

### Case study for Road Map on Statistics for SDGs 2.0

## ***Poland: Statistics Poland and Supreme Court of Audit Office – cooperation for state auditing in line with SDGs***

#### **Description**

Poland's case shows that various entities with different competencies and roles can contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. An example of such cross-sectoral initiative was cooperation between Statistics Poland and the Supreme Audit Office – SAO (the top independent state audit body whose mission is to safeguard public spending) in the first half of 2020. The subject of agreement between the two parties was collaboration in monitoring progress towards the SDGs in line with Poland's SDG priorities specified in the Strategy for Responsible Development (the country's most important development strategy) as well as identification of SDG aspects that require state auditing by SAO. Using both official UN SDG metrics and national SDG indicators, Statistics Poland analyzed the socio-economic and environmental situation in Poland. SAO used its results to identify the areas of state activity that needed auditing in terms of SDGs. The work plan of the Supreme Audit Office for 2021 will include the identified areas.

#### **Advantages**

General advantages:

- Cross-sectoral approach towards SDG implementation and monitoring.
- Increased awareness of the official statistics' relevance and usefulness.
- Stronger linkage between decision-making process and official statistics.

For official statistics:

- Gaining new experience, perspective and inspiration.
- Gaining knowledge on areas that are insufficiently covered by data and feedback on data user needs.

For the Supreme Audit Office:

- Basing the selection of areas to be controlled on hard statistical data.

For government:

- Obtaining information not only about whether progress is being made within a specific Goal but also whether the resources allocated to this goal are adequate and appropriate.
- Capturing areas requiring corrective steps to be taken.

#### **Challenges**

One of the biggest challenges was the need to combine different perspectives of statisticians and officials responsible for controlling the functioning of the state. Another difficulty was clear indication of the desired direction of changes based only on data, especially in the absence of target values for some indicators; in such cases, it was necessary to provide SAO with relevant methodological information for the correct assessment of the situation characterized by the data. Methodology turned out to be necessary also in the case of indicators whose names were not informative enough and their definitions and methods of calculation had to be referred to for better understanding.

**Future  
steps**

The identified areas requiring intensified audit activities in terms of SDGs will be used by the Supreme Audit Office's organizational units (departments and branches) to conduct an in-depth pre-audit analysis and then – the audits. The use of the identified areas will not be limited only to SAO's audit plan for 2021, but, in line with the time scope of the 2030 Agenda, it will be possible in the following years.

Continuation of work on the part of Statistics Poland will consist in updating of the socio-economic analysis of the country in terms of SDGs to facilitate subsequent annual audits carried out by the Supreme Audit Office.

**More  
information**

<https://www.nik.gov.pl/aktualnosci/monitorowanie-celow-zrownowazonego-rozwoju-onz.html>