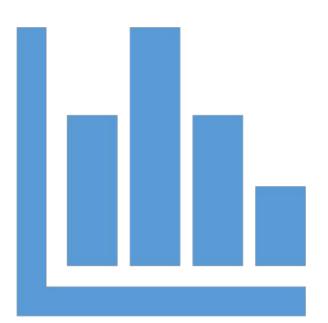
53. Session UNSC Side event 08.02.2022

Walter J. Radermacher, ISI Advisory Board on Ethics

Ethics, Governance A Reflexive Approach to Statistics



Truth and Politics, Hannah Arendt

"Seen from the viewpoint of politics, truth has a despotic character. It is therefore hated by tyrants, who rightly fear the competition of a coercive force they cannot monopolize, Facts are beyond agreement and consent, unwelcome facts possess an infuriating stubbornness that nothing can move except plain lies."



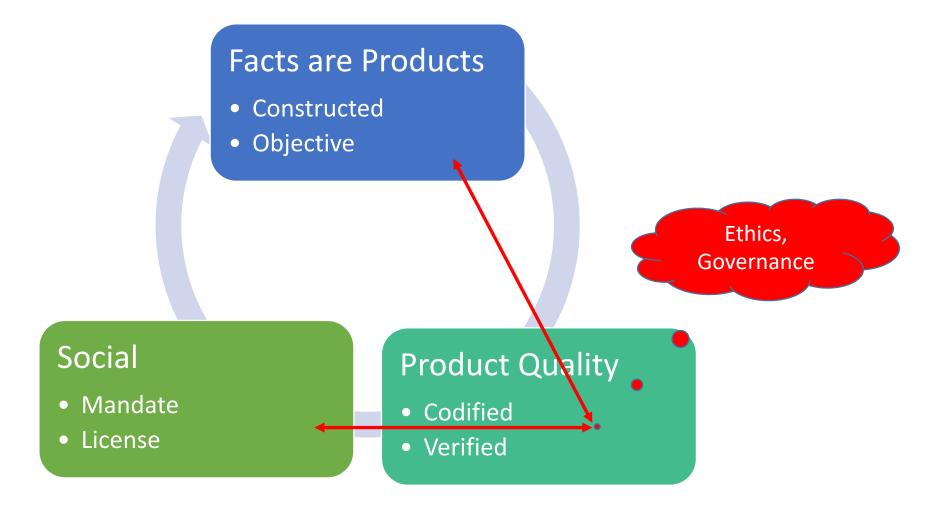


https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/jan/19/crisis-of-statistics-big-data-democracy

- The declining authority of statistics is at the heart of the crisis that has become known as "post-truth" politics
- The statistical logic of the past two centuries is being replaced by a data logic
- With the authority of statistics waning, and nothing stepping into the public sphere to replace it, people can live in whatever imagined community they feel most aligned to and willing to believe in



(Official) Statistical Information



Walter J. Radermacher

Beyond 'STEM': conceptual basics

What is official statistics?

- A public infrastructure, a factory, a product, a language, all based on scientific methods
- Concept: Total Quality
 Management à la
 W.E. Deming

What is official statistics' role in the public discourse?

- Providing verified facts
- Being policy relevant without being politically driven
- Concept: Économie des Conventions à la

A. Desrosières
Th. Porter
Science & Technology
Studies à la
Sheila Jasanoff

What is data/statistical literacy?

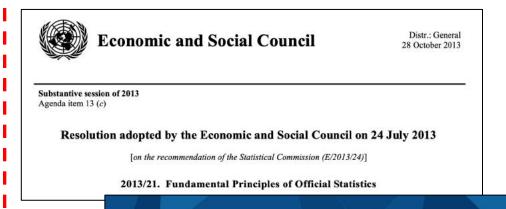
- All dimensions of competence: knowledge, aptitudes, skills, motivation and attitude
- All map all stages of the knowledge ...creation process from data
- Concept: Data Literacy
 Framework à la
 K. Schüller

Ethics, Good Governance Principles, e.g.



