



National Statistical Offices in the emerging national and European data ecosystems

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The national and European context in which NSOs operate is evolving

- Covid-19 pandemic has renewed emphasis on the value of evidence-based decision making
- Technological advances and explosion of “organic” data have added new data collection and dissemination opportunities
- Greater and innovative uses of data across the Public Service and roll out of national data infrastructures are seen
- European Strategy for Data has created a new data landscape

European strategy for data defines a single narrative and direction for the use of data across the EU

**Open Data Directive
(July 2019)**

Publishing the government held data including high-value data sets to be made available via APIs free of charge

**European strategy for data
(February 2020)**

Free flow of data within the EU and across sectors for the benefit of businesses, researchers and public administrations

**Data Governance Act
(November 2020)**

Encouraging voluntary data sharing for altruistic purposes and boosting it through novel data intermediaries

**Data Act
(February 2022)**

Enabling users of connected devices and related services to access and share data generated by these devices

What do these initiatives mean for European official statistics?

- Assume **NEW ROLES** going beyond the traditional compiling of statistics
- Participate in emerging national **DATA GOVERNANCE BOARDS AND INNOVATION BOARDS** and thus play an active role in shaping the emerging data ecosystems
- **ACCESS DATA AND FORGE PARTNERSHIPS** with data holders for the sake of official statistics
- Reflections on the **ROLE OF DATA ETHICS** as part of modern and transparent public service data ecosystem
- Engage with **COMMON EUROPEAN DATA SPACES**

New NSOs' roles going beyond the traditional compiling of statistics



Under the Data Governance Act (data stewards' tasks)



act as a competent authority for official statistics to support public sector bodies which grant or refuse access to data (art.7)



act as a single information point of the reuse of data held by all public bodies



Integrate data from different data sources so new insights can be derived from them



Provide micro data and services for research and statistical analyses

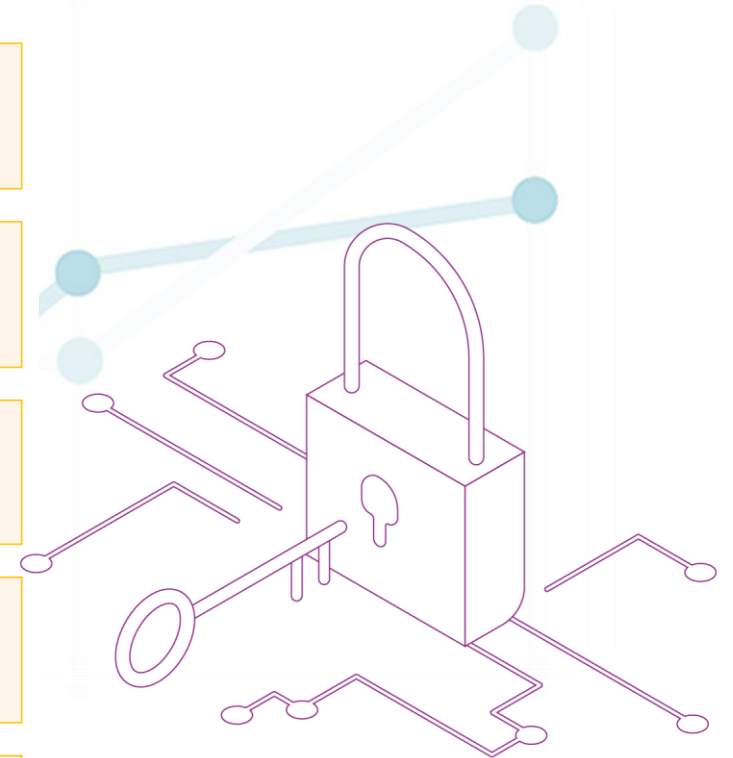
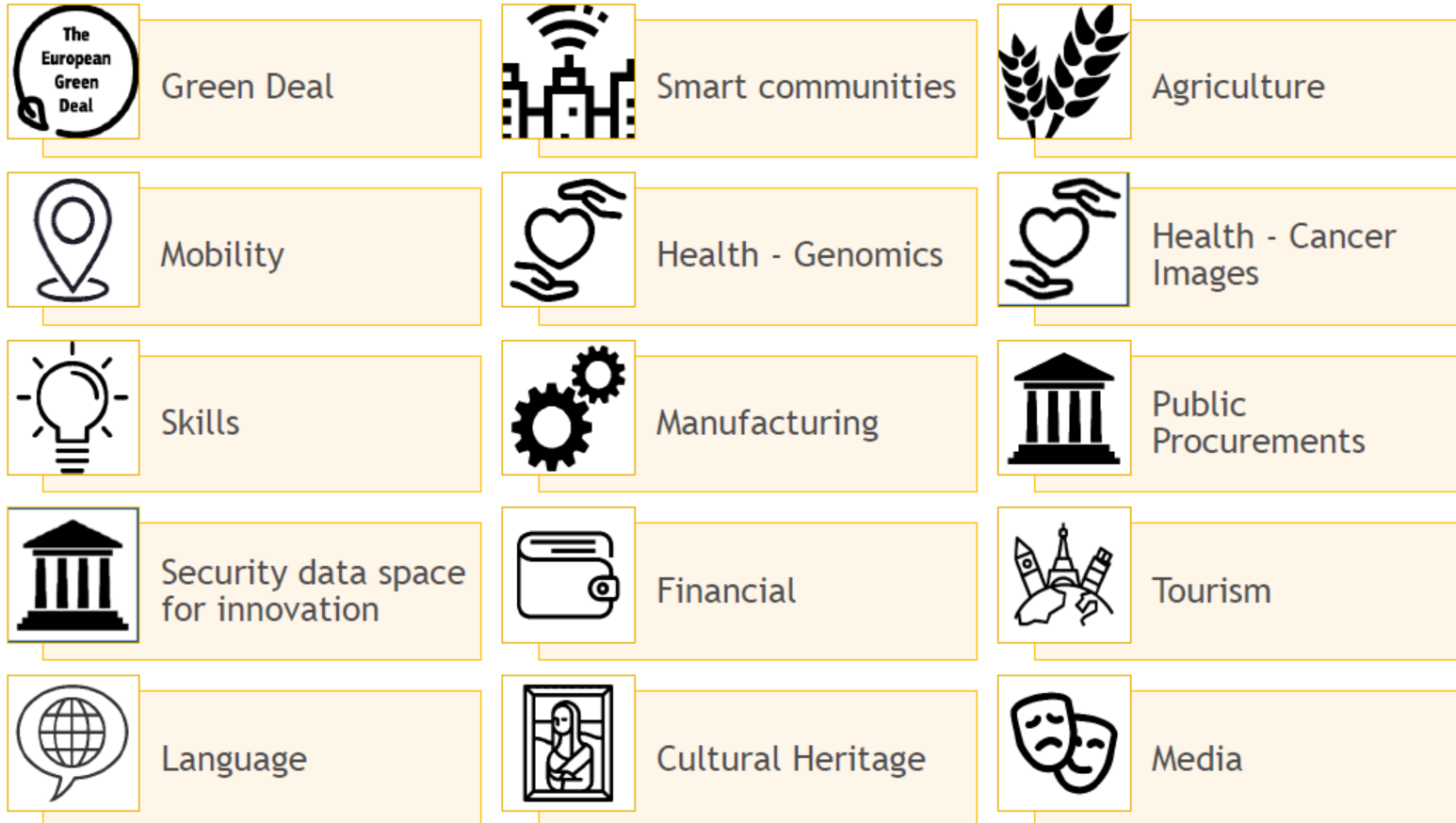


