Supporting Standards Group
Activities and Challenges

Supporting Standards Group
19 November 2020
HLG-MOS Modernisation Workshop 2020 (Virtual)
Supporting Standards Group

The goal of the group is to find ways how to develop, enhance, integrate, promote, support and facilitate implementation of the range of standards needed for statistical modernisation.

Operational responsibility for the maintenance and development of three ModernStats models:

**GAMSO**
Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organisation

**GSBPM**
Generic Statistical Business Process Model

**GSIM**
Generic Statistical Information Model
# The Members

23 experts from 12 NSOs and 4 international statistical organizations

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<th>Members</th>
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<tr>
<td>Marina Signore - Chair</td>
<td>Italy – ISTAT</td>
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<td>Juan Muñoz</td>
<td>Mexico – INEGI</td>
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<td>Manuel Cuellar</td>
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<td>José de Jesús Togno</td>
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<td>Márta Nagy-Rothengass</td>
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<td>Mauro Scanu</td>
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<td>Dan Gillman</td>
<td>USA - Bureau of Labor Statistics</td>
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<td>Al Hamilton</td>
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<td>Anna Dlugosz</td>
<td>Statistics Poland</td>
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<td>David Barraclough</td>
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<td>Edgardo Greising</td>
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<td>Miodrag Cerovina</td>
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The Network: the effort in 2020

1 plenary group + 4 task teams

- Supporting Standards Group – 23 members
- Linking GSBPM and GSIM task team – 19 members
- Geospatial task team – 18 members
- GISM task team – 22 members
- Metadata Glossary task team – 9 members

=> 55 (unique) participants from 17 national statistical offices and 6 international organisations

- Supporting Standards Group – 8 virtual meetings
- Linking GSBPM and GSIM task team – 13 virtual meetings
- Geospatial task team – 11 virtual meetings
- GISM task team – 5 virtual meetings
- Metadata Glossary task team – 4 virtual meetings

=> 41 virtual meetings (excluding works done off-line!)
GSBPM/GAMSO/GSIM revision- 2019

CES Endorsement (2019)
for new versions

GAMSO
Version 1.2 was released in January 2019

GSBPM
Version 5.1 was released in January 2019

GSIM
Version 1.2 was released in April 2019

CES Endorsement (2020)
Activities in 2020

- Linking GSBPM and GSIM
  Aim at setting up – *de facto* - a more integrated view of the modernisation models

- GSBPM - Geospatial
  Aim at improving usability and harmonisation among the models

- Metadata Glossary

- GSIM update

**ModernStats World Workshop**
together with Sharing Tools Group
27-30 October (Virtual)
Activities towards an integrated view

- GSIM update
- Inputs from previous work outcomes. Building synergies
- Linking GSBPM - GSIM
- Core Ontology
- Metadata Glossary
Linking GSBPM and GSIM

- Chair: Marina Signore (Istat) and Flavio Rizzolo (Statistics Canada)
- 19 members from 9 NSOs and 2 international statistical organisations
- Main goal → help NSOs understand the models better to implement metadata-driven solutions, e.g. CSPA services, and enable semi-automated business process
Linking GSBPM and GSIM: Outcomes

• Results
  – Two templates (a high-level specification and illustrative runtime examples) that capture all necessary information
  – 20 sub-processes mapped
  – New mapping diagrams showing metadata flows
  – GSIM definitions update (in collaboration with GSIM task team)
  – Detailed report

• Challenges
  – Mapping exercise proved to be more challenging for Phases 1 (Specify Needs) and 2 (Design)
    • Processes around requirements and design are less clear
    • Terminological issues between the two models became more problematic
  – Access to internal subject matter experts by the NSOs teams to fill out the templates
  – Diversity of approaches and interpretations of models

• Future work
  – Finalize mapping and metadata flows of remaining GSBPM sub-process
  – Continue collaborating with GSIM task team on definitions and model update
Geospatial information for GSBPM

Chair: no chair

18 members from 10 NSOs and 5 international statistical organisations

- Australian Bureau of Statistics
- Central Statistics Office of Ireland
- Data Documentation Initiative
- Eurostat
- Federal Statistical Office of Germany
- INEGI Mexico
- INSEE France
- International Labour Organisation
- Statistics Canada
- Statistics Finland
- Statistics Korea
- Statistics Poland
- Statistics Sweden
- UNSD
- UNECE
Geospatial information for GSBPM

Goal:
- To produce a document describing geospatial related activities under each phase/sub-process of GSBPM.

