

The point of view of the Statistical Production Department

Alessandro FARAMONDI



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The organizational context (1)

- In 2016 ISTAT has begun a modernization program as a strategy to improve the production of current statistics, moving from a traditional model based on the vertical integration of statistical processes, to a generalized model composed of a set of common and shared infrastructures. All based on the centralization of support services (data collection, methodologies, IT technologies, dissemination and communication, services of a legal/administrative nature) with the activation of supply/demand mechanisms.
- Within the modernization program, was a reform in the organizational structure, with the separation between a production department and a support department. This implies, among other things, that efficiency in statistical processes derives from successful communication/collaboration between this two areas.

The organizational context (2)

In this framework, the timing of the demand and supply services must be clearly defined, as well as the procedures for proposing services. It would be useful to have a system where supply and demand for services can be consulted in real time.

In order to have a fully sustainable system, it would be necessary to reduce the planning times of the supply/demand mechanisms.

A possible solution could be to differentiate between current processes and new processes:

- about current processes, the definition of services should be defined only the first time and use this planning also in subsequent years;
- in this way the planning could focus only on the new processes, reducing the planning time.

Main elements of standardization and harmonization processes (1)

In this organizational context, the harmonization and standardization of processes become a crucial point to avoid redundancies and inefficiencies in statistical production. In particular, the lack of harmonization and standardization involves duplications in solutions, limited possibilities to make methodological and technological innovations.

What should be the main elements of an approach based on harmonization and standardization of processes?

- 1. Applicability:** not only "traditional" production processes, such as surveys, but also the Integrated Register System (SIR), Censuses, Integration between registers and surveys, Integration between multiple sources (National Accounts), composite indicators, etc.
- 2. Sharing:** the statistical process and therefore the breakdown into processes and sub-processes must be built together, between experts of support services and thematic experts, since only from the synergy of the two components it is possible to fully define all the phases;

Main elements of standardization and harmonization processes (2)

- 3. Clarity:** it is essential to articulate processes and sub-processes in a clear and simple way, to avoid errors of allocation and therefore of process definition. For this reason it's essential to have a "common vocabulary" (*In the paper presented by C. Vaccari, one of the main difficulties met by the WG derived from the some terminological differences linked to the specific skill*)

- 4. Training:** to acquire "a common vocabulary" it is essential to share knowledge and basic terminology. In this sense, even a contamination of knowledge is certainly useful. Both for support service experts to know basic elements of production, and for thematic experts, to have knowledge of support services;

- 5. Completeness:** it is essential not to have a rigid tool, but able to take into account the diversity of processes. It is advisable to offer services that have standard characteristics, harmonized as much as possible, but which are able to respond to the specificities of the processes. For example, the processes of structural statistics have some peculiarities with respect to the short term statistics and vice versa.

Conclusions

- Efficiency in statistical processes derives from successful communication/collaboration between Production Department and Support Department. This can be easily achieved if the services offered by support teams are clearly expressed and are supported by tools that implement high-standard methodologies for each step of the process production.
- Involve all Support services in defining their services according to the same approach, i.e. definition and breakdown into processes and sub-processes according to a common model which could be that of the GSBPM
- *“None of such new developments can be successfully achieved without a fully involvement of the production sectors”*. This involvement should already take place from the initial stages, since, there may be specificities that must be understood right away

Thank you

ALESSANDRO FARAMONDI | faramond@istat.it