SDMX from the Dutch perspective
lessons learned

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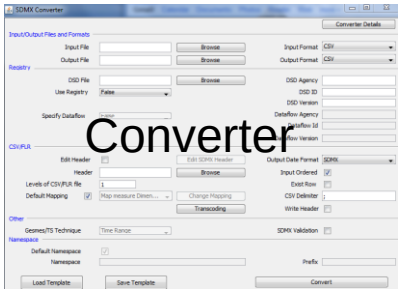
10 years of SDMX: Celebrate or reflect?

Version 1.0

Version 2.0

Version 2.1

sdmx
Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange



sdmx.net sdmxdotnet
The .NET framework for SDMX

Istat
ISTAT SDMX Framework

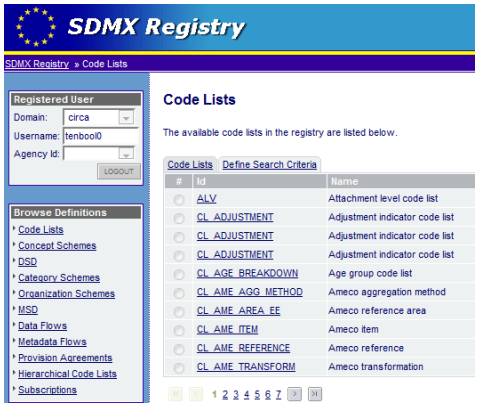
flex-cb
Creating useful visualizations

?
?
NSI
?
?

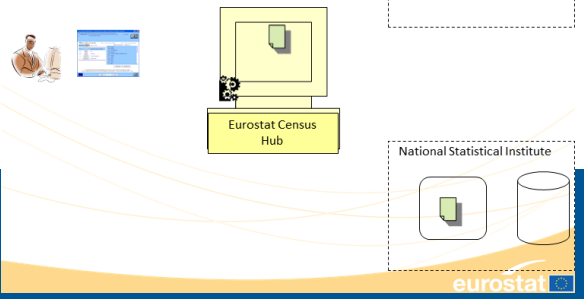
About SDMX Offline Tools
metadata technology

OpenSDMX

sdmxdx Data Express



Census Hub



Lessons from the first SODI project (2005)

- Pilot:
  - Producing SDMX for certain STS indicators:
    - Quarterly GDP
    - Monthly industrial production index
- Approach:
  - Webservice, based on SDMX 1.0
  - Connected to (test) output database
- Conclusion:
  - A new webservice for each data flow
  - Not efficient from viewpoint NSI
  - “Software design should facilitate a flexible matching of output NSI to International metadata”
  - SDMX not mature enough

Within our office…

- Strategy (2008):
  - Use SDMX for external data communication, not internal processes
- Tools:
  - Converter
  - Comparison of SDMX frameworks
    - Istat framework: good performance, easy to install
    - EuroStat framework (SDMX-RI): mapping facility
- Expertise:
  - What does the statistician have to know about SDMX?
  - Process: *who* should do *what* using which tools?
- Other:
  - Connect to International SDMX registry for coordinated metadata?
  - How do we organize mapping International <-> National metadata?

A Dutch node in the Census Hub?

- Dutch Situation:
  - Register based census
  - Size for NL: ca. 10 Million cells (minimum)
- Observations:
  - Census Hub is an improved version of the web services approach of the first SODI project
- Tests:
  - Succesful test with 100.000 cells from earlier register based census
  - Some open issues about metadata definitions, query mechanism and performance
  - Technology is not the problem, multiple scenarios to implement
- Business case:
  - Statistics Netherlands did not decide yet
  - If for one domain => no business case
  - If generic for any domain => there is a business case

Other domains

- Domains:
  - Fish, Foreign trade, Waste, STS
  - Transforming Gesmes into SDMX-ML
  - Developing new data flows and DSD's

- 'Best practices':
  - Re-use SDMX design from other domains for maximum efficiency
  - Use standard code lists (from registry?)
  - There should be a naming convention for concepts / code lists
  - Agree on format for MIG / DTG

Our thoughts on the future

- Celebrate ***and*** reflect!

- *Celebrate*: SDMX is a step in the right direction:
  - designed for exchange of official statistics
  - towards usage in a few domains
  - tools are ok

- *Reflect*: What counts is:
  - the actual use by the community
  - cost-effective generic solutions for multiple statistical domains
  - International organization of metadata

- Be careful with new versions, rather simplification than extensions (SDMX light?). Let's focus on making it work in practise.
- Continu experiments with real data.
- Do not forget about coordination of international metadata across statistical domains and organisations (registry). That could be the "killer app".