

ICT Regional Forum on ICT Measurement

**Dubai, United Arab Emirates
13-15 December 2016**

Session 10: Big Data for IT measurement

José CERVERA, Consultant to ITU
DevStat



Contents

- Experiences
- Technical issues: integration of Big Data and official statistics
- Institutional issues
- The Human Factor



Big Data in the international Statistical System

- European Statistical System:
 - Scheveningen Memorandum Sept 2013
 - Several conferences since 2014
 - Big Data Road Map (June 2014)
 - ESSnet Pilot projects
(https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cros/content/programme-ess-big-data-workshop-2016_en)
- UN ECE “Big Data in Official Statistics” project
 - “SandBox”
- UN Statistical Commission 45th session:
 - Global Working Group (GWG) on Big Data for Official Statistics



Application of Big Data for other statistics

- Sources: mobile phone data, web pages, smart meters, IoT
 - demographic statistics (e.g. daily population, migration)
 - labour statistics (job portals)
 - price statistics (price scrapping)
 - innovation statistics
 - trade and balance of payment statistics
 - transport statistics (mobile, sensors)
 - energy statistics (smart meters)



Applications in ICT statistics

- Infrastructure coverage
 - Internet traffic data
- Households and individuals:
 - Uses of Internet (web tracking)
 - Use of mobile phone (mobile data)
- Businesses:
 - Use of Internet by businesses (website scrapping)
 - e-commerce (price scrapping)
 - IT jobs (Job portals scrapping)
- Source: Big Data Project Inventory
- <http://unstats.un.org/bigdata/inventory/>



Integration of Big Data and official statistics sources

- Representativeness of Big Data sources
- Single source or combination of sources?
 - Record linkage
 - Key socio-economic variables
 - Classifications and nomenclatures
 - Geolocation
- Other Big Data quality issues (completeness, coherence)
 - Need for a framework for assessing the quality of Big Data sources for Official Statistics



Institutional issues

- Private-public partnership
 - Telecom + NSOs
 - Banking and credit institutions + NSOs
 - E-commerce sites + NSOs

- Sustainability of access

- "Data custodian" role of NSOs?

- Cost issues

The Human Factor

- Skills
 - “Can a Statistician be a data scientist?”
 - From *design-based* to *model-based* to *algorithm-based* inference
 - Rapid evolution of data manipulation technologies (distributed storage and computation)

- Salaries in NSOs vs business sector
 - Can Official Statistics attract (and retain) the talent necessary for Big Data use?



Thank you

José CERVERA (jccervera@devstat.com)

