

5th SDMX Global Conference:

SDMX in Action

United Nations Conference Centre (Bangkok), 28–30 September 2015

Summary report

1. The 5th SDMX Global Conference brought together 200 high-level statisticians and experts involved in data exchange and dissemination to discuss how SDMX is being used to modernise 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, and private enterprises also participated in the discussions. The conference **had several components**:

Capacity-building sessions on:

- introduction to SDMX,
- SDMX data modelling,
- how to publish data in SDMX;

Conference topics of:

- SDMX Strategy and Achievements,
- SDMX implementation,
- The future of SDMX.

2. **SDMX is now widely implemented**, driven by the adoption of the Global Data Structure Definitions (DSDs) for Balance of Payments statistics, National Accounts, and Foreign Direct Investment, and the adoption of SDMX for the Millennium Development Indicators. The provision of the SDMX Global Registry promotes the re-use and harmonisation of SDMX artefacts. Developing countries have either adopted or are moving towards using SDMX, supported by initiatives driven by the African Development Bank, the Commonwealth Secretariat, and the Data Revolution project, for example.

More **SDMX IT infrastructure and software** (e.g. the SDMX Reference Infrastructure, SDMX Source, SDMX Convertor, Registry software and new SDMX web services) **are now freely available** to statistical organisations. Statistical 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 applications of the SDMX standards and reduce the organisations’ costs. In these tools, it is also planned to adopt the Common Statistical Production Architecture (CSPA) in order to make the software modules “plug-and-play” to ease the adoption into current and new systems.

The SDMX Technical and Statistical Working Groups ensure that national statistical organisations have the opportunity to be involved at the operational level. The Groups collaborate and contribute well to the maintenance, further development and implementation of the SDMX standard and guidelines. It is planned that the **SDMX skill pool and capacity-building** will ramp-up to serve the growing adoption of the standard in order that it is used in the best, most efficient way.

3. **SDMX supports the global modernisation aims** of the statistical community, and is in line with the statistical modernisation committee initiatives e.g. business process integration (GSBPM), interoperability, standardisation, shared services (GSIM/CSPA), etc. SDMX implementation leads to business process redesign and better, more timely and structured data-sharing between statistical 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 and metadata dissemination, or internal data modelling, 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:

- Strengthening the implementation of SDMX
- Making the consumption of data easier by linking to other open standards
- Modernising statistical processes and improving standards with further adoption of SDMX and related standards
- Better communication of the SDMX initiative and capacities
- Improving SDMX capacity building, on the technical aspects, statistical guidelines, and integrating into business processes