



4th SDMX Global Conference:
Global SDMX Implementation: Modernising Official Statistics
OECD (Paris), 11–13 September 2013
Summary report

1. The 4th SDMX Global Conference brought together more than 200 high-level statisticians and experts involved in data exchange and dissemination to discuss the role that SDMX can play in modernising official statistics. National statistical institutes, central banks and international organisations shared their growing expertise in using SDMX at various stages of their statistical business processes.

The conference had **three main components**: reporting on achievements to date, discussions on the essential role of standards like SDMX in integrating and modernising official statistics, and capacity-building sessions on SDMX statistical and technical standards and the related IT infrastructure.

2. Recently adopted in full by the ISO, the **SDMX standards are now mature** and **broadly implemented**. Prominent examples of their use are the Data Structure Definitions (DSDs) for Balance of Payments statistics or National Accounts, which are key to wider adoption of SDMX by national agencies. The SDMX Global Registry, which should be available from the beginning of 2014, will further promote the use of SDMX. Developing countries are moving towards using SDMX, supported by initiatives driven by the African Development Bank and the Commonwealth Secretariat, for example.

Also, **more SDMX IT infrastructure and software** (e.g. the SDMX Reference Infrastructure and SDMX Source or new SDMX web services) **are now available** and ready for use by statistical organisations. These organisations are increasingly prepared to cooperate, share IT developments and release software under open-source licences. ‘Ready-to-use’ reference implementations and software modules help to promote best practice application of the SDMX standards and reduce the organisations’ costs.

The Technical and Statistical Working Groups ensure that national statistical organisations are also involved at the operational level. The Groups contribute well to the maintenance, further development and implementation of the standard. However, the **SDMX knowledge base** and SDMX capacity-building are of on-going concern to national and international organisations.

3. **SDMX supports the global modernisation aims** of the statistical community, e.g. business process integration, interoperability, standardisation, shared services, etc. SDMX implementation leads to business process redesign and often to better data-sharing between national/international organisations (i.e. one national data value disseminated by all national/international bodies). In some cases, SDMX is **used beyond its original purpose** of data/metadata exchange, e.g. for data/metadata dissemination, which leads to more metadata-driven statistical business processes.

4. Work on SDMX needs to be taken forward, however. **In the coming years, the main deliverables** of the SDMX Sponsors and the SDMX Community will centre on:

- putting in place the SDMX Global Registry;
- developing more Data Structure Definitions in additional statistical domains with better data-sharing;
- developing internationally agreed Metadata Structure Definitions for global reference metadata exchange;
- adding validation services to the SDMX standard;
- offering more ready-to-use SDMX IT applications;
- ensuring global capacity-building on the SDMX standards.