

# GIST board meeting

25 June 2024

## Participants:

Present: Elena (chair, UNITAR), Mitali (USCB), Dag (SSB), Pedro (SP), Shailja (SIAP), Alla, Yongyi and Vibeke (secretariat, UNSD)

## Agenda:

- Discussion of task team organization and related potential adjustments to the board
- Newsletter
- Updates on work of task teams – update to workplan?
- AOB

## Discussion of task team organization

The topic for discussion was how to organize the work around the new topic “learning culture”. Following an agreement by the GIST board, the secretariat had reached out to GIST members asking for expression of interest in joining a new task team 2 on learning culture, as well as potential interest in co-leading any of the task teams. Only five partners had responded positively to joining the new topic: Statistics Ireland, Statistics Norway, Maldives NSO, ISI and UNECA, with ISI also considering role of co-lead.

Discussions of the board prior to the meeting were whether this would be a large enough group to have a good amount of discussion. Points were also made on whether some members were concerned about not knowing enough about the topic and therefore not volunteering. The two options proposed were to go ahead and set up a new task team 2 now or to initially set up a sub-group under task team 1 since the two areas are closely related.

The board, in its discussion, reiterated the challenges of potentially having a too small group and not enough engagement, with a related risk of not having anything to report on for the next GIST members meeting. At the same time, there were some concerns about being part of a larger group and thus not being prioritized in the number of areas that need to be covered. It was agreed to remain under tt1 for now, but meet separately in addition to joining the larger group. The ‘learning culture’ discussion would thus have time to better define the scope of work. If agreed, it could be proposed to establish it as a separate group at the UNSC in 2025.

The GIST secretariat will formally reach out to current task team 2 members (Online gateway and e-learning community of practice) and inform them that the group will discontinue, but that key elements such as the UN SDG:learn platform management will be kept active by tt1 and the board. They will also be invited to join tt1 if they are not already engaged.

The secretariat will also write to those who have expressed interest in ‘learning culture’ to set up a first call. All tt1 members will be copied in case there also are others who want to join.

## Newsletter

The GIST secretariat has brought Alla back on board to help with the newsletter. The goal is to have the newsletter finalized by end of July. The board made the following suggestions for content beyond the standard columns:

- The first official day of statistical literacy took place 21 May.
  - o Pedro will put Alla in contact with the lady who led it.
- STAT update, incl translation
- Information about the informal learning/learning culture work to be established.
- UN SDG:learn
  - o promote it
  - o additional blogs
  - o new course: maternal mortality US Census
  - o activity asking what is missing.

## Update on work of the task teams

### Task team 1:

There was no update on the work of the task team as such, but UN SIAP shared good news on their contributions to the STAT work:

- ESCAP Stat café on STAT/GIST is confirmed for September and the structure agreed. This will be a good opportunity for creating more interest in the region.
- SIAP has, put STAT tool implementation in their workplan for 2025. The proposal is for 2-3 trainings in AP or alternatively regional course. A first country course is intended for India, the rest we can still agree on. If a regional course, the venue could be in Chiba or in a country in the region.

### Task team 3:

Pedro initiated the conversation on the GROW webinars and the GIST board tentatively agreed on having three webinars in the fall, tentatively as follows:

- September: data visualizations to increase statistical literacy - Brazil and Norway
- October/November: Increasing statistical literacy of journalists – GIJN + 1
- December: Citizen data and statistical literacy - tbd

As some of the new members were not able to join the last tt3 meeting, Pedro will propose a new tt3 meeting for July. Topics of discussion will be to further formalize workplan, including webinars, work on development of the guidance doc and a potential new stream on citizen data

Shailja informed about UN SIAPs planned statistical literacy training in Kazakhstan in the fall. She offered to also have a representative from GIST being a speaker/facilitator and could pay for travel of this person. Vibeke suggested Pedro (link to ISLP also) or Elena (e-learning and speaks Russian), but other alternatives would also be feasible of course.

**Language group:**

Elena had a bilateral engagement with Hedi who would set up the next meeting of the language group.

**AOB**

The GIST secretariat informed about initial plans of UNSD to prepare the capacity development report for the UNSC 2025 where GIST will be invited to engage and contribute. More details will be shared once there is more clarity.