

# Istat and household data: the past and the future

Giorgio Alleva

President of the Italian National Institute of Statistics

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The Bank of Italy's Analysis of Household Finances

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# Outline

## The past

- Overview of Istat's household data production

## The future

- A new European framework
- Istat's strategy for building an integrated system of household surveys

## Challenges ahead

# The past: overview of Istat's household data production

**1954 Labour Force Survey**

1968 Survey on household income

1973 Survey on household consumption

**1993 Multipurpose social surveys**

1994 European Commission Household Panel

**2004 EU-Statistics on income and living conditions**

**2014 Household budget survey**

**Today 4 sample surveys, 200,000 households, nearly 10,000 variables**

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# The future: a new European framework

- Now: assemblage of **fragmented domain-specific regulations**, not always harmonized
- For the future: a new strategy based on **multiple data sources** and **cross-cutting integration of existing surveys**
  - Massive adoption of administrative data for the production of official statistics
  - A re-engineering of the system of social statistics
  - Goals:
    - to minimize redundancy and the burden on respondents
    - to increase data quality and detail

# The future: Istat's strategy for social surveys

- Building an integrated system of household surveys. Two scenarios:
  - **Ex-post** harmonization of concepts and definitions on existing surveys
  - **Ex-ante** integration of the system of social statistics: making the system more flexible. A two-phase sample survey:
    - First phase: a limited set of structural core variables on a sample of households (sex, age, household composition, ...)
    - Second phase: information on specific socio-economic variables on a number of sub-samples of households
- For NSIs: **moving away from a fragmented stovepipe approach towards a more complex architecture**
- **From micro to macro data**: new measures of wellbeing and disparities in a framework consistent with the system of national accounts

## Challenges ahead

Three key challenges:

- to strengthen the collaboration with the scientific community
- to increase the availability of detailed data for policy makers
- to capture at the micro level the interactions among households and firms