

## **Bridging Data Communities through National Statistical Institutes**

National statistical training institutes (NSTIs) play a critical role in strengthening national statistical systems (NSS). As hubs of capacity development, knowledge exchange, and methodological harmonization, they serve as bridges between the national statistical office (NSO), the international statistical community, and diverse local data producers and users. Their strategic position enables them to cultivate a shared understanding of data standards, improve data quality, and foster a collaborative data ecosystem that supports evidence-based policymaking.

### **Role of national statistical training institutes in bringing together the NSO, international community, and local data producers and users**

NSTIs help coordinate data production processes by identifying capacity gaps, offering training and guidance aligned with national statistical strategies, and building a pool of local experts. They also create a platform for data producers and users to have a shared understanding of definitions, classifications, and reporting processes. Their role includes:

- Hosting joint training workshops with UN agencies and regional statistical bodies
- Providing feedback from national practitioners to international experts
- Forging strategic partnership with other NSTIs to promote peer learning through South-South cooperation
- Acting as intermediaries who communicate capacity gaps and practical constraints

Beyond government, NSTIs may also engage with non-traditional data producers/users such as:

- NGOs collecting community-level data
- Private companies generating big data or geospatial data
- Researchers
- Journalists

By training these groups on statistical literacy, data quality frameworks, and ethics, NSTIs widen the national data ecosystem and promote better data use.

### **Translating international standards to local knowledge**

International organizations frequently introduce new methodologies and global statistical standards (e.g., SDG indicators, GSBPM, standard classifications). These frameworks are

often designed with global comparability in mind. Its application to national contexts can be challenging. NSTIs help contextualize these standards by:

- Adapting training materials to reflect local realities
- Using country-specific case studies and datasets
- Highlighting areas where national deviations may be necessary
- Turning SDG indicator metadata into practical compilation guide of measurable national indicators
- Contributing to global repository of guidance materials and support working groups on implementation and statistical capacity building (e.g., SNA compilation hub or UNCEEA working group on implementation and statistical capacity building)
- Advocating internationally recommended survey methodologies in local household surveys (e.g., local government unit led data collection initiatives)
- Introducing global data quality assurance frameworks (e.g., UN NQAF) into routine work

This contextualization helps national and local data producers understand not just *what* the standards are but *why* they matter. By developing national curricula based on international standards, NSTIs ensure consistent training of statisticians and data officers across government. Certifications help reinforce professional norms and maintain the quality of statistical work.

NSTIs ensure that global statistical standards are not only adopted but meaningfully integrated into national practices; that local data producers and users are empowered; and that the entire ecosystem—from grassroots data collectors to global agencies—moves toward a shared vision of quality, comparable, and usable data.

### Activity

- Presentation on the **Role of PSTRI in bringing together the NSO, international community, and local data producers and users for bridging data gaps for SDGs. Philippines**
- Presentation on **Translating international standards to local knowledge by the National Statistical Systems Training Academy/NSO. India**