in order to cope with the challenges ahead in the production and policy use of GDP and Beyond statistics

Thanks for your attention

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