New Approaches to Capacity Development for Better Data: How to Scale Up Innovation?

PROGRAMME

PARIS-UNSD Conference
13-14 January 2020
OECD, Paris
Background

Strong statistical systems are the core of evidence-based policymaking. Key economic and social indicators are the basis of our policies and shape the way society functions. To provide equal opportunities in a world that leaves no one behind, all countries shall have the opportunity to produce high quality data and statistics. Statistical capacity development thus needs to target individual countries’ needs and priorities.

NSS need to adapt to a changing data ecosystem

National statistical systems still face the challenges to adapt to a changing data ecosystem. First, digital innovation has empowered new actors to produce data on different policy areas, and challenges the way official statistics have been managed so far. As a result, different data producers compete in a new playing field. Administrative data, citizen-generated data, geospatial data and several forms of big data such as credit card, mobile phone or retail data coexist next to traditional survey and census data. Private companies, civil society organisations or citizens themselves have emerged as data providers and thus blur the lines between user and provider.

Second, implementing the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has created an unprecedented demand for data and statistics at national level. While countries need strong statistical systems to live up to those demands, many countries do not yet seem to have the capacities to achieve the SDG indicator framework and its premise to leave no one behind. In 2018, almost 60% of SDG indicators lack most of the required data.

Third, a persistent lack of funding limits national statistical systems to explore new data sources for the collection, production, analysis and dissemination of official statistics. While national statistical offices have an important role in coordinating these efforts across the NSS, they are often overburdened and lack the individual and institutional capacities to carry out this agenda. Low trust in data and the technical nature of statistical capacity further weakens incentives by governments to invest in national statistical systems.

A roadmap to statistical capacity development

The need for statistical organizations to adapt and develop was stressed in the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data (CTGAP), launched during the first United Nations World Data Forum in January 2017. It identified the gaps in national statistics programmes and statistical coordination in response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Action Plan thus serves as a road map for the capacity development efforts of the statistics divisions of international, regional and national agencies involved in the production of official statistics.

The work of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics (HLG-PCCB) under the mandate of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) has been the key mechanism in pushing the line further and coordinating efforts across countries. The HLG-PCCB aims to provide strategic leadership for the SDG implementation process as it concerns statistical monitoring and reporting.

The Dubai Declaration, released during the second World Data Forum (2018), supports the efforts to implement the CTGAP by increasing the demand for financing for better data and statistics for sustainable development, recognizing that important gaps have to be bridged and that both increased domestic resources and international support will be needed. It calls for the establishment of an innovative funding mechanism open to all stakeholders that will aim to mobilize both domestic and international funds, and to activate partnerships and funding opportunities to strengthen the capacity of national data and statistical systems.
New approaches in capacity development emerge

New approaches in capacity development reach far beyond NSOs to produce more and better data. They acknowledge different levels – individuals, organisations and the enabling system – and the need to establish capacity across and within each. As such they respond to a changing data ecosystem, taking into account new data providers and sources. Moreover, they aim to integrate the user throughout the virtuous data cycle. Meeting users’ needs implies increasing efficiency, relatability, trust and accountability of public data. Beyond the technical skills, they place a strong emphasis on individual skills such as technical expertise and leadership. Lastly, they stress the importance of donor co-ordination for delivering capacity. Both the stronger emphasis on partnerships and the grown awareness of data as public good led to a strong emphasis on country ownership and sustainable processes.

The UN Statistics Division (UNSD) is currently in the progress of drafting a new edition of the Handbook of Statistical Organisation, whose purpose is to support the needs of senior managers to adapt and develop their statistical organisations and systems as stressed in the CTGAP. As part of this work, UNSD is organising a series of regional conferences to understand and prioritise the recent institutional, organizational and technical developments for the production of official statistics and indicators for the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related regional and national development plans. In particular, the Handbook will emphasise new approaches to capacity development such as:

- the **Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training (GIST)** to facilitate collaboration among members of the network in the delivery of trainings on statistics in a more standardized manner as well as to improve effectiveness of these trainings;
- the **Global Working Group on Big Data (GWG)** and its various task teams to promote and share knowledge of the application of Big Data to official statistics and to help statistical organisations and systems navigate the changing data ecosystem;
- **StaTact**, a tool launched in partnership with UNITAR enabling data producers and data users to discuss pressing data gaps and develop a short-term, realistic action plan to address them;
- and **ADAPT**, a tool launched in partnership with PARIS21 to help NSOs adapt to changing data demands.

