Workshop on using big data for forecasting and statistics

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EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

EUROSYSTEM

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The role of official statistics in a big data ecosystem

What will change?

What is the role of official statistics today

*'….To provide an **indispensable element** in the **information system** of a democratic society, serving the government, the economy and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation….'*

*[Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics; principle 1 on **Relevance, impartiality and equal access**]*

Is this role changing in a big data environment?

- The **role** does not change *as such* but
- The **information system** is rapidly changing
- NSIs are not anymore the main data providers
- Big Data inevitably requires ***transformations*** in NSIs
- **Cultural**, **Organisational**
- Eventually transiting towards **new tasks and responsibilities**

Cultural and organisational transformations in NSIs

- Big data is more of a **corporate culture** and **organisational behaviour** than anything else

- NSIs (slowly) **embrace** big data as part of **'greater statistics'**

- NSIs create big data labs

- The ESS is committed to a big data strategy with action plan and roadmap

- The global statistical system is launching an international partnership in the framework of the Post2015 development agenda, etc…..

What will change?

- **Accreditation** and **certification** may become core tasks of NSIs
- **Statistical modelling** will be a main activity of NSIs
- From descriptive indicators to **nowcasting** and **forecasting**
- Re-thinking surveys and censuses in terms of reality mining
- It will be difficult to justify a 'traditional census of population' in the post2020 rounds

What will change?

Thank You

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