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Session 4.1b- Data Quality Assessment for National Accounts

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Overview

After this session, participants will be aware of:

* The main headings of the DQAF
* Its structure
* Examples of issues and key points
* Reports on Observance of Standards and Codes
* Questions to consider

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WHAT IS THE DQAF

* A framework that allows users and compilers to make their own data quality assessments.

* Identifies quality-related features of governance of statistical systems, statistical processes, and statistical products.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE DQAF

* The DQAF is a product of an intensive, iterative process of consultation
* In the development of the DQAF, two main areas of work were pursued to:

  * Promoting an understanding of data quality in the community of data users and compilers
  * Provide a structure and a common language for data quality for an assessment framework.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE DQAF

* The generic DQAF2003 serves as an umbrella for eight dataset-specific frameworks:
    * 1 . National accounts statistics;2.
    * 2. Consumer price index;
    * 3. Producer price index;
    * 4. Government finance statistics;
    * 5. Monetary statistics;
    * 6. Balance of payments statistics;
    * 7. External debt statistics; and
    * 8. Household income in a poverty context

HOW IS THE DQAF USED?

Integrating the DQAF and Data ROSCs

* The early Data ROSCs focused on the disclosure elements of the standard.
* Experience showed the need to address the quality of the information by integrating the methodology provided by the DQAF into the structure of the Data ROSC.

* The DQAF provides users with a methodology. Application of the DQAF methodology helps identify areas where further efforts are required to reach an international "best practice".

* Publication—like participation— of Data ROSCs is voluntary. To date, over 100 Data ROSCs have been published for over 80 countries.

HOW IS THE DQAF STRUCTURED?

* The DQAF covers the various quality aspects of data collection, processing, and dissemination.

* The first level covers the **prerequisites** of quality and five **dimensions** of quality: assurances of integrity, methodological soundness, accuracy and reliability, serviceability, and accessibility.

DQAF main headings

* **0 Prerequisites of Quality**
    * legal basis, resources, relevance, quality management
* **1 Assurances of Integrity**
    * professionalism, transparency, ethics
* **2 Methodological Soundness**
    * concepts, scope, classifications, recording basis
* **3 Accuracy and Reliability**
    * source data, data assessment, compilation techniques, validation, revision studies
* **4 Serviceability**
    * periodicity, timeliness, consistency, revisions policy
* **5 Accessibility**
    * data & metadata accessibility, assistance to users

Structure of the DQAF for national accounts

* 6 dimensions
* 22 elements
* 50 indicators
* 90 focus issues
* Over 300 key points and sub-points
  Data sources and compilation methods
  have 90 key points

Some issues

* National accounts (and balance of payments)   unlike other types of statistics
* Assessing quality (especially accuracy)
  very hard to do
  * Estimation processes are often not transparent

* Many issues/key points are not country specific

Examples of issues & points - 1

3.1.1. Source data are collected from comprehensive data collection programs that take into account country-specific conditions.

ii. Annual enterprise/establishment statistics are collected through a regular survey program.

A comprehensive and up-to-date register provides the basis for sample surveys of enterprises/establishments.

Register maintenance procedures are adequate (including adding new units, deleting dead units…)

Examples of issues & points - 2

iii. Household surveys are conducted on a regular basis.

* Household income and expenditure surveys are conducted on a regular basis and at least once every five years.
* Geographic coverage is comprehensive. The entire country is covered, or if not, exclusions are clearly identified and do not lessen the representativeness and usefulness of survey outcomes. (2 of 11 key points)

Examples of issues & points - 3

3.3.2   Other statistical procedures (e.g., data adjustments and transformations, and statistical analysis) employ sound statistical techniques.

v. Proper techniques are used to address specific issues of GDP compilation.

* Method for calculating FISIM is per *2008 SNA*.
  FISIM is calculated separately for loans and deposits using a reference rate
* **T**he following are treated as work-in-progress:
  - growing crops;
  - …

ROSC costs and benefits

* Possible costs:
    * Preparation of evidence time-consuming
    * Risk of highlighting non-critical issues
* Possible benefits:
    * Could help to get resources to fix known problems
    * Could highlight some key shortcomings

Dependent on the quality of the examiners

Questions to consider

* If you have not had a ROSC before
    * Would a ROSC be useful in your country?
* If you have already had a ROSC
    * Would another ROSC be useful?
* Is the national accounts DQAF fit for purpose?
    * If not, how could it be adapted for use in ECO countries?