Implementation of the Network's work program for 2024

5th Network Meeting

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The 55ᵗʰ UN Statistical Commission

The Commission approved the work programme for 2024:

- Establish the multidisciplinary expert group to take forward the recommendations of the "Beyond GDP" sprint 2023

- Organise other sprints addressing identified priority topics such as:

  ➢ housing data,

  ➢ data strategies to manage and use information for the benefit of users and

  ➢ the potential of utilizing artificial intelligence in statistical work

The 55ᵗʰ UN Statistical Commission – Side Event

A Side Event was organized to precede the meeting of the Statistical Commission:

- The focus was on improving the coordination of the updates and research agendas for international statistical standards

- Delved into the complexities associated with updating the manuals containing the guidelines for the compilation of data according to the various existing frameworks in a coordinated fashion that will improve coherence of economic data

- The US presented their case for coordinating updates to manuals, followed by a panel discussion on the topic

- The Panel discussion highlighted the following:
  - The overlap between the various manuals potentially creates misalignment in the concepts and standards
  - The balance between the frequency of updates and relevance is an ongoing challenge
  - It is important to distinguish between updating the manuals and implementing the new standards

- An informal group of organizations responsible for the key manuals (SNA, BOP, GFS, CPI, SEEA) will prepare potential recommendations to address these issues

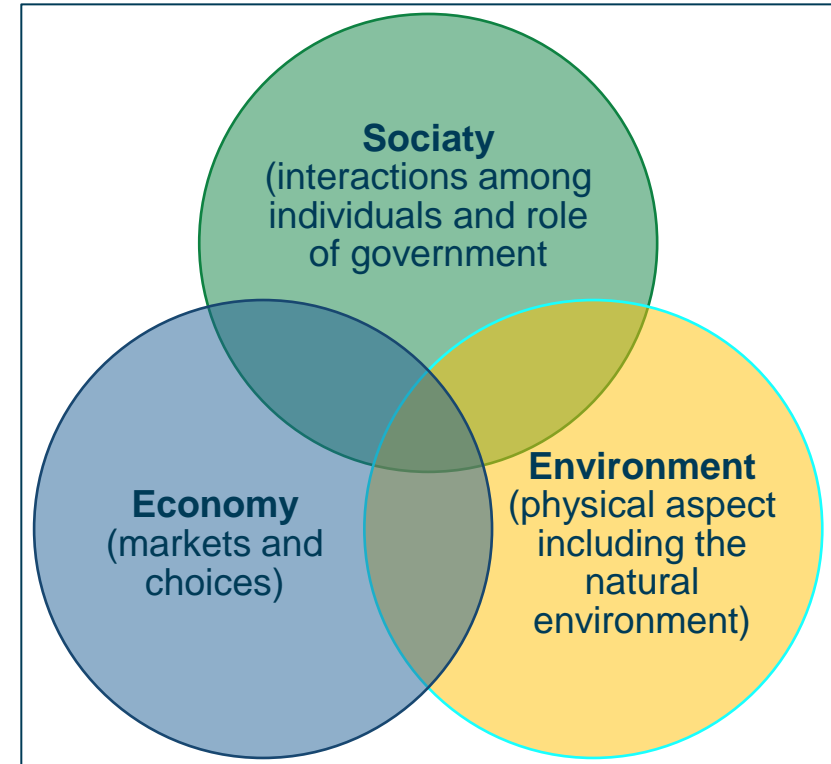**UN Network of Economic Statisticians**

Data Strategy Sprint

- The Sprint will cover the essential aspects of developing and maintaining a successful data strategy

- The webinar series starts with a primer on why and how to build a strategy for better leveraging data holdings

- The second webinar will provide a roadmap for implementation, taking into account issues to be considered, challenges that need to be overcome and considerations for maintenance work. Additionally, this webinar will showcase the difference between international and national data strategies, as well as project-level, versus organizational data strategies

- The third webinar will provide examples of how collaboration and cooperation play a key role to success

