

# GIST board meeting

7 August 2023

## Participants:

Elena Proden (UNITAR), Mitali Sen (USCB), Dag Roll-Hansen (SN), Shailja Sharma (UN SIAP), Pedro Campos (ISLP), Bianca Walsh (IBGE), Charlotte Juul Hansen and Vibeke O Nielsen (UNSD).

## Agenda:

1. GIST workplan
  - Update from task teams
  - Debrief from language group
  - SAG
  - Outreach and fundraising?
2. Update on ISI session
3. Newsletter outreach
4. AOB

### Ad 1. GIST workplan

- *Update from task teams*
  - TT1 has submitted an updated workplan.
  - TT2 will meet next week and finalize their workplan. UNSIAP is most active in the group and other members need to be encouraged to be more active. The use of the UNSDG:Learn platform is an important topic to discuss incl. how countries will become aware of the platform and use it more actively.
  - TT3 will meet next week and finalize their workplan.

TT2 and TT3 should submit their workplans by the end of next week (14 July 2023).

The Board discussed the period of the workplans. The period runs from UNSC to UNSC, however it should be considered as a rolling workplan based on the different phases of tasks.

Elena will take the lead on finalizing the workplan. She and Vibeke will discuss when meeting at the ISI in Canada.

- *Debriefing from language group and SAG*

Elena and Vibeke will put together notes from these meetings and inform the Board.

- *Outreach and fundraising*

Most work in GIST is pro bono. Funding would be useful for some of the future work e.g. some translation might require outsourced work.

Funds to GIST does not have to go to the UN but can go to any GIST member who then contributes those resources towards GIST.

Member organizations can also consider linking project work to GIST and this way allocate funds (directly or indirectly) to the work of GIST. E.g. Statistics Norway is already linking some of their capacity building projects to the STAT pilot testing; and the US Census Bureau are using project funds to translate their own courses to the main language groups. UNITAR is also a good example of this

GIST could consider funding from World Bank based on the experience from ISI. Funding from Foundations (literacy is a priority for Bill and Melinda gates foundation and education for Ford foundation for instance) and regional development banks should also be considered.

Re. the translation work, machine learning tools can be used as a first translation and afterwards quality assured by someone. Experience from Brazil: if translation is done by a machine, the cost for the revision is only half the price.

Elena also mentioned work on essential data skills for youth idea (discovery program/summer school approach)

Elena, Vibeke, Pedro and Reija (from ISLP) will during the ISI discuss opportunities for (joint) funding.

## **Ad 2. Update on ISI session**

The session is all set and will take place on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July (no virtual connection opportunity).

Bianca, Elena, Pedro and Vibeke will all contribute.

## **Ad 3. Newsletter Outreach**

A draft of the June version of the GIST Newsletter has been developed with input from everyone. This was a useful approach for the UNSD Secretariat and will be used in the future. Board members should provide final input today, as the newsletter will be sent out COB.

It would be great if board members could share the GIST Newsletter with their own networks outside GIST, including through their offices webpages, Twitter, LinkedIn or similar, or their own as relevant/feasible. The newsletter will also be distributed on Yammer. An event could be an opportunity to distribute the newsletter as people are often too busy to read newsletters.

## **Ad 4. AOB**

An online side event will be organized at the 2023 HLPF on 10 July on UNSDG:Learn and statistical communities. Vibeke will share the link for the online event with everyone when sending out the newsletter to GIST members.

Next meeting will be held in September 2023.