

**#NTTS2021**

**9 - 11 March 2021**

**COVID-19:**  
**The Official Statistics during a pandemic**  
how to reach the information we need

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The views expressed in the article are those of the author and do not involve the responsibility of the UNHCR

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## References

Luca Di Gennaro Splendore, 2020. 'COVID-19: Unprecedented Situation, Unprecedented Official Statistics'. Letter to the Editors, Journal of Official Statistics, Vol.36, No.2, 2020.

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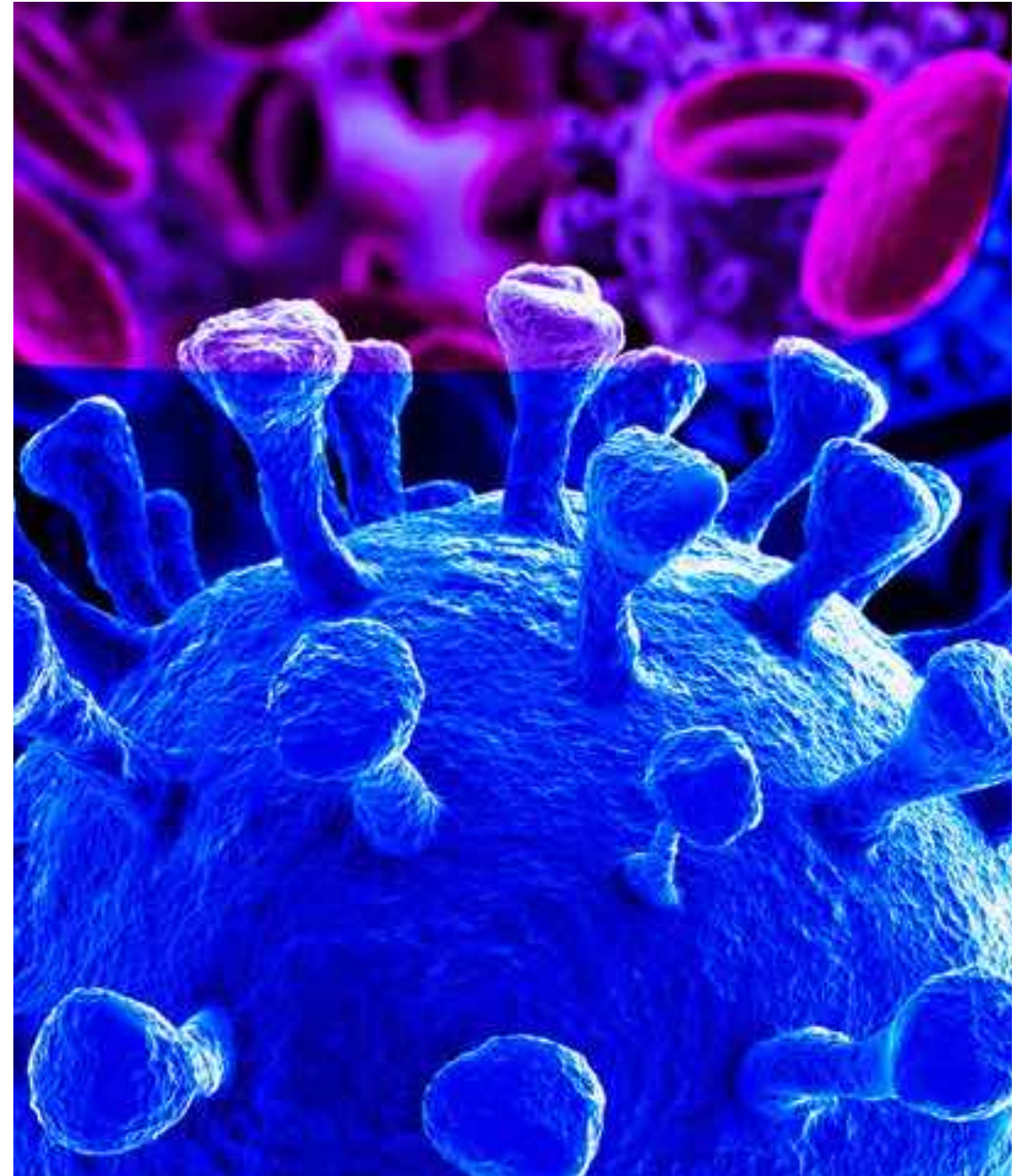
Andreas Georgiou, 2020. 'Defeating the Pandemic Requires High Quality and Ethical Official Statistics'. Letter to the Editors, Journal of Official Statistics, Vol.36, No.3, 2020.



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- **Challenges**
  - Opportunities
  - Moving Forward

# Official Statistics during the Health Crisis

- The priority of national statistics offices is the **health** of its workers.
- The second priority is to **describe** the country's situation based on statistical methodology and data collection.





