



הלשכה המרכזית לסטטיסטיקה
Central Bureau of Statistics
دائرة الإحصاء المركزية

The ICBS Meta Data Program: Update and Quality Aspects

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It's All in the Numbers

Overview of the work done

- Meta Data exists at many levels in the ICBS and can be found in publications, on the website, in submissions to International organizations etc
- In the context of the last Twinning Program, the ICBS set out on a program of categorizing, documenting, standardizing and publishing meta data on all statistical topics. This includes reference, structural and management metadata.
- The Government Statistician appointed a steering committee and an implementation team and to research, develop and implement an appropriate approach.

Overview of Work Done

- It was decided that reference metadata would be the first area developed
- The team first reviewed all the international approaches to meta data
- The various international standards (SDMX, DDI, SIMS, SDDS) were examined as well as activity in Europe, NA and Australia
- It was decided to adopt and adapt SIMS
- The team and the committee then intensively reviewed the 78 SIMS categories and subcategories
- Four pilot subject implementations were carried out.
- A sophisticated computerized approach to inputting metadata into the SIMS framework was developed
- A broad pilot test approach was carried out with the Education Statistics Branch The approach involves subject matter specialists from the Branch inputting the metadata according to specific instructions and guidelines and Implementation Team members interacting with them on line in order to ensure a common interpretation and approach
- The Pilot is now drawing to a close and the next step is a thorough evaluation of the Pilot and based on that revise the approach if necessary and go on to the next Branch

A note on Meta Data and Quality of Statistics

- Most Meta Data categories are in one way or other categories of quality, whether it is reference, structural or management meta data
- This is true of the SIMS. In particular, the SIMS captures specific categories from the European Code of Practice :
 - Relevance
 - Accuracy and reliability
 - Timeliness and punctuality
 - Comparability
 - Coherence
 - Access to documentation on quality
- Many countries use their metadata bases to supply the information for annual Quality Declarations and Reports

Next steps already planned

- Next Step: Thorough Evaluation of the Pilot with The Education Statistics Branch
- Writing a full report and presentation to the Steering Committee and the ICBS Hanhala (Senior Management)
- Continue the documentation of Meta Data on the subjects of other branches

Vision for the future

- An Integrated Meta Data System for the entire NSS.