Official Statistics beyond Web 2.0: Challenges, rewards and risks to come

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We are all familiar with the old Web of the nineties. It brought about a revolution in publishing by allowing global access to data anytime anywhere, and gave a tremendous impulse to the global dissemination of official statistics.

We are also aware that a further Web (r)evolution has taken place. This new wave lead users from the traditional "read-only web" to the more revolutionary "read-and-write" Web. Everyone has now been given the possibility to voice its opinion and disseminate information to any and all interested parties, creating in the process a Social Web or, as it is technically called, the Web 2.0. The Official statistics' response to Web 2.0 has been highly cautious.

But meanwhile, yet another Web (r)evolution is underway. This one is not about the users anymore but more about access, and it is characterized by technological breakthrough and the pivotal use of metadata: this is the Semantic Web or Web 3.0.

This presentation will propose a short overview of the Internet's evolution and will especially illustrate its specific impact on the dissemination of official statistics. The focus will be set on what's taking place behind this Web of linked data (or Semantic Web) in a world of increasingly globalized data.

What are the challenges, the potential rewards and the risks official statistics will be facing as it is confronted with this new Web?