



Data Stewardship and Quality Assurance in Statistics

November 2023

- 1. ECLAC Working Group "Diagnosis on Data Stewardship in Latin America and the Caribbean"**
- 2. United Nations Working Group on Data Stewardship**



ECLAC Working Group "Diagnosis on Data Stewardship in Latin America and the Caribbean"

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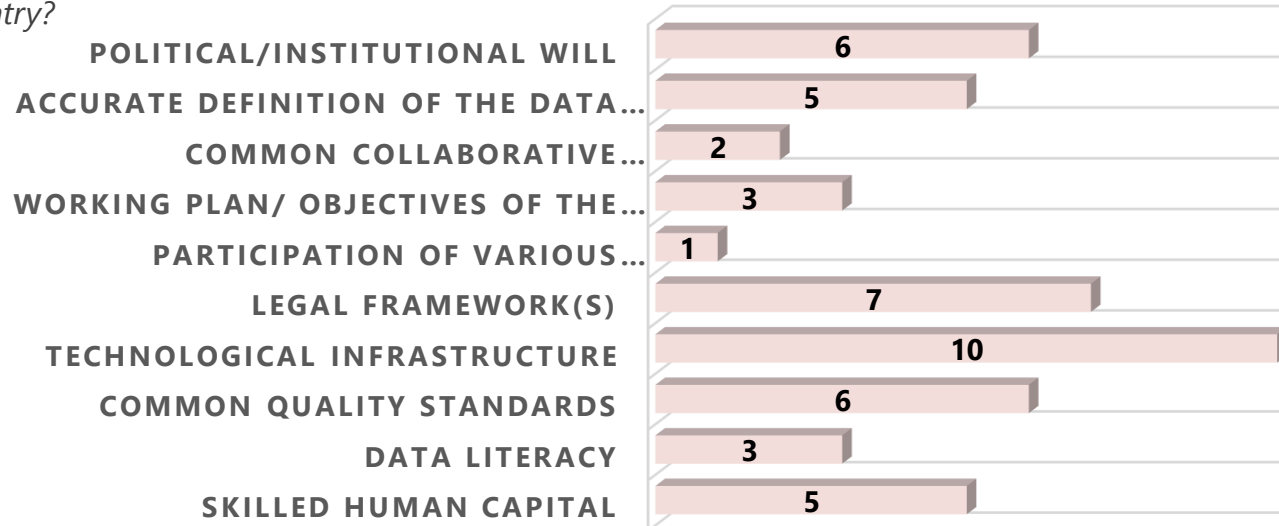
General Aspects

- The objective of the group was to advance in the definition of a regional concept of Data Stewardship in order to propose enabling elements for its implementation and mainstreaming by national statistical systems, particularly National Statistical Offices, taking into account the particularities, challenges and different starting points of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.
- To this end, in the second half of 2022, the Working Group made use of a diagnostic questionnaire where NSOs in Latin America and the Caribbean were asked about their understanding of Data Stewardship, as well as the capabilities related to this role and the challenges that could be solved through it.
- The questionnaire obtained responses from 16 countries and gives an account of the perspectives that quality assurance plays for NSOs within Data Stewardship. In particular, quality assurance is associated with the use of the term Data Stewardship (5 responses), the resolution of current challenges of the NSO (8 responses), and the current functions performed by the NSO (12 responses).

General Aspects

- It should be noted that many of the NSOs in the region consider that quality-related functions that are already in execution are related to Data stewardship, so it is considered as an element that must be present for the application of the term.

What do you think are the relevant components needed for the application of Data Stewardship in your country?



General Aspects

Based on the results of this survey, the final document of the group was prepared, which maps the situation of Data Stewardship in Latin America and the Caribbean, emphasizing the use of the concept, elements for operationalization and enabling elements to be developed. The document consists of six sections, namely:

1. Introduction and contexts to consider.
2. Elements for a Data Stewardship definition for the region.
3. Relevant components for the operationalization of Data Stewardship in the region.
4. Data Sharing
5. Other aspects
6. Enabling Elements for the Operationalization of Data Stewardship in the Region

Chapter 3: Relevant components for the operationalization of Data Stewardship in the region.

