

## Meeting Notes – 9th Communication Fortnight

### National Reporting Platforms

21 March 2024

The TTCOM gathered for its 9<sup>th</sup> fortnight, devoted to national reporting platforms. The meeting recording is available on Teams (restricted to members) whereas the meeting summary and additional materials are available on the [UNECE Knowledge Hub on SDGs](#), under the [Communication page](#). The results from the discussion are summarised below.

Bo Hoogerwerf (CBS Netherlands) presented the Dutch experience with the development of a national reporting platform. The presentation touched also on the many SDG related products for national and regional monitoring, namely: 1) information on provinces and municipalities, in Dutch only, and also about the Caribbean Netherlands (also available in English); 2) factsheets for ministries (Dutch only); 3) and international SDG monitoring (global compliant indicators). Bo also advanced that plans are on-going to develop an interactive national SDG report (website version), which is expected to be released in May.

The following features about the **SDG page** (in the English version) were highlighted:

- National report (on its way to become more user friendly)
- Monitor of Well-being and SDG in the Caribbean Netherlands
- International indicators
- The page is structured in a way that highlights the most relevant information for users, also including (in lower positions) the whole SDG information repository.

Entering in the platform for **global indicators** (inhouse based and available since the Summer of 2023), the following aspects were highlighted:

1. It enables international comparison through interactive graphs
2. It does not feature any analysis of the data, since they are not used for national follow-up
3. Focused on showing the available data

The platform for **national indicators** has different elements, all of which reflect a greater focus on visualisation namely:

- a. Most recent data points
- b. arrows depicting the upward or downward trend;
- c. colours showing the favourable or unfavourable nature of the results, vis-à-vis the targets
- d. international comparison of the NL in relation to EU countries with available data. More information on the underlying data available in the publications.
- e. When no trend or international comparison is possible, the corresponding visual elements are not shown.

In the platform for the **Caribbean Netherlands SDG monitoring** (Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius), the following aspects were highlighted:

1. Dashboard highly focused on data, summaries, and interactive features
2. In continuous development (more data available every year)

3. Sensitive to the local context (e.g. different landscapes [coral reefs], different poverty threshold)
4. Summary (text) with main development in each dimension
5. Intra-regional comparison between the islands
6. Data points visualisation following a similar pattern to the one used for national SDGs
7. Curaçao, St Martin and Aruba are also being considered for the platform (more data pending), to enable greater international comparison
8. More information available on the indicator page, with graphs enabling the comparison between islands
9. Metadata on indicators available (some indicators were specifically developed for this project and are not available via link to another page, but users can request for more information contacting CBS NL).
10. Focus on displaying only the most useful information

#### **Factsheets** (not available in the international platform)

1. National report is sometimes criticised for having too much information (though more work is on-going to make it more succinct), thus the need to create a tailor-made, succinct product for policy users
2. Focused on data (despite including framework information about SDGs)
3. Includes QR codes for users interested in additional information
4. Data visualisation following the national reporting platform structure (links available in the digital version)
5. Infographic at the end of each factsheet
6. Made in alignment with policy areas for specific ministries (concise and focused on core indicators)
7. Highly used for budgetary debates and general political deliberations
8. First happened last year (ministers are still on-board with developing this product)

#### Q&A:

In the lively Q&A that ensued, the following topics were underlined:

1. **CBS role and resources (HR constraints despite financial allocations)** - CBS is responsible for all SDG monitoring in the Netherlands and is also the international focal point before the UN. For each product there are different requirements and government users that request them (and finance them as well). The integration of Well being and SDG monitoring framework was done also to highlight the SDGs and depict them in a positive light, since they were somewhat unfavourably perceived. CBS NL is trying to get additional funding for some additional developments, but for now the funding is sufficient to maintain the products. The main issue - crosscutting to most NSOs - is HR constraints.
2. **Local indicators and the challenge of data availability** - There is a framework with selection criteria for indicators. It aims to select key indicators that best depict every dimension (e.g. poverty). Data availability is a challenge for local indicators and the islands are really reliant on the Dutch infrastructure (sometimes facing data gaps for these regions). There is regular contact with island focal points and with the Island Councils (local government). There are also on-going discussions and debates with the ministries to overcome data gaps.

3. **NPR linkage with NSOs database (challenges persist for specific SDG indicators)** - National indicators that are linked to CBS NL databases are easily updated, however, data that was specifically designed for the SDGs is not available in other databases. Therefore, manual updates are necessary, although the graph and visualisation parts of the website are automatically updated through the available IT infrastructure.
4. **Interlinkage with other monitoring frameworks** - No other frameworks are being considered at the moment, besides the existing interlinkage with the Well-being framework. However, the EU Green Deal is currently being discussed as a possible addition (still in the debate phase).

[please insert your link for a noteworthy national practice]

#### [Draft Guidance on the Role of National Statistical Offices in achieving national climate objectives](#)

How to reach the public with climate change-related statistics? Lessons learned from interviews with journalists in the UNECE region - [presentation](#) at the UNECE Expert Meeting on Dissemination and Communication of Statistics 2023

[SDG - report 2022 \(stat.gov.pl\)](#) – Statistics Poland SDG digital report, which in 2022 focused on the environmental dimension.

<https://www.pulitzer.org/winners/mona-chalabi-contributor-new-york-times> - Mona Chalabi, NY Times contributor, awarded with a Pulitzer Prize for her data visualisation depictions of wealth.

<https://lnu.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1743184/FULLTEXT03.pdf> - South African study on climate change media coverage by Dr. Enoch Sithole (Fojo Media Institute at Linnaeus University, 2023)

Link to the TTCOM Christmas playlist -

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/5SVYtbRZZLvwwmQjyv5CzF?si=63e0c7773b0c4fb>