



Reform of the German System of Household Statistics

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In many cases the official household statistics – the surveys of private households – allow an adequate provision of detailed statistical information about persons and households. This information has been used and appreciated by many user groups of the society for many years. In this regard, the official household statistics also serve as a major source of the measurement of poverty.

This key area of official statistics is facing new demands from different sides. For instance in connection with the discussions about the report of the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi commission of September 2009 and the associated questions about the measurement of economic performance and social progress, an additional need for official social data is to be expected and is becoming more and more concrete.

In order to be able to react flexibly to new demands and thereby to enable an adequate data production in the future as well, a reform of household surveys is necessary. For this reason the Federal Statistical Office of Germany initiated the project “reform of the system of household statistics” in 2012 and started it in cooperation with the statistical offices of the Länder. Goal of the project is the establishment of a coherent and sustainable system of household surveys of official statistics, which copes with both the changing demands for data production and the changing need for data.

The paper will present the basic ideas of the new German system of household statistics and thereby discuss current methodological issues of designing household surveys.

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