



EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON QUALITY IN OFFICIAL STATISTICS 2024 ESTORIL - PORTUGAL





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Implementation of Data Standards across the Irish Data System

Laura Reddin

Central Statistics Office, Ireland



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The conference is partly
financed by the European Union





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Overview


- **Maturing Data Environment**
- **Data Standards**
- **Example of Harmonising to the Standard**
- **Development Process**
- **Elements of an individual Data Standard**
- **Plan for next steps**





Evolving Irish Data Ecosystem

- Constantly changing society with increasingly complex insight requirements
- Higher reliance on the acquisition of administrative data sources
- Data linkage & integration is key
★needs to be planned and structured★

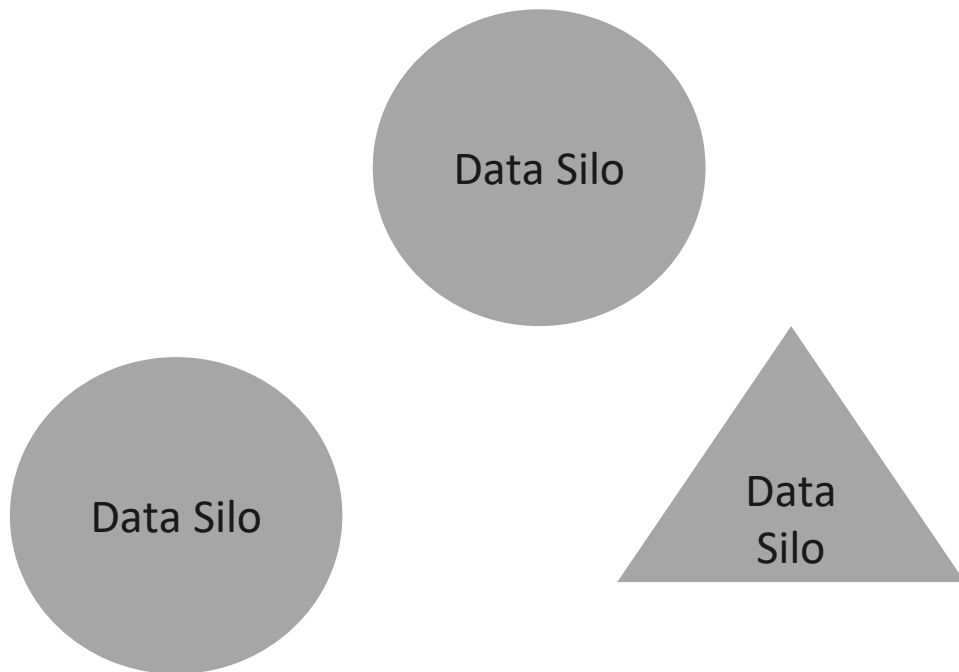


Turning data
into a national
strategic asset





Current Challenge





Data Standards

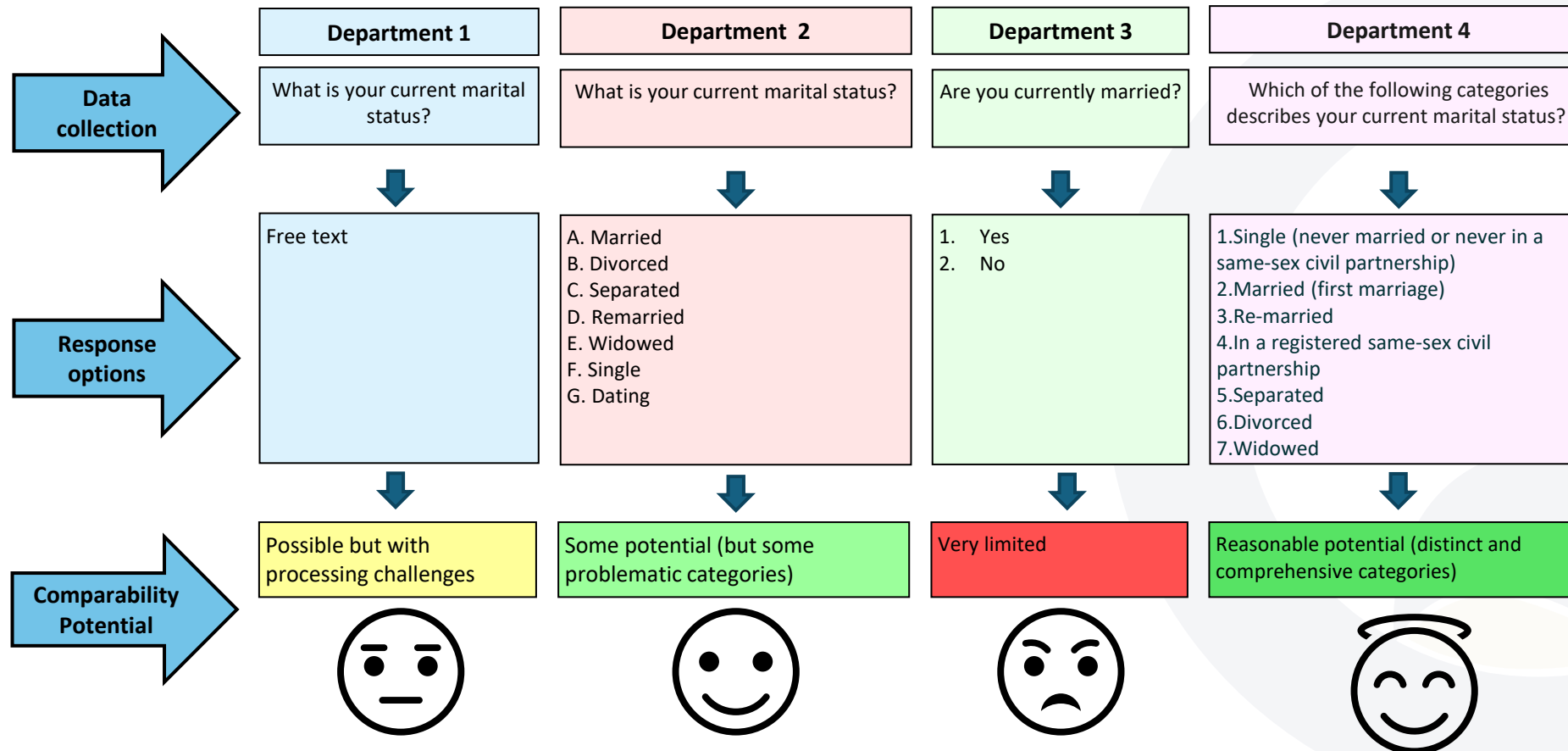
- Provide standards and guidance for data to be structured in a more consistent and comparable way
- Enhance the effective and efficient use of data
- Standards will contain a mix of concepts, definitions, code lists, standard questions and a standard reference classification
- Present in a clear and understandable way





How you ask a question impacts on the reusability of data

Concept to be measured: Marital Status





Data Standards Example

Concept: Marital Status

Different measures
causing
inconsistencies

	Department A	Department B	Department C
Current situation	What is your current marital status?	Are you currently married?	Which of the following categories describes your current marital status?
	A. Married B. Divorced C. Separated D. Remarried E. Widowed F. Single G. Dating	1. Yes 2. No	1. Single (never married or never in a same-sex civil partnership) 2. Married (first marriage) 3. Re-married 4. In a registered same-sex civil partnership 5. Separated 6. Divorced 7. Widowed

Step 1 → Standardise the question

Step 2 → Harmonise the response options

Step 3 → Harmonise existing data at common output level

Which of the following categories describes your current marital status?

