



Conclusions from 8th OECD-INEGI SDMX Experts Meeting 17-20 October 2016, Aguascalientes, Mexico

The OECD-INEGI SDMX Experts meeting took place on 19-20 October 2016 at INEGI headquarters in Aguascalientes. The meeting was preceded by a 2 day capacity building session and was attended by 96 participants (a record for the event) from 18 NSOs, 9 Central Banks, 2 Ministries, 10 International Organisations and 3 Independent consultants. Participation covered Europe, Africa, Asia, Australasia, North and South America.

This meeting of the Experts Group was the 8th since the inaugural event held in Paris in 2004 and the first to be held in Latin America. The goal of the Experts Meetings is to provide a forum for a network of IT specialists and statisticians to present and discuss strategies for implementing SDMX-based data exchange mechanisms between international organisations and national agencies, and more recently to discuss possibilities of placing SDMX at the centre of an Enterprise Architecture.

The meeting provided an important opportunity to gauge progress in the implementation of SDMX data exchange programs between the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and National Statistical agencies, other International Organisations and commercial countries. Overall a marked increase was noted in SDMX activity being carried out in member countries and elsewhere.

The meeting [agenda](#) gave opportunities for participants to describe progress in initiatives for implementing SDMX in several constituencies of the global SDMX community. This gave an indication of progress from a number of different perspectives which are described below.

The SDMX Experts meeting covered a mix of: presentations of SDMX implementations in NSOs, Central Banks and International Organisations; discussions on specific topics (modernization standards, requirements for the next version of SDMX); break-out sessions on facilitating SDMX implementations and on envisaging enterprise architecture with SDMX at the heart; a panel session.

National Statistical Agencies and Central Banks

National statistical agencies and Central Banks from Latin America, Africa, Europe and Asia presented progress of current SDMX programs. These reports were of great interest as they represent a real measure of progress in the uptake of SDMX among national statistical agencies.

The Brazilian statistical agency **IBGE** described their alternative methods of mapping for Implementing SDMX at IBGE.

INEGI of **Mexico** presented their continued progress in a number of areas using SDMX in publishing and dissemination and the role it plays in their modernization program (along with other standards such as GSBPM, GSIM, GAMS0 and CSPA).

The **Tunisia statistics** office showed how it has built capacity in SDMX with the assistance of ISTAT and has succeeded in implementing SDMX-RI and plans to use a global SDMX registry for use at national level.

Costa Rica provided a room document with an update on their progress to build capacity with the assistance of INEGI and plan to implement the SDMX standard for the transmission of Balance of Payments and National Accounts information by the Central Bank of Costa Rica and to use visualization tools in the web site to promote the use of SDMX, thus providing international organizations and domestic users with useful information.

DANE of **Colombia** presented progress on the consolidation of agricultural statistics in the country through the SDMX for its dissemination and the building of clients SDMX from the libraries offered by the SDMX Source for the development of interoperability between entities.

The **Deutsche Bundesbank** described the development of a software project of open source that allows, from the SDMX Source libraries using SDMX to enable data-sharing for analytical and research purposes. It also described using SDMX for exchanging complex and large micro data sets

The **Banco de España** updated the meeting on their progress using SDMX to manage a range of activities including automated the creation of time series, data dissemination, search metadata and SDDS Plus (through INE), exchanging statistical information and data validation.

The National Statistical Office of **Thailand** described their progress implementing SDMX for managing DSDs and data dissemination, and also future plans to use the Global Registry.

PARIS21 and the **Rwanda** statistical office made a joint presentation on the use of SDMX in the Rwanda national statistical system.

International Organisations

Presentations followed from a number of international organisations. The **African Development Bank** gave an update on the African Information Highway project for facilitating data exchange and dissemination in SDMX but also highlighted the problem caused by the shortage of SDMX experts in Africa. The **European Central Bank** gave an overview of implementing SDMX standards from production to dissemination in the ECB statistical infrastructure. **Eurostat** presented the National Accounts business case (validation, data cooperation) and its SDMX implementation through shared services. The **World Bank** gave an update on SDMX implementation at the World Bank including automating data “pull” from SDMX Web Services and future plans to enable SDMX-ML Web Services for WDI and other time-series data. This was followed by a description by the **International Monetary Fund** on Implementing SDMX in Low Income and Emerging Economies that featured the “Open Data Platform” and “IMF SDMX Central” projects. The **OECD** IT department gave an update on the work of the Statistical Information Systems–Collaboration Community (SIS-CC) developments that use SDMX for its Open Data Strategy, streamlining of data collection and dissemination processes. **United Nations Statistics Division** described the steps involved in using SDMX tools to

configure an SDG indicators database system from building blocks with little or no software development involved. **International Labour Organisation** presented the ILOSTAT ART Analysis and Reporting Tool to show how tables can be defined dynamically via a DSD with selectable classifications, flexible mapping, and conditions applied on-the-fly with mapping that can be saved and re-used.

The two break-out sessions covered “How to design and build an SDMX Enterprise Architecture” and “What is needed to make SDMX Implementation easier?”. Feedback from the groups are summarised below and will be forwarded to the Sponsors, Secretariat, and SDMX working groups.

From the user perspective, priority areas include:

1. Increased capacity building resources (expert consultants for pilots and implementations, training sessions etc.) more specifically: access to a list of SDMX experts
2. The training material should be consolidated and navigation should be made more user friendly
3. “SDMX for Dummies” documentation should be produced to ease entry for the standard
4. E-learning courses should be set-up – perhaps with SDMX certification
5. Documentation translated into official UN languages
6. Global survey of SDMX activities in countries plus case studies
7. SDMX Business case for senior managers
8. Light version of SDMX should be made available for countries with little IT infrastructure
9. Guidance on integrating SDMX into an Enterprise Architecture
10. A lot of interest in improving efficiency of reference metadata exchange means that more tools and guidance are needed for reference metadata.
11. The suggestion to disentangle communication efforts towards SDMX-users and SDMX-doers was widely supported
12. There was clear interest in the Validation Transformation Language; which makes the need for an SDMX implementation more urgent
13. A maturity model and roadmap for SDMX adoption, similar to the maturity models for GSIM; GSBPM and CSPA
14. The discussion session and follow-up panel on “Modernising statistics with SDMX – relating to other standards (CSPA, GSBPM, and GSIM etc.)” sought input on how to improve SDMX capabilities through an evolution of the SDMX standard. Discussions during the capacity building sessions generated feedback from the NSO and CB community in particular that covered the following topics and will be included in the meeting report for the sponsors and incorporated where possible into the 2020 action plan.

SDMX Capacity Building sessions

The 2 day capacity building sessions were split into parallel English and Spanish streams and covered the following topics:

- Introduction to SDMX
- SDMX Starter Kit
- Project management & governance for DSD design
- SDMX Design & modelling
- Data collection with SDMX
- Publishing and representing data in SDMX
- Making data discoverable in SDMX using a registry
- Validating SDMX structure & content
- Reference metadata exchange