

CITY DATA AGENDA AND NSO

LESSONS LEARNED
FROM A CASE STUDY



United Nations
**WORLD
DATA
FORUM**

EDUARDO SOJO GARZA-ALDAPE





In Mexico Statistical Information Systems were constructed for decision makers at national level.

Situation has changed over the years, however important problems still exists for decision makers at local levels, even in a very robust statistical information system as the one Mexico has.

There are many opportunities to reenforce the support to local decision makers.



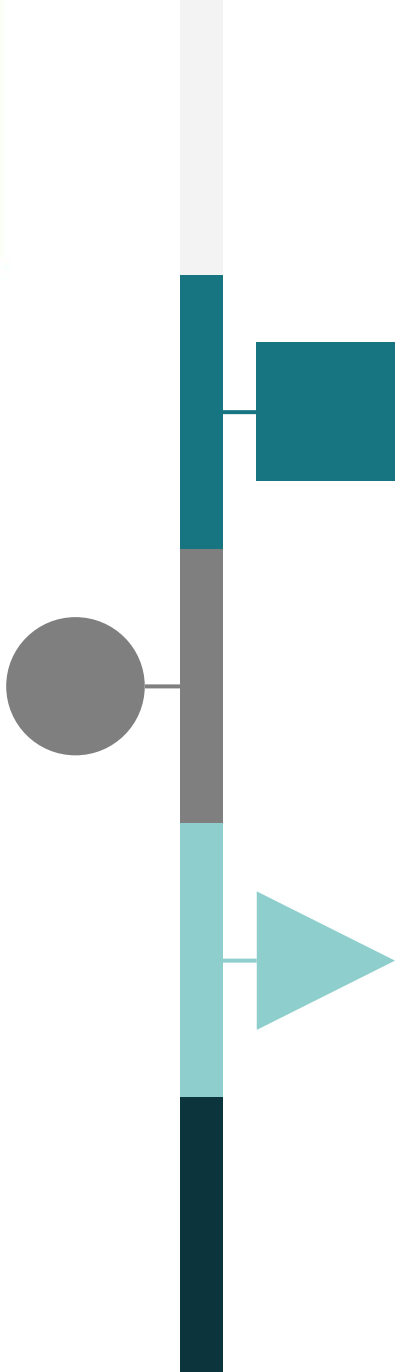
Mexican NSO (INEGI) is a leading edge institution: It has constitutional autonomy from the federal government, it has statistics and geospatial information national systems within the same institution and has a very well established National System of Statistical Geographical Information (SNIEG).

SNIEG is a very robust system with rules and several boards; however, there is no mention in the law that regulate SNIEG about how local statistical system should be organized or what would be the roll of INEGI in promoting them.

To amend the absence of the law, the government board of INEGI created the states committees for statistical and geographical information; however, municipalities are poorly represented in SNIEG even though this level of government demands a lot of information for micro level decision making.

In the case study we found that:

- In local governments it makes sense to have in the same institution the planning and the information provider responsibility.
- However, local planning institutions lack the knowledge, experience and resources to build, by their own, robust statistical and geospatial information systems.
- Planning institutions in local governments could be in an extraordinary position to be the Data Stewardship if they have the institutional support from NSO to develop the institutional capacity to play this roll.

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Roll of City Data Officers (CDO) at local levels is very different than rolls at NSO, as they work with more grounded data systems and therefore job descriptions, skills, and capabilities could also be a bit different.

CDO at local levels are closer to decision makers. They identify and transform internal and external data into strategic information to be used by decision makers within the municipal public administration.

CDO also monitor data in real time to respond efficiently to problems in the city. They capture, curate and integrate data provided by both sensors and other online data and combine it with traditional data, surveys, telephone requirements and other forms of getting data from citizens, regarding mobility, sewage, trash pick-up, water and public lighting services, among others.

In Mexico is clear that the role of the NSO is highly needed for capacity building if states and municipalities are to be important players in a data revolution framework.

Establishing a process for sustained knowledge sharing between City Data Officers and NSO, will help to better understand the use of data to inform decision making at local levels and find opportunities for improving the process of data dissemination, so that it is better 'fit for use'.

