

Goal 17

Target number: 17.6

Indicator Number and Name: 17.6.1 - Number of science and/or technology cooperation agreements and programmes between countries, by type of cooperation

Agency: UNESCO

Has work for the development of this indicator begun?

The development of this indicator is part of UNESCO's Global Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Instruments (GO-SPIN), which is a new tool for analysis and support to science, technology and innovation (STI) policy making. Through the GO-SPIN survey, UNESCO is collecting information and data on the national research and innovation landscape of countries, the evolution of STI policies and the STI policy cycles from 57 countries (21 countries from Latin America and the Caribbean; 18 countries from Sub-Saharan Africa; 7 from Asia; 10 Arab States and Israel).

A section on mapping STI cooperation agreements and programmes between countries is being explicitly included, in addition to "acts, bills, regulations and international agreements on STI issues", which is already part of the inventory. Information relevant to this indicator has already been collected in a pilot set of 999 international cooperation treaties from 20 countries.

Once a critical mass of countries has been reached, UNESCO will provide information for the annual global SDG progress report, and will be ready to provide and regularly update metadata, work on the methodological development and further refinement of indicator 17.6.1, contribute to statistical capacity building in the area of the indicator, and coordinate with other agencies and stakeholders who are interested in contributing to the indicator development.

Who are the entities, including national and international experts, directly involved and consulted in developing the methodology/and or data collection tools?

UNESCO - Division of Science Policy and Capacity Building, Natural Sciences Sector; UNESCO Institute of Statistics, UNESCO's GO-SPIN consultant, Ministries responsible for Science, Technology and Innovation, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, and National Institutes of Statistics

What is the involvement of or how do you plan to involve National Statistical Systems in the development of the methodology?

The National Institutes of Statistics are involved in the GO-SPIN survey and preparation of inventories. Their representatives participate in the trainings on the methodology and are part of the task teams for the completion of the inventories. However, National Statistical Systems will not be the primary source for this information, rather information units in ministries of Foreign Affairs and Ministries responsible for Science, Technology and Innovation.

Please briefly describe the process of developing the methodology for the indicator

The methodology for the indicator will be integral part of the GO-SPIN methodology. While the data collection methodology has already been implemented and tested, detailed definitions will be reviewed to ensure comparability.

Please indicate new international standards that will need to be proposed and approved by an intergovernmental process (such as UNSC) for this methodology.

None for the moment.

When do you expect the methodological work on this indicator to be completed?

The first iteration of the methodology was finalised by 2017 allowing the processing of existing and new data entries on the GO-SPIN platform. Further revision of the methodology is ongoing

Are data and metadata already being collected from the National Statistical System for one or more components of this indicator?

Data are collected from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with Ministries responsible for Science, Technology and Innovation, through the UNESCO GO-SPIN programme.

How do you plan to collect the data?

Through the GO-SPIN survey, after training activities organized in the countries undertaking it.

If the indicator involves multiple components from different data sources, please describe how each individual component of the indicator will be collected here.

Not applicable.

With what frequency is data expected to be collected?

Every 5 years.

Is there a process of data validation by countries in place or planned for this indicator?

Yes, data is collected based on official national documents and validated by country focal points. Validation workshops maybe organized to discuss and complete information gaps.

(As of 2 November 2018)