

Sapienza University of Rome, 22 June 2026

Satellite meeting of the Joint Meeting SIS-FENStatS 2026
100 YEARS OF METHODOLOGICAL EVOLUTION: OFFICIAL STATISTICS
BETWEEN SCIENTIFIC RIGOR AND DIGITAL INNOVATION

From Data to Public Value

Official Statistics in the Age of Information Abundance

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Why Public Value Does Not Originate from Data

We live in the age of big data, artificial intelligence, and information abundance

Public value

does not originate from data, but from our ability to transform data into reliable knowledge that supports collective decisions

**ISTAT's mission for the past one hundred years:
transforming data into knowledge, and knowledge into public value**

Measuring Means Making Visible

Traditional View

GDP

Broader View

Health

Education

Environment

Safety

Social Relationships

Well-being

What remains invisible rarely becomes part of public decision-making

How Is Public Value Created?

DATA



INFORMATION



KNOWLEDGE



DECISIONS



PUBLIC VALUE

**Reliable knowledge creates public value only when it informs
better decisions**

100 Years of Methodological Evolution 1926 → 2026

 Census Forms (1926)

→  Sample Surveys

→  Administrative Registers

→  Big Data

→  AI

- Evolution of tools
- Evolution of our ability to understand reality

From Information Scarcity to Information Abundance

- Big Data
- Administrative Registers
- Sensors
- Digital Platforms
- Artificial Intelligence

More Data \neq More Knowledge

Statistical Thinking

- Asking the right questions
- Distinguishing signal from noise
- Assessing information quality
- Quantifying uncertainty
- Understanding error

Every measurement is inevitably subject to error

Transforming data into reliable knowledge

Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence

can generate answers

Statistical thinking

helps us understand whether those answers deserve our trust

Trust

Quality

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Transparency

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Reliability

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Accountability

Trust does not arise from the absence of error

Trust arises from transparency

The Public Value of Data

Not in the availability of information

Not in the sophistication of algorithms

But in the ability to place knowledge at the service of the common good

From Data to Public Value

- **The role of statistics is not to predict the future**
- **It is to help society build it on solid foundations of knowledge**

**For one hundred years, ISTAT has demonstrated that public value begins
when reliable knowledge informs better decisions**

Thank you

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