Lessons learned from providing statistics for SDGs and preparation to monitor a global post-2030 development agenda.

Jonathan Gessendorfer, UNECE

CIS region on the way to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

Sustainable Development Agenda: Halfway to 2030

21-23 May – Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

UNECE

Conference of European Statisticians (CES)

- Founded in 1953, stems from the first Conference of Statistics held under the League of Nations in 1928

- Chief Statisticians in 65 countries and organizations

- Steered by the CES Bureau (9 countries and 6 international organizations)

Objective

- To advance official statistics at the national and international levels in the region.
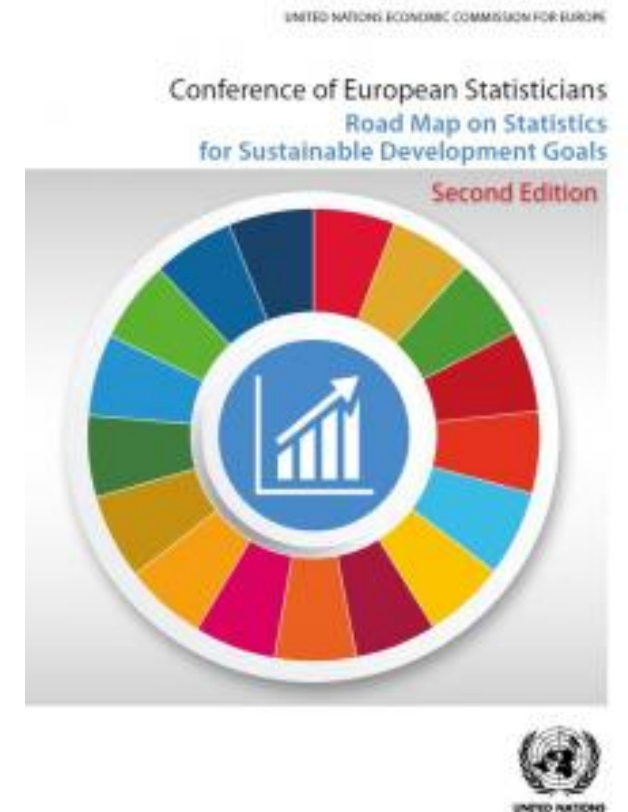
CES Steering Group on Statistics for SDGs:

- Provides guidance to countries on statistical follow-up to 2030 Agenda

- 16 Countries, 3 international organizations

- Co-chairs: Sweden & Spain.

Principal products:

- Annual Expert Meetings
- Road Map on Statistics for SDGs
- Knowledge Hub on SDGs

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Conference of European Statisticians
Road Map on Statistics
for Sustainable Development Goals

Second Edition

Work under the Steering Group

Other recent outputs of the Steering Group

- [Self-Assessment tool for Indicator Availability](#)
- 1st Addendum to the Road Map: [Guidance on Assessing and Conceptualizing SDG Indicator Availability](#) (Dec 2024)

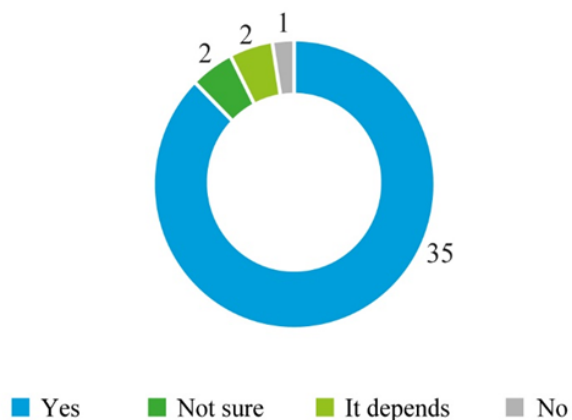Task Teams established by the Steering Group:

- Task Team on Communication

  [Regular Communication Fortnights](#)

- Task Team on Progress Measurement

  2nd Addendum to the Road Map: Guidance on measuring and communicating national progress towards the SDGs

