



***Hernán Muñoz***



# TRUST IN DATA AND STATISTICS

## THE CASE OF ARGENTINA

UNWDF webinar series on trust in statistics  
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**HERNÁN MUÑOZ**

National Director of Planning, Institutional and  
International Relations

# TRUST: ARGENTINA AS CASE STUDY



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The data are wrong (even deliberately wrong) or inaccurate



"The IMF's Executive Board ...**has issued a declaration of censure** against Argentina in connection with its breach of obligation to the Fund under the Articles of Agreement.

"The Board called on Argentina to adopt the remedial measures to address the inaccuracy of CPI-GBA and GDP data without further delay....[to] ensure accurate measurement."

- IMF Press Release No. 13/33, February 1, 2013



"Building Trust in Data and Statistics" M. Durand (OECD), WDF 2018, Dubai.



# INDEC: BACKGROUND AND CURRENT SITUATION

## MAIN CHALLENGES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE ADMINISTRATION (Dec 2015)

- 1 | Reliability of indicators
- 2 | Loss of leadership over NSS
- 3 | Institutional weakness

## REBUILDING PROCESS. SUCCESS FACTORS:

- 1 | Role of policy-makers and individuals actors (advocates)
- 2 | International reinsertion
- 3 | Argentina's New Administration based on:
  - I | Transparency
  - II | Evidence based public policy
- 4 | Role of the crisis / Public awareness and support

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.



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# 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 models of institutionally undermining an NSO. The political intervention in Argentina included all of them.



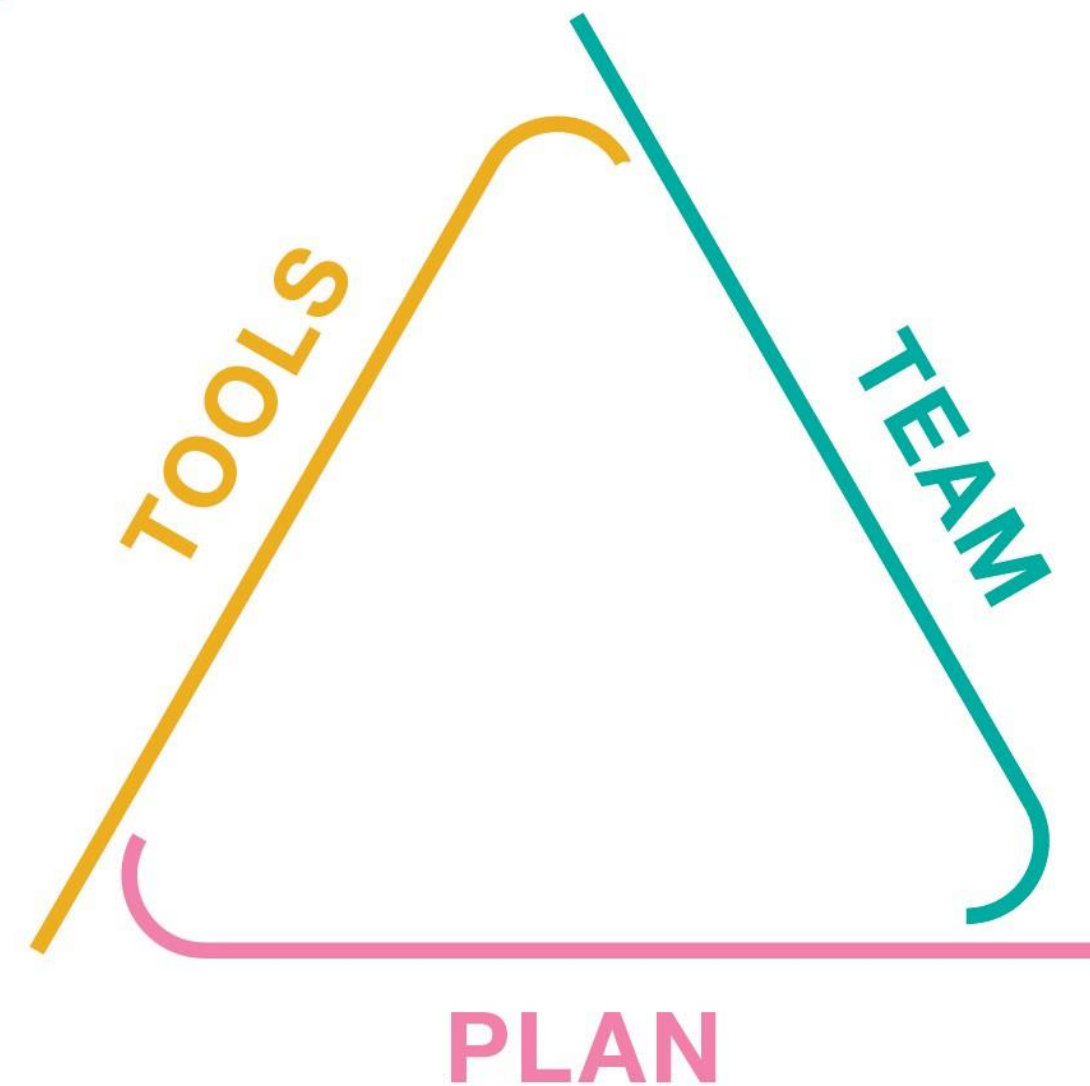
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# REBUILDING TRUST

## PATH BASED ON FIVE STRATEGIC PILLARS:

- | International reinsertion
- | Strengthening of statistical capacity
- | Leadership of the NSS
- | Improvement of dissemination policies
- | Institutional transformation



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**THANK YOU!**

**indec**