Big Data in Official Statistics

UNECE work relating to Big Data

September 2015	Project workshop in Ljubljana to review progress and decide on priority source(s) to use to produce statistics by November 2015.
June 2015	Sprint session in Cork produced an options paper on the future of the Sandbox. This paper and its recommendations were approved by the HLG Executive Board, which oversees the Big Data project.
Throughout 2015	New Big Data project focusing on the Sandbox - New experiments, new data, and a new challenge: "Create a set of internationally comparable statistics based on one or more Big Data sources"
April 2015	Launch of the updated UNECE Big Data Inventory. The inventory replaces the initial inventory and includes all project information collected in the joint UNECE-UNSD survey.
March 2015	Workshop on Big Data, 9 March, Brussels
November 2014	The HLG and representatives of expert groups review the progress so far on the 2014 Big Data project, and decide to launch a new project for 2015, with the main aim of producing and publishing multi-national statistics from a Big Data source
September 2014	Enhancement of the Big Data project inventory in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division and the HLG Modernisation Committee on Products and Sources: a new, more detailed questionnaire is under development with the aim of obtaining a more comprehensive picture of current and planned projects and facilitating exchange of knowledge and experience.
August-October 2014	Preliminary results of the survey "Skills necessary for people working with Big Data in Statistical Organisations". More detailed analysis will be prepared by October 2014.

This is the public-access wiki space for UNECE work relating to Big Data. It contains information about Big Data activities and events, and links to relevant resources. A separate wiki space exists for those working on the HLG projects on Big Data in Official Statistics.

Inventory of Big Data projects

The inventory aims to catalogue past, current and planned projects in statistical organisations around the world, that make use of Big Data for the production of official statistics.

Browse the listing of projects, add a listing or join the discussion with questions, answers and comments.

Throughout 2014	International collaboration project on The Role of Big Data in the Modernisation of Statistical Production - This project, overseen by the High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics, is running during 2014, and aims to: • identify, examine and provide guidance for statistical organizations to act upon the main strategic and methodological issues that Big Data poses for the official statistics industry • demonstrate the feasibility of efficient production of both novel products and 'mainstream' official statistics using Big Data sources, and the possibility to replicate these approaches across different national contexts • facilitate the sharing across organizations of knowledge, expertise, tools and methods for the production of statistics using Big Data sources.
June 2013	Draft classification of types of Big Data
March 2013	Position paper *What does Big data mean for official statistics?* (March 2013) drafted for the High Level Group for the Modernization of Statistical Production and Services (HLG).

Links and Resources

These are just a few of the thousands of Big Data resources available: those which are of greatest relevance to official statistics. Please feel free to add others using the button at the bottom of this section, or notify us.

- Sandbox- CSO - ICHEC collaboration in the exploration of Big Data for official statistics 2015
- International collaboration to understand the relevance of Big Data for Official Statistics 2015
- Eurostat CROS-Portal page on Big Data Initiatives
- Big Data in Official Statistics: Technical Workshop Report (2014)
- New Techniques and Technologies for Statistics (NTTS) Conference 2015
- Dealing with Big data for Official Statistics: IT Issues (MSIS paper from Italy) (2014)
- Big data - an opportunity or a threat to official statistics? Eurostat paper for CES
- The Global Impact of Big Data: Infographic from Syracuse University (2014)
- Demystifying Big Data: TechAmerica Foundation paper (2012)
- Placing Big Data in Official Statistics: A Big Challenge? Paper for the New Techniques and Technologies for Statistics conference (2013)
- Big Data for Policy, Development and Official Statistics: UN Statistical Commission (2013)
- Big data (and official statistics): MSIS paper from Statistics Netherlands (2013)
- Mapping the policy issues raised by "Big Data": OECD policy paper (2012)
- Production of Official Statistics by Using Big Data: MSIS paper from Statistics Korea (2013)
- Big Data and Official Statistics: Paper for the New Techniques and Technologies for Statistics conference (2013)
- What Happens When Big Data Meets Official Statistics? World Bank webcast (2012)
- Big Data: A Perspective from the BLS (2013)
- Big Data for Development: Challenges and Opportunities (2012)