UNESCAP Stats Café on Data Integration

Wednesday 16 September 2020 at 13:00-14:00 BKK time

To respond to evolving demands for timely statistics, national statistical agencies are now stepping out of their comfort zone, aiming to discover new modalities, and exploring all potential data sources.
Data integration pulls together data from different traditional sources such as censuses, surveys, and administrative data, as well as new sources of data. It can provide more frequent, timely and disaggregated statistics, at lower cost; compared to traditional approaches. While this is promising, there are challenges on the way, including access to data, quality, interoperability, privacy and confidentiality, and limited technical capacity.
This Stats Café brings together expert panelists with relevant experience, providing perspectives on different dimensions of data integration.

Agenda

- Welcome: Ms. Gemma Van Halderen, director of UNESCAP Statistics Division
- **UNECE's work on Data Integration: A Journey to "Where?"**, Mr. Steve Vale, Regional Adviser in Statistics at UNECE, Geneva
- **Data integration - a new statistical frontier for official statistics**, Dr. Siu-Ming Tam, Honorary Professorial Fellow with the University of Wollongong, Australia
- **Integrated Sector Accounts of Turkey**, Ms. Aycan Sultan Özek, Head Expert of Financial Reporting Department of CBRT, Turkey
- **Q/A and discussions**, Moderator Ms. Afsaneh Yazdani, Statistician, UNESCAP Statistics Division

Relevant publications:

- Integrated Statistics: A journey worthwhile
- A Guide to Data Integration for Official Statistics
- Guidance on Data Integration for Measuring Migration
- Using Administrative and Secondary Sources for Official Statistics

Chair



Ms. Gemma Van Halderen is the Director of Statistics Division in ESCAP. Her work is to improve the use of statistics for evidence-based decision making and to develop and disseminate quality statistics for inclusive, sustainable and resilient societies in the ESCAP region. Gemma has extensive experience with the global statistical system through the UN Statistical Commission and UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

Panelists



Mr. Steve Vale is the Regional Adviser in Statistics at UNECE. He has worked there for over 13 years, in various roles, including as head of the Statistical Management and Modernisation Unit, and Database Coordinator. Before that, he worked for 15 years at the UK Office for National Statistics, including secondments to Eurostat and the OECD. His main areas of expertise are modernising official statistics, data integration, the use of administrative and other non-statistical data sources, quality, and statistical business registers.



Dr. Siu-Ming Tam, who currently holds the position of Honorary Professorial Fellow with the University of Wollongong, was Chief Methodologist, before his retirement from the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 2019. He was ex Vice President and Ex Editor in Chief of the International Association of Official Statistics. He is also an elected member of the International Statistical Institute and has a PhD in statistics from the Australian National University. Siu-Ming has worked in official statistics for 40+ years over many subject matter fields in Australia and Hong Kong and published over 50 papers on official statistics in peer reviewed journals.



Ms. Aycan Sultan Özek has an MA degree in International Economics and Finance from Brandeis University in the US. Originally, she is an economist but worked as economist-statistician for a long time in the Central Bank of Turkey. She devoted her long career path to convergence of national statistics with international standards; specifically in monetary statistics and sectoral accounts. She worked as director of Monetary and Financial Statistics Division of CBRT between 2017-2020. She also worked as a representative of CBRT in New York office during 2003-2005. She chaired Integrated Sectoral Accounts Working Group of Turkey, worked as bureau member of OECD Working Group

of Financial Statistics. She is also member of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific since 2014. Recently she is appointed to Financial Reporting Department of CBRT as head expert.

Q/A moderator



Ms. Afsaneh Yazdani is a Statistician at UNESCAP Statistics Division, Population and Social Statistics Section. She is currently leading a regional initiative on data integration. Before joining ESCAP in 2018, Afsaneh worked at Statistical Centre of Iran for more than 20 years in various capacities. Afsaneh has an extensive experience in official statistics with a focus on survey methodology, censuses, and register-based statistics.