Big Data projects at statistical agencies abroad

On overview

Piet J.H. Daas
Senior methodologist & project leader Big Data research
Big Data

– There are many ‘Big Data’ projects out there
  - Fortunately an Inventory was done by UN Big Data project

– But:
  - What is a Big Data project?
    • With or without admin. data
  - Need to discern between plans (ideas) and practical application
    • Many talk about it, only a few actually ‘do’ it
  - Few countries currently actually produce Big Data based statistics!
GWG survey data for Europe


- Result:
  - 114 projects from 43 countries/organizations (10 Sept. 2015)

  Exploration vs ‘intended for’ production (about 1:1)
Results (wordcloud)
Project groups

1. Web data/web scraping (21)
   collect prices, job vacancies, enterprise information ...

2. Scanner data (18)
   for CPI

3. Mobile phone data (15)
   Tourism, border crossings, ‘day time population’

4. Social media/Google trends (8)
   Fast indicators & now-casts: sentiment, unemployment ...

5. Satellite/aerial imagery data (6)
   Land use, crops, ‘poverty’ ...

6. Other (46)
   Smart meters, transport (land, water), health, credit-card, patents .... Incl. admin data
Concluding remarks

- Big Data is an interesting data source for official statistics with great potential

- Only a few statistical offices are currently actually using it!
  - Current uses are:
    - Scanner data for CPI (at least 4 countries; NL, AUS, BEL, SWI)
    - Data from the web for CPI or alike (NL, CAN, KOR)
    - Road sensor data for traffic index (NL) or commuting (Fin)?
The Future of Statistics Looks BIG
Thank you for your attention!