In 2017, **PARIS21** explored at UNSC the practice of deploying NSS assessment frameworks in developing countries to propose concrete actions to increase efficiency for measuring statistical capacity. Since then, a new initiative, **Capacity Development 4.0**, was launched with the ambition to revisit the notion of capacity in statistics and respond to the emerging challenges for NSSS.

- The **PARIS21 Annual Meeting (2017)** spurred further reflection on new approaches in capacity development and endorsed the creation of a Task Team.
- The **CD4.0 Task Team** has worked since then towards the definition of a broader framework for capacity, the proposal of new metrics for assessing progress and the implementation of capacity development programmes.
- The work of the task team was presented in a “**Workshop on New Approaches to Statistical Capacity Development**”, Paris in December 2017.
- In 2018, **PARIS21** together with the HLG-PCCB and UNSD conducted a survey on new approaches to capacity development. These results were presented during the 49th Session of the UNSC (March 2018).
- Furthermore, **PARIS21** introduced mechanisms to measure statistical capacities at the 50th session of the UNSC (March 2019).

Recent initiatives emphasize the need for implementing statistical capacity development. In 2016, **UNECE** set up a Steering Group to strengthen coordination of SDG implementation within the UNECE region. A significant achievement of the Steering Group is a Road Map on Statistics for SDGs including a matrix to assess statistical capacities of countries and donors alike (2nd edition in progress). **UNESCAP** currently develops a Monitoring & Evaluation Framework to assess the regional capacities in achieving the 2030 agenda.
Thinking about statistical capacity development differently is not enough

Entering a post-2015 agenda, we do not yet know where we stand in implementing new approaches to statistical capacity development. So far, stakeholders have started thinking statistical development differently, but it remains unclear whether countries consider those approaches successful. Components of capacity development that may be most applicable to one country might be quite different for another, depending on aspects such as available resources and the institutional environment within which it operates. To lead the way in transforming NSSs, this conference aims at answering the following questions:

- Why do we need new approaches to capacity development in data and statistics and how do they contribute to transforming the NSSs?
- What kind of country experience do we have with in implementing new approaches and how can the new PARIS21 Guidelines best support this process?
- How can the new approaches help to respond to better measuring and monitoring the SDGs and contribute to the implementation of the CT-GAP?

To answer those questions it is important to exchange best practices taking into account the need for adaptation and flexibility in developing statistical capacities.

Objectives

The 2020 PARIS21-UNSD conference anchors the discussions around implementing new approaches to capacity development and the experiences from countries actively engaging with new approaches of capacity development.

The key objectives of the conference are to:

- Discuss new approaches to implementing statistical capacity development
- Launch the new “Capacity Development 4.0 Guidelines” (PARIS21) and explore their pertinence for existing pilots
- Present country experiences in implementing new approaches in statistical capacity development
- Discuss the challenges of coordinating and financing capacity development
- Raise awareness on measuring the impact of capacity development initiatives

Expected outcomes:

- Identify priority areas of statistical capacity development
- Kick-start country pilots (south-south cooperation, peer reviews)
- Contribute to ongoing capacity development discussions at the global level and report back at the World Data Forum 2020 (18-21 October 2020)

Audience

The conference brings together representatives from National Statistical Systems, governments, development cooperation agencies, and international organisations working on statistics - with a particular focus on low and middle-income countries.
## Agenda

### Day 1: Statistical capacity development in a modern data ecosystem

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:30 – 09:30</td>
<td>Registration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 09:30 – 09:50 | Welcome and introduction  
Johannes Jütting, Executive Head of PARIS21 Secretariat  
Ronald Jansen, Chief, Data Innovation and Capacity Branch, United Nations Statistics Division, DESA |
| 09:50 – 10:00 | Setting the scene: Statistical capacity development – Where do we stand now?  
Johannes Jütting, Executive Head of PARIS21 Secretariat  
Julia Schmidt, Policy Analyst, PARIS21 Secretariat |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Keynote: New Data Sources and Statistical Capacity: The Potential (and Limits) of Recent Innovations  
Joshua Blumenstock, Assistant Professor, University of California, Berkeley |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Q&A Session                                                                 |
| 11:00 – 11:20 | Coffee Break                                                              |
| 11:20 – 12:20 | Session 1: Introducing new approaches to statistical capacity development  
Johannes Jütting, Executive Head of PARIS21 Secretariat (Facilitator)  
Stephan Klingebiel, Head of Global Policy Programme, United Nations Development Programme (Input)  
Discussants:  
Rikke Munk Hansen, Chief, Economic and Environmental Statistics Section, UNESCAP  
Carol Coy, Director General, Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) |
| 12:20 – 12:45 | Q&A Session                                                                 |
| 12:45 – 14:00 | Lunch                                                                     |