- Task Team on Lessons Learned

  In-depth review on [lessons learned from providing Statistics for SDGs](#) (Feb 2025)
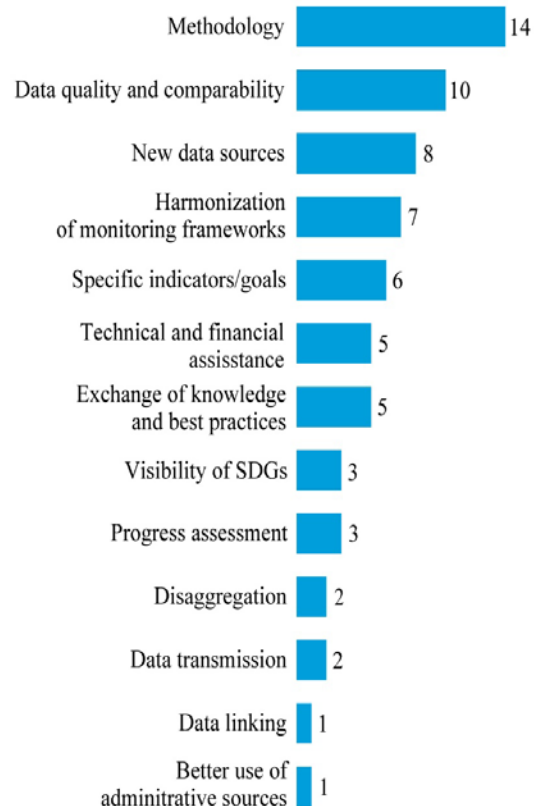
Lessons Learned - Timeline

Feb 2024:	Request by CES Bureau for an in-depth review; shortly after the Steering Group established the Task Team.
May 2024:	Consultation of all UNECE member states on challenges, lessons learned and related practices
Oct 2024:	UNECE Workshop and Expert Meeting on Statistics for SDGs in Tirana
Feb 2025:	Discussion in the CES Bureau and paper gets published.
March 2025:	Side event to the UN Statistical Commission
	IAEG-SDGs established a Task Team on Lessons Learned
…	
May 2025:	Consultation on the paper (deadline 23 May)
June 2025:	Discussion at the plenary session of the CES

Key findings

NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL WORK/SUPPORT IN SDG MEASUREMENT
(n=40 countries)

- Yes — 35
- Not sure — 2
- It depends — 2
- No — 1

NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL WORK/SUPPORT IN SDG MEASUREMENT BY AREA
(n=37 countries)

- Methodology — 14
- Data quality and comparability — 10
- New data sources — 8
- Harmonization of monitoring frameworks — 7
- Specific indicators/goals — 6
- Technical and financial assisstance — 5
- Exchange of knowledge and best practices — 5
- Visibility of SDGs — 3
- Progress assessment — 3
- Disaggregation — 2
- Data transmission — 2
- Data linking — 1
- Better use of adminitrative sources — 1

SDG MEASUREMENT CHALLENGES
(n=37 countries)

- Disaggregation — 10
- Data gaps — 8
- Political support — 5
- Resources — 5
- Progress assessment — 5
- New data sources — 4
- Coordination — 4
- Complex methodology — 3
- Balance across SDGs — 3
- Specific indicators/goals — 3
- Communication — 2
- Data linking — 1
- Crises — 1

Recommendations II

- Foster an environment for sharing knowledge on challenging SDG metrics, such as through:
  1) workshops to highlight country-specific solutions
  2) publications detailing proxies and national indicators used to bridge SDG data gaps

- Exploring international developments in Big Data to familiarize countries with global solutions and facilitate the transfer of specialized Big Data knowledge, expertise and skills within the region.

- Development of a repository of good practices & tools for the quality assessment of alternative data sources.

Recommendations II

- Development of **guidance** for NSOs on how to **assess progress** towards SDGs

- Integrating examples of best practices into the agendas of SDG-related meetings, showcasing how NSOs **secure political interest, support and resources.**

- Examining current efforts to identify, track and address data **user needs**, aiming to help NSOs develop effective SDG communication strategies and enhance the visibility of SDGs

Post-2030 agenda

Advocate for the statistical follow-up of a post-2030 agenda:

a) a continued strong mandate for NSOs,

b) defining measurable policy targets,

c) identifying possible data sources early,

d) leveraging and formalizing the relationship with thematic indicator frameworks and other important sets of indicators, such as those developed to go beyond GDP,

e) clearly defining the relationship between statistics and other components of the follow-up and review (such as the Voluntary National Reviews) of a possible post 2030 policy agenda

Thank you!

Gessendorfer Jonathan
Statistician

UNECE
May 2025, Bishkek