

Third Expert Meeting on Statistics for SDG, 15 April 2019

Session 2: Coordination of Data Flows for Global SDG Statistics



Sharing our experiences of exploring SDMX

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SDMX-SDGs Working Group

- Working Group on SDMX for SDG Indicators established by IAEG-SDGs in 2016
- Overall aim: to design a solution for the exchange and dissemination of SDG indicators based on SDMX standard.
- Working group membership:
 - 12 countries including France (Chair), US and Russian Federation
 - 10 international agencies including Eurostat, ILO, OECD, UNICEF
 - UNSD provide secretariat
- Virtual monthly meetings

SDMX-SDGs Working Group

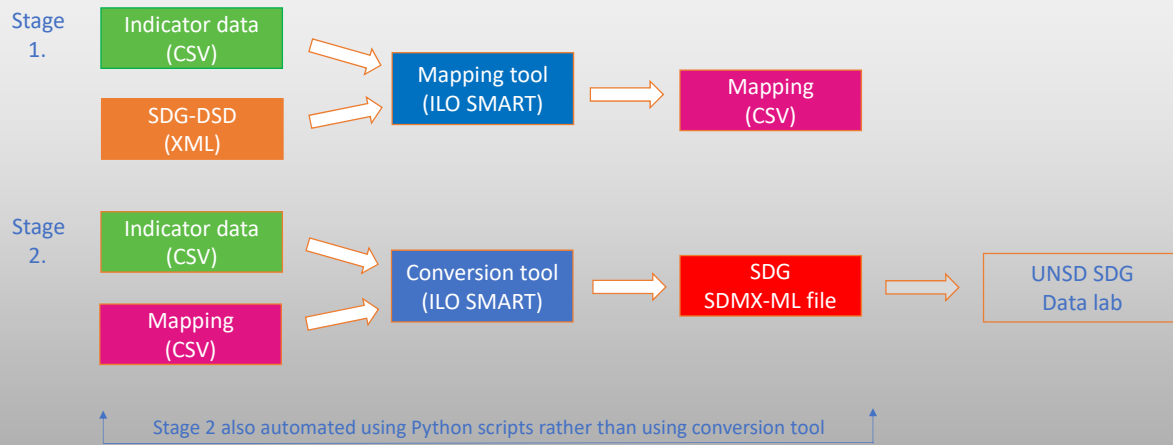
Objectives:

- Develop global Data Structure Definition(s) and Metadata Structure Definition(s) for SDG Indicators
 - Standards for the packaging of SDGs data and metadata including concepts, codes, structures
- Develop, pilot, and establish data exchange mechanisms for SDG indicators
 - Dissemination and reporting at national, regional, global level

Our work exploring SDMX (so far)

- Updates to data, to prepare for SDMX conversion
 - Standardise disaggregation names and breakdown names
 - Add any missing required attribute columns (observation status, unit measure, unit multiplier)
- Testing production of SDMX outputs using global DSD and ILO SMART SDMX tools
- Writing code (Python scripts) to automate conversion between our indicator data and SDMX format (CSV->SDMX-ML and SDMX-ML->CSV)
- All work driven and delivered by one talented data analyst with no previous experience of SDMX

Our conversion process



Some lessons we've learned

To accommodate our country data we will need to create a national DSD based on the global DSD

We have various custom disaggregations, other than the main 8 specified by UNSD e.g. country of birth

We have disaggregation breakdowns that are not covered in the global DSD e.g. the DSD allows urban/rural but our data includes urban/semi-urban/rural

- Where our breakdowns do not fit with the global DSD

We need further discussion with data providers and topic experts to explore how to map our data

Metadata will be critical

Next steps

- Test final version of global SDG DSD – currently expected April 2019
- Continue to liaise with data providers and topic experts on mapping our data to the global DSD
- Produce national DSD based on global SDG DSD
- Develop functionality in Open SDG platform (used by UK, US and others) to import/export data in SDMX format
- Share any code and resources we develop e.g. Python scripts