CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

ModernStats World Workshop 2018

11-13 April 2018, Geneva, Switzerland

25 May 2018

REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP

1. The ModernStats World Workshop 2018 was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 11 to 13 April 2018. It was attended by 58 participants representing the statistical offices of Australia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Colombia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, and the United States of America as well as German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment, Eurostat, the United Nations Statistics Division, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) and the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI).

2. The workshop was jointly organised by the Sharing Tools Group and the Supporting Standards Group of the High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS).

3. The main goal of the workshop was to share experiences on implementing ModernStats models and create a better understanding of the use and benefits of the models individually and collectively. The agenda included the following substantive topics:

- Where to begin with standards based modernisation?
- Implementing the models;
- How the models fit together;
- Using a common language to collaborate.

4. The opening remarks were given by Ms. Marina Signore, Chair of the Supporting Standards Group. In total, 32 presentations were given in three sessions. There were a further 12 contributions to a poster session that aimed to provide a market place for dialogue, learning from each other and interacting with colleagues.

5. The workshop also included small group discussions and interactive activities such as foot-voting (“vote with their feet”). During the small group discussions, the participants discussed about the interlinkage among the ModernStats models and identified various services using ModernStats models. The group discussion and foot-voting produced concrete inputs for the Supporting Standards Group that are working on the revisions and the integrated view of the models

6. The workshop ended with a panel discussion to share new visions of the HLG-MOS and discuss future directions of the ModernStats models in line with the new visions.

7. All abstracts, papers and presentations from the workshop are available at the UNECE webpage at: https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=47780.

8. The discussions identified a number of conclusions and ideas for further work. They are as follows (detailed observations are available in the annex):

- One of the main benefits of the ModernStats Models is that they provide a common language.
- A benefit of the models is that they are flexible and can be adapted to the specific needs of the organization. GSBPM should cover new data sources but be kept as generic and simple as possible and be flexible enough to accommodate the changing data landscape.
- More precise and detailed descriptions and specific national implementations can be at lower levels in GSBPM and different views of GSBPM can be created for specific data sources such as geospatial data or national accounts.
- There is varying degrees of understanding and knowledge about the models within organisations. It is time to spread knowledge and work on communicating.
- Consolidation should be the keyword in the coming years. It is essential to share practical examples and experience (including errors and failures) and learn from those who have already implemented the models.
- ModernStats models should also be promoted and communicated outside official statistics. It is important to present them as a package.
- International cooperation has been a key factor in helping organizations modernize statistical production. The models have provided countries with a fast track pass to modern statistics.

Annex: Summary of proceeding and discussion

1. Session 1 ‘Where to begin with standards based modernisation?’ was chaired by Ms. Marina Signore (Italy) and Ms. Eva Holm (Sweden). The session opened with introductory presentations on the ModernStats models and the Modernisation Maturity Model. This introduction was followed by presentations on the use of individual model in various countries and organisations.

2. Discussions on this topic raised the following points:

- One of the main benefits of the ModernStats Models is that they provide a common language.
- For most organisations, lack of internal resources was identified as a main limiting factor in implementing ModernStats models. Support from top management is also crucial in implementing the models.
- Among the ModernStats models, GSBPM is most widely used. The application is diverse from staff time management, cost analysis of statistical products, methodology catalogue, bilateral capacity building programme to restructuring of the organisation.
- The strength of GSBPM is that it is stable, simple and generic. GSBPM should be kept generic enough to be applicable for different types of data. Additional details and examples can be added to the description of the GSBPM sub processes.
- Further development of GSBPM should take into account the changing roles of NSOs in the data ecosystem and their new ways of data acquisition and dissemination.
- Depending on the type of data source or thematic area, different views of the GSBPM can be made (e.g. for geospatial data, data integration, National Accounts, etc.).
- Countries can develop more detailed versions of GSBPM to provide more detail at a national level.
- Although CSPA will never be completely prescriptive, more prescription will make implementation easier.

3. Session 2 ‘How the models fit together?’ was chaired by Mr. Jason Blackwell (Canada) and Mr. Juan Muñoz López (Mexico). In the presentations, counties showed how they have used more than one of the models. It was followed by small group discussions on how the ModernStats models fit together. The session ended with presentations on the use of the ModernStats models in conjunction with other models and standards such as the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI).

4. Discussions on this topic raised the following points:

- The scope of GSBPM, GSIM and CSPA is statistical production. While, GAMSO provides overarching activities needed for NSOs.
- It is important to keep the models connected. If models are too big or too detailed, it will be difficult to maintain the coherence between them.
- A clickable GSBPM which shows the GSIM inputs and outputs for each sub process would be useful.
- It is essential to share practical examples and experience (including errors and failures) and learn from those who have already implemented the models.
- Training courses (like the European Statistical Training Program) on GSBPM and GSIM would be useful.
- Some of the overarching processes in GSBPM should also have a place in GAMSO. There is a blurry borderline between the models. For example, Quality and Metadata Management

should be kept in GSBPM, but an activity in GAMSO taking charge of the coordination should be included.

- The sharing promoted through CSPA should happen regardless of whether a country has adopted GSBPM and GSIM. These models make sharing much easier, but should not be a barrier.
- Sharing through the CSPA catalogue would be easier without password protection.

5. Session 3 'Using a common language to collaborate' was chaired by Mr. Franck Cotton (France) and Ms. Márta Nagy-Rotengass (Eurostat). It started with a poster session aimed at fostering collaboration between countries, followed by the facilitated exercise for identification of potential CSPA services across the GSBPM. The session ended with presentations on developing a common data architecture, a core ontology for official statistics, and how common terminology can be used.

6. The workshop concluded with a panel session where panel members and participants shared their reflection on the role of the models in their organisations and discussed areas for future work in line with the new HLG-MOS vision. The panel discussion raised the following points:

- The models have been useful in providing a common language to ensure that everybody in the office is talking about the same thing.
- ModernStats models are an excellent foundation for sharing and methodological harmonization.
- A benefit of the models is that they are flexible and can be adapted to the specific needs of the organization.
- In many organisations, it is the staff who have encouraged the use of the models. In Hungary, it was a bottom up process starting from the methodologists, although it didn't take long for top management to recognize the benefits. In Italy, the use of the models began in small islands in the organization before spreading further.
- There is varying degrees of understanding and knowledge about the models within the organisation. It is time to spread knowledge and work on communicating with existing materials.
- Consolidation should be the keyword in the coming years. More training courses for models, collaborating and sharing (software, ideas, experiences), more events like this workshop are needed. It is more important to spread and share the knowledge of our models, rather than development of further detail.
- The ModernStats models should be promoted more outside official statistics. They are a great tool for communication to explain how official statistics are produced.
- Communication-wise, it is important to present all the models in holistic way, not individually.
- International cooperation has been a key factor in helping organizations modernize statistical production. The models have provided countries with a fast track pass to modern statistics.