

**UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**Workshop on Statistics for SDGs**

29 - 30 March 2022, Geneva

Session 1: Data transmission including SDMX and automation

**CES Steering Group on Statistics for SDGs  
UNECE CES Pilot on Data and Metadata Transmission to the SDG Data Lab  
Concept Note**

***Summary***

*The focus of this pilot is to help countries (primarily Open SDG) to post national data and metadata on the SDG Data Lab. National data posted on the SDG Data Lab will make discrepancies between national and global data clearer with both data and metadata posted in a harmonized and machine-readable format.*

*UNECE TTDT will act as facilitators, providing countries with support and sharing experiences across the region.*

*UNECE countries will be invited to take part in the pilot and indicators will be selected depending on availability of data.*

*Countries participating in the pilot will be:*

- asked to send the indicators selected with national metadata to the SDG Data Lab with SDMX data flows*
- informed of existing tools that can be used to support SDMX reporting*
- supported to send their data with guidelines and tutorials*
- asked to report any difficulties and how they were solved*
- asked to report on discrepancies found using the SDG Data Lab*

**I. BACKGROUND**

1. The scope and ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for national statistical offices and international organizations to strengthen their coordination in producing harmonized, global statistics to monitor progress in the Sustainable Development Goals. Everybody should keep in mind both the importance of country ownership of national monitoring and the value of global monitoring based on comparable data derived using transparent methodology.

2. Because of two different points of view, some discrepancies can be observed between indicators reported by custodian agencies and countries. To answer these concerns, UNSD provides an online Platform, the SDGs Data Lab, to allow the exchange of SDG indicator data and metadata both by countries and SDG custodian agencies. The SDGs Data Lab allows comparison of national data provided by countries against the global data provided by the custodian agencies. To reconcile the two complementary roles of custodian agencies and countries, metadata must accompany these data to explain differences that might exist. Without metadata discrepancies will remain unexplained and misleading as there are many valid reasons

why country-level data reported by international agencies and reported by countries are different.

## II. OBJECTIVES

3. The aim of this pilot experience is to facilitate the transmission of data and metadata from countries to the SDGs Data Lab. This will allow national data to be viewed alongside the global data, which will allow data and metadata to be compared and for discrepancies to be identified. This will provide an opportunity for countries and custodian agencies to identify the cause of the discrepancies and perhaps find a solution.

4. The pilot will also promote SDMX data flows across the region in general.

## III. SCOPE

5. The pilot will focus on a selection of 5 indicators which are regularly produced by the most pilot countries and, if possible, on indicators for which discrepancies have already been identified between national and global indicators. The pilot should contribute to a better understanding. Pilot participants include voluntary UNECE countries who report national SDGs data against the global SDGs framework.

6. Countries participating in the pilot will be asked to send the selected indicators with national metadata to the SDGs Data Lab using SDMX. They will be informed of existing tools that can be used to support SDMX reporting and will be supported to send their data with guidelines, tutorials. They will be able to share their difficulties and will receive support to solve them.

7. The UNECE TTDT will facilitate SDMX transmission (data and metadata) to the SDGs Data Lab. The task team will support countries by providing information on suitable tools that can be used to support SDMX reporting. Pilot countries will be encouraged to share knowledge and experiences in order to increase capability. However, where needed and possible, more in-depth technical support may be available from the task team. Countries will be asked to report on discrepancies found using the SDG Data Lab.

## IV. ORGANISATION OF WORK

### Phases

<i>Phase</i>	<i>Deliverables</i>	<i>Due</i>
1. Preparation	TTDT wiki info; guidance; invite sent	End Mar 22
2. Agree participation	Final list of participating countries; final list of indicators	End Apr 22
3. Pilot data transmission	Data loaded to SDGs Data Lab; feedback from countries	End Sep 22

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**Schedule of Deliverables**


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<i>Milestone</i>	<i>Deliverables</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Due</i>
1. Pilot info is available	Wiki page containing information about pilot	UNECE TTDT	18/03/22
2. Guidance is available	Wiki page containing list of resources and tools that can be used by pilot countries	UNECE TTDT	18/03/22
3. Countries have been invited to take part	Pilot information and invitation emailed to UNECE member countries from secretariat	UNECE TTDT with support from UNECE secretariat	21/03/22
4. Pilot countries have been agreed	List of pilot countries	UNECE TTDT	29/04/22
5. Pilot indicators have been agreed	List of pilot indicators	UNECE TTDT	29/04/22
6. Pilot countries transmit data and metadata to the SDGs Data Lab	Pilot countries data and metadata is available on SDGs Data Lab	Pilot countries with support from UNECE TTDT	26/08/22
7. Pilot countries have reported their findings to UNECE TTDT	Reports from each of the pilot countries	Pilot countries with support from UNECE TTDT	30/09/22
8. Final pilot report has been produced	A report which contains findings from the pilot which has been reviewed and finalised	UNECE TTDT with support from UNECE secretariat	21/10/22

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