

# Ethical Aspects for Official Statistics

## The french experience



- **LIKE EVERY NSI**
- Production of statistics (surveys, use of administrative data, use of private data)
- Dissemination of statistics
- Coordination of national statistics system (NSI + ONA)
  
- **MORE SPECIFIC MISSIONS**
- Short term analysis and economic forecast (national level)
- Economic and social studies (national and local level)
- Managing registers for administrative purposes (shared identification)
  - - Register for identification of persons (no address)
  - - Business register

**MAKING FIGURES MEANINGFUL AND REACHING OUT TO ALL TYPES OF PUBLIC..... PREVENTING MISUSES, INSPIRING TRUST, RELEVANCE**

**INNOVATING AND BEING AT THE FOREFRONT WITH NEW DATA SOURCES RELEVANCE, TIMELINESS, REACTIVITY**

**CONTRIBUTING ACTIVELY, WITH THE FRENCH OFFICIAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM, TO EUROPEAN STATISTICS RELEVANCE, CODE OF PRACTICES**

**DEMONSTRATING COLLECTIVE AGILITY AND SOBRIETY : TIMELINESS, RELEVANCE, REACTIVITY**

## THREE REASONS OF TRUST

- Trust due to relevance, impartiality and independance *I can rely of your data, they reflect the reality that I live*
- Trust due to transparency on the use of methods and data collection *You tell what you do and for what purpose and you dont't go forward the mandate that you have received*
- Trust due to confidentiality of data, essential for data collection *I accept to give you my confidential data if I am sure that you will protect them and use them only for statistical purpose and public's benefit*

## PRIVACY

- Legal framework (french law since 1951 and 1978 regularly updated/Data protection ac/ compliance to GDPR)
- IT security
- Disclosure control on disseminated data
- **Statistical processes never lead to an individual decision. Strict separation between**
  - - administrative registers (that can provide individual data, by design),
  - - statistical registers
  - - other statistical processes

## RELEVANCY

- **User centric approach, co-construction with the user of dissemination products ...**
- **Innovation and continuous improvement to stay relevant in a changing world**
- **Grasp Complexity :**
  - **not only means, but quantiles, histograms**
  - **not only whole France, but areas**
  - **not only static, but dynamics**

**COMPLEX WORLD**

**MEASURE AND EXPLAIN THE  
COMPLEXITY, GIVE KEYS TO  
UNDERSTAND**

**LESS AND LESS TIME**

**PROVIDE EASY ACCESS TO AN  
INFORMATION EASY TO USE**

**INFORMATION DELUGE**

**GIVE THE RIGHT DATA**

**MORE AND MORE PROVIDERS**

**BEING CONSIDERED AS A RELIABLE  
PROVIDER AND A REFERENCE**

## RELY ON RELAYS AND PARTNERS TO REACH ALL PUBLICS

- **Beyond the figures and the analyses, we are challenged on the keys to use our data**
  - - gives us an opportunity to get feedback on dissemination, analyses and level of pedagogy
  - - Close relationships with the press :
  - - Increase of Demanding users because of "fact checking"
- **The development of partnerships with education sector aims to give young people tools to analyse information, to develop critical spirit skills ; competition of statistics (partnership with Eurostat)**
- **Videos (by Insee, education sector, influencers) lead information on the fieldplay of some targeted publics (especially young)**



- **PROVIDING TOOLS AND KEYS TO USE DATA AND UNDERSTAND FACTS**
- Our data are « open access », provided with metadata, so users can process and explore them
- Datavizualization is a key vector to expose, explain and explore the data
- Our blog is an nice vehicle to focus and communicate on our methods, our concepts and theirs limits ; and answer to polemics
- <https://blog.insee.fr/>
- Our mobile app (quizzes) help us to check, in a funny way, whether the main data or ideas are well known or understood

## MORE FREQUENT PUBLICATIONS

- Weekly statistics of death, short term analysis every 2 weeks

## SPECIFIC SURVEYS

- Surveys about impact of crisis on firms (1 month from demand to results)

## USING NEW SOURCES

- Estimate the first crisis impact on GDP and household consumption : -35% on both, that was used as reference for all analysis
- Using mobile phone data to estimate internal movements of population due to « confinement » (partnership with mobile phone operators)

## NEW BALANCE BETWEEN DATA LIMITS AND DATA USEFULNESS (VALUE)

- Going out our « comfort zone », taking risks, but it was our mission
- *« however uncertain and imprecise these first figures may be, it seemed to me that it was better to publish them than to say nothing at all »* JL Tavernier, General Director of Insee, 26 march 2020
- Insee blog to communicate on data quality, limits, interpretation, methods ...  
<https://blog.insee.fr/official-statistics-and-the-challenge-of-the-current-health-crisis/>

