

Update on Network activities

7th Network Meeting

André Loranger

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UN Network of Economic Statisticians

Overview

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Recent Network Activities

Housing Sprint

- The Sprint organized in collaboration with the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Statistics Canada, Maldives Bureau of Statistics and UN-Habitat, explored the role of developing a comprehensive framework for measuring housing outcomes, provide the opportunity to share on some of the more common housing indicators, data needs and data challenges.
- The [first](#) webinar took a deep dive into Statistics Canada's framework for housing statistics, while the [second](#) one showcased innovative methods for developing housing statistics. A panel of experts discussed strategies can we employ to create a housing framework that remains relevant into the future in the face of rapidly advancing technologies. There was general agreement that developing a global housing framework that NSIs could adopt and adapt would be a helpful project.
- An abbreviated version of the two webinars was provided at the [Asia-Pacific Stats Café](#) series on December 2nd
- A Primer, a document titled **Making the Case for an International Housing Statistics Framework**, has been developed and will be circulated for consultation in December.

Recent Network Activities (continued)

Data Strategy Sprint

- The Sprint will cover all 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, followed by a [roadmap](#) for implementation and concluding with a [webinar](#) on collaboration.
- The Sprint provided valuable information for participants in showing that most organizations (statistical and otherwise) see great benefits in developing data strategies which are enhanced by cooperation and the utilization of technology. There are many common elements to these strategies and the organizers of the event have captured them in a primer document titled **Data Strategy Primer: Framework and Best Practices for Developing a Data Strategy** which has been developed and will be circulated for consultation in December .

Recent Network Activities (continued)

AI and Data Science Sprint for Economic Statistics

- [Sprint](#) organized by the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians and the Data Science Leaders Network of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics
- The first of two webinars took place virtually on November 7th and was attended by over 200 participants. It provided an overview of AI and data science for official statistics. Additionally, one of the two concurrent sessions showcased examples of reproducible analytical pipelines, while the other spotlighted techniques and data sources for compiling economic indicators.
- The second webinar is planned for 12 of December ; participants will be exposed to examples of using Generative AI and Data Science initiatives in statistical production and for the dissemination and interpretation of statistics.
- An in-person international symposium held in Dubai on 20-22 January 2025 will cap the Sprint. The symposium will be hosted by the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Center of the United Arab Emirates. It will consist of a high-level segment on 20 January followed by technical segments on 21 and 22 January. The high-level segment will consist of keynote addresses and expert panels on the policy use of AI and data science with a particular focus on the impact of digital transformation on economic decision-making.

Recent Network Activities (continued)

- This Sprint will also be an important step in the further development of the [Data Science Leadership Network playbook](#) and seeks to empower NSOs with cutting-edge tools and methodologies for statistical production.
- You may register for the second webinar [here](#).

Priorities for 2025

The Network carried out a number of consultations through various channels regarding ideas for its work program in 2025. Based on this feedback the Network is proposing the following two activities:

1. Measuring net zero initiatives and impact

- National statistical offices will need to keep pace from a measurement perspective by updating traditional measurement practices to reflect these adaptations to ensure economic measures remain up to date. The objective of this sprint is to focus international discussions on NSOs' Net Zero measurement plans and challenges – including filling data gaps and linking with existing frameworks and standards. Where appropriate, case studies will be compared and best practices considered.

2. Compilation of sub-national economic statistics

- There are few if any international forums for economic statisticians to share their experiences in compiling sub-national economic statistics; and few if any international guidelines exist that suggest standards or approaches to sub-national economic statistics for national statistical offices. The sprint will gather experts in national statistical offices worldwide to share their approaches, ideas, and challenges in compiling sub-national economic statistics.

Report to the UN Statistical Commission

The Network's Report to the Commission:

- Includes the activities of 2024 and the proposals for 2025 as mentioned before
- Includes the activities of the **Expert group on well-being measurement** (the next presentation will provide you with an update on this project)
- Provides a close-out report on the Data Access Sprint use cases
 - ✓ The coordinator (Statistics Netherlands) of the project is considering changing the scope of the work to a new portfolio of activities. It would focus more on generic aspects related to accessing external data sources, such as Knowledge Commons, data governance issues, organization of and participation in data spaces, and aim at developing guidelines and frameworks.
 - ✓ As the focus of the Network is on broader issues, the new activities will be reported in future reports of the UNCEBD to the Commission.

Discussion