Metadata – follow-up on focus groups

Metadata needs

- Key message 1: “What ICBS does, it does well - the problem is what ICBS does not”
- Key message 2: “The problem is not the quality – it is the accessibility”
- Generally, documentation (metadata) should be easier understandable
- More/better info needed in metadata about:
  - Policies and practice regarding breaks in time series (incl. revisions)
  - “Automatic” application of confidentiality to business stats. tables
  - Possibilities and limitations for international comparability
  - “Connectability” (coherence across related domains / phenomena)
- Alternative ways of communicating ‘meta-info’ to non-expert users, e.g. via Youtube?
- Reflection: How well is the concept and content of metadata actually rooted among ICBS’s users?
- Note: Good metadata will improve search functions
- Next step: Maintain bilateral relations with knowledgeable users …

New, more and more accessible data

- Generally:
  - Better overview of indicators and tables – incl. “key tables”
  - Longer time series
  - Disaggregation, e.g. small area data
  - Dynamic / interactive table generation
  - More active dissemination with GIS
  - Unified dissemination of data – incl. data from other statistics producers – “one stop shop”; already being addressed in the Spivak Committee
- Specifically:
  - Public transportation
  - Government finance stats.
  - Environmental accounts
  - SMEs / business demography
  - Construction, housing etc. – incl. risk component
  - Migration
  - “Soft areas”: Gender, religiosity,

RECOMMENDATIONS

Input data provider policy

- During activity x.y survey based data collection from enterprises was discussed with special emphasis on measuring and reducing the reporting burden
- During this activity reception and statistical usage of administrative data, including cooperation with owners of administrative data, was discussed
- Against that background – and within the framework of its coming long term strategy – The ICBS is recommended to:
  1. Develop a draft data provider policy and a draft plan for the communication of the policy to data providers and other stakeholders
  2. Identify priority areas for new or extended use of administrative data and draft a plan for bilateral discussions with the relevant data owners, and draft MoUs with two data suppliers

  Deadline: 1st November 2014

Access to micro data for research

- During the focus group sessions the ICBS presented its different solutions for access to micro data for research purposes.
- Users expressed a strong need for simpler and more efficient access to micro data.
- Against that background ICBS presented their ongoing considerations and work within the Eckstein2 Committee to simplify legal/administrative procedures and improve their statistical services provided in the framework of the ‘Data Research Centres’.
- The consultants see these initiatives as steps in the right direction and recommended ICBS to implement these improvements as soon as possible.