

Eurasian Economic Union: first results of monitoring the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the region

In 2017, the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) prepared a regional report on indicators of achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the region of the Eurasian Economic Union, which was presented at the High-Level Policy Forum on Sustainable Development of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the key event on monitoring the UN agenda for sustainable development. The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), with the members from the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation, became the first regional integration association to create such a report for public discussion.

The Regional Report analysed the compliance of the EAEU development priorities and activities for the Sustainable Development Goals, which was accompanied by statistical data reflecting the achievement of the SDGs in the region of the Eurasian Economic Union.

The Regional Report was prepared using official statistical information available in the EEC, as well as statistics available on the official websites of national statistical offices of the Member States. The indicators included in the Regional Report, for the most part, are not included in the Global List of SDG Indicators, which is approved by the UN Statistical Commission, but in some way, it reflects the achievement of the SDGs in countries. The Report includes 59 indicators for nine Goals.

The largest number of indicators are included in Goal 1. No Poverty and Goal 9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure.

Several goals were not covered: Goal 6. Clean water and sanitation, Goal 7. Affordable and clean energy, Goal 11. Sustainable cities and communities, Goal 12. Responsible consumption and production, Goal 13. Climate action, Goal 14. Life below water, Goal 15. Life on land, Goal 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions.

In 2019, the first statistical abstract titled "Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the region of the Eurasian Economic Union" was published. This publication, which includes indicators from the Global List of SDG Indicators, was organized with direct involvement of the national statistical offices of the EAEU Member States. Initially, the

layout of the abstract included 142 indicators without taking into account the division and units of measurement, and 161 indicators with all measurements.

However, it is worth noting that the Macroeconomic Dashboard indicator (Goal 17) includes 25 equivalent statistical indicators.

The final version of the abstract includes 68 indicators without taking into account the split of measurement units, 72 indicators taking into consideration all the meters, and the Panel of national measures included 22 indicators. It should be noted that the final version of the abstract included indicators for which data were provided for at least three countries. However, data are not available for individual indicators for some years and for four countries.

The most covered indicators of the Global List: Goal 3. Good health and well-being with 18 indicators, Goal 9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure with 13 indicators, Goal 8. Decent work and economic growth with 11 indicators, Goal 12. Responsible consumption and production and Goal 13. Climate action were "dropped" from the statistical abstract. One indicator is included in Goal 11. Sustainable cities and communities, Goal 14. Life below water and Goal 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions.

In the preparation of the publication, first of all, statistical data were used, which were publicly available on the official websites of the national statistical offices of the EAEU Member States.

The presentation of statistical data at the national level has certain features.

The indicators in the National Statistical Reporting Platform for the SDGs of the Republic of Armenia are publicly available on the website of the Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia, but only in Armenian and English. Information is available in tabular and graphical form, and there is a meta description of each indicator.

The National Reporting Platform for SDG Indicators of the Republic of Belarus contains data sets broken down by goals and targets of the SDGs, with data available for selected indicators since 2000. Within this platform, you can get both tabular and graphical material, as well as the meta description of the indicator.

In the Republic of Kazakhstan, the SDG Indicators database includes not only indicators from the Global List, but also indicates whether the published indicator matches the Global List without changes, with minor changes, or whether it is an alternative national indicator or an additional national indicator.

At the time of the compilation, there were some difficulties in the Kyrgyz Republic regarding the availability of statistical data on the website of the National Statistical Committee. Actually, the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic has developed the National Platform for Monitoring and Reporting for SDG Indicators; it is also very convenient to use, and contains both information on the indicators themselves and the ability to present statistical data in tabular or graphical form.

Rosstat (Federal State Statistics Service) was among the first national statistical offices of the EAEU Member States to create a topic section on the SDGs on its official website. This section contains metadata in Russian for each SDG indicator, as well as a link to official statistics being developed and published in the Unified Interdepartmental Statistical Information System (UISIS).

In addition to the official websites of national statistical offices, the global databases of the IMF, World Bank, OECD, as well as the thematic Global database on the official Internet resource dedicated to the UN activities in monitoring the achievement of the SDGs were studied.

In the preparation of the statistical abstract, preference was given to national statistics, but for selected indicators, such as the Red List Index, statistics from the UN Global database on SDG Indicators were used.

In terms of providing data in accordance with the layout of the abstract, the picture is different for each country.

Thus, the largest number of indicators is provided for Armenia – 101 indicators out of 142 requested, or just over 70%.

For Belarus, as well as for Armenia, 101 indicators were provided. However, it should be kept in mind that that Goal 14. Life below water, as well as one indicator from Goal 15. Life on land (Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain

biodiversity) are not relevant for Belarus. Therefore, Belarus provided almost 73% of the requested indicators.

Kazakhstan provided 100 indicators, or 70% of the requested indicators.

Kyrgyzstan provided 89 indicators, and for this country, as well as for Belarus, Goal 14. Life below water is irrelevant, thus, Kyrgyzstan provided almost 64% of the requested indicators.

For Russia, 91 indicators were provided, or 64% of the requested indicators.

The most representative indicators are presented across all EAEU Member States for four Goals: Goal 3. Good health and well-being, Goal 8. Decent work and economic growth, Goal 9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure, Goal 17. Partnerships for the goals.

One indicator was provided for Goal 4. Quality education (Armenia), Goal 11. Sustainable cities and communities (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia), Goal 12. Responsible consumption and production (Belarus, Kazakhstan), Goal 14. Life below water (Armenia, Kazakhstan, Russia), Goal 15. Life on land (Belarus) and Goal 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions (Russia).

No indicators were provided for Goal 12. Responsible consumption and production (Kyrgyzstan, Russia).

When calculating the number of indicators provided for states, we were guided by the need to provide at least one indicator for the five-year period covered by the statistical abstract. For some countries, individual indicators were indeed presented for one year, since these indicators were obtained from sample surveys conducted, for example, once every five years. Thus, following the results of the sample surveys, specific series were obtained: in Belarus - based on the results of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey to assess the Status of Women and Children (MICS4); in Kyrgyzstan - based on the Results of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey; in Russia - according to the data of the Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions of the People, Sample Survey on the Diet of the Population and Sample Survey on the Reproductive Plans of the Population.

Some indicators that were not included in the final version of the statistical abstract were difficult to present in tabular form. For example, these indices include indicators from Goal 17. Partnerships for the goals: "Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics"; "Number of

countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding"; "Countries that have conducted at least one population and housing census over the past 10 years".

According to the results of receiving and processing statistical data on indicators for monitoring the achievement of the SDGs, the final version of the abstract was prepared, which is available on the official website of the Eurasian Economic Commission at the following link:

http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/integr_i_makroec/dep_stat/econstat/Documents/SDG_abstract2019+cover.pdf

The abstract is prepared in two languages (Russian and English), so that it can be interesting and useful not only to the EAEU Member States, but to our foreign colleagues.
