

# Non-traditional data sources for statistics – introduction

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# Agenda

## Non-traditional data sources for statistics

1. Non-traditional data sources for statistics - Hakan Yazicioglu (Turkish Statistical Institute)
2. A new design for statistics on household consumption – Thomas Laitila (Statistics Sweden)
3. Discussion

(Break)

## Quality assurance and assessment of non-traditional data sources

1. Assessment of non-official statistical sources for SDG reporting - Emily Glastonbury, ONS UK
2. Evaluation of non-official data for SDG reporting - Catherine Michaud, Statistics Canada
3. Discussion, wrap up and conclusions

# Landscape

- Many ongoing initiatives to produce statistics with ‘non-traditional’ data sources.
- Some major ‘groups’ of data that form the basis for the calculations: geospatial, AIS, mobile phone, scanner, electricity meters.
- Applied by different organizations, mainly international (in the context of the SDGs).
- No ‘plug and play’ methodology and databases to be used by countries – can global platform and regional hubs provide answer?
- Quality assurance projects are conducted in different countries.
- Citizen generated data gets more and more attention – however more work is needed in order to ensure wider application.

# Perspective of a statistical institute

- National statistical institutes are subject to various requirements regarding data production and quality.
- Different quality frameworks to be complied with: UN Fundamental Principles, European Statistics Code of Practice...
- Examples of requirements: professional independence; impartiality and objectivity; coherence and comparability.
- Discussions on input vs output harmonization.
- Citizen generated data and production of statistics: a possible way forward. However, more analysis and adjustment need to be conducted.
- Lots of noise...

# Task team on big data for the SDGs

## Objectives

- To provide concrete examples of the use of Big Data for monitoring the indicators associated with the SDG.
- Conduct surveys, research and country pilots on the subject and produce a report on its findings.

## Findings

- Currently six indicators can be monitored by the use of non-traditional data: 6.6.1, 9.1.1, 9.c.1, 14.3.1, 17.8.1, 14.1.1 (b). However, the calculation method cannot be directly transferred to countries for all of the mentioned indicators.

# Information on the findings and method

An easily accessible website

<https://unstats.un.org/bigdata/task-teams/sdgs/index.cshtml>



The screenshot shows the website header with the UN Big Data logo and navigation links: HOME, ABOUT, EVENTS, TASK TEAMS, and UN GLOBAL PLATFORM. The main heading is "Using Big Data for the Sustainable Development Goals" with a subtitle "Task Team of the UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics". A breadcrumb trail reads "Home > Task Teams > Using Big Data for the Sustainable Development Goals".

**Introduction**

The statistical community has the obligation of exploring the use of new data sources, such as Big Data, to meet the expectation of the society for enhanced products and improved and more efficient ways of working. Big Data is considered as possible means to support the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda, as it could improve timeliness and relevance of indicators without compromising their impartiality and methodological soundness. The first step in this direction was the 2015 report of the UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics to the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2015/4).

[Read more](#)

**Big data methods for SDG indicators – examples**

The statistical community is conscious that in order to be able to take advantage of innovative data sources, such as Big Data, it needs to adequately address issues pertaining to methodology and technology, legislation, privacy, management and finance. This is the reason for, why the application of Big Data for the statistical follow-up on the SDG poses more demands than it could seem from the initial discussion on the topic. The [examples here](#) are the first identified concrete applications of Big Data for monitoring the SDG. In line with the objectives of the Task Team, the examples are 'ready to use' and can be applied by interested institutions. Furthermore, it is the ambition that new indicators and calculation methods will be added to the list with time.

[BIG DATA METHODS FOR SDG INDICATORS](#)

**Task Team members**

**Countries**

- Colombia
- Denmark
- India
- Jordan
- Poland
- Rwanda
- South Africa
- United Kingdom

**Organizations**

- Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data
- ITU
- Azavea
- Worldbank
- UNSD
- FAO
- WHO
- UNICEF
- UNEP
- UNESCAP
- Paris21

**Thank you**