

Collaboration and Inclusive Data: Ensuring that everyone counts and is counted

Atanaska Nikolova (Office for National Statistics, UK)

atanaska.nikolova@ons.gov.uk

Abstract

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) are committed to improving the quality, quantity and availability of inclusive data. We signed up to the Inclusive Data Charter in 2018, partnering with the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data.

Since then, the National Statistician convened an independent Inclusive Data Taskforce (IDTF) in 2021 to identify initiatives to ensure that everyone counts and is counted in UK data and evidence. This includes activities to build trust with those participating in data supply, methodological work to improve inclusion and conceptual measurement of currently under-represented population groups, and improvements in the accessibility of data and analysis.

In the published Implementation Plan setting out our commitments in response to the recommendations, ONS committed to seek the establishment of a UN City Group on Inclusive Statistics.

The UN City Group would facilitate international collaboration, to share knowledge and approaches to measurement and reporting to establish best practices. As Chair, the ONS would play an active role in international initiatives to improve inclusivity of statistics, supported by the IDTF, to improve the representation of vulnerable and hard to reach groups. It will also provide a potential opportunity to explore the challenges of engaging with hard-to-reach audiences in statistical communication and strategies for overcoming them.