Conference on National Reporting and Dissemination Platforms
New York, 22-24 January 2018

- 60 experts from national statistical offices, international and regional organizations, as well as donors and solution providers

- Focused on the establishment of national data platforms for the reporting of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators at the country level

  - User needs

  - Best practices

  - Possible solutions

  - Guidelines for countries

- Developed principles and guidelines that were presented as a background document to the 49th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission

Building the business case

- Embrace human-centred design and system thinking

- Reach out to, and obtain buy-in from, policy and decision makers

- Link data requirements to policy agenda for sustainable development

- Align with national development priorities

- Integrate into National Strategies for the Development of Statistics

Key technical success factors

1. Interoperability of platform components and solutions

2. Data life-cycle process management

3. Use of open source technologies according to countries' needs

4. Agility to adopt technological change

5. Metadata-driven implementation

6. Support for localization

7. Implementation of multi-language support

Innovative approaches and technologies

- Open data as an operating principle

- Machine-readable access to data and metadata through APIs

- Allow users to work with the data in their own software applications

- Enable data management

- Integrate with Geographic information systems (GIS)

Principles

1. Clear institutional arrangements and management

2. Fitness for purpose

3. Sustainability

4. Interoperability and statistical standards

Guidelines

1. National ownership

2. Collaboration

3. Multilingualism and accessibility

4. User-centered design

5. Data communication

6. Data disaggregation

7. Modularity and extensibility

8. Standardized interfaces

9. Scalability

10. Metadata

11. Open data

12. Linked data

Way forward

- Countries are expected to

    - Develop their respective business case

    - Chose a data platform solution

    - Mobilize resources with support of international partners

    - Seek collaboration of partners and solution providers on pilot efforts

PRINCIPLE:
Clear institutional arrangements and management

- To be effective, data platforms need oversight and accountability across their lifecycle.

- Institutional frameworks play a key role in creating the environment where data, technology, and business processes fit with each other

- Clear institutional arrangements and managements are needed to:

    - Ensure that data is comprehensive, timely and supported by metadata

    - Ensure conformity with standards and compliance with any applicable laws and regulations

    - Ensure coordination with other organizations and entities on the best approaches to sharing and exchanging data

- Too much decentralization does not work well in volatile environments that require data standards and coordination to tackle global information sharing challenges.

- Conversely, too much centralization can hinder experimentation and the creativity needed to innovate and to respond to emerging needs of data users and the quickly changing technological landscape

PRINCIPLE:
Sustainbility

- The development of a national reporting and dissemination platform should not be seen as a one-off project, but as a continuous activity that needs to be sustained over time

- There are many aspects of sustainability

  - Financial sustainability: Is it licensed software? If open-source, what is cost to maintain it? Are these costs included in the Government budget or are dependent on donor support?

  - Technical sustainability – How will the system be maintained? Does your team have the required skills set?

National ownership

- National statistical offices should have the ability to maintain, adapt, transform and customize their National Reporting and Dissemination Platform to address their own and their users' needs, such as

  - the management of subnational administrative boundaries,

  - country-specific ethnic and language groups, and

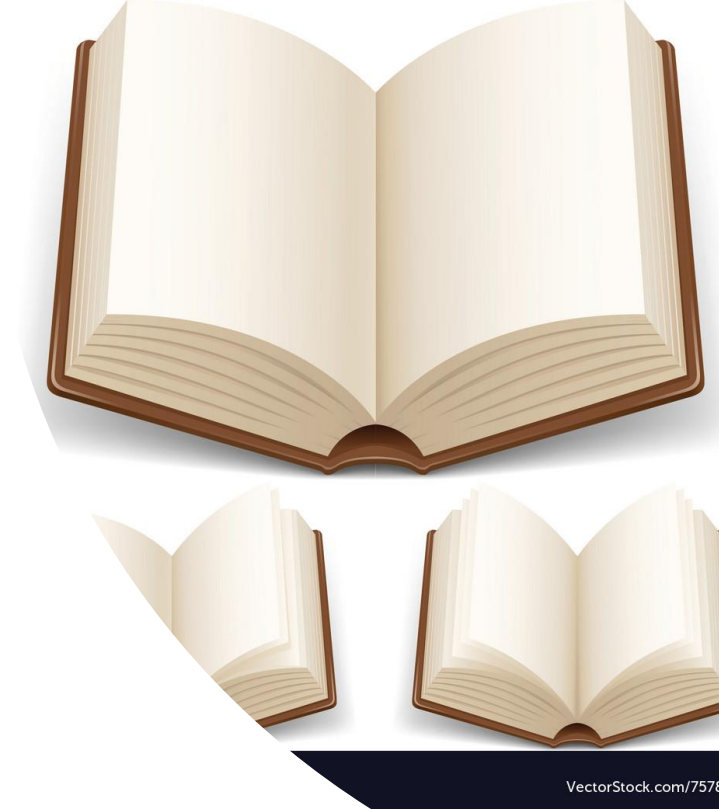 - additional indicator definitions related to national development priorities

Collaboration

- National Reporting and Dissemination Platforms should be designed, developed, improved and maintained on the basis of a collaborative approach that leverages learning between

  - technology developers,

  - donors,

  - policy makers,

  - subject-matter experts,

  - business partners,

  - advocacy groups

  - institutional and grassroot users

Open data

- National Reporting and Dissemination Platforms should be consistent with Open Data best practices:

- ***Open data and content can be freely used, modified, and shared by anyone for any purpose***

- National Reporting and Dissemination Platforms should include and follow a data license

  - consistent with the Open Data principles, such as Creative Commons Attribution (4.0) or the Open Database License. Published datasets should be clearly attributed to the originating organization.
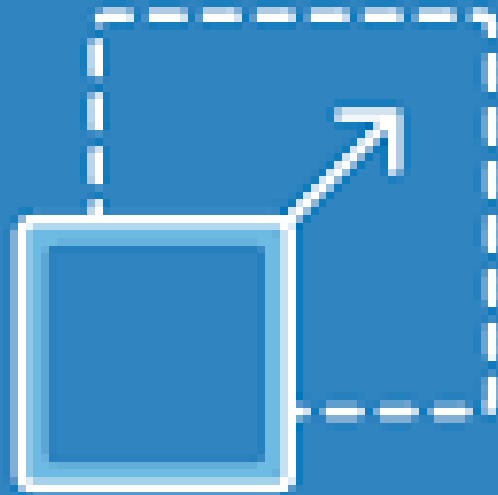
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Modularity and extensibility

National Reporting and Dissemination Platforms should be **modular**, composed of modules (sub-systems) and components that interoperate to service the different phases of the data life cycle.

The data that these modules and components consume as inputs and produce as outputs, should as much as possible be based on **open standards and protocols** such as Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) and Common Statistical Production Architecture (CSPA).

The system should support extensibility through **addition of modules** or components, upstream or downstream

Scalability

- National Reporting and Dissemination Platforms should be able to support needs beyond their immediate or 'pilot' scope of application.

- By taking into account the needs and resources of different NSO departments and other national agencies, the design of data platforms should facilitate their adoption across the national statistical system.

Summary of questions

- How hard has it been to find a system (or design a system) that is modular and uses international standards? Has your experience been different from what I described?

- Do you see appetite (or have experience) of scaling up a system beyond the NSO itself?

Thank you.

Questions or inquiries?
Contact us at unsd-dfid@un.org