

GIST board meeting

11 November 2022

Participants:

Mitali Sen (USCB), Bianca Walsh (IBGE), Dag Roll-Hansen (Statistics Norway), Sophie Didlecadet (FAO), Shailja Sharma (UN SIAP) and Vibeke O Nielsen (UNSD).

Absent: Elena Proden (UNITAR) and Mamadou Cisse (IDEP)

Agenda:

1. 'Onboarding' of task team co-leads to GIST board
2. Update from last meeting on the progress of task teams
3. Update on work of the board
4. Preparations for UN Statistical Commission
5. AOB

1. 'Onboarding' of task team co-leads to GIST board

The GIST board had agreed to start including the GIST task team co-leads in its discussion to bring more perspectives to the work and this was the first extended meeting. All co-leads joined which was a good opportunity to bring them up to speed on the work of GIST they were less familiar with.

2. Update from last meeting on the progress of task teams

All task team leads and/or co-leads updated on the work of their task teams. The GIST secretariat also added information on general development of work.

Task team 1: Addressing NSO demands (IDEP and Statistics Norway)

- The task team is currently working with a consultant hired by UNSD who's main task is to develop a template needs/gaps assessment tool for NSOs/NSS to use to understand better the training needs of their staff as well as the needs and priorities of the management. A guidance is also in development that gives NSO management input on how to prioritize training provision based on questionnaire feedback, resources and strategic development. The consultant is expected to finalize work in December
- A few countries are involved in the piloting work. Ethiopia and Ghana have initiated some piloting work. Due to changes to management in Ethiopia, they have not actively partaken at this point, but Ghana has given input. The consultant is in addition engaging with Nepal (also linked to engagement of Statistics Norway), Morocco and Malawi (linked to engagement of USCB).

Task team 2: Online gateway and e-learning community of practice (UN SIAP and FAO)

- Since the last task team meeting, UN SIAP has taken the lead in developing;

- Remote learning – best practices
- Guidance on certification of statistics courses

The intention is to share this with the task team for their review and input, and a task team exchange on next steps. The work also builds on materials which FAO and others have shared.

- The joint work with the Inter-Agency and Expert Group in the Sustainable Development Goals (IAEG-SDG) is continuing. The plan is to use UN SDG:Learn also for any guidance and training materials for the different SDG indicators, primarily from custodian agencies, but also from other partners. In this context, some GIST members have already provided input, FAO being a key example of this, but much more can still be added. UNSD and UNITAR have had a few meetings to look at adjustments to also accommodate needs related to the IAEG-SDG. Some has already been taken onboard while tasks which requires support of the developers is still on the to-do list.

Task team 3: Statistical literacy (UNITAR and IBGE)

- A guidance for NSOs on how to set up statistical literacy programs is in development. The outline has already been discussed in the group, but further exchange is expected.
- Work is also (still slowly) progressing on the statistical literacy inventory. ISLP has sent 10 cases and are working on more. UNITAR and UNSD have also discussed outreach to some NSOs to get a good critical mass of examples before the inventory is promoted more publicly.
- UN SIAP also mentioned that they are carrying out a course on statistical literacy jointly with SPC for the Pacific region. They have jointly developed materials. UNSD asked if there are links/usage of the literacy e-learning that was developed under GIST umbrella and it does to some extent incorporate those materials.

3. Update on work of the board

Communications and outreach

- A newsletter was originally planned to be published in June 2022, but this did unfortunately not come though as planned. A newsletter will now be published in December instead. Vibeke is working on this and will share a draft with the GIST board as well as partners interviewed/contributing.
- UNITAR and UNSD have also discussed the possibility of publishing a blog series on UN SDG:Learn on data and statistics. This could help promote the work to a wider audience.
- It is probable that the statistical literacy work also will be promoted in the ISLP newsletter

Translation

- At the last all members meeting GIST members highlighted that there is a need for translation of more materials to non-English languages. GIST has not progressed much on this, mainly due to lack of capacity at GIST secretariat to follow up. The plan is to reach out to GIST members and ask who would be interested in joining a language group under the GIST umbrella (potential new task team from 2023?)
- The board discussed that main efforts of translation ideally would happen in countries that are native speaking. A proposal was to make use of universities and students, UN SIAP having good experience with this for translations into Russian.

Fundraising

- This was postponed to the next meeting

4. Preparations for UN Statistical Commission

Vibeke informed that preparations are underway for the UN Statistical Commission. A background document will be prepared on the work of GIST as usual. The Commission itself will again be in person this year, while side-events will be a combination of virtual events ahead of the commission and in-person/hybrid events during the commission. UNSD is tentatively planning to hold the GIST members meeting (closed event) virtually ahead of the Commission (tentatively planned for 16 February) and an in-person/hybrid event during the Commission (tentatively Monday morning on the 27th February). Input from the GIST board will be requested closer to the date.

5. AOB

Mitali reminded everyone that her time as Chair will end at the UN Statistical Commission in March, so work should start to find a replacement.