Issues related to major redesigns in National Statistical Offices

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The challenges and opportunities facing governments and National Statistical Offices (NSO's) have never been greater. NSO's are faced with pressures that go beyond the historical requirements of providing timely and accurate information. The rapidly changing social, economic, environmental and technological concerns that require rapid understanding and solutions are exceedingly complex and often intertwined.   Adding to the mix is the impact of recent global events and their inevitable domino effects into domestic economies and institutions and to no one's surprise, NSO's have not been spared. Faced with shrinking budgets, an ever growing and educated information society, NSO's will have to adapt to the opportunities brought through technology and to the challenges of delivering new information needs in a rapidly changing world. For Statistics Canada, the road ahead involves a significant modernization effort that will touch all facets of our business lines - from the development of new collection methodologies, to common software and tools, to broader access to micro data and self-serve dissemination.

As a result of the recommendations of a senior management task force in 2009, the Corporate Business Architecture (CBA) initiative was launched. It is a comprehensive review of the way Statistics Canada conducts its business, including the processes used, computer systems, planning systems and organizational structure. The CBA involves implementing measures designed to reduce operating costs, enhance quality assurance and improve responsiveness in the delivery of new statistical programs, and is mainly carried out through a number of internal projects designed to foster an environment of integration and efficiency.

This presentation will describe the objectives and key principles of Statistics Canada's Corporate Business Architecture initiative and how it is being implemented. Given the major culture shift for the organization, critical success factors such as the governance structure, regular senior management support, and the communications strategy will be outlined. The processes for monitoring and managing risks, as well as sharing lessons learned will also be covered.

Key words: Redesign, CBA, Governance, Risks