



Improvements on the statistical quality practices at the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics

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Several strategies for assessing and improving statistical quality have been continuously developed and implemented at the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE). In the last two years, important publications related to statistical quality were released: “IBGE Statistics Code of Practice” and “The minimum set of standard statistical quality indicators to be implemented at Mercosur”, based on European guidelines, as important inputs for the development of IBGE’s own statistical quality framework. A modernization of the statistical metadata system has also been implemented, in compliance with the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) metadata standards, to improve the availability, accessibility, and quality of survey data and to foster the exchange of information among other statistical agencies. Significant efforts have been made to increase the statistical use of administrative records, in order to improve the efficiency of the statistical production and to reduce the burden placed on the respondents to statistical surveys. In order to promote the effective coordination and governance of the National Statistical System, the Social Statistics Committee was established as a forum consisting of the main producers of social statistics of the federal government aiming at the integration of the various databases derived from surveys and administrative records. Similar initiative is being conducted to create the Economic Statistics Committee. A broad discussion concerning how to deal with publication errors has been carried out aiming at the establishment of guidelines and a set of procedures to ensure uniform reaction when errors are detected in published statistics. Working groups were created to discuss procedures for statistical disclosure control, specifically related to statistical grids and to onsite data access for scientific use by researchers. In short, many initiatives are under way to enhance the management of statistical quality, in order to improve the accuracy, comparability, confidentiality, accessibility and transparency of the statistical production process. However, IBGE still need to make many improvements in order to develop a comprehensive statistical quality assurance framework and turn it into an institutional policy.

Keywords: code of practice; quality indicators; statistical metadata.