Update of the Handbook of Statistical Organisation

UNDA10 - Workshop for EECCA countries, Mongolia, Russia and Turkey

Integrating non-traditional data sources in the production of the SDG indicators

Institutional and organisational environment, cooperation, dialogue and partnerships

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1. What is the handbook of Statistical Organisation

- The primary objective: “to guide chief statisticians and senior managers of statistical organizations in developing and maintaining statistical capacity that is fit for purpose”

- First published in 1952 and the most recent (third) edition dates from 2003.
2. Why revise the handbook? (i)

- There have been significant changes since last edition - these provide compelling reasons for revision.
- The Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data (CT-GAP) and the Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics stress the need for statistical organisations to adapt and develop.
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and related regional and national development policies, involve new data needs and challenges.
2. Why revise the handbook? (ii)

- National Statistical Systems need to:
  - grasp the potential of innovative technologies in a rapidly changing data environment while
  - reinforce leadership, coordination, communication, and dialogue through institutional and organizational reforms

- UN Statistical Commission requested a revision of the current Handbook,

- New version must take into account the strategic development areas proposed in the CT-GAP and outcomes of the transformative agenda.
3. The revision process

- The outline will include recommendations on which chapters of the revised version should be given priority – your input needed!
- The outline and recommendations will be brought to the UNSC for discussion in March 2018.
- Next steps: drafting of the revised version during 2018 using the commented outline and development priorities as its starting point.
4. Results of Survey of Handbook Users

- UNSD initiated a survey of Handbook users analysed the survey results.

- Based on the 55 survey respondents, 55% consulted the Handbook “often or sometimes”, and 62% “found it useful”.

- More than 40% of respondents strongly agreed that the following issues not fully covered in the Handbook should be addressed:
  - capacity building, training and resource mobilisation;
  - quality;
  - information technology infrastructure;
  - statistical architecture for an integrated production system;
  - strategic leadership, partnership and communication
5. Addressing developments since the Third Edition

increased focus on:

- implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics both within NSOs the NSSs;
- NSS as a whole and coordination between NSS members;
- systematic reuse and exchange of data;
- technological developments concerning data collection, data handling and data dissemination;
- meeting new data needs at both national and international levels.
6. Use and Limitations of the Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organisations (GAMSO) (i)

Team agreed to use GAMSO standard as far as possible in new handbook structure as it:

- is a natural candidate to provide the structure for the Handbook
- describes and defines the activities that take place within a typical statistical organization.
- extends and complements the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) by adding additional activities needed to support statistical production.
- aims to provide a common vocabulary and framework to support international collaboration activities, particularly in the field of modernisation.
6. Use and Limitations of the Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organisations (GAMSO) (ii)

However:

- it is a relatively new standard - does not have the maturity of GSBPM
- some terminology used in GAMSO may not yet be familiar to target group
- it is thus regarded as providing guidance in the choice of structure rather than being standard to be strictly followed.
7. Proposed structure and content (i)

Chapter 1 Introduction - outlines the objectives, intended audience, structure and content of the Handbook.

Chapter 2 Overview - summarises all the main themes of the Handbook and provides references and links - printable as a small booklet,

7. Proposed structure and content (ii)

Chapter 4 The National Statistical System - covers the NSS as a whole.

Chapter 5 The National Statistical Office - describes the key features of an NSO its main tasks, governance, planning and development.

Chapter 6 Users and their needs - details the various groups of users of official statistics and their particular needs.
7. Proposed structure and content (iii)

Chapter 7 Data Sources, Collection and Processing - examines the collection and processing of data from the various types of data sources.

Chapter 8 Analysis and Analytical Frameworks - discusses analysis and the frameworks and methods for doing so.

Chapter 9 Dissemination and User Communications - covers dissemination policy, data types, dissemination platforms and recovering the costs of dissemination.

Chapter 10 Common Statistical Infrastructure - describes statistical infrastructure supporting the statistical production programme, development of internal registers, methods, tools, systems and standards.
7. Proposed structure and content (iv)

Chapter 11 Human resource management - covers changes in staff training needs to cover IT evolutions, new data sources, modernization standards and business architecture.

Chapter 12 Data, Information and Knowledge Management - covers the ownership/custody of records, documents, data, information and other intellectual assets held by the NSO.

Chapter 13 Information Technology Management - covers all aspects of managing information technology (IT). Completely restructured to reflect technology advances.
7. Proposed structure and content (v)

Chapter 14 Management of Finance, Buildings and Physical Space.

Chapter 15 International Activities and Collaboration - describes international relations, standards and requirements.

Chapter 16 Quality Management - describes developing and administering a quality framework

Annexes - contain: links to: key reference documents; glossary; list of key statistical and IT standards; possible organisational structures for an NSO.
Handbook or living ‘wiki’ documents?

- Conceived as a living wiki like documents on the web
- Including links to relevant material – and examples provided by users
- All parts not released at the same time and updated according to needs
- A hardcopy, in several languages, only of the summary chapter 2?
- What might be the name of this product?
Indicated priorities for drafting:

- Priority 1: Chapters 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16
- Priority 2: Chapters 6, 8, 9 and 10
- Priority 3: Chapters 1, 3, 4 and 5
- Priority 4: Chapter 2
- Annexes in parallel to relevant chapters
8. Next steps

- Report and the commented outline will be circulated for comments.
- To be discussed by the Statistical Commission in March 2018 - requests for modifications will be noted.
- New version of the Handbook to be drafted in 2018 by a team with expertise in all major topics covered by the Handbook.
- Will use commented outline, user comments and feedback from UNSC.
- Chief statisticians and senior managers will be consulted as part of global and (sub) regional statistical programmes and capacity building activities.
- There will be a series of thematic conferences at (sub) regional level for senior statisticians to consider recent institutional, organizational and technical developments.
Issues for discussion

- How do you consider the usefulness of the present handbook?
- If not used; what could be the main reasons for not being used?
- Who do you think are/will be the main users of the version?
- What topics are of most importance for those users?
- What do you think about the approach for updating the handbook?
- How should be new version become more useful? Frequency of updating? More examples? etc