

Annex 6. The Statistic system in Italy and in Italian Regions

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The Italian Statistic System can be an interesting example of the adoption of a bottom-up process for collecting data of national interest.

In Italy the National Statistic System is governed by the law D.Lgs. 6-9-1989 n. 322 that regulates the activities of collection, processing, analysis, dissemination and storage of statistical data of national interest, including those relating to tourism.

According to the law n. 322, the National Statistic System is composed by:

- the National Statistic Institute (ISTAT);
- the statistic offices of Italian Regions and local authorities as Provinces and Municipalities;
- the statistic offices of other bodies and public administrations.

The law n. 322 also stipulates that every Region has to establish its own Regional Statistic Office with special law and according to the national guidelines adopted at national level to assure methodology uniformity and data comparability.

The Veneto Region, for example, instituted its own Regional Statistic System with the regional law 29-3-2002 n.8, regulating the activities of collection, processing, analysis, dissemination and storage of statistical data in the regional area, establishing the statistic offices of Provinces, municipalities and other regional bodies and regulating its relationships with ISTAT. The same has been done by the other Italian Regions.

As regards tourism statistics, since tourism is considered one of the themes of national interest, it is included in the National Statistic Program.

The main statistics provided by ISTAT and collected and processed following the EU directive on tourism statistics are the following. They are the result of a bottom-up approach, since Regions collect and validate data, which are then submitted to ISTAT for the final aggregation.

- “Movimento dei clienti negli esercizi ricettivi”: a monthly census survey on the number of customers in Italian accommodation facilities. It measures tourist arrivals and overnights of both Italians and foreigners (with the specification of the Italian region or foreign country of origin) in the national territory, in every specific region, province and municipality, in each type of accommodation facilities (both hotels and other collective accommodation establishments) and in every month of the reference year.
- This survey is based on the daily form that accommodations are obliged to fill with the number and overnights of their clients and to submit to the competent authority, i.e. the local statistic office. Every Region regulates in a different way the procedure of sending data from accommodations to local authorities and finally to ISTAT.
- The Veneto Region, for example, according to the regional law 07-10-2008 n. 2794, states that accommodations are obliged to submit data to the Province office, which in turns sends them to the Region by day 20th of the month following that of data collection; finally the Veneto Region sends statistics to ISTAT every month, by day 30th of the month following that of data collection.
- “Capacità degli esercizi ricettivi”: a census survey on the capacity of accommodation facilities. It is conducted on a yearly basis and enables the quantification of available accommodation facilities in the national territory. It measures the number of establishments, rooms and beds in every region, province and municipalities for every accommodation category (hotels, camping, resorts, vacation houses rented for business, farmhouses, youth hostels, vacation homes, mountain hostels, B&Bs).

- This survey is based on the annual form that local authorities, i.e. Provinces or Regions are obliged to fill with the data referring to their own territorial area and to submit to ISTAT. Every Region regulates in a different way the procedure of sending data to ISTAT.

In the case of the Veneto Region, for example, the regional law 07-10-2008 n. 2794 asserts that the statistic office of Provinces must collect and process the data about accommodation capacity, sending them to the Region, which in turns transfers them to ISTAT generally by the end of March of the year following that of the reference data.

The procedure of both surveys is summarized in the following table.

Table 1 – Tourism statistics in Italy and Italian Regions – tasks of ISTAT and Regional Statistic Offices (the example of the Veneto Region).

	Main tourism statistics of national interest	
	Clients in accommodation facilities	Capacity of accommodation facilities
Variable of references	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Tourist arrivals – Tourist overnights in accommodation facilities 	Number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – accommodation establishments; – rooms; – beds both of hotels and of other collective accommodation facilities
Unit on which the survey is carried out	Accommodation facilities (hotels, camping, resorts, vacation houses rented for business, farmhouses, youth hostels, vacation homes, mountain hostels, B&Bs)	Accommodation facilities (hotels, camping, resorts, vacation houses rented for business, farmhouses, youth hostels, vacation homes, mountain hostels, B&Bs)
Type of survey (census or sample survey)	Census	Census
Frequency	Monthly	Annual
Geographical coverage	Both the national territory as a whole and the local areas (regions, provinces, municipalities)	Both the national territory as a whole and the local areas (regions, provinces, municipalities)
Competent authority at national level and tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ISTAT: it processes, analyses and disseminates data received every month from local statistic offices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ISTAT: it processes, analyses and disseminates data received every year from local statistic offices
Competent authority at regional level and tasks – the case of the Veneto Region	Local Statistic Offices (Regions, Provinces, Municipalities) The case of the Veneto Region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Statistic Office of Provinces: they collect data submitted daily from accommodation facilities in their competence area and they send data to Region every month; – Statistic Office of the Veneto Region: it collects, processes and validates data received from Provinces and it sends them to ISTAT every month. It disseminates regional data through its web site. 	Local Statistic Offices (Regions, Provinces, Municipalities) The case of the Veneto Region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Statistic Offices of Provinces: they fill the form with data about the capacity of accommodation facilities in their competence area and they send data to Region every year; – Statistic Office of Veneto Region: it collects, processes and validates data received from Provinces and it sends them to ISTAT every year.

It is evident that in Italy the national statistic system is strongly linked to the regional one, since Italy has institutionalized a bottom-up method for the collection of data of national interest.

As regards statistics about tourist flows (arrivals and overnights) in accommodation facilities and about accommodation capacity (establishments and beds), the official statistics processed and published by the National Institute are available also for regions, since it is just their task to collect, validate and submit data referring to their own territorial area to ISTAT.

As a consequence in Italy every region has direct access to these statistics, without facing the problem to disaggregate national data. At least in terms of tourist flows and accommodation capacity, the first set of information defined in paragraph 2.5 and the second one coincide.

FURTHER LINKS

<http://www.istat.it/it/>

http://statistica.regione.veneto.it/banche_dati_economia_turismo.jsp

<http://statistica.regione.veneto.it/sistar/Europea.jsp>

<http://virgo.unive.it/ciset/website/>

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