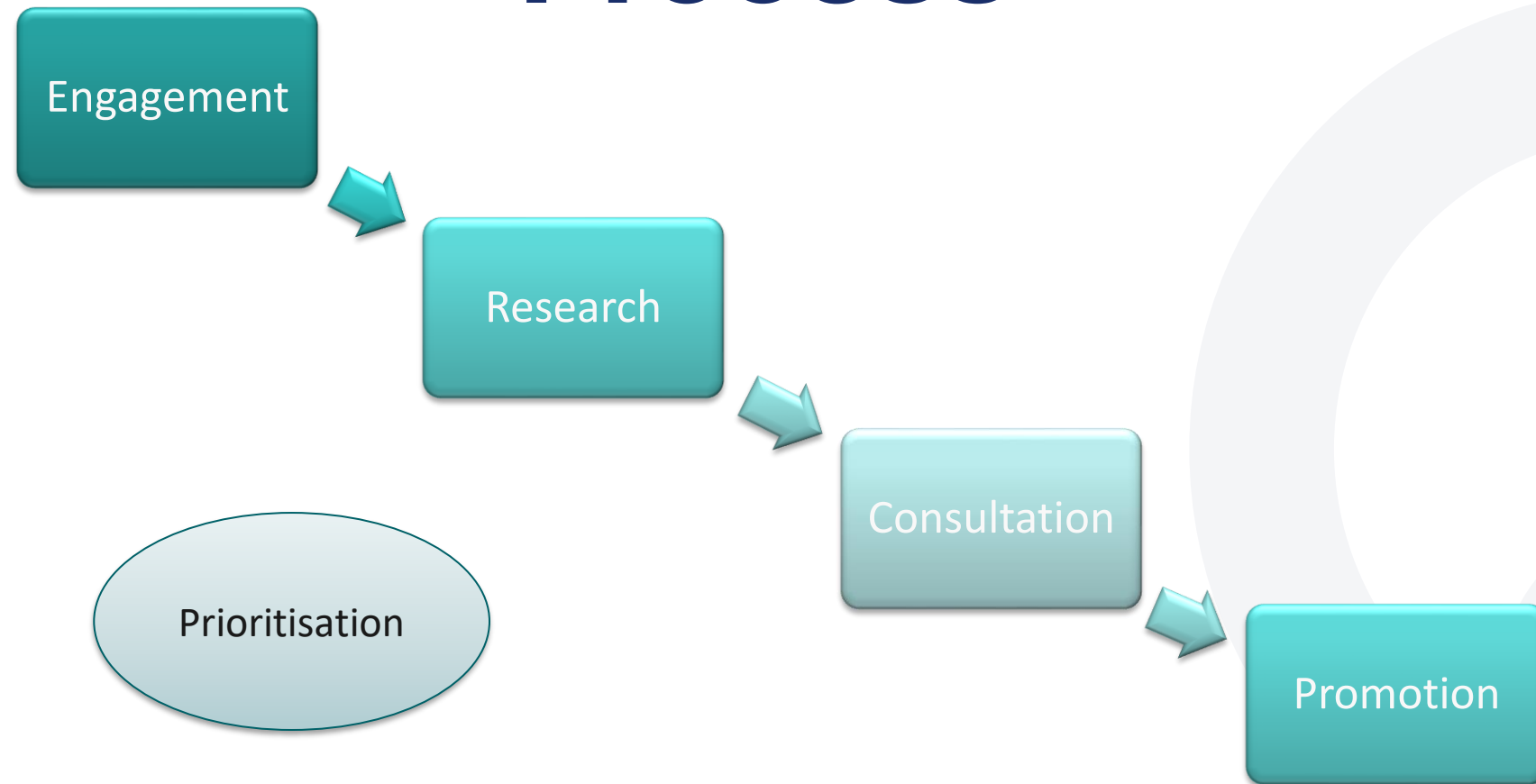
- 10 Never married nor in a same-sex civil partnership
- 20 Married
- 30 In a same-sex civil partnership
- 40 Separated
- 50 Divorced
- 60 Widowed

Never married nor in a civil partnership
Married/in a civil partnership
Separated/divorced/Widowed





Process





Elements of Individual Data Standards

- General description of concept being measured
- Concept definition
- Guidance for data collection (inputs)
 - Standard questions
 - Standard response options with coding structure
- Standard reference classification, displaying different levels of detail whereby level 1, summary level, is required at a minimum
- Descriptors of response options
- Visual example of harmonising to the standard
- Links to related standard concepts
- Examples of usage
- Link to relevant API, allowing easy re-use of standards





Where to next?



- Publish and promote approved Standards
- Development of CSO Portal which will act as the home for storing and disseminating all established Data Standards
- Supported roll out of Standards through direct engagement with Departments
- Monitor standard use across Irish Statistical System





Drafted Standards at Publishing Stages

- Marital Status
- Full-time/Part-time Employment

Drafted Standards awaiting Approval

- Household Relationship
- Main Activity Status
- Religion
- Country

Standards currently being Drafted

- Sex
- Gender
- Sexual Orientation
- County
- Local Authority
- NUTS
- NACE





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Thank you!

Any Questions or Feedback?



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