

Case study for Road Map on Statistics for SDGs 2.0

Norway: The role of taxonomy in improving the quality of SDG indicator sets

<p>Description</p>	<p>There is considerable interest in indicators that allow measuring progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) at the local level and to this end Statistics Norway, commissioned by KS, the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (the organization for all municipalities and county councils in Norway and is the largest public employer organization in the country) developed a taxonomy for SDGs.</p> <p>The taxonomy is a classification system, which allows ordering and assessing indicators and indicator sets, the end goal of which is connecting global Goals with activities and projects at the regional and local levels.</p> <p>In the proposed taxonomy there are three dimensions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Goal</i> which tells us what an indicator is about. • <i>Perspective</i> which clarifies why or in which context the indicator is used. • <i>Quality</i> which measures how useful the indicator is, i.e., if it is fit-for-purpose. <p>Thanks to its generic and logical design, the taxonomy can be used in relation to various indicators and indicators sets and it is well suited for users at various levels of governance.</p> <p>Six different indicator sets are classified using the taxonomy. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UN SDGs¹ • The U4SSC indicators² • The OECD regional indicators³ • The EU JRC VLR-handbook indicators⁴ • The SDSN/Bertelsmann set⁵ • The Norwegian measuring points⁶
<p>Advantages</p>	<p>Applying a taxonomy to all SDG indicators helps to clarify their applicability (how the indicator fits into a local context) and quality. This also makes the comparison and benchmarking of different indicators and indicator sets easier.</p>
<p>Challenges</p>	<p>It requires in-depth understanding or advanced technical knowledge of the subject.</p>
<p>Future steps</p>	<p>The taxonomy will be visualised through the establishment of an ontology (see also the case study from Norway entitled ‘The Ontology for SDG statistics’), as a continuation of the efforts to make use of the Taxonomy to improve quality of SDG</p>

¹ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>

² <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/ssc/united/Pages/publication-U4SSC-KPIs.aspx>

³ <https://www.oecd.org/regional/a-territorial-approach-to-the-sustainable-development-goals-e86fa715-en.htm>

⁴ <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC118682>

⁵ <https://www.unsdns-ne.org/our-actions/initiatives/sdg-impact-tool/>

⁶ <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/meld.-st.-40-20202021/id2862554/> (In Norwegian)

indicators and indicator sets. The ontology can visualize the results of the taxonomy and adds the possibility to highlight both trade-offs and synergies between SDGs.

By classifying indicator sets with the taxonomy, we will be able to view indicators in relationship with other domains, like finance, citizen science, etc. The work on taxonomy will also be connected to the Indicator Proximity Index, made by EU JRC to see how the different indicator sets overlap each other. The results from these exercises will be used to improve the quality of various governance software systems in the public sector.

**More
information**

https://www.ssb.no/en/natur-og-miljo/artikler-og-publikasjoner/_attachment/448340?_ts=1782570f8c0

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