# Statistical production problems and different levels of criticality

- Response rates to surveys might **decrease**.
- Official statistical information originated from **past** economic interrelations is no longer valid.
- Governments decided for **massive** amount of social benefits and unprecedented subsidies on production.
- The **postponement** or cancellation of some releases and publications is also problematic.



# Official statistics need to...

- defeat the pandemic by High Quality

Data

- support/implement a random sample representative of the population to identify the spread of the outbreak
- produce COVIData for the next elections

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- Challenges
  - **Opportunities**
  - Moving Forward



# 1/2 - This crisis offers a number of opportunities for national statistics offices:

- As of today, **up-to-date** and short analyses are more appreciative and useful than large studies.
- Adequate **granular** sources different from traditional ones can help pinpoint emerging concentrations of needs.
- Social distancing gave the definitive **impulse** to pass from CAPI (Computer-assisted Personal Interviewing) to CAWI (Computer-Assisted Web Interviewing).

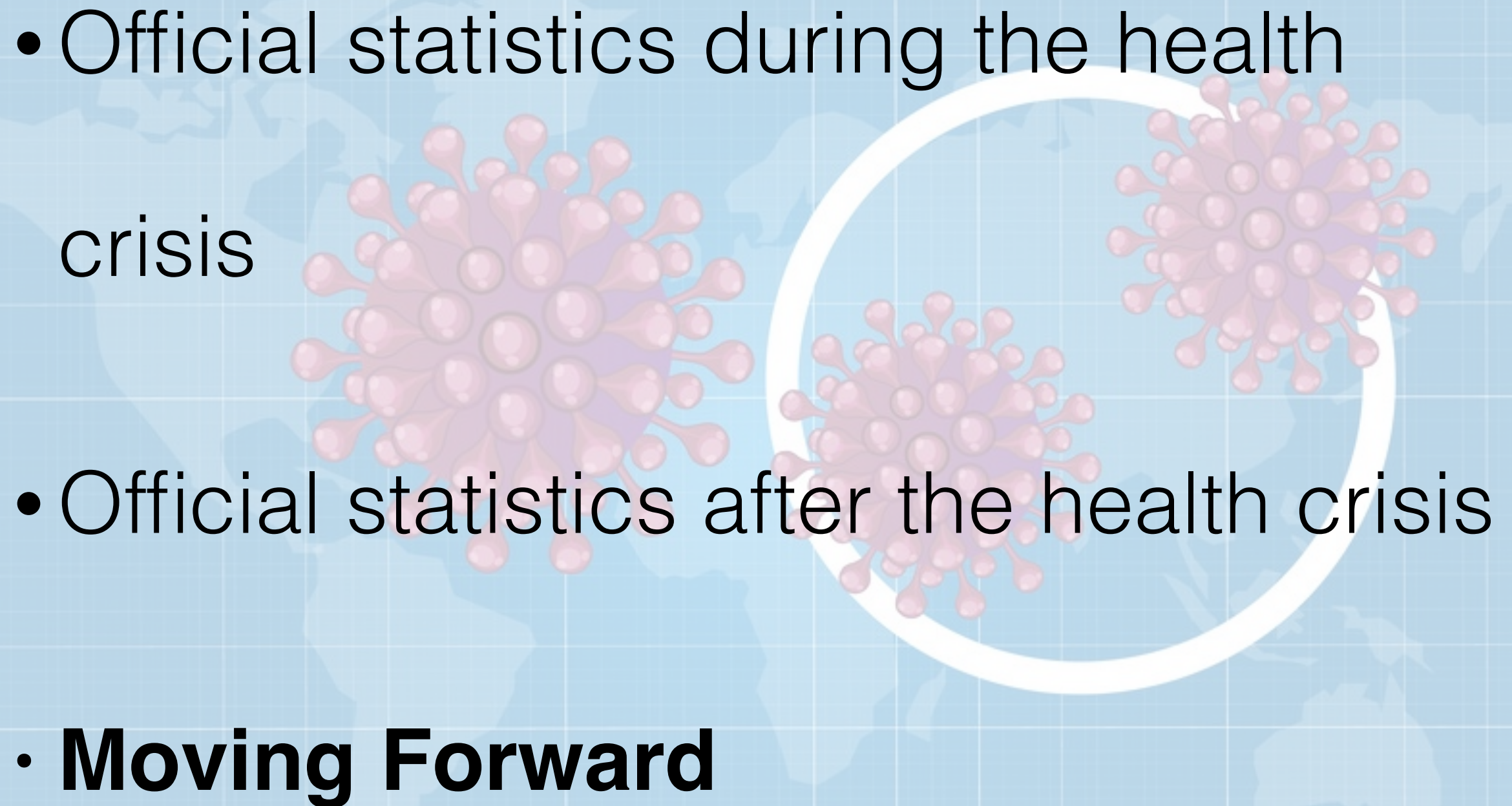


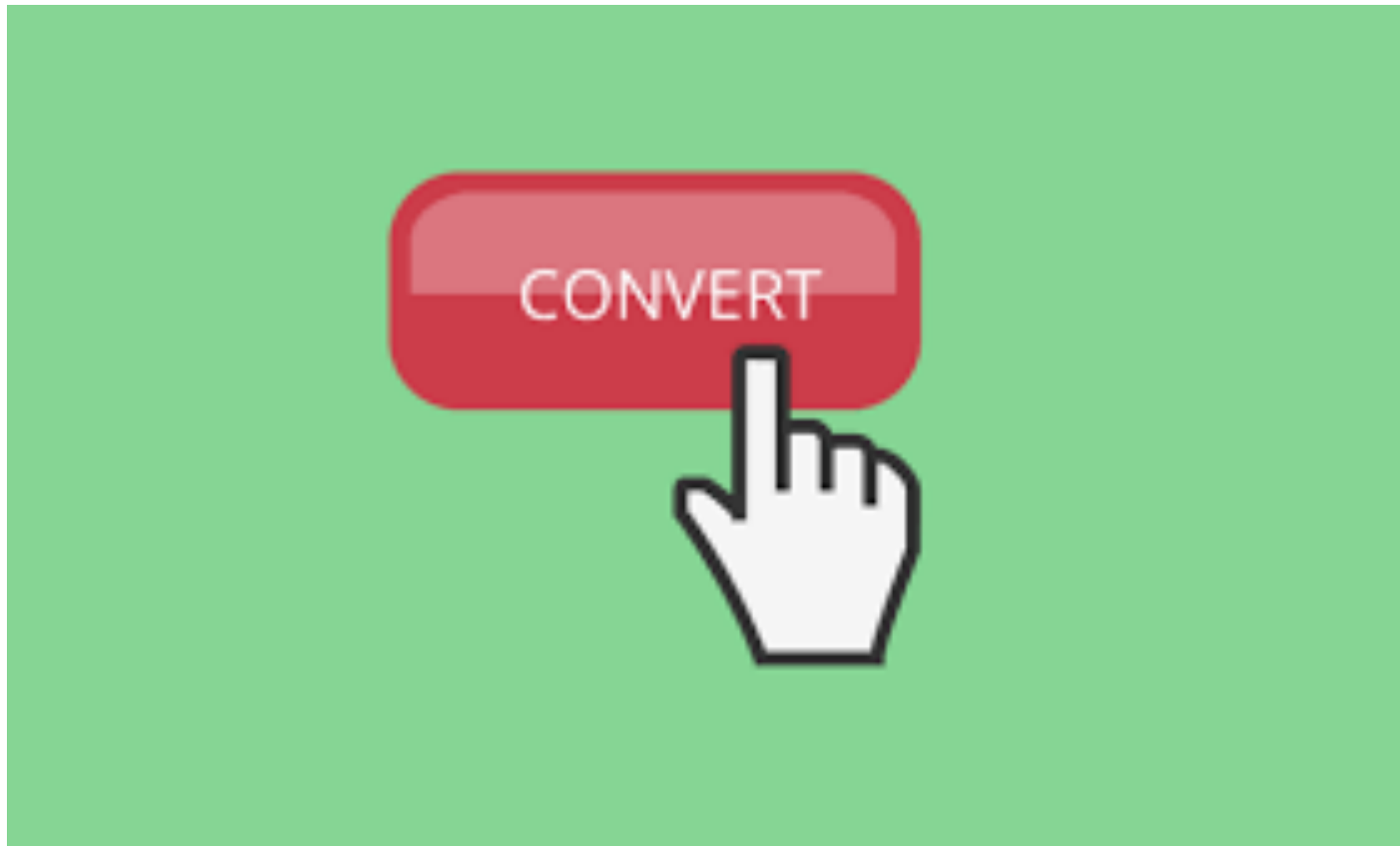
## 2/2 - This crisis offers a number of opportunities for national statistics offices:

- In a time of crisis, fake news is especially insidious and often faster than real news. Statistical Offices should manage and **certify** the quality of statistics produced from outside-sources in order to include them in official statistics.
- National statistics offices are in the best position to meet policymakers' rising demand for information about **health** services.
- This is the appropriate moment to **shift** the attention of statistics from offer to demand.





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- Official statistics during the health crisis
  - Official statistics after the health crisis
  - **Moving Forward**



The COVID-19 crisis can **convert** official procedures, and inflexible routines in up-to-date analysis, modeling, experimental statistics, digitalization, and complementary adequate granular sources.



- Official statistics need to produce data on COVID-19 meet ethics and quality statistical principles
- Produce, explain, manage and/or certify the data
- Democracies need official data on COVID-19

# Thank you

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how to reach the information we need.**

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