

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

Statement provided by:



Statistics Poland

Statement:

Poland welcomes the list of activities done by the tasks teams of the UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics (UNCEBD) and efforts to increase the use of the UN Global Platform and the role of Regional Hubs in training and project activities in the field of big data.

Statistics Poland endorses the direction of future work and the next steps of UNCEBD. An increasing need for new and more timely statistics corresponding to fast-changing socio-economic phenomena makes using big data in official statistics particularly important. In order to incorporate new data sources and data science methods into the daily work of national statistical offices, some changes in the organizational and training areas are particularly needed. Therefore, the capacity development program for Big Data and data science, which engages data science trainers and task team experts, enlarges the scope of training, mentorship, and coaching programs within the statistical community is acknowledged.

Interestingly, at Statistics Poland, in the last year, we have been developing a concept of an internal Data Science Academy, a program aimed at consolidating and further programmed and structured development of competencies in using new data sources. In this respect, it is also worth considering the stronger cooperation within the initiative of the UNECE High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Statistical Production and Services (HLG-MOS), called Meta-Academy for the Modernization of Official Statistics.

Statistics Poland would like to inform the international community about the newly released TranStat system – an intelligent system for the real-time production of road and sea transport statistics using and integrating big data and other sources to help shape the country's transport and environmental policies. The system covers statistics on transportation, including externalities, i.e., emission estimates. The project's primary goal was to modernize the production of road and maritime transportation statistics by integrating big data sets and toolsets. The TranStat system was just released and is available for users (<https://transtat.stat.gov.pl/default.aspx>).

In general, closer cooperation between the task teams and existing subject-matter expert groups under the auspices of international organizations is strongly recommended. According to the In-depth review on collaboration with private sector data providers conducted in 2021 within the UNECE region, international organizations have undertaken substantial collaboration with private companies and the use of privately-held data in official statistics. However, some efforts appear to overlap due to the lack of a clear division of tasks and synergy. Therefore, developing a strategic approach for engagement with the private sector around common purpose appears to be a reasonable solution;

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however, other international working groups dealing with access to privately-held data should also be involved.

Submitted on:

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