DECLARATION ON PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

Committee on a Code of Ethics for Statisticians, 1979-1985:
R. Jowell, W.E. Deming, A. Donda,
H.V. Muhsam and E. Rapaport
https://www.isi-web.org/about/policies/professional-ethics/isi-declaration/1985



EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE

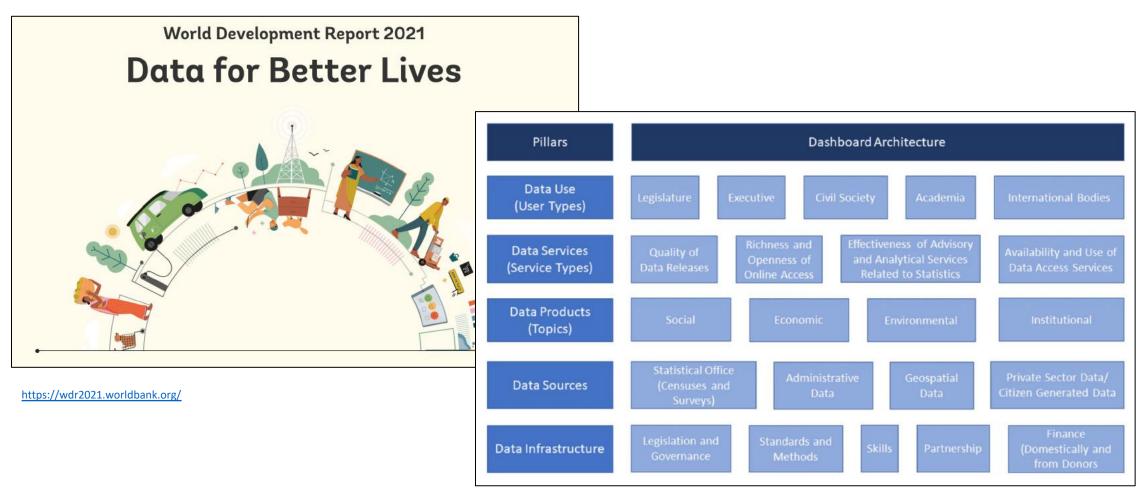
For the National Statistical Authorities and Eurostat (EU statistical authority)



Recommendation of the OECD Council on Good Statistical Practice

As approved by the Council on 23 November 2015 [C(2015)128 - C(2015)128/CORR1 - C/M(2015)21]

Global Guidance and Assessment, e.g.



https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/statistical-performance-indicators-new-tool-measure-performance-national-statistical

Review of the existing principles

Strengths

- Based (partly) on legal codification, implementation can be tracked and enforced
- Quality can be certified
- Official statistics independence significantly strengthened

Review of the existing principles

Weaknesses

- Depending on <u>Public Integrity Maturity</u>: rule of law accepted and applied, scientific arguments and facts undisputed, accountability of the public sector, etc.
- Awareness of the principles unsatisfactory
- Defensive strategy, building fortresses of official statistics, not flexible/innovative;
 missing links and guidance for other statistical producers
- Insufficient relevance for and coverage of data sciences
- (International) concerns and warnings by professional statistical societies depend on anecdotal evidence
- Sovereignty of states setting limits to the influence of international institutions

Reflections

The Scientific Approach: STEM + SHAPE

• Reflexive components in statistics education, research, conferences etc.

Data Ethics and Governance Principles

- Individual conduct of statistics & data sciences
- Social responsibility of the profession
- Good Governance, Public Integrity

Integration of Data Science, AI etc.

• (in particular) Criteria for output quality (predictions)

Data and Statistical Literacy

- Promotion of data ethics and governance
- Standardisation of Data Literacy
- Data Literacy Charta

Improving Evidence

- on data culture, adherence to principles
- Global monitoring
- Strengthening the involvement of civil societies

Walter J. Radermacher Official Statistics 4.0 Verified Facts for People in the 21st Century

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Official Statistics 4.0 Verified Facts for People in the 21st Century https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783030314910

Thanks



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