

Data Challenges and Solutions for the SDG's

Side event on data hosted by Denmark and Vietnam – held 1.15pm-2-30pm 22 July 2015 in CR5, UN Headquarters

In the margins of the negotiations of the post-2015 development agenda the Permanent Missions of Denmark and Vietnam to the UN hosted a well-attended side event entitled *Data Challenges and Solutions for the Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs). The side event was hosted on behalf of Statistics Denmark and Viet Nam's General Statistic Office. The aim was to showcase tangible solutions to some of the data challenges that are expected to occur during the implementation of the SDGs. Statistics Denmark developed the idea to arrange the event, when they in June participated in the *Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators* meeting (IAEG-SDGs). Here Statistics Denmark had found a partner in Viet Nam, who had experience with utilizing administrative registers in data collection.

The Danish DPR moderated the event that included four expert presentations by Statistics Denmark, Viet Nam's General Statistic Office, UN Statistical Division and Save the Children. The Statistics authorities of Denmark and Viet Nam demonstrated the advantages of establishing, utilizing and continuously updating administrative registers. One of the main advantages of administrative registers was that, as soon as established, registers constitute an efficient and inexpensive method for collecting high quality granular data. Furthermore, administrative registers make it possible to collect 'real time' data, as opposed to the more commonly used censuses. The presentations gave several concrete examples that illustrated the need for enhanced capacity building, institutional strengthening and positioning of national statistical offices. They also showed the importance of enhancing international cooperation on development and implementation of harmonised data standards.

A vibrant interactive dialogue session illustrated large interest in the topic from Member States and CSO's, as several contributions highlighted how different parties would benefit from improved data collection methods, better and more integrated data. As such the event was a success and functioned as a concrete input to the negotiations of the follow-up and the review of the post-2015 agenda.

As a follow up to the event, Statistics Denmark and the General Statistics Office of Viet Nam will be developing a format for a pilot project with the aim to strengthen national statistics offices capacity to establish and run administrative registers. If Member States are interested in hearing more about this, please contact Mads Knudsen at the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN madknu@um.dk