**Economic Commission for Europe**

Expert Meeting and Workshop on Statistics for SDGs,

**Webinar "Data transmission and regional reporting"**

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# Webinar 6: Regional reporting and data transmission

## *The Spanish National Reporting Platform, the SDDS+ and the data transmission on SDMX*

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### *Abstract*

*The Spanish National Reporting Platform (NRP) for SDG indicators was designed taking as reference the National Summary Data Page Plus (NSDP+), which is a data portal for countries participating in the Special Data Dissemination Standard Plus of the IMF. This initiative covers 27 data categories with various short-term indicators (including breakdown) compiled by multiple statistical agencies.*

*The NSDP+ allows users to access data, view metadata, or browse links to online datasets for all available categories. For countries participating in SDDS Plus (24 countries: Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, USA, Canada, Sweden or Spain among others), the NSDP+ enables automatic exchange and sharing of statistical data and metadata in SDMX.*

*The information on the NSDP+ is available in SDMX format and the IMF can pull the data automatically. This process offers some advantages: the SDMX files are downloaded automatically by the IMF the same precise date of their release, so the data are always updated; it avoids inconsistencies among national and international data bases; and it reduces observance costs by SDDS Plus adherents and monitoring costs for the IMF.*

*Since the NRP and NSDP+ have many features in common and the NSDP+ is an effective system proven by many countries and with varied indicators produced by different agencies, we consider it is a good reference for the automation of SDG data transmission to the custodian agencies. This is why we decided to follow a similar structure in the design of the Spanish National Reporting Platform.*

**Brief description of SDDS Plus and NSDP Plus**

The Special Data Dissemination Standard Plus (SDDS+) is an IMF initiative to guide member countries on the provision of economic and financial data to the public in support of domestic and international financial stability. In 2015, the first group of countries adhered to the SDDS+: France, Germany, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and USA. Currently 24 countries around the world have joined the SDDS+ initiative.

The SDDS+ requires subscribing countries to disseminate 27 data categories (https://dsbb.imf.org/sdds-plus/data-dimensions) with diverse short-term indicators related to the real, fiscal, financial and external sector, besides of population. Adherents are also required to establish a readily accessible webpage on its national website: the National Summary Data Page Plus (NSDP+), where the data prescribed are disseminated, facilitating ready access to the country data and metadata by the public. The SDDS+ prescribes disseminating data in SDMX format via a hyperlink provided on the adherent's NSDP+, using a Dataset Structure Definition (DSD) provided by the IMF for that purpose.

## Similarities between NRP and NSDP+

The National Reporting Platforms for SDGs may adopt different approaches depending on the national circumstances and capabilities. In the case of Spain, the NRP is understood in a wide sense and complies with the objectives of gathering data and metadata from different agencies, disseminating data and metadata to the public at large and in the future it will allow custodian agencies and international organizations to download statistics. The Spanish NRP pursues being the only entry point for national information on SDG indicators.

According to the "Practical Guide on National Reporting Platforms", a NRP would ideally have the following minimal features:
- Gather official statistics calculated from different agencies according to established and reliable methodology;
- Collection of metadata and provide to the users in a transparent manner;
- Make information publicly accessible;
- Allow for feedback from data users
- Improve statistics as the NRP allows to identify discrepancies, errors and data gaps.


As regards the NSDP+, the SDDS Plus adherents are required to include the dissemination of data in the formats of the SDMX standards via a hyperlink on the NSDP+, using a Dataset Structure Definition provided by the IMF. Then, the NSDP+ offers the national data for the public, as well as the SDMX files (one per data category) to be download by the IMF, which are also publicly available.

Therefore, the NRP and NSDP+ have some features in common. Firstly, both of them are allocated on the INE website and gather indicators produced by different ministries or agencies, besides of INE. In the case of SDDS+, the agencies involved are Bank of Spain, General Comptroller of the State Administration and Tax Agency; while for NRP ten ministries are producing SDG indicators and it is expected that the number of producers increases in the next future.

Secondly, the NRP and NSDP+ are required to disseminate not only data but also metadata in a transparent manner. For each indicator, the data are complemented with its corresponding metadata, following a homogenous template. This way users are informed on the definitions and concepts, scope, periodicity and other methodology aspects. For SDDS+ adherent countries, it is compulsory to certify periodically their metadata in order to guarantee they are updated or to make the corresponding modifications.

Thirdly, the data are demanded by the public and by international organizations in different formats; thus the information has to be disseminated for the public at large and in parallel reported (or allowed to download in SDMX) to custodian agencies and international organizations.

**The case of SDDS+ as an example for automatic transmission of SDG indicators on SDMX**

We believe that the SDDS+ is a good example of data exchange with SDMX data flows. To be precise, it presents many strengths: the data are disseminated in SDMX file in parallel with the publication to the general users, the SDMX file are download automatically by the IMF the same precise date of their release. This way, the data are always updated for the IMF. Besides it avoids possible inconsistencies among NSDP+ and national and international data base. Additionally, the automation of the process reduces observance costs by SDDS Plus adherents and monitoring costs for the IMF.

Since the NRP and NSDP+ have many features in common and the NSDP+ is an effective system ongoing for many countries and varied indicators produced by different agencies, we consider it is a good starting point for the automation of SDG data transmission to the custodian agencies. For these reasons, INE-Spain decided to follow a similar structure in the design of the Spanish National Reporting Platform.

A very important aspect for the exchange of SDG indicators in SDMX format is the development of the first official version of the Data Structure Definition (DSD) for SDG indicators by the "working group statistical data and metadata exchange". We expect the Metadata Structure Definition (MSD) be ready soon to start the automatic transmission of SDG indicators (data and metadata) to the custodian agencies, facilitating an efficient dissemination of SDG indicators.

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