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Topic (i): The impact of Internet on the statistical production and dissemination process

META TOOLS IN SUPPORT OF A CORPORATE DISSEMINATION STRATEGY

Submitted by Statistics Netherlands¹

SUMMARY

1. Modern information technology triggers statistical processes and surveying units of NSIs towards concentration, as described by Keller and Bethlehem (1998). There may, however, also be an impact on the quality of statistical data, in particular with respect to coherence of concepts and consistency of data.
2. On the one hand the necessity for concepts and data to meet these requirements is strongly enforced by the fact that the entire process of statistics, as supplied by an NSI, can now be made available to customers as one product, i.e. disseminated on one information carrier, notably the Internet or a CD-Rom. Indeed, Statistics Netherlands aims to provide users with nothing less than a comprehensive and coherent statistical representation of Dutch society.
3. On the other hand the opportunities to organize the statistical processes so that they apply coherent concepts and generate consistent data are strongly

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enforced by information technology. This paper provides an overview of the tools Statistics Netherlands is developing and of the way these tools are used in order to attain this highly ambitious goal. The notion of a centrally maintained output data base serving as the one and only source for all publications is the core tool in the dissemination strategy, while meta data is its fuel .

Keywords: meta, output, output-database, datawarehouse, StatLine, StatBase, dissemination, statistical co-ordination, consistency