

Lessons learned from implementing an integrated methodological architecture

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In 2011, Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) documented the methodological architecture for Stats SA outlining how integration of systems, standards development and methodological support during the design and implementation of statistical production processes would enhance public confidence and trust in the official statistics. The Project kicked off using a phased approach, where the focus in terms of the first phase was the development and the implementation of the various components required across the Meta-data layer, Data Layer and Application Layer. The paper focuses on the challenges and achievements during the integration thereof. Some of the challenges that will be discussed in the paper would be over commitment of resources, reprioritisation of key projects, relevant skills set, buy-in from the organisation and budget. As part of the achievements the paper will cover e-collections, enhanced data visualisation and interaction through Roambi flow, data analytics and mobile applications as well as the documentation of best practises, methodologies used, and development of applicable standards. Other achievements includes the development of a Central Metadata Repository (CMDR) which stores concepts and definitions, variables, classifications. The next phase within the CMDR development would be to expand the CMDR to include statistical metadata as well as a questionnaire builder. Effort has been invested in ensuring that the different components of the architecture are in place, going forward is the process of integration of the developed components across the layers.

Key Words: Methodological architecture, Integration, Meta-data layer, Data Layer, Application Layer, Roambi, Central Metadata Repository.