The consultations carried out with the countries of the region made it possible to identify needs that are closely related to the relevant components for the operationalization of Data Stewardship, such as regulatory and legal frameworks or incentives.

In relation to the quality of statistics, the preponderant role that the Data Steward should play in the guarantee of certain parameters within the production of statistics and data in the extended community is identified. Therefore, in order to operationalize the role of Data Steward, the need to do so is identified:

- Common quality standards, such as the United Nations National Quality Assurance Framework and its four levels of principles, and the Guide for the Implementation of the Quality Assurance Framework for Statistical Processes and Products, which seeks to guide the adaptation and application of the Framework in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Quality parameters in the Administrative Registers, both at the time of recording during inventory work, and the evaluation carried out by the NSOs when they receive data from other entities.

The survey results show a variety of mechanisms used by countries to access data produced by other actors in the data ecosystem. In this sense, cooperation or understanding agreements are the main tool for the exchange of information. These agreements have particularities depending on the institution and country where the agreement is made. However, some of the common elements in these agreements recover quality, as evidenced in the model proposed by the United Nations (2021)

- **4.1.6. Incentives:** ensuring the quality of the data produced by other entities as a facilitator of cooperation with the NSO.
- **4.1.9. Quality standards:** Memorandums of understanding can establish quality standards that must be met by the data to be exchanged. Given the disparities between quality standards in NSOs and administrative data producers, this element is often not included in the experiences of the region. A useful resource to consider for quality assurance is the United Nations National Quality Assurance Framework.



United Nations Working Group on Data Stewardship (UN-WGDS)

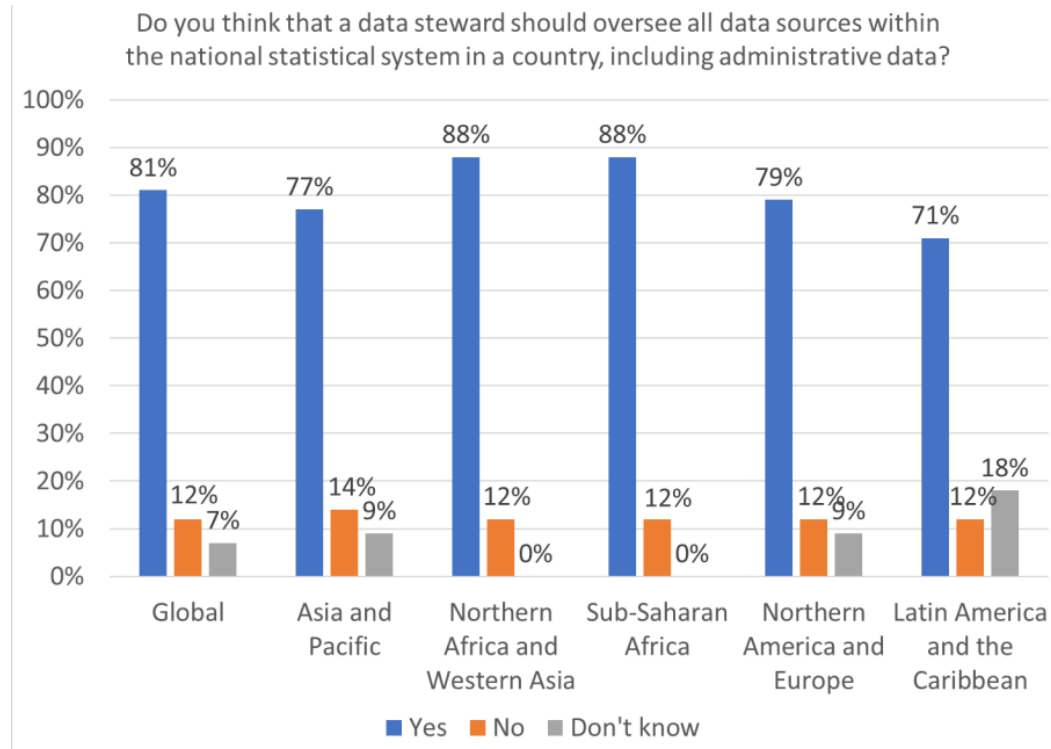
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General Aspects

