**Preliminary findings from surveys conducted by task team on statistical literacy**

**February 2019**

**Summary**

* Task Team on statistical literacy has examined various related capacity needs, both on the user and producer side. The statistical literacy of various stakeholders was discussed, including that of policy-makers, media, general audience, incl. through capacities of teachers and school outreach.
* The communication-related competences of statisticians to help pass a message across to broader audiences remain a concern in many countries.
* The Task Team also focused on assessing data-related needs of decision-makers in Governments in the context of the implementation of the SDGs. This was done through a survey questionnaire submitted to government officials through various channels. Surveys were conducted during two international meetings involving primarily government officials in charge of Voluntary National Reviews and one national training workshop for high-ranking officials from across the Government.
* The questionnaire was also sent with a circular letter to Permanent Missions to the United Nations and VNR focal points asking them to invite relevant colleagues – decision-makers working on SDGs – to participate in this survey. A total of 118 persons responded to the survey while not all responded to all questions. Most of the questions however were answered by at least 80 or more respondents. 95% of all respondents were government officials out of which 54% identified themselves as high-ranking or senior officials and 33% as mid-level. MENA region, Latin American and Caribbean countries, EU and EFTA, countries and Sub-Saharan Africa were well represented counting from 29 to 23 respondents each while other regions less so. 41% of respondents were women and 59% men.
* The survey addressed the following areas: background information, data sources and awareness, current opportunities for strengthening statistical literacy, and ability to understand statistical concepts, to analyse, interpret and evaluate statistical information and to communicate statistical information.
* Survey findings require a more detailed analysis, however, some preliminary findings worth mentioning are related to the frequency, the type of data used and for what purposes, as well as the degree to which its limitations are accounted for by data users. More specifically:
  + 71% of respondents indicated that they use data frequently or daily.
  + 85% and 83% use data from National Statistical Offices or Ministries versus only 62% using data from international organizations and 26% from NGOs.
  + 65% responded that they use data for making decisions, 56% for computing performance indicators and 48% for assessing services.
  + 85% use administrative data, 81% survey data and 64% census data. 11% use citizen generated data, more than 5% mobile data, and 10% social media data.
  + 71% of respondents were not familiar or only vaguely familiar with UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.
  + Finally, only 61% of respondents look at how many people and which groups of people are included in the dataset to evaluate if there are limitations to the findings or not. Most respondents could identify new data-related needs as a result of the adoption of the SDGs.
  + One interesting finding was that several respondents indicated their interest in using all sorts of non-traditional data, incl. data from NGOs, data generated by private polling companies, data available in social media networks, geospatial data, Big Data, media data, as well as administrative data.

**Detailed results for some important questions**





