What makes a national statistical training program sustainable?
A Side Event at the United Nations Statistics Commission,
Friday 11 February 2022, 7:30 – 8:45 am (EST)

Overview
The range and depth of data demands emerging out of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are unprecedented and present a substantial challenge for national statistical systems in all countries. Significant efforts are required to strengthen national statistical capacities to provide the necessary data and statistics for the full implementation of the 2030 agenda, as recognized by the UN General Assembly, in its resolution 71/313. The Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Data also highlights statistical training as an essential action area.

Statistical training is key in strengthening countries’ statistical capacities. Many international and regional institutions work in this area, but due to limited coordination, there is still overlap in training provided and use of diverse approaches. The Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training (GIST) was therefore established in 2018 to facilitate more coordination and help harmonize statistical training offerings. GIST is a network of international and regional training institutions, as well as a selection of countries, which provide statistical training to jointly build sustainable statistical capacities through efficient, effective, and harmonized delivery of training.

Since its establishment, GIST members have met regularly to discuss various aspects of better coordination of statistical training. Through this work, the community of experts have developed several initiatives for more efficient work and improved user experiences. One of the areas of work which has progressed substantially in 2021 focuses on statistical training programs at national level. A study among 15 countries revealed that the approaches to statistical training at the national level varied substantially, from independent training institutes with sizable staffing to smaller teams within the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) or almost non-existent national training programs. From this study, GIST has worked to provide suggestions and tentative recommendations for how to set up or improve training programs at the national level to make the learning options for staff at NSOs more sustainable and less dependent on external partners. Some of these tentative recommendations are currently also being piloted in Ethiopia and Ghana.

This session will present some of the on-going work and also present some good practices from countries that have training programs at national level. Other GIST initiatives will also briefly be presented at the session, including the hub or gateway for statistical face-to-face and e-learning courses on UN SDG:learn (www.unsdglearn.org/statistics).

Objectives
This side event will:
• Share an update on new materials developed by GIST, particularly related to sustainable statistical training programs at the national level
• Share experiences of GIST members and partners on sustainable statistical training
More details on the work of GIST can also be found as a background document to item 3(a) of the UN Statistical Commission report.

**Tentative agenda**

**Moderator:** Ms. Vibeke Oestreich Nielsen, UN Statistics Division (GIST secretariat)

The session will be interactive where participants will have an opportunity to provide input by responding to polling questions and two short snippets of the recently developed microlearning videos will also be shown. Participants will also be asked to place questions in the chat which the presenters and panelists can respond to.

- **Welcome and opening**  
  - Dr. Mitali Sen, US Census Bureau, Chair of GIST
- **Introduction to GISTS work on sustainable statistical training programs at national level**  
  - Mr. Dag Roll-Hansen, Statistics Norway
- **Ethiopia’s plans for establishing a statistical training program at national level**  
  - Ms. Aberash Tariku, Central Statistics Agency, Ethiopia *(TBC)*
- **Ireland’s framework for statistical training**  
  - Ms. Pamela Lafferty, Statistics Ireland
- **Brazil’s statistical training program and how they incorporate e-learning**  
  - Ms. Bianca Walsh, Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE)
- **Q&A**
- **Closing**  
  - Mr. Kieran Walsh, International Labor Organization (ILO)

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**Please register here for the event:**

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