- The group, created by the Statistical Commission in 2021, set objectives aimed at the adoption of the Data Stewardship approach, based on the generation of clarity on the concept and specific recommendations for application based on particular approaches.
- In 2022, the Working Group reported for the first time to the Commission, which supported developing the activities through five workstreams: data governance (workstream 1), equity and inclusion (workstream 2), sharing and collaboration (workstream 3), linkages to the cities data agenda (workstream 4), and development of an overarching conceptual framework (workline 5).
- Based on the regional exercise, the UN-WGDS conducted a diagnostic questionnaire on the role of data steward in the SEN, which was available between July 17 and September 30, 2023. The questionnaire included eight questions and received responses from 113 UN member states and one area.

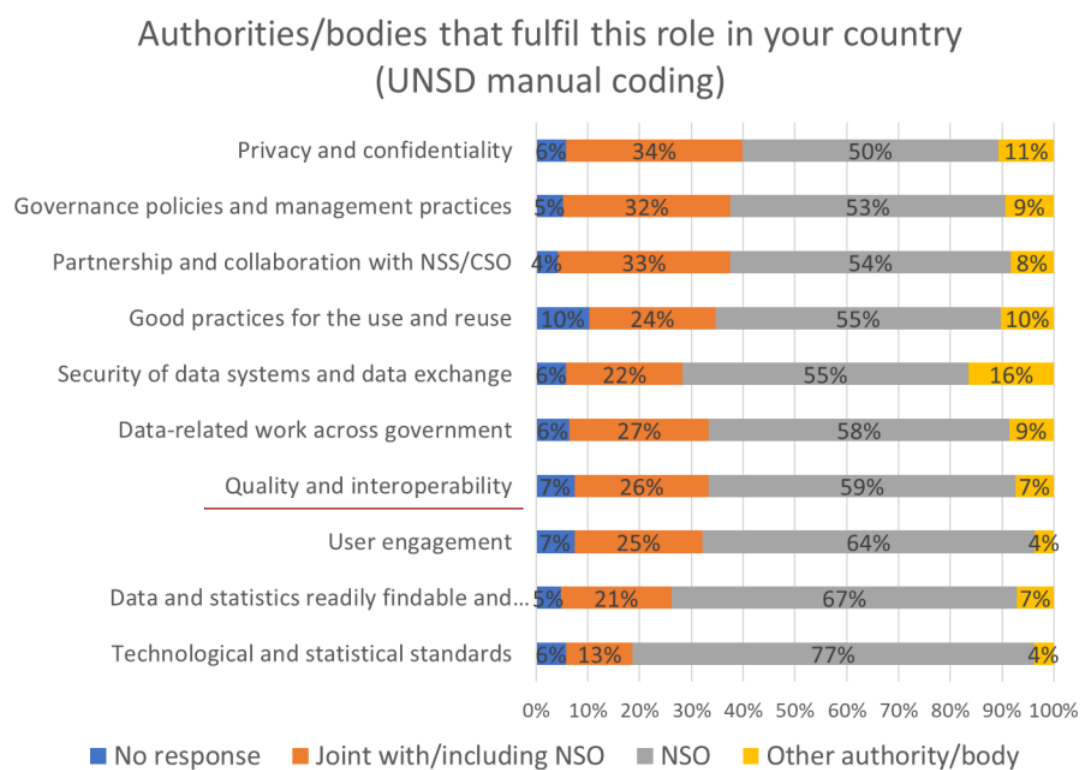
Questionnaire results

- The monitoring of all data sources, with the understanding that this may include compliance with quality frameworks, is an element with which there is widespread agreement, with regional particularities.



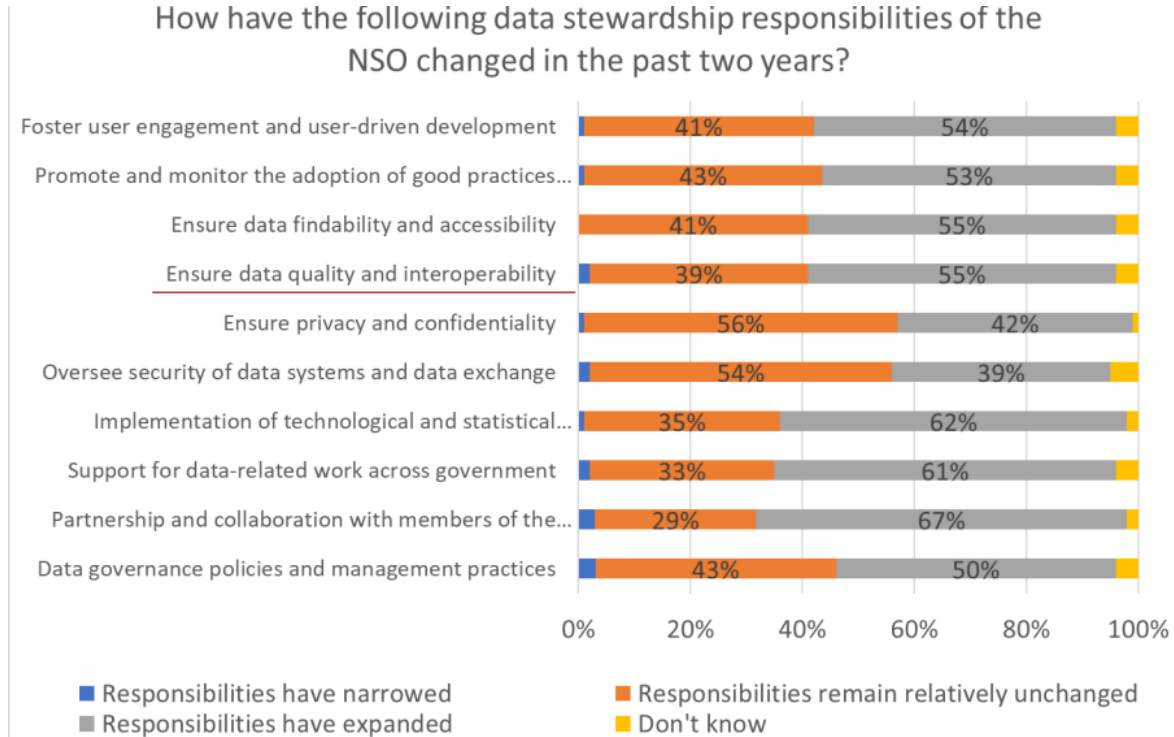
Questionnaire results

- 71% (63% in LAC) of the responses say that their countries have authorities related to statistical quality, where NSOs play a preponderant role



Questionnaire results

- It is observed that the role of Data Stewardship is related to quality assurance as it is an element that has expanded in most NSOs. (In LAC, 44% have increased their responsibilities; 50% have remained the same)



UN-WGDS - quality

- Based on the responses to the questionnaire, the group is working on its report to the Commission. However, based on the analysis, quality assurance is positioned as a central aspect for the promotion of the exchange and reuse of data as a central role of the data steward. Likewise, the group's work seeks to position the fulfillment of user expectations as a cornerstone of statistical quality assurance. This quality assurance function would include activities such as
 - Maintain accessibility, timeliness, and consistency of data flows
 - Ensure that data meets relevant national and international quality standards
 - Establish and maintain data interoperability and facilitate data integration
 - Apply open data principles by default to make data and statistics easily searchable and accessible.



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