

## ENHANCING STATISTICAL LEADERSHIP FOR HEADS OF NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC TO FOSTER DATA INNOVATION IN A DIGITAL SOCIETY

### REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP

6-8 May 2026 Ankara, Türkiye.

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### Background

In today's rapidly evolving digital landscape, National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in low- and lower-middle income countries in general and in Asia and the Pacific in particular are under growing pressure to meet increasing data demands driven by national development priorities, regional development agendas, and the global Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. These demands are further amplified by emerging crises such as climate change, economic, and geopolitical shifts. To remain relevant and effective, NSOs must not only produce timely and high-quality data but also foster innovation across data-value-chain by engaging a broader, more dynamic data ecosystem.

Strong and visionary leadership is critical for navigating these complex challenges and steering National Statistical Systems (NSS) toward agility, relevance, and resilience. Recognizing this, PARIS21 and the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) have joined forces to enhance the strategic and leadership capacities of NSO heads across the region. Since 2015, PARIS21 has developed and implemented statistical leadership training programmes tailored to the needs of NSO leaders, with SIAP playing a key role in regional coordination and institutional alignment.

Building on the success of the 2025 workshop in Chiba, Japan, which brought together NSO leaders from 12 Asia and the Pacific countries, the 2026 edition, co-organised by SIAP and PARIS21, in collaboration with Turkish Statistical Institute, will take place in Ankara, Türkiye, from 6–8 May 2026. This year's training will feature a dedicated focus on "Leading responsible adoption of AI for official statistics," to enhance the efficiency, responsiveness, and impact of statistical systems in Asia and the Pacific.

#### Why to attend this training

In a fast-changing digital era, the role of NSO heads extends far beyond data production, it requires visionary leadership, strategic coordination, and the ability to foster innovation within and beyond the National Statistical System (NSS). This regional training offers a unique opportunity for NSO leaders in Asia and the Pacific to strengthen their personal leadership styles, sharpen their coordination capabilities, and build the skills needed to lead innovative transformation in an increasingly complex data ecosystem.

Designed specifically for senior statistical leaders, the training combines globally recognized leadership methodologies with the Asia and the Pacific region development context. Through guided self-assessments, experiential and team-based activities, and peer learning, participants will gain powerful insights into their own leadership strengths and areas for growth. They will explore real-world challenges, learn to navigate institutional and external complexities, and develop actionable strategies for driving innovation, digital transformation, and improved stakeholder engagement, fit for national statistical development.

The training is facilitated by the globally renowned Centre for Creative Leadership (CCL), and co-organised by PARIS21 and SIAP. It provides a rare space for reflection, learning, and exchange among peers who face similar leadership demands. This is more than a training—it is an investment in the future of Asia and the Pacific region’s data and statistical development leadership.

## Training Objectives

The overall objective of the training is to strengthen the leadership capacity of Heads of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) to effectively lead, coordinate, and innovate within their institutions and the wider data ecosystem. Specifically, the training aims to:

- **Enhance Self-Awareness and Leadership Effectiveness:** Enable participants to reflect on their leadership styles, identify personal strengths and development areas, and apply practical tools to improve their effectiveness in leading statistical organisations.
- **Foster Strategic Leadership in Statistical Development:** Equip NSO heads with leadership competencies tailored to the statistical context, including Direction, Alignment, and Commitment (DAC), to better deliver quality statistics that inform national and regional development goals.
- **Promote a Culture of Innovation and Adaptability:** Support leaders in embracing data innovation, digital transformation, and the use of emerging technologies (e.g., AI, data science) to modernize statistical operations and respond to evolving user demands.
- **Strengthen Emotional Intelligence and Soft Skills:** Develop emotional intelligence, psychological safety, and influence—key traits for managing teams, navigating political and institutional dynamics, and fostering inclusive leadership, with special attention to female leadership in statistics.
- **Equip NSO heads with the leadership principles, governance choices, and risk-management mindset needed to guide the responsible adoption of AI across the official statistics lifecycle—ensuring quality, transparency, privacy, fairness, and public trust.**
- **Build Capacity for Coordination and System-Wide Engagement:** Improve the ability of NSO heads to coordinate within the NSS and engage effectively with external stakeholders, aligning statistical work with broader national priorities and managing cross-sectoral relationships.
- **Encourage Peer Learning and Leadership Multiplication:** Facilitate the exchange of best practices, foster a regional network of statistical leaders, and empower participants to cascade leadership knowledge to mid-level managers and staff within their institutions.

## Expected takeaways

By the end of the training, participants will be able to:

- **Apply practical leadership and emotional intelligence tools** to improve team dynamics, organizational culture, and coordination across the National Statistical System (NSS).
- **Differentiate between change leadership and change management**, and use techniques such as active listening, network analysis, and constructive feedback to lead transformation within their institutions.
- **Adapt leadership styles and roles**, such as manager, coach, or mentor, based on context, to strengthen communication, resilience, and staff development.
- **Participants leave with a shared understanding of what “responsible AI” means for official statistics and a clear set of priority actions** (e.g., governance structure, policy/ethical safeguards, accountability and transparency measures, and capacity needs) to initiate or strengthen AI adoption in their NSO.

- **Leverage peer learning and case studies** to draw lessons from other NSOs, particularly on leading and managing innovation, digital transformation, and the integration of new technologies in official statistics.
- **Develop and articulate personal leadership goals** that align with their institutional mandates and national statistical development priorities.
- **Champion leadership development within their NSS** by promoting best practices and mentoring mid-level managers to build a stronger, more agile data ecosystem.

Training Agenda, 6-8 May 2026

Date/Time	Activity	Date/Time	Activity	Date/Time	Activity
<b>DAY 1</b>		<b>DAY 2</b>		<b>DAY 3</b>	
<b>9:00 – 12:00</b>	<b>Opening Ceremony</b>	<b>9:00 – 12:00</b>	<b>Leadership Workshop Session: Psychological Safety</b>	<b>9:00 – 13:00</b>	<b>Leadership Workshop Session: Leading Teams and Leading Inclusively</b>
	Group Photo		<b>Leadership Workshop Session: Feedback</b>		<b>Leadership Workshop Session: Influence</b>
	Coffee Break		<b>Leadership Workshop Session: Leading Change-Change Capable Leadership, Change Style indicator assessment</b>		Coffee Break
	<b>Leadership Workshop Session: What is Effective Leadership &amp; Social Identity</b>	<b>12:00 – 13:30</b>	Lunch Break		<b>Leadership Workshop Session: Strategic Networks</b>
<b>12:00 – 13:30</b>	Lunch Break	<b>13:30 – 17:00</b>	<b>Leading responsible adoption of AI for official statistics lead by Paris 21</b>	<b>13:00 - 14:00</b>	<b>Leadership Workshop Session: Your Leadership context as Head of NSO /NSS, Individual Dashboard presentation preparation</b>
<b>13:30 – 17:20</b>	<b>Leadership Workshop Session: Effective Leadership &amp; Experiential Activity</b>			<b>14:00 – 16:30</b>	Lunch Break
	Coffee Break			<b>Leadership Workshop Session: Individual Dashboard presentations</b>	
<b>Leadership Workshop Session: Emotional Intelligence</b>	<b>Leadership Workshop Session: Listening to Understand</b>	<b>Evaluation and Closing Ceremony</b>			
	<b>Completion of CSI assessment</b>				