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STATISZTIKAI
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Metadata management in National Statistical Institutes and researcher access: an example

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- Main goals of metadata management
- Users of metainformation and their needs
- Metadata management in the Hungarian Central Statistical Office
- Metainformation available / currently unavailable
- Researcher access to metainformation
- Future metadata-related work / Developments needed

5 main goals

- **Inform users** on content, quality and methodology of statistical information produced by the statistical system
- Provide **in-depth documentation** for external and internal users (including researchers)
- Build up a **driving mechanism** (provide parameters) for metadata-driven applications
- **Integrate** the statistical system
- **Meet** national and international **needs and requirements** (including researcher needs)

- **External users**

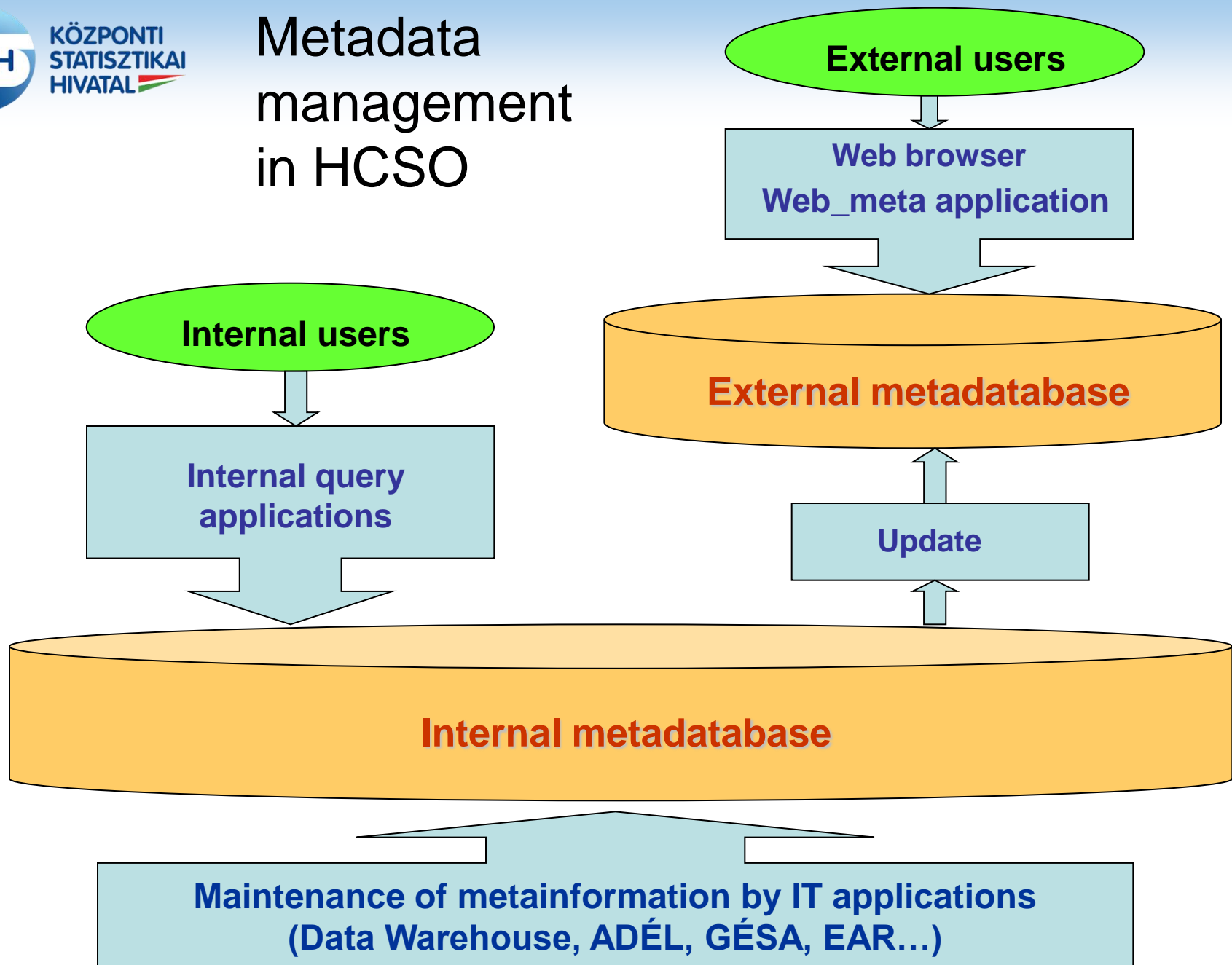
- Non-expert users: clear and brief descriptions
- Expert users (including researchers): highly detailed information on product and process levels

- **Internal users**

- Data producers / statisticians: description of processes and links between subject-matter domains
- Data producers / IT people: information to manage statistical data production systems
- IT applications: parameters to manage programs

Metadata management in HCSO

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Metainformation available

(both in Hungarian and English)

- **Metainformation on 2 main levels**
 - Subject-matter domains
 - Homogeneous data themes
- **Brief, clear description (subject-matter domains)**
 - Goals, content, concepts, most important classifications used
 - Methodology (sampling, process,...)
 - Quality, revision
 - Data sources, ways of publication
 - History of the domain
- **Metainformation on data source level**
 - Data collections
 - Administrative data sources
 - Data transfer between subject-matter domains
 - Registers (separate methodological descriptions – register units and attributes included)

[Example - Consumer prices](#)

[Example - Business Register](#)

Metainformation currently unavailable

(not accessible on website)

Metainformation on microdata sets

- Metainformation technically available in databases (data capture and production)
- Development is needed to make this information available on the website (build links between microdata sets and subject-matter domains)
- Information is not yet publicly available for external users (still, metainformation on microdata sets is provided via other channels – see next slide)

3 main channels to get metainformation:

- Access metadata published **on the website**
- Access additional metainformation **in the Safe Centre** (both for „standard” microdata sets available for research and datasets compiled and made available exclusively for a given project)
 - Microdata accessible from production database: structured format
 - Microdata accessible in other formats (not from database): metadata provided in various formats
- Access metainformation **attached to SUF** (additional metainformation provided to researchers **on request**)

- **National statistical system:** Feedback from all of our users on
 - Usability of metainformation
 - Structure of metainformation
 - Quality of metainformation
 - Needs?
- **Researchers:** „metadata is an issue”
 - National level: no explicit needs on metainformation: lack of feedback, no regular user satisfaction surveys
 - International level: experience from international projects and initiatives (DwB)

Future metadata-related work / Developments needed I.

- **Metadata harvesting** is currently not possible: issue to be solved
- Provide metainformation in a **standard format** (widely used format and more user-friendly way).
Note: the Hungarian metainformation system is SDMX compatible but SDMX is not implemented yet. Content requested by ESMS structure is already provided on metadata level
- **Test the applicability of DDI** format (avoid duplication of work / lack of resources – other initiatives? / ESS to promote the use of DDI?)

Future metadata-related work / Developments needed II.

- **Complete the metadata descriptions for all microdata sets** (currently ongoing with the introduction of metadata-driven applications: ELEKTRA, EAR, KARÁT)
- Make the **metainformation on microdata level visible and accessible** on the website
- Set up a **HCSO-researcher working party** to address issues of data access (currently ongoing: HCSO experts + TÁRKI [Hungarian Data Archive] + other researchers). Focus on: change of Statistical Law, researcher accreditation and methodology (including metadata)
- Until then: „supply creates demand”

Thanks for listening!