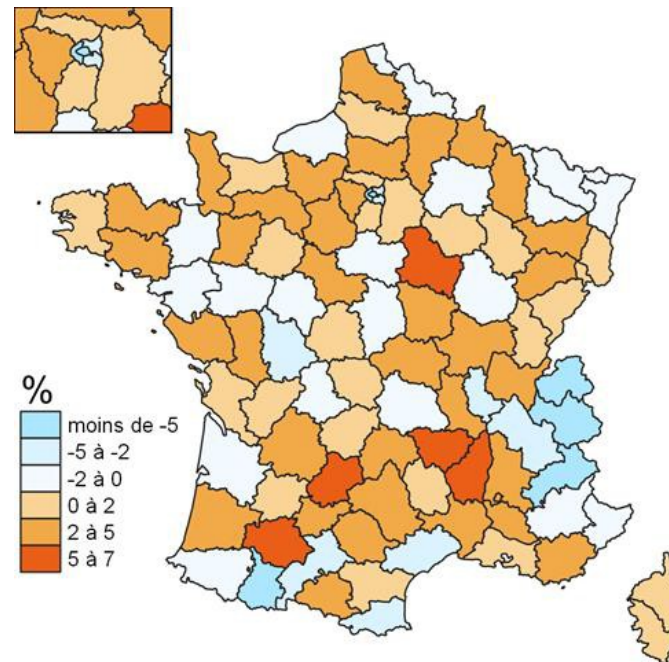
## 26 MARCH : ECONOMIC SHORT TERM IMPACT

- 35 % ON GDP AND CONSUMPTION

## 17 APRIL : IMPACT ON FIRMS MANAGEMENT

AT THE END OF MARCH, ALMOST 20% OF EMPLOYEES SAW THEIR COMPANY'S ACTIVITY STOP DUE TO THE CRISIS, 30% SAW IT REDUCED BY MORE THAN HALF

## 6 APRIL : MOVEMENTS OF POPULATION



**MORE DATA  
MORE POSSIBILITIES**



**MORE RESPONSABILITIES  
MORE VIGILANCE**

**Opportunities to be more relevant,  
to give figures that are more accurate  
and more targeted to user's needs**

**Social licence to use  
those data  
and those technologies**

**DATA PROTECTION**

**PREOCCUPATION SHARED WITH PROVIDERS**

**DATA QUALITY**

**BE CLEAR ABOUT CONCEPTS, METHODS, ENSURE**

**STABILITY**

**OF DATA, SUSTAINABILITY**

**MORE DETAILED DATA**

**VERY HIGH ATTENTION TO FINALITIES, MINIMIZATION**

**AND PROPORTIONALITY PRINCIPLE**

**POSSIBILITIES OF EXPLOITATION**

**DO NOT HARM, NO INDIVIDUAL DECISIONS,**

**TRANSPARENCY ON USES.**

## APPLY CORE VALUES IS AN EVERY-DAY AND AN EVERYBODY'S CHALLENGE

- We can rely on a solid basis, common with NSI (code of practises ...)
- Some strengths : publishing studies, having a regular concertation with stakeholders on all activities, investing for a long time in partnership and strong connection with researchers, internal exchanges with the staff
- And for which we must go further on training, concertation, partnerships with relays

## Retrouvez-nous sur

[insee.fr](http://insee.fr)



Olivier Lefebvre

Population and Dwelling Statistical Register Project « Résil »

Project owner

Mail [olivier.lefebvre@insee.fr](mailto:olivier.lefebvre@insee.fr)



## – 3 GOVERNANCE BODIES

- **National Statistical Office and 12 Other National Authorities** ensure data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination, according to the european statistics code of practise.
- **1972 National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS) ≈ ESAC** provides a forum for concertation between producers and users of official statistics who express the requests and needs of users in terms of production and dissemination. Annual and medium term programmes of official statistics are discussed.
- **2009 French Official Statistics Authority (ASP) ≈ ESGAB** ensure independence in developing, producing and disseminating statistics and compliance with european statistics code of practice principles.
- ASP and CNIS ensure that statistics are for the **PUBLIC GOOD** and that the **VIEW OF THE PUBLIC AND ENGAGEMENT** are taken into account

## – 3 FRENCH LAWS

- **1951 Law on the obligation, coordination and secrecy of statistics** (modified many times, especially 84, 2002, 2016)
  - Insure Data collection of survey and administrative data and private data since 2016
  - Creation of CNIS
  - Statistical coordination
  - Regulate mandatory data collection
- **1978 Law relating to data processing, files and freedoms compliant with GDPR** (modified in 2019)
- **2016 Law for a Digital Republic** : open data for database, documents, source code, access on private data (51 law's update), non significant identifier for record linkage