



IAOS Webinar
“Misuse of statistics: Time to speak out”
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PREVENTION OF MISUSE

LESSONS LEARNED IN ARGENTINA

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BACKGROUND

Political interference (2007-2015):

- ✓ Lack of credibility
- ✓ Loss of leadership over the NSS
- ✓ Institutional deterioration

Rebuilding process* (2016-2019):

- ✓ International reinsertion
- ✓ Institutional transformation
- ✓ Strengthening statistical infrastructure
- ✓ Improvement of dissemination policies

The Economist

Official statistics

Don't lie to me, Argentina

Why we are removing a figure from our indicators page

20 JUNE 2014.



The Economist

Welcome back

Argentina's new, honest inflation statistics

The end of bogus accounting

27 MAY 2017.



* "Rebuilding of the National Statistical System of Argentina. Lessons learned" (2020; Dupont J. & Muñoz H.)

International reinsertion

Restoration of the publication of indices

Relations with the international community

Recovery of trust

Institutional Transformation

Cooperation with IMF

Programs within UN System

Accession to OECD

IADB

Bilateral Cooperation

Increase the Scope of Social Statistics

Strengthen Economic Statistics

Integrated System of social, economic and environmental information, oriented towards demand, with intensive use of the ICTs and according to international norms

Undermining trust

Mode of undermining	Examples of the political intervention at INDEC (2007-2015)
1 Mission of the statistical service	Concept of “militant statistics”
2 Financial resources and controls	Lack of funding for statistics
3 Staff	Replacement of staff with political supporters
4 Supression or changes in series	Supression of poverty and indigence statistics (2013). Alteration of the CPI. Unexpected change of GDP base (March 2014)
5 Definitions, concepts and methodology	Ad hoc methodological changes
6 Terms and nomenclature	CPI. Labour market. Foreign trade
7 Altering specific numbers	Alteration of statistical series (CPI, poverty, GDP...)
8 Extent and timing of release data	Unclear dissemination schedule. Bases not published
9 Threats to confidentiality	Political pressure to reveal informants
10 Use of NSO for politics	Defence and promotion of militant statistics
11 Campaigns to discredit	Persecution of former officials and analysts

W. Seltzer (UN, 1994) defined eleven modes of institutionally undermining an NSO. The political intervention in Argentina included all of them.



FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE 4

Political interference
(2007-2015)

Prevention of misuse was “misused”

- Campaigns to discredit
- False dilemmas (i.e. Inflation vs CPI)

Rebuilding trust
(2015-2019)

Speaking out was crucial for legitimacy

- Prevention in the use of 2007-2015 historical series
- Controversies with national and provincial authorities

LA INFLACIÓN ES
NEGOCIO DE LOS
PODEROSOS
(Y DE LOS IDIOTAS ÚTILES)

LOS 1400 TRABAJADORES
QUE NO SOMOS PODEROSOS NI FUNCIONALES

QUEREMOS UN NUEVO
INDEC
AGUANTE
BEATRIZ PAGLIERI

CONOCÉ LA VERDAD
VISITÁ

www.indecquetrabaja.blogspot.com

El Indec tuvo que salir a "aclarar" dichos de Dujovne sobre la pobreza

El ministro dijo que conversó para que se revisara si no había un "sesgo metodológico" en las cifras de Córdoba. El organismo aclaró que no hay revisión en curso. Y manifestó preocupación por que se interprete que hubo "una afectación de la independencia técnica" del instituto.

Polémica en Córdoba tras difusión de números del INDEC sobre pobreza

POLITICA, PORTADA

Polémica estadística: Un organismo oficial midió la pobreza 1,6% más alta que el Indec

Advertencia sobre el uso de series estadísticas: se advierte que las series estadísticas publicadas con posterioridad a enero 2007 y hasta diciembre 2015 deben ser consideradas con reservas, excepto las que ya hayan sido revisadas en 2016 y su difusión lo consigne expresamente. El INDEC, en el marco de las atribuciones conferidas por los decretos 181/15 y 55/16, dispuso las investigaciones requeridas para establecer la regularidad de procedimientos de obtención de datos, su procesamiento, elaboración de indicadores y difusión.

Si no encuentra la información que necesita puede solicitarla a través de nuestro [formulario de contacto](#)




CONCLUSIONS

- Independence is a necessary condition to speak out
- The more institutionally solid an NSO is, the more chances for principle 4 to be applied
- NSO gains legitimacy by preventing misuse
- Strong leadership is crucial to face controversies
- Explain, explain, explain
- Critical importance of International community



THANK YOU!

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