Information Note

ESCWA/UNSD

The Fourth Regional Workshop on Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX)

Advanced Level II

27 June - 1 July 2022, Beirut, Lebanon

Background

Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) is designed to enable automation of data & metadata exchange between two or more entities and within the same entity, this process normalizing of data exchange has improved the efficiency of sharing both statistical data and metadata across statistical organizations and entities, providing an integrated approach and enabling the interoperable implementation of exchanging, reporting, and disseminating statistical data and metadata within and between systems.

Endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission in June 2008, SDMX is recognized and supported as a preferred standard for data and its related meta-information, it has an approved standard ISO (17369:2013), sponsored by seven international organizations (BIS, ECB, Eurostat, OECD, IMF, UN, and WB), and has been successfully used for data exchange and dissemination in areas such as Macro-Economic Statistics, International Trade, and the Millennium Development Goals[1].

There are great opportunities in adopting SDMX, where the implementation of SDMX at the national level, will promote and improve reading and correctly interpreting SDGs data from any source, especially national data, SDMX uniforms data access, dissemination, and data comparison, it greatly reduces reporting burdens and eases the dissemination of platforms and VNRs, moreover, SDMX tools are available at zero cost to further simplify SDMX implementation at the national level.

Member States participating in the 14th Statistical Committee (10-11 of February 2021) emphasized the importance of SDMX and commended the ESCWA's effort towards building national capacities in SDMX and requested ESCWA to hold more advanced training. As a follow-up to previous efforts and the Member States' requests, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA) and the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) jointly will be organizing the 4th Workshop on the Use of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX)-Advanced Level II, from 27 June to 1 July 2022.

Objectives:

The Regional Workshop on Use of SDMX in SDGs data Exchange is the fourth in a series of workshops organized jointly by UN ESCWA and UNSD to improve countries' skills in mapping and converting SDG data, raise awareness of the latest developments and promote the implementation of SDMX at the national level.

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[1] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/Working-Group-ToR--SDMX.pdf

Outcome:

The training will familiarize participants with techniques of mapping and converting SDG data and metadata as per international standards, respecting a content constraint for disaggregation adhering to the official SDGs framework, using conversion tools including web-based ones, and the process of customizing a national DSD, the workshop will brief participants to SDMX-RI (Reference Infrastructure) tool, DSD constructors and Matrix Generator.

The training will encourage interactive dialogue and participants will be invited to share their national experiences in SDMX including challenges, queries, and concerns. Training-related materials and resources will be shared with participants before each session.

Participants:

Due to budget constraints and a limited number of participants, only two experts (preferably a statistician and IT) who successfully completed all pre-requisite homework individually will be invited to attend the workshop. In case there are more than two successful candidates per country and full house further testing may be applied to select the most knowledgeable.

Venue and Time:

The workshop will be held in Beirut, Lebanon from 27 June to 1 July 2022. The workshop will start every day at 8:30 A.M. and ends at 4:30 P.M. (Agenda).

Pre-requisite:

Successful completion of pre-requisite homework/test by each candidate which includes good knowledge in mapping indicators to DSD, using SDMX content constraint, and performing metadata conversion.

Training Certificate

Participants who successfully attend the SDMX workshop and completed the exercises and the prerequisite homework will be awarded a training certificate by the organizers.

Resources:

[SDMX SDG Page](#)
[Guidelines for the Global DSD for SDGs](#)
[SDG Dataflows and Content Constraints](#)
[SDMX Global Registry](#)
[SDG Data Matrix v 1.8](#)
[Metadata Online Converter](#)
[Tutorial](#) & [Materials](#)
[SDMX Crash Course I](#)
[SDMX Crash Course II](#)
[SDMX series of trainings](#)
[SDG Metadata template](#)
[SDMX Desktop Converter](#)
[Europa SDMX Online Converter](#)
[SDMX Tools](#)

Organizers

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Agenda

Day 1, Monday 27 June 2022		
Time	*Session*	*Facilitator/ Presenter*
8:30 AM – 9:00 AM	**Opening Session: Welcome and objectives of the workshop**	Neda Jafar
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM	**Session One: Review of the SDMX Information Model**	Abdulla Gozalov
11:00 AM – 11:15 AM	Coffee break	
11:15 AM – 1:00 PM	**Session Two: SDG DSD, Dataflows and Content Constraints**	Abdulla Gozalov
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Lunch break	
2:00 PM – 4:30 PM	**Session Three: Review of SDMX Converter Basics** **Exercise** Q&A	Abdulla Gozalov
Day 2, Tuesday 28 June 2022		
8:30 AM – 1:00 PM *Coffee break 11:00 AM-11:15 AM*	**Session Four: Mapping and converting data with SDMX** **Groups Exercise** Q&A	Rabih El Habta
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Lunch break	
2:00 PM – 4:30 PM	**Session Five: Converting data using dataflows and content constraints** **Exercise** Q&A	Abdulla Gozalov
Day 3, Wednesday 29 June 2022		
8:30 AM – 11:00 AM	**Session Six: Introduction to customizing national DSD** **Exercise:** Q&A	Abdulla Gozalov
11:00 AM - 11:15 AM	Coffee break	

11:15 AM – 1:00 PM	**Session Seven**: DSD constructor **Demo:** Q&A	Abdulla Gozalov
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Lunch break	
2:00 PM – 4:30 PM	**Session Eight**: Matrix Generator **Demo:** Q&A	Abdulla Gozalov
Day 4, Thursday 30 June 2022		
8:30 AM – 11:00 AM	**Session Nine**: Advanced SDMX Converter	Abdulla Gozalov
11:00 AM - 11:15 AM	Coffee break	
11:15 AM – 1:00 PM	**Advanced SDMX Converter (continued)** **Exercise** Q&A	Abdulla Gozalov
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Lunch break	
2:00 PM – 4:30 PM	**Session Ten**: Introduction to SDMX Reference Infrastructure Q&A	Abdulla Gozalov
Day 5, Friday 1 July 2022		
8:30 AM – 11:00 AM	**Session Eleven**: Data transfer to ESCWA through SDMX Q&A	Neda Jafar Ahmed Al-Awah
11:00 AM – 11:15 AM	Coffee break	
11:15 AM – 1:00 PM	**Closing Session: Recommendations and Way Forward** **Certificates distribution**	Neda Jafar Abdulla Gozalov

List of Participants

Country	Organization	Name	Job Title	Email	Attended
Algeria	ONS	Mr. Youcef Boumendjeh	Ingénieur en Statistique	boumendjeh@ons.dz	Virtual
		Mr. Hamza Doghmani	Ingénieur en Statistique	hamozoons@gmail.com	Virtual
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Iraq	COSIT	Mr. Anas Khaleel Al-Farraji	Senior Statistician	Anas87kh@yahoo.com	in-person
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		Ms. Samera Saleh Al-Jouzi	DG of Population Statistics	sameerhcso2@gmail.com	in-person
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		Mr. Mufadhal Ahmed Al-Harazi	DG of Food Security Statistics	mofadhal_2007@yahoo.com	in-person