



UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Statistical Commission

Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics

Annual meeting



11 November 2020, 07:00 EST

Agenda item (5) – Task Teams: Training, Competencies and Capacity Development

GWG Task Team on Training, Competencies and Capacity Development

1 Nov 2020

Overview

The Task Team on Training, Competencies and Capacity Development works on understanding and proposing solutions to help build capacity for institutions that are embracing, or consider embracing, the use of big data in official statistics. The work includes projects to understand where national statistical offices currently are on their individual big data journeys, as well as projects that aim to understand all current and future development needs. The work aims to ensure NSOs around the world are increasingly equipped to work effectively with non-traditional data and to produce statistics that are authoritative, provide value and insight, and are trustworthy. The Task Team also works to support other task teams in their training programmes by providing guidance on common approaches to the development of training courses.

The Task Team was established in February 2019 and brings together 9 countries and 10 international institutions.

Achievements in 2020

- Conduct of a *Global Assessment of Institutional Readiness for the Use of Big Data in Official Statistics*. It presented findings from an assessment of 109 statistical organisations' readiness, considering factors such as strategic data science coordination, legal framework, IT infrastructure and human resources. The final report was presented to the UN Statistical Commission.
https://unstats.un.org/bigdata/taskteams/training/UN_BigData_report_v5.0.html#background
- Development of a *Competency Framework for Big Data Acquisition and Processing*. This framework is aimed at NSOs for recognising the expectations and demands for the use of big data in official statistics. It covers the array of skills and knowledge considered relevant for those working with big data. The framework provides guidance to NSOs for assessing big data knowledge and skills gaps, undertaking recruitment for big data posts, and developing staff

capability for working with big data.

https://unstats.un.org/bigdata/taskteams/training/UNGWG_Compency_Framework.pdf

- Draft development of a *UN Big Data Maturity Matrix*, which will enable NSOs to undertake a self-assessment of their current level of big data maturity. The matrix aims to help NSOs consider, prioritise and plan for their needs, with the goal of increased capability and confidence in working with big data, and the reassurance and subsequent trust that this cultivates. The draft matrix is currently in a testing phase with pilot countries.
- Evaluation of Learning Management Systems to provide common approaches and an agreed platform for other Task Teams to develop and execute online training programmes.
- Organization of a session at the 6th Global Conference on Big Data for Official Statistics, addressing different aspects of planning and executing training activities for Big Data. (The session was the highest ranked of the Conference.)

Deliverables 2021

A. Completion of the *UN Big Data Maturity Matrix*

The matrix will be made available to countries in a stand-alone format for self-assessments. In these self-assessments, NSOs can identify their stage of development in detailed components/dimensions of the use of big data, such as legal framework, IT infrastructure, human resources and big data applications in the production of statistics, generating an overall picture.

B. Learning Management System (LMS)

The LMS will be made available to all Task Teams for hosting their online training programmes. The LMS will be using the UN Global Platform to provide access to all countries. The role of the UN Global Platform will also be considered for the storage of training products, with links to NSO case studies and big data applications.

C. Guidance for developing online training courses

The Task Team will develop a set of guidance materials (primarily for other Task Teams) for the development of training materials and training courses, addressing needs assessments based on existing tools, and requirements for course development at different levels (awareness, beginner, practitioner). The materials will also include guidance for developing courses on the common platform (LMS).

Included here is the development of model curriculums for Big Data-related training courses to support the work of other Task Teams in their training activities.

D. Inventory of Big Data training courses

The Task Team will consider the development of an inventory of existing (and planned) training courses on Big Data-related processes, including potential evaluations and mapping to the competency framework.