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DESA
Statistics Division

Data Sharing Arrangements

**Training Workshop on the Use of
Administrative Data for Migration
Statistics in Maldives**

10-12 December 2024

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Approaches/elements to data sharing

At formal level:

- Legal basis
 - Formal agreement or Memorandum of Understanding
 - Exchange of letters
 - Coordination committees
- Does not always lead to action/implementation



At practical level:

- Practical template, e.g. in Excel
 - Detailed questionnaire
 - Electronic exchange
- Needs to be structured/regulated





Flexible approach

- Elements which may influence what level of formality is needed:
 - Is a Statistics Act in place?
 - And is it accepted/acted upon?
 - Are data currently being shared?
 - Will aggregate or also micro-data be shared?



Scope of agreement



Which level
of data?

*Sharing of
aggregate or
micro level data?*



Other data
exchange as
well?



Amount of
data shared?



Is a feedback
or quality
assurance
mechanism
needed?



Level of data sharing

Aggregate data



Already processed by data owner – work already done



Difficult for recipient to do further work (disaggregation)



Difficult for recipient to assess quality of data

Microdata



Ideally cleaned, but allows for further processing



Recipient can structure data according to own requirements



Possible to assess quality



Requires confidentiality agreements



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Need for a feedback mechanism?

One way sharing



Most common as
most NSOs
interpret
confidentiality
rules as not being
able to share back



Sufficient for
aggregated data

Feedback mechanism

- Gives value back to data owner
- Providing feedback on data received from owner should be ok as long as assessment is based only on provided data or in combination with other data to which the owner also has access
- Very helpful for microdata
- Trust and understanding between agencies needed



Quality assurance and assessment



Fundamental
Principles of Official
Statistics



National Quality
Assurance
Frameworks ([link](#))

Establish processes where
quality is assessed at
every stage

Establish feedback
mechanisms

Consider external control
– peer reviews or similar

Collaboration across
agencies – can consider
giving NSO a quality
assessment role – giving
all data a quality stamp
before publishing



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Elements of a data sharing agreement

Parties

Purpose

Duration

Obligations/responsibilities of the parties

Responsible parties/focal points

Data and metadata

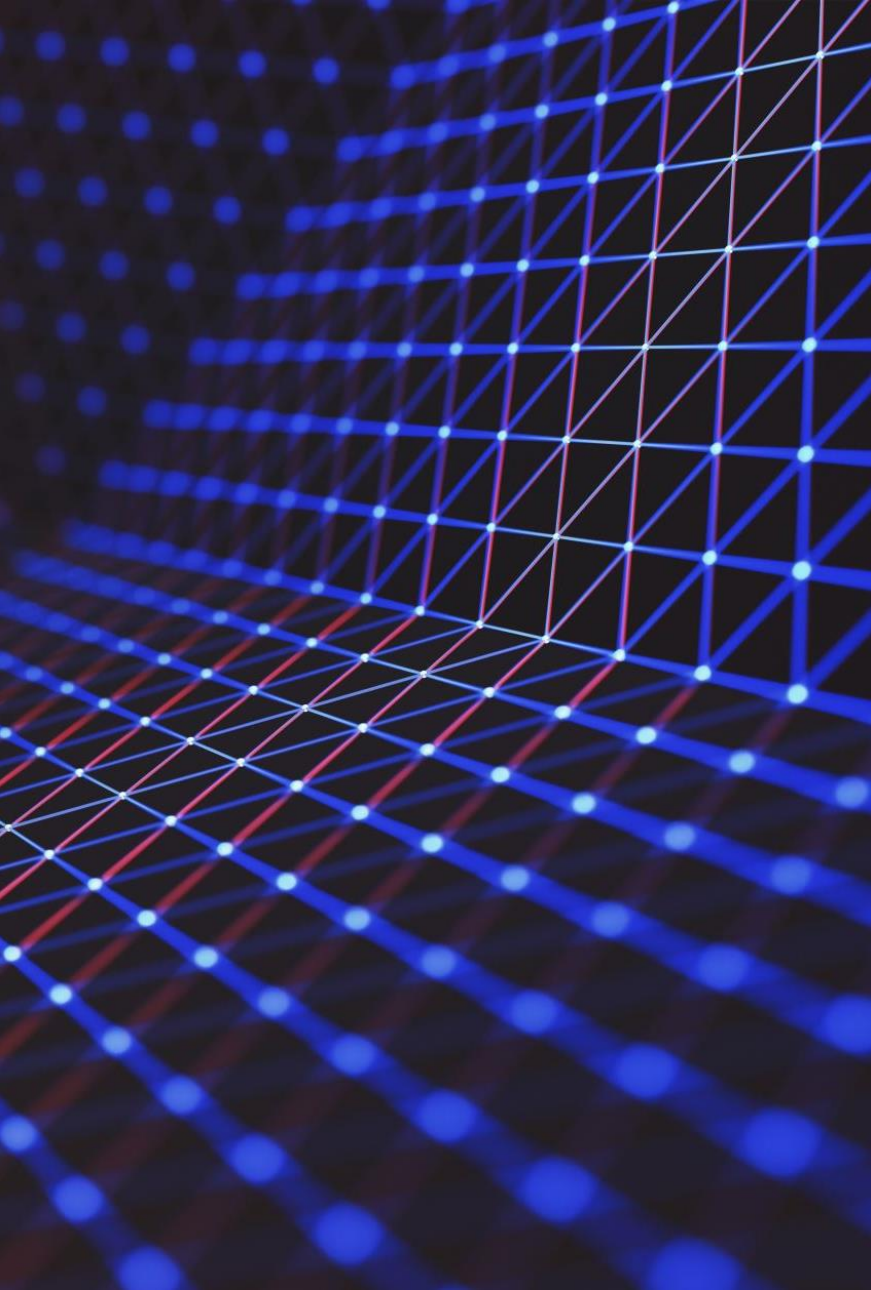
Annex: Description/metadata, periodicity, format, means of transmission

Legal basis

Confidentiality

Amendments





Data and metadata

Metadata

- All data should be provided with detailed metadata
- Particular emphasis should be placed on the completeness of metadata, allowing for the correct interpretation of the data.

Periodicity

- Continuity; specify when and how often new data should be shared. For example, data sharing could occur annually, bi-annually, monthly, on an ad-hoc basis, etc.



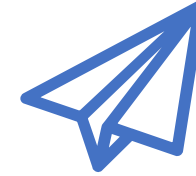
Data and metadata



Format

The format in which the data and metadata are to be transmitted.

A standard electronic format for data transmission, such as Excel, CSV, SDMX, is preferred, as it greatly facilitates automation.



Transmission means

The means by which data will travel from one entity of the NSS to another.



Involvement

To ensure that all aspects are included the following persons/roles should be involved:

Subject matter specialists: To specify needs and data availability

Legal experts: To ensure that the agreement is in line with other legal materials

Agency top management: To adopt and sign agreement



Piloting the agreement

Once the data sharing agreement is developed and agreed

it should be piloted over a period of several months to evaluate effectiveness and make any necessary adjustments

the template or electronic exchange tools, unless already well established, should also be given sufficient time to be tested before officially put in use

the pilot should culminate in a stock-taking meeting and discussion which will inform subsequent implementation of the arrangements





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Thank you!

Questions?

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