BigData UN Global Working Group

GWG Task Team on Social Media Data

Progress report 2017

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1. Achievements since the last GWG meeting

The Social Media Task Team has been working in the development of the contents for the handbook for the use of Social Media to produce statistics. The document is almost completed and soon will be released to be reviewed in order to be released. It is expected to have the document published by the first quarter of 2018.

The document has been structured following the UNSD guidelines for Task Teams, and contains the following chapters:

Chapter 1. Introduction. Describes the general contents and structure of the handbook, and the characteristics of Social Media data.

Chapter 2. Data sources and how to get started with Big Data. Describes some of the most popular Social Media Networks, and a proposed method to collect and store data from a social media network, with step by step examples.

Chapter 3. Methodology for analysis. With an introduction, Social media methods and techniques including Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Extracting information from non-message part of social media, with Technical aspects and computational resources as well as with visualization methods. And finally in this chapter, analytical approaches illustrated with examples.

Chapter 4.- Pilot Projects. Analysis of how Mexico and Colombia have made use of Social Media data to produce information.

Chapter 5.- Guidelines and recommendations. Provides some practical recommendations to potential users of Social Media data who wants to use it as a source to produce statistics.

Each chapter has a leader institution that has volunteered on it. The leader is responsible of defining the layout of the chapter, creating teams to work on, organizing work sessions and ensuring coherence and consistency among the different chapters.

2. Topics being presented at the Conference

The task team will present a workshop titled "Social Media Data: Methodology, Tools, Case Studies". The course will provide an overview of Social Media sources and how to use the data from them and from web scrapping to produce information about Mobility, Sentiment Analysis, Sentiment Analysis, Poverty and CPI.
The task team has planned to gather information about concerns, interests and future projects of participants at the end of the Workshop.

3. Future work plan for the Task Team

To finish the document circulate it to get feedback and produce a final version by first quarter of next year.

The task team is planning to detect additional applications and projects related to the use of social media sources to integrate a uses cases document which could complement the handbook.