

Informal paper
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Strategic partnerships

In-depth review of strategic partnerships

Comments on the outcome of the in-depth review on strategic partnerships

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

This note summarizes the comments by members of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) on the outcome of the in-depth review on strategic partnerships. The Secretariat carried out the electronic consultation in February-March 2016.

A total of 12 countries and international organizations replied and provided comments reflected in the document, which is presented for discussion to the seminar on strategic partnerships during the 2016 CES plenary session (organized by Statistics Canada). The seminar will be used to get broader input to the discussion. The CES Bureau will decide on further work on this issue after the seminar.

I. Comments on the outcome of the in-depth review on strategic partnerships

1. A total of 12 replies were received in response to the request for comments, from: Armenia, Canada, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Mexico, Poland, Russia, Turkey, United States and Eurostat.

2. All responding countries and institutions expressed support to the outcome of the in-depth review by the Bureau based on the paper prepared by Canada (ECE/CES/2016/5). In addition, the following general remarks were made:

(a) Germany highlights that in addition to long-standing cooperation between statistical offices, public sector, private sector, private business and academia, further partnerships and new forms of collaboration are possible, especially to develop new data sources. In addition, the requirements for partnerships in the context of Big Data cannot yet be fully assessed and vary depending on the variety of data sources. In this context, it should be noted that the basic principles regarding quality, objective and data security need to be observed.

(b) Hungary considers the in-depth review to be a well-structured, comprehensive and proactive document; and expressed the appreciation for the compilation of the papers and responsible approach. In Hungary's view, the reviews play an important role to enhance coordination of statistical work.

(c) The Russian Federation appreciates the analysis of partnerships with the information industry and the plans to work on recommendations for developing innovative forms of partnerships. Rosstat is currently carrying out work in this direction.

(d) Turkey highlights the great importance of partnerships for official statistics and noted that they are using administrative registers as data source.

(e) Lithuania indicates that its national legal basis enables cooperation with the public sector and academia. However, communication with businesses (owners of Big Data), despite its great relevance for Lithuanian statistics, has no legal basis; therefore access to data can be costly and long-term cooperation can be limited by public procurement procedures.

(f) The United States considers that the summary of the partnerships and the crucial factors mentioned in the conclusion provide great background information that will be well used during the seminar discussion.

3. The United States submitted specific comments on the text of the in-depth review document prepared by Canada. The United States suggests that it could be beneficial for the document to add an additional type of partnership (called 'Public Commitments' or 'Transparent Partnerships') to cover partnerships such as the one between the US Census Bureau and the national public through the Open Data Movement, the DATA Act and OMB M-13-13. These comments will be transmitted to the authors of the report.

II. Views on the way forward

4. Some countries made the following comments or suggestions concerning possible future work in the field of strategic partnerships:

(a) Lithuania indicates interest in exchange of best practices in specific fields of cooperation. This would help countries to identify possible statistical indicators which could be derived from potential Big Data sources and speed up their use in practice.

(b) Turkey expresses interest in partnerships addressing emerging needs, such as small-area statistics through better access to geo-referenced information.

(c) Germany would welcome an enhanced information exchange between national statistical organizations on innovative forms of strategic cooperation. Germany also praises the CES' efforts to create a framework for sharing information on innovative strategic partnerships in official statistics.
