

Using non-traditional data sources in the VNRs and engaging stakeholders: National experience from Finland

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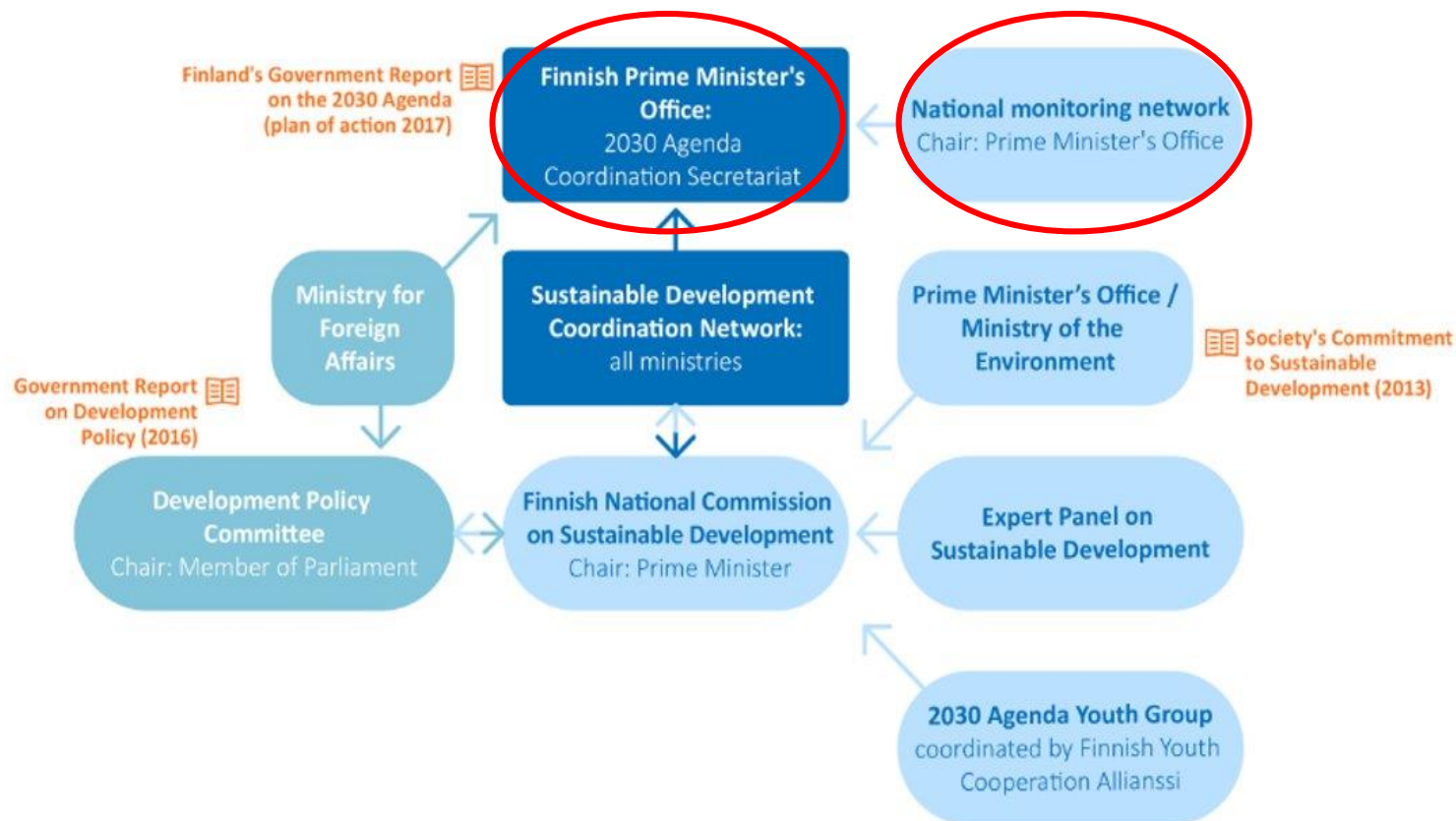
UN Workshop on Data and Statistics for Evidence-based Voluntary National Reviews, 9-12 December, Vienna

Statistics Finland



- Independently acting government agency belonging to the administrative sector of the Ministry of Finance.
- A workplace for around 850 persons.

National implementation of Agenda 2030 in Finland



- Prime Minister's Office (PMO) is the key actor in advancing sustainable development and process owner of SDG-work.
- National monitoring network covers all relevant stakeholder groups. It consists of experts from ministries, other government bodies, research institute, industries and NGO's and maintains set of national indicators.
- PMO organizes also yearly a citizens' SD panel to engage, contribute and assess achievements. It is open to all interested citizens.