Provide expertise to establishment of data quality frameworks and standards, as well as data protection

Specific examples from ESS countries

- **The Lithuanian Case: State Data Agency (since 2023)**
- **Austrian Micro Data Center for research data (since 2022)**
- **The Swiss Case: Interoperability platform and data catalogue of the BFS (since 2021)**
- **Irish case: Participation in Data Governance Board (since 2019)**

Sectoral common European data spaces



Source: European Commission

What is at stake with new services and roles?

- Can NSOs maintain trust as producers of high quality statistics while taking on new roles and tasks?
- Poor communication on the new tasks and the processes can generate reputational risks
- Transparency is a must to show that the new roles are based on clear rules, principles and procedures, and data protection is ensured
- Proper resource funding and solid legal and institutional background are ensured

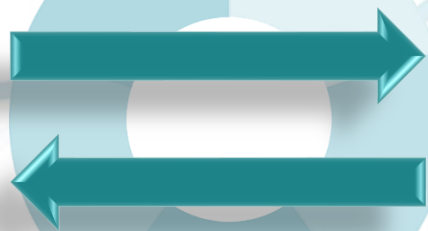
Overall challenges facing NSOs in the new data landscape

- **Difficulties in understanding multiple different strands of data legislation and multiple players**
- **Convince continuously that the quality of data to support evidence-based decision making is equally important to the availability of data**
- **Overcome the public perception that the government is not transparent about how their data are used and shared**
- **Adhere to the core values of official statistics and communicate effectively what NSOs can do but also what they cannot or should not do**

The challenge for official statistics in changing information landscape

In this situation, **trust and awareness of official statistics** are becoming critical to attract stakeholders' attention.

Trust



Awareness

In conclusion

- **There are opportunities for new roles for NSOs in the emerging data ecosystems going beyond their traditional role of compiling official statistics**
- **There are also reputational and other challenges entailed in assuming such new tasks**



So, the NSOs need to reflect, exchange best practice, decide, act and constantly adjust to the fast-evolving landscape.

Thank You for Your Attention

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