SDMX-SDGs Working Group

- Working Group on SDMX for SDG Indicators established by IAEG-SDGs in 2016
- Overall aim: to design a solution for the exchange and dissemination of SDG indicators based on SDMX standard.
- Working group membership:
  - 12 countries including France (Chair), US and Russian Federation
  - 10 international agencies including Eurostat, ILO, OECD, UNICEF
  - UNSD provide secretariat
- Virtual monthly meetings
SDMX-SDGs Working Group

Objectives:

• Develop global Data Structure Definition(s) and Metadata Structure Definition(s) for SDG Indicators
  Standards for the packaging of SDGs data and metadata including concepts, codes, structures

• Develop, pilot, and establish data exchange mechanisms for SDG indicators
  Dissemination and reporting at national, regional, global level

Our work exploring SDMX (so far)

• Updates to data, to prepare for SDMX conversion
  – Standardise disaggregation names and breakdown names
  – Add any missing required attribute columns (observation status, unit measure, unit multiplier)

• Testing production of SDMX outputs using global DSD and ILO SMART SDMX tools

• Writing code (Python scripts) to automate conversion between our indicator data and SDMX format
  (CSV->SDMX-ML and SDMX-ML->CSV)

• All work driven and delivered by one talented data analyst with no previous experience of SDMX
Our conversion process

Stage 1.

- Indicator data (CSV)
- SDG-DSD (XML)

Stage 2.

- Indicator data (CSV)
- Mapping (CSV)

Conversion tool (ILO SMART) → Mapping tool (ILO SMART) → Mapping (CSV)

Stage 2 also automated using Python scripts rather than using conversion tool

Some lessons we’ve learned

To accommodate our country data we will need to create a national DSD based on the global DSD

- We have various custom disaggregations, other than the main 8 specified by UNSD e.g. country of birth
- We have disaggregation breakdowns that are not covered in the global DSD e.g. the DSD allows urban/rural but our data includes urban/semi-urban/rural

- Where out breakdowns do not fit with the global DSD
  - We need further discussion with data providers and topic experts to explore how to map our data
  - Metadata will be critical
Next steps

- Test final version of global SDG DSD – currently expected April 2019
- Continue to liaise with data providers and topic exports on mapping our data to the global DSD
- Produce national DSD based on global SDG DSD
- Develop functionality in Open SDG platform (used by UK, US and others) to import/export data in SDMX format
- Share any code and resources we develop e.g. Python scripts