**New Approaches to Capacity Development for Better Data:**  
How to Scale Up Innovation?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14:00 – 14:45</td>
<td>Session 2: Launch of the PARIS21 CD4.0 Implementation Guidelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pieter Everaers, Chief Editor, IAOS (Facilitator)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Julia Schmidt, Policy Analyst, PARIS21 Secretariat (Input)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discussants:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marina Gandolfo, Head of International Affairs Division, ISTAT, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lisa Grace S. Bersales, Professor, University of the Philippines (former PARIS21 Chair)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:45 – 15:15</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:15 – 17:15</td>
<td>Session 3: Implementing capacity development – Best practices (Roundtables with interactive discussions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Group 1 – Gender Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fathimath Riyaza: Deputy Statistician, Maldives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Group 2 – Data Dissemination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Khuslen Zorigt: Director, Foreign Relations and Cooperation Division, National Statistics Office of Mongolia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Group 3 – New Data Sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mathew Collins Omondi: Director Macroeconomic Statistics, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Group 4 – Fundraising Strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Victoria Tapia Perez: Analyst, International Relations Division National Statistical Office (ONE) Dominican Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Group 5 – New Data Sources - Poverty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Juan Daniel Oviedo, General Director: Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística Colombia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:15 – 17:30</td>
<td>Closing Day 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18:00</td>
<td>Networking Cocktail &amp; Dinner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New Approaches to Capacity Development for Better Data: How to Scale Up Innovation?
### Day 2: Taking it to the field – statistical capacity development in practice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:30 – 09:45</td>
<td>Welcome &amp; Recap Day 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 09:45 – 10:15 | Keynote: Strengthening capacity development – the value-added of a country-led and sustainable approach  
Alan AtKisson, Assistant Director General, Sida |
| 10:15 – 10:45 | Q&A Session                                                             |
| 10:45 – 11:05 | Coffee Break                                                           |
| 11:05 – 12:00 | Session 4: Financing Capacity Development  
Rahul Malhotra, Head of Division, Reviews, Results, Evaluations and Development Innovation, Development Cooperation Directorate, OECD (Facilitator)  
Discussants:  
His Excellency Abdulla Lootah, Director General, Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority, UAE  
Hege Hope Wade, Assistant Director, The Knowledge Bank, Norad  
Phetsamone Sone, Deputy Head, Lao Bureau of Statistics  
Hernàn Muñoz, Former National Director of Planning, Institutional and International Relations, National Institute of Statistics and Censuses of Argentina (INDEC) |
| 12:00 – 12:30 | Q&A Session                                                             |
| 12:30 – 14:30 | Lunch                                                                   |

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch event organised by Bern Network ahead of UN World Data Forum

Moderators:  
Benjamin Rothen, Deputy Head, International Affairs, Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA, Swiss Federal Statistical Office (FSO)  
Johannes Jütting, Executive Head of PARIS21 Secretariat  
Jurei Yada, Bern Network Coordination Lead, PARIS21 Secretariat
14:30 – 15:30  Session 5: Evaluating the impact of capacity development

Julia Schmidt, Policy Analyst, PARIS21 (Facilitator)

Panelists:
- Omar Seidu, Demographic Statistics and Coordinator of Data for SDGs in Ghana, Ghana Statistical Service
- Ronald Jansen, Chief, Data Innovation and Capacity Branch, United Nations Statistics Division, DESA
- Ana Maria Tabacaru, Senior Policy Associate, J-PAL Europe
- Wladimir Nikoluk, CEO, Immerlearn

15:30 – 15:45  Q&A Session

15:45 – 16:00  Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:00  Session 6: Towards better data for all – The future of capacity in NSS

Shaida Badiee, Managing Director, Open Data Watch (Facilitator)

Discussants:
- Ralf Becker, Chief, Statistical Capacity Management Section, United Nations Statistics Division, DESA
- Muchammad Romzi, Director, Statistical Information Systems, BPS, Indonesia
- Calogero Carletto, Lead Economist, Development Research Group, World Bank
- Franco Conzato, Head of Unit, Quality and Results, DG DEVCO, European Commission
- Ida McDonnell, Senior Policy Analyst and Team Leader, OECD Development Cooperation Directorate

17:00 – 17:30  Q&A

17:30 – 18:00  Conclusions of the panel discussion & closing remarks