

UNSD activities for capacity development

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3 Dec 2020

UNSD activities

- UNSD capacity development activities have recently focused on:
 - Support of institutional setup and functioning of NSOs and NSSs
 - Support in specific statistical domains
 - Support to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Support to maintain statistical production activities under new conditions / restrictions
 - Support not only focused on SDG-related areas

Two selected topics

- How are training activities changing at UNSD?
 - New forms, topics and approaches
- Handbook on Management and Organization of National Statistical Systems
 - Thematic Conferences

How are training activities changing? ⁽¹⁾

- New forms
 - Online training courses
 - Not as result of COVID alone
 - Advances in underlying technology and access
 - UNSD in process of setting up e-learning platform
 - Various methods of e-learning are employed
 - Not appropriate for all trainings
 - Require a change in training styles
 - No simple transfer of in-person to online training
 - UNSD work on best practices to facilitate common approach

How are training activities changing? (2)

- New forms – Caution
 - many current online activities are not a full replacement of traditional activities (e.g. for a one-week workshop)
 - easier for one-directional activities
 - Activities requiring interaction become difficult
 - Positive: large audience
 - Negative: reduced feedback and discussion
 - technical difficulties in many areas

How are training activities changing? (3)

- New topics
 - Statistics production in new environment
 - E.g. alternatives to traditional in-person data collection
 - New data sources
 - Admin data
 - Several projects underway to establish guidelines
 - Big data
 - Many projects on specific topics and general training programmes

How are training activities changing? (4)

- New approaches
 - How do we develop training courses?
 - For big data (and other fields):
 - Development of competency frameworks
 - Assessment via Maturity matrices
 - Identification of skill gaps
 - Deriving of training needs
 - Consistent approach to define course parameters
 - Learning objectives, prerequisites etc.
 - (training previously supply-driven, now consider more the demand)
 - For big data: <https://unstats.un.org/bigdata/task-teams/training/index.cshtml>

Handbook (1)

- New data requirements to monitor the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related regional and national development plans
- Statistical offices need to review their institutional, organizational and technical processes
 - in conformity with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
- *Handbook on Statistical Organization* has always been a tool for this

Handbook (2)

- Since 1954 , the primary objective of the Handbook has been to guide chief statisticians and senior managers of statistical organizations in developing and maintaining statistical capacity that is fit for purpose
 - Current (third) edition was issued in 2003
- New: Name changed from *Handbook of Statistical Organization* to ***Handbook on Management and Organization of National Statistical Systems***

Handbook (3)

- Like previous editions, the Handbook, is not intended to be followed in a prescriptive manner
 - situation in each country is unique
 - usefulness of the guidance therefore depends on local circumstances
- Instead, it provides descriptive information to guide and inform statistical organizations on critical issues and topics, including those that are new and emerging
 - e.g. measuring and cushioning the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic (as a special form of crisis management)

Handbook (4)

- Process:
 - Core drafting team managed by the Statistics Division
 - Advisory group to guide the drafting process and ensure that an inclusive approach is taken
 - Selected to take advantage of existing statistical networks and initiatives at the regional and global levels
 - from the region: Mongolia, Philippines, ADB, ESCAP
- Progress regularly reviewed by the UN Statistical Commission

Handbook (5)

- The new Handbook consists of sixteen chapters: an introduction, an overview and fourteen substantive topic-oriented chapters with several annexes
- This outline was informed by a full review of the current edition of the Handbook, a survey conducted on the needs of current chief statisticians as well as other consultations
- All 16 draft chapters are available on the UNSD Wiki, enabling broad contributions:

<https://unstats.un.org/wiki/display/HSO/Handbook+Statistical+Organization>

Handbook (6)

- I Introduction
- II Overview
- III Basis of Official Statistics
- IV National Statistical System
- V National Statistical Office
- VI Users and their needs *
- VII Quality Management
- VIII Data Sources, Collection and Processing
- IX Analysis and analytical frameworks *
- X Dissemination and User Communication
- XI Common Statistical Infrastructure *
- XII Human Resources Management and Development
- XIII Data, information and knowledge management *
- XIV Information Technology Management
- XV Management of buildings, finance and physical space *
- XVI International Statistical System **

Handbook (7)

- Next steps:
 - Handbook is intended to be a living document
 - Will be updated at regular intervals to address common challenges and grasp innovative solutions
 - Example: IT-related tools and methods change quickly
 - An interactive web version is being developed
 - Accommodates country examples
- A series of Thematic Conferences also assists in this process of keeping the Handbook up-to-date

Thematic Conferences (1)

- To make the consultation process more inclusive, a series of *regional thematic conferences on managing a statistical organization in times of change* is being organized
 - organized at the regional and sub-regional levels for participants to consider recent institutional, organizational and technical developments addressing prospective challenges and opportunities
 - to share the purpose and contents of the new Handbook to a wider audience of chief statisticians, senior managers of statistical organizations and policymakers
 - also conducted to better understand and prioritize emerging needs of statistical organizations to adapt and develop, as well as to exchange experiences and recent initiatives
- To gather success stories to illustrate the recommendations in the Handbook
 - Two-way support

Thematic Conferences (2)

- Structured around four main themes covering all substantive chapters of the Handbook
 - 1. Strengthening the institutional and organizational frameworks of national statistical systems
 - 2. Securing the quality of statistical information and improving data coherence through statistical analysis and analytical frameworks
 - 3. Supporting the transformation of statistical production processes, from data collection to dissemination, in the context of the digital and technological revolution
 - 4. Mobilizing and securing adequate resources and infrastructure and promoting regional and global cooperation for the development of national statistical capacity
- (linked to chapters and strategic areas of the CTGAP)

Thematic Conferences (3)

- A series of eight regional thematic conferences was planned, including three for the region:
 - one for Asia (excl. Central Asia)
 - one for Pacific Island countries
 - one for Central Asian countries (as part of the SE-EECCA group)
- Due to COVID-19 only the conference for Asian Countries could be completed
- The other two are on hold until in-person meetings are possible again
- <https://unstats.un.org/capacity-development/thematic-conferences/>

Thank you