Results:
- Five use cases were identified, from these, two are being focused: Use of geospatial information to produce geospatially-enabled statistics and Use of geospatial information to support statistical production.
- The group has identified the relation of geospatial information with the subprocesses of five of the eight phases of GSBPM.
Geospatial information for GSBPM

Future Work:

- Finishing the review of the remaining phases of the GSBPM
- Addition of Overarching process
- Obtaining feedback from the statistical community
- Edition of the final version of the document
- Including activities into GAMSO
Metadata Glossary - completed

Chair: Dan Gillman (USA-Bureau of Labour Statistics)

9 members from 4 NSOs and 2 international statistical organizations

Approach:

• Intended to be a central, unified and definitive source for the terms and definitions in the ModernStats Models

• Disambiguation between homographs (same spelling, slightly different meanings) and identification of synonyms (different spelling, same or similar meanings)

• Planned output: alphabetically organized list of terms, their definitions, sources for the definitions, source of the term (in which standard(s) does it appear), explanatory text that further contextualizes the meaning, and references to other similar, broader, and narrower terms
Metadata Glossary

• Completed review of terms of GAMSO and GSBPM

• Work in 2020
  – Review of GSIM terms
  – Assess definitions based upon
    • Principles for definition writing
    • Technical content
  – Recommend changes, if needed
    • Provide comments to GSIM discussion forum
    • Input for GSIM update task team

• Completed: May 2020
GSIM update

Chair: Francine Kalonji (Statistics Canada) and Flavio Rizzolo (Statistics Canada)

22 members from 10 national statistical organizations

GSIM is a reference framework for statistical information and

- provides a set of standardised, consistently described information objects
- used across several statistical agencies around the world

GSIM supplies standardised inputs and outputs GSBPM
GSIM update

- Completed Communication paper
  - very useful tool for describing the use of GSIM
  - Now aligned to current GSIM version 1.2
- Planned work, still in progress:
  - Update and clarification of ambiguous points and correction of errors with:
    - inputs form Metadata Glossary
    - inputs from Linking GSBPM and GSIM
    - Inputs from statistical agencies
  - Review of GSIM 2012 User Guide
2020 Virtual ModernStats Workshop

• Advantages and limitations of virtual Workshop

• Wider audience more than 140 participants 40 national and international organisations, discussion and questions in the chat

• 98% responded that quality of the workshop was good/very good. Few comments:
  – “Making it available virtually meant that many of my staff were able to attend. As we are modernizing, and implementing standards and using the models, this was a very key learning experience for them”
  – “thank you very much for this workshop! this modernization may take decades :) but it is a very fundamental change and it is very exciting!”
  – “The online workshop gave this opportunity to people not in the loop: I understand that meeting face to face is important, but I really think this online workshop are also very useful and can allow more people having access to the information. Many thanks”
  – “the workshop has activated our motivations to continue modernizing the official statistics. Most of the latent ideas have reactivated. Moreover, It has provided us with the final improvements in modernizing official statistics.”

• More difficult to share experiences, no visual communication

• Request for support from countries (e.g. GSBPM)

• More visibility to the work done and materials available on the Unece WIKI and better communication

• For the future: mix of in person and virtual meetings could be the way forward
Activities in 2021 (and beyond)

Main goals for the Supporting Standards Group in 2021:

• Integrated view: the way the community is dealing with the ModernStats models is getting more and more systematic: integrated approach in the work we are doing

• Completeness: provide outputs to the statistical community with a complete coverage for the whole business process.

• Strong interest of the community in the work of the Supporting Standards Group: launch new action where there is a need for a common solution

• Increasing the visibility of the work and improving communication
Activity proposals for 2021: overview

- **Linking GSBPM & GSIM**
- **Application of GSBPM for geospatial Information**
- **GSIM Task Team**
- **Core Ontology for Official Statistics**
- **Defining and detailing GSBPM tasks**

Completion of the work

- **Reactivation**
- **Renewal**
Activity proposals for 2021: main outputs

- Cover the remaining GSBPM phases
- Providing feedback to GSIM Task Team

- Review of overarching and corporate-level geospatial-related activities

- Update and clarification of ambiguous points and correction of errors
- Review of GSIM 2012 User Guide

- URI policy for UNECE RDF resources
- Core Ontology as an OWL/Turtle file + ontology description and users guide

- Identify common tasks, summarize findings
- Input for the next GSBPM revision
Future activities: opportunities

Concerning the work of the Supporting Standards Group:

• Synergy
  1+1=3, if we do the proposed work as a work programme (e.g. completion of GSBPM-GSIM work providing input for the GSIM Task Team as it is this year)

Concerning the community interested in the group’s work:

• Statistical added value
  always think about the actual implementation, provide ideas and challenges arising when using these models in the statistical production

• „Hidden gems” in the statistical community
  invaluable experience in the community with the use of the ModernStats models: new ideas, unexpected use cases
Future activities: challenges

- Valuable but resource-intensive activities: join our work; we need your experience!
- Visibility of the already available outputs and the current work need to be improved. More action is needed in communicating the ModernStats models.
Acknowledgments

✓ Experts committed in the work of the Supporting Standards Group (not always Members of Supporting Standards!)

✓ Chairs of the task teams

✓ UNECE and Inkyung Choi for her invaluable support