

Case study for Road Map on Statistics for SDGs 2.0
Sweden: Metadata for national indicators

Description	<p>Sweden set up a working group on quality assurance in February 2019. The first task was to create a template for metadata collection for the national indicators. To construct the metadata template, the UN reference metadata template¹ for data reported on the Sustainable Development Goals was used together with the national quality framework.</p> <p>The metadata template includes the following information: Purpose and definitions, data sources and data collection, content, accessibility and frequency, reference period, processing and computation, reliability, comparability over time and with the global indicator and coherence. There is also a section for contact details, concerning all contributing organizations, and a possibility to leave references and any other relevant information.</p> <p>After the data collection process, all metadata files were reviewed before publishing. If there were questions about a reported metadata file, the file was generally sent back to the producer. When reviewing the metadata files, comments were made with ideas on how to update and improve the template.</p>
Advantages	<p>The template was used during the data collection period between May and August 2019, this resulted in collecting and publishing metadata of more than 150 SDG indicators in connection to the reporting of the national follow-up of the 2030 Agenda in Sweden in October 2019.</p> <p>Assigning the working group, constructing the metadata template and publishing the metadata files is seen as a first step in the quality assurance work of the SDG indicators in Sweden. By publishing the metadata files, all users are able to gain more detailed information about the indicators, creating transparency and avoiding unintended use of the indicators.</p>
Challenges	<p>It was essential to conduct a template that could also be used by statistic producers outside of the national statistical system, who might be entirely new to quality frameworks for statistics. Before using the template during the data collection process, it was therefore tested by a small reference group including both statistical producers within and outside of the national statistical system.</p>
Future steps	<p>Implementing a system for handling, updating and publishing metadata.</p>

¹ https://unstats.un.org/capacity-building/meetings/UNSD-DFID-Metadata/documents/Module_2.2_Metadata-Template.pdf