

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-third session

Item 3 (u) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: big data

Document E/CN.3/2022/25 – Report of the Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics

<i>Statement provided by:</i> Norway	
<i>Statement:</i> <p>Norway acknowledges and supports the work of the task teams, the United Nations Global Platform and the regional hubs. Activities carried out in the several task teams are particularly useful as it encourages and supports alignment of methods and approaches across countries.</p> <p>Norway supports the proposed direction of future work of the Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics. Big data represents promising possibilities for official statistics, but also a wide range of challenges when it comes to collection, processing and analysis. International cooperation and work on big data should acknowledge that access to new sources vary greatly across countries. Hence it will vary what kind of big data and which dataholders, the NSOs will focus on and prioritize. Each new data sources are characterized by some unique challenges. Hence, international collaboration between NSOs working on the same sources, may prove particularly valuable.</p> <p>Norway supports the direction of the capacity development programme for big data and data science. The exploitation of new data sources, depend on a broad knowledge of suitable methods in the statistical communities. Norway thus encourages the suggested activities that support training and the development of capacity within data science. This is of particular importance as competition in the labour market for this competence is generally high. We find a close collaboration with universities and other the educational institutions, to be particularly useful. NSOs may contribute with lecturing and guidance for students ranging from bachelor to phd level, and students may even work on theses dealing with core issues for the NSO.</p> <p>Norway supports the creation of a sector hub of Artificial Intelligence for Environment and Sustainability (ARIES) for the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting and will follow its progress with interest.</p> <p>Norway supports the creation of the United Nations Privacy-enhancing Technologies Lab. We find the work and progress of the task team for privacy preserving privacy-preserving techniques useful and welcome the handbook, guidelines and e-learning courses that will be published in 2022. We appreciate the close cooperation with the High-level Group for the Modernization of Official Statistics of the Economic Commission for Europe. Privacy-preserving techniques are of increasing importance for the NSOs, and progress in this field is an absolute necessity for the exploitation of big data for official statistics.</p>	
<i>Submitted on:</i>	2/17/2022