



THE SLOVENIAN
NATIONAL
STATISTICS

TRUSTWORTHY
AND
USER-ORIENTED

Micro-foundations of macro data

Discussion at the Sixth ECB
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Overview

- Giovannini's paper: Micro foundations of macro data: increasing data quality and exploiting the "true wealth" of national statistical institutes
- Exchange of microdata between the ESCB and the ESS: European and national perspective
- Exchange of microdata within the ESS
- Other initiatives (Enria's paper)
- Discussion points

Giovannini's paper

- Microdata leads to better quality and coherence of statistics
- Enable the compilation of new statistics
- Offer new opportunities for analyses, modelling and other research purposes
- Reduce the cost of statistics
- Integration of different sources at micro level, exchange of microdata, their linkage and re-use
- Important potential of microdata is also to describe the variability of the phenomena or “going beyond the averages”

Exchange of microdata between the ESS and the ESCB

- Regulation 223/2009 on European Statistics provides:
“transmission of confidential data between an ESS authority that collected the data and an ESCB member may take place provided that this transmission is necessary for the efficient development, production and dissemination of European statistics or for increasing the quality of European statistics, within the respective spheres of competence of the ESS and the ESCB, and that this necessity has been justified”.
- Almost the same provision is included in Regulation 2533/1998 concerning the collection of statistical information by the ECB.

Exchange of microdata between the ESS and the ESCB (cont.)

- The EU legislation thus enables the exchange of confidential data.
- According to both mentioned regulations, confidential data are defined as data which allow reporting units to be identified, either directly from their name or address or officially allocated identification code, or indirectly through deduction.

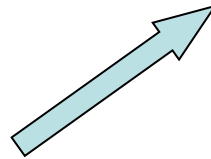
Exchange of microdata between the ESS and the ESCB (cont.)

- Exchanged confidential data can be used only for statistical purposes, i.e. for the development and production of statistical results and analyses.
- The use for administrative, tax, supervisory, etc., purposes is strictly forbidden.

Exchange of microdata between the ESS and the ESCB (cont.)

Barriers

- legislative
- organisational
- cooperation modes
- lack of mutual trust between institutions, both at national and at European levels?



Opportunities

- can be legislated
- cannot be made legally binding but can be achieved only through cooperation, respect, and understanding the culture and needs of the other institution

Cooperation between NSI and NCB, the case of Slovenia

- Exchange of confidential data within the national statistical system
- Exchange and linkage of confidential microdata in common effort to fulfil the analytical and research requirements
- Use of anonymised microdata for internal research work of the Bank of Slovenia

Exchange of microdata within the ESS

- Exchange of confidential microdata within the ESS is very limited.
- In many member states such exchange is not allowed by national legislation.
- Possibilities given by Regulation on European Statistics are not exploited.
- The exchange of confidential microdata for statistical purposes within the ESS is a precondition for the simplification of processes (e.g. Intrastat).

New threat to the use and exchange of microdata

- The Commission's proposal for a General Data Protection Regulation can seriously affect the production of official statistics.
- The need for "general exception" for statistical data will be pursued in the course of the legislative process.

Microdata in other EU initiatives

- Enria's paper
- In 2007 the ECB initiated the reconciliation of the statistical and supervisory data requirements in the Joint Expert Group on Reconciliation (JEGR).
- Purpose: burden reduction, saving costs, better quality.
- Increased cooperation and further standardisation is proposed way forward.

Discussion points

- Do we need a “common legislation” between the two systems as suggested by Giovannini?
- Or will it be easier if the ESS becomes more like the ESCB?
- What can the ESS learn from the ESCB with regard to obligation for the exchange of confidential microdata? Should such obligation be addressed in the forthcoming revision of the Regulation on European Statistics?

Discussion points (cont.)

- Do we need more trust and cooperation? What can be the role of the “new” Committee on Monetary, Financial and Balance of Payments Statistics (CMFB) in this context?
- Are hesitations for more microdata exchange between the two systems a consequence of doubt regarding the clear and transparent separation of statistical function of central banks from their supervision/monitoring functions?