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Conference of European Statisticians

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Programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme of the
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Reports on the work of the Conference of European Statisticians, its Bureau and Teams of Specialists

Implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistical Programme 2020

Addendum

Report of the Workshop on Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals

Note by the Secretariat[1]

Summary

The document presents the key outcomes of the Workshop on Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals, organized as a virtual session on 28 April 2020.

The meeting was organized following a decision of the Conference of European Statisticians in June 2019 (ECE/CES/2019/13). The report is submitted to the Conference of European Statisticians for information.

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[1] This document was submitted late for document processing as clearances from relevant parties were received late.

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I. Attendance

1.   The virtual Workshop was attended by Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechia, Colombia, France, Germany, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America.

2.   The webinar was also attended by representatives from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT), United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD), and UN Country Teams. Representatives from Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei also attended.

II. Organization of the meeting

3.   Due to COVID-19 pandemics, the physical workshop planned to be held in Budapest was replaced by a virtual session. It was chaired by Ann Corp (United Kingdom), co-chair of Task Team on Data Transmission.

4.   The webinar focused on data transmission, showcasing such experiences from national and international experience.

5.   All documents and video recordings of the sessions are available at: https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=52559.

Annex

Summary of discussions

A. Data transmission - 28 April, 15.00-17.00

1. The webinar was organized by Ann Corp (UK) co-chair of the Task Team on Data Transmission and co-author of the "Reporting on global indicators" chapter of the *Road Map on Statistics for SDGs*.

2. UNSD and UK presented the SDMX standard used for the exchange of standardised data which was sponsored and developed by seven international organizations. There are two dataflows that are used by countries and SDG Custodian Agencies to submit SDG indicators data to the SDG Global Platform, using the Global SDG DSD. Countries can also create national SDG DSDs and set up national data flows with their complete datasets that include national indicators which are not part of the global framework. A number of free tools and platforms are available to support countries with the implementation of SDMX, aiming to standardise data and metadata exchange between international organizations and member countries.

3. As a member of IAEG-SDMX working group on SDMX, France presented its experience in using the SDG Data Lab established by UNSD. The purpose is to make the SDG indicators available to the broadest possible audience and to strengthen the capacity of countries in the compilation and use of the indicators. The SDG Data Lab collects and visualizes SDG indicators and metadata from both international agencies and national statistical systems. It allows to detect and analyse anomalies and discrepancies within and between international and national datasets based on the data and metadata. Currently, the SDG Lab contains nationally reported data for 20 countries which were submitted in SDMX format.

4. Kyrgyzstan is one of the pilot countries of the UNSD-DFID Project on SDG Monitoring. Today, the country has 90 global and 47 national SDG indicators that have been converted into SDMX and disseminated on their Open SDG platform. The team uses tools such as Eurostat's SDMX Converter and OECD's SDMX Matrix Generator to make maintaining data in SDMX format easier. Kyrgyzstan is planning to implement SDMX in other areas of statistics. It will help the NSO to create uniform data models, easily integrate data to different dissemination tools and use new technologies for data visualization.

5. Another data and metadata sharing experience was presented by Spain. The Spanish National Reporting Platform for SDG indicators was designed taking as reference the National Summary Data Page Plus (NSDP+), which is a data portal for countries participating in the Special Data Dissemination Standard Plus of the IMF. For each indicator, the data are complemented with its corresponding metadata, following a homogenous template.

6. The Task Team on Data Transmission - working to provide support to UNECE member countries to facilitate and standardise SDGs data transmission – set up an information portal on UNECE wiki to share and gather experiences from the relevant data transmission technologies and tools through case studies and user stories.

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