

Strategies in producing statistics with privately held data at SURS, Slovenia

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Title, SURS, Slovenia

Abstract

New data sources, commonly referred to as “Big Data”, have attracted growing interest of National Statistical Institutes. These data have the potential to complement official statistics in different domains. However, it is often assumed that this type of data is readily available, which is not necessarily the case. Private companies are reluctant to share data with government and the public sector as a whole not only because of a legitimate concern over giving up commercially sensitive data, but also because of concerns related to privacy infringement risks, related to the costs and risks of anonymization techniques. Costs and skills are significant barriers on both the supply and the demand side.

The paper aims to present potential ways of addressing the related challenges taking into account legal requirements, business incentives as well as enhancing internal management and organisational capacity suitable for smaller offices with limited resources dedicated to research capabilities; for example, project-oriented organization, collaboration with academia, commitment to innovations, open-collaborative development and introduction of related standards and frameworks. The paper is based on experiences acquired in the recent implementation of projects related to the use of privately held data for the production of official statistics at SURS.