Microdata dissemination in Bank of Italy: now and tomorrow

Angela Gattulli
Banca d'Italia
22 November 2019
There is a need for **increasingly detailed – or «granular» – statistics**, which are useful to analyze phenomena such as the distribution of income and wealth and for monetary policy purposes.

- What are the **choices** to make when disseminating microdata?
- What is the **Bank of Italy’s experience** and the way forward?
Legal protection of personal data (GDPR)

Risk of re-identification

Utility

Granular data: confidentiality vs utility and legal requirements

Households data
Only for research purposes + data anonymisation

Professional Secrecy

Banks data
Only if collected for statistics and monetary policy + data anonymisation

Firms data
Data anonymisation
Granular data: which tool?

But not all data can be easily anonymised

Data confounding
Remote processing
Laboratory
Which microdata

Bank of Italy has a long tradition in disseminating granular survey data

**Households and individuals**
- Survey of Household Income and Wealth (collected since 1962)
- Eurosystem Survey data (HFCS – Italy, collected since 2010)
- Financial literacy of Italian adults (collected since 2017)
- International tourism survey (collected since 1966)

**Firms**
- Survey of Industrial and Service Firms (collected since 1974)
- Business Outlook Survey of Industrial and Service Firms (collected since 1993)
- Survey of expectations of inflation and growth (collected since 1999)
- Italian housing market survey short-term outlook (collected since 2009)
- Survey on cross-border transactions in services by non-financial and insurance firms (collected since 2013)
How

**Households**

- Public user files (PUF)
  - (without identification variables: birth date and place, residency, day and hour of interview)
  - Format file: ASCII, SAS, STATA

**Firms**

- Remote Restricted access (BIRD)
  - (without identification variables: name of firm, tax code, region, ATECO code)
  - Firewalls at user, data and process level
  - Packages: STATA and R

Granular data

- Public user file (PUF)
- Remote Restricted access
The way forward: Bank of Italy Research Data Center

GOALS
- Expanding the supply of microdata for external researchers
- Facilitating the way internal and external users access microdata
- Exchanging experience in managing microdata (e.g., INEXDA and ISTAT)
- Improving methodology
- Fully operational by 2021

TOOLS
- PUF
- BIRD
- Web Tabulator (New)
- Lab (New)

ISSUES
- Legal framework compliance
- Harmonization
- IT instruments for data anonymization, access management, dataset versioning
- Human resources
- Logistic

Tunis, 22 November 2019
THANK YOU