

Peer Learning Round Tables

## Cross-cutting sessions



Session 4-1

### **SDGs and COVID-19 – how can data and statistics help building back better?**

Friday, 12 March 2021, 15:00–17:00 CET | Languages: English and Russian

#### **Guiding questions for interventions and discussions**

**Question 1**

How easy was it to shift to “COVID-19 operation mode” for all authorities/stakeholders involved in the COVID-19 response actions? How did the pandemic affect the needs for data and statistics and how did it affect data availability?

**Question 2**

How to make better use of both traditional and non-traditional data sources taking into account the timeliness and quality concerns – what are the trade-offs, challenges and solutions?

**Question 3**

COVID-19 lessons – how can we leverage the COVID-19 experience to become more sustainable and agile in measuring progress towards the Agenda 2030 goals?

#### **Participants and organization**

The session on “SDGs and COVID-19: how data and statistics can help build back better” will bring together representatives of different stakeholders involved in COVID response: policy side, academia, human rights and youth organizations, business sector and statistical offices.

In the first part of the session, representatives from the government agencies will outline the challenges and data needs due to the COVID pandemic for planning and implementing policy actions.

The second part will discuss the response of other stakeholders – private sector, academia, NGOs – using official statistics, administrative data and other complementary data sources.

## Contributors

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Alison Hosie, Scottish Human Rights Commission  
Alexandru Manda, GEYC Community Romania  
Malgorzata Greszta, CSR Consulting NGO, Poland  
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## Policy actions for discussion (forthcoming)

## Moderators

Ms. Cara Williams  
Assistant Director, International Cooperation and Methodology  
Innovation Centre, Statistics Canada  
Joanne Evans  
Head of Measures of Well-being and Sustainable Development, Office  
for National Statistics, United Kingdom

## Background

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the entire world to respond to the emerging challenges. It hit the social, health and education systems, and at the same time deepened existing inequalities. For an effective and targeted response, data and statistics became even more vital and valuable than before. In some cases, statistics were already available and could be shared and disseminated easily. Under pandemic conditions, however, the national statistical offices and systems faced increased pressure to deliver data in a quicker, more frequent and more granular manner, while adapting to remote working arrangements. In this situation, the “leave no one behind” principle sharpened the focus on vulnerable populations and helped to target the policy interventions. The “leave no one behind” principle also guided the emergence of new partnerships and the exploration of new data sources, tools and innovative solutions.

## Organizers

### Lead organizers

UNECE/ Statistics, Statistics Canada, UK Mission to the UN and WTO  
(Geneva)

## Registration

Please register at [this](#) link.