- A Primer, a document comprising the basics of developing and maintaining a successful data strategy, will be produced and published after the conclusion of the Sprint
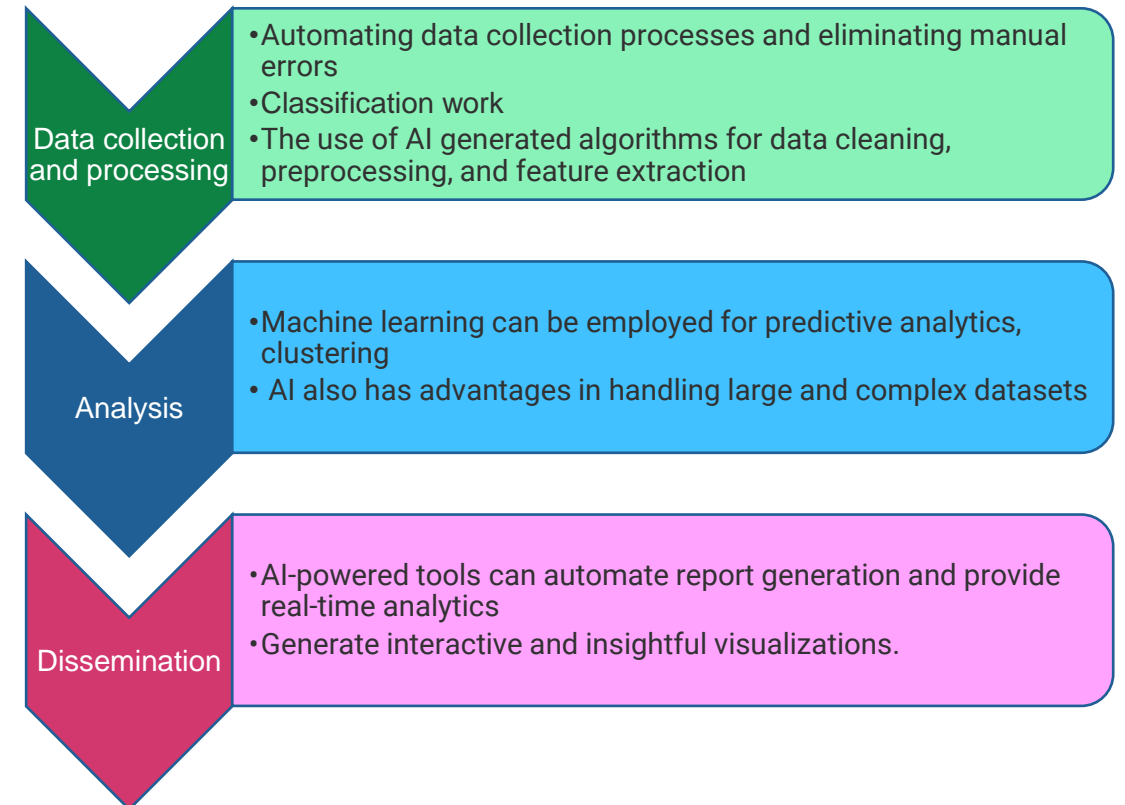
Housing Sprint

- Housing outcomes result from a confluence of economic, social and environmental factors

- There is no standard internationally agreed-upon framework for measuring housing outcomes

- The first webinar will take a deep dive into Statistics Canada's draft framework for housing statistics, while also addressing the question of why housing data matters from the point of view of policy makers and other users

- The second webinar will provide examples of the most common housing indicators produced, as well as some of the more familiar challenges encountered by NSOs in producing data on housing. It will also showcase innovative approaches to measurement, by using administrative data, web scraping, satellite imaging, AI and other techniques

- We are also working on developing a Primer featuring a proposed framework for housing statistics

- An abbreviated version of the two webinars will be provided to the Asia-Pacific Stats Café series

Sociaty (interactions among individuals and role of government)

Economy (markets and choices)

Environment (physical aspect including the natural environment)

The Potential for Using AI in Statistical Work

- In the early stages of preparation

- We envisage one in person meeting in January 2025 and two preparatory webinars in the fall

- Will cover the waterfront on how AI could be usen in production (e.g. Natural language processing), analysis and dissemination work (e.g. semantic web, data visualization)

- Want to focus on high-mileage topics that have been proven successful (good value for $, scalable, portable, etc.)

- Present applications that are available in practice

- We would like to produce a Primer that will provide basic information on what is available and how it can be applied in various NSOs

Data collection and processing
- Automating data collection processes and eliminating manual errors
- Classification work
- The use of AI generated algorithms for data cleaning, preprocessing, and feature extraction

Analysis
- Machine learning can be employed for predictive analytics, clustering
- AI also has advantages in handling large and complex datasets

Dissemination
- AI-powered tools can automate report generation and provide real-time analytics
- Generate interactive and insightful visualizations.

We Need Your Input

The Network is only effective if it meets the members' needs:

- Please provide us with your views on the 2024 webinars
- Need ideas for 2025 work plan (topics, speakers, delivery formats, etc.)
- The Primers
  - ➢ Are they a good idea?
  - ➢ How do we ensure the content is useful to most NSOs?
  - ➢ How do we keep them evergreen?
  - ➢ What else should we think of (consultation, dissemination, etc.)

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Discussion