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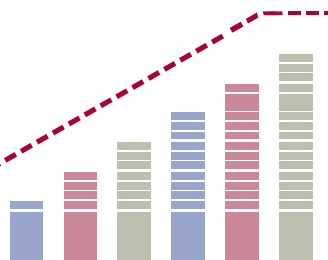


# Abstracts



## 2016

European Conference on  
**Quality in Official Statistics**



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## MEASURING OCCUPATIONS: RESPONDENT'S SELF-IDENTIFICATION FROM A LARGE DATABASE

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Most surveys use an open-ended question to measure occupation, followed by office coding. This is expensive and time-consuming, and some texts can be coded only highly aggregated or not at all. Alternatively, in web-surveys or during the interview respondents can self-identify their occupation from a large database of coded occupational titles. For the coding quality the size of the database is important, given that a national labour market easily has 10,000's of job titles. The paper details the database.

For many years, the worldwide WageIndicator websites on work and wages apply this self-identification method. In its Salary Check web-visitors can identify their occupation and view the related salaries. In its web survey respondents are asked to self-identify their occupation. Both applications use the same multilingual database of approximately 1,600 occupational titles, all coded ISCO08 at five digits. Users can navigate the database by means of a 3-level search tree or by text string matching. Nine in ten use the latter.

As part of WorkPackage 8 of SERISS, the database is extended to 5,000 occupational titles, coded ISCO08 5-digit for approximately 35 languages, using the coding indexes from National Statistical Offices. These occupations are translated into English and their codes are compared. The subsequent solutions for 'same occupation-different code' problems are detailed.

An API (Application Programming Interface) is designed for the survey holders (free of charge during the SERISS project). For some countries, the database includes a gender filter, showing (fe)male titles to (fe)male respondents. A life demo of the database will be shown.

WP8 facilitates an occupation>>industry prediction algorithm for respondents' easy self-identification of industry, as the majority of occupations are industry-bound. The API shows respondents a list of the five most likely industries, including an option 'other', which then allows respondents to search an industry database.

**Keywords:** occupations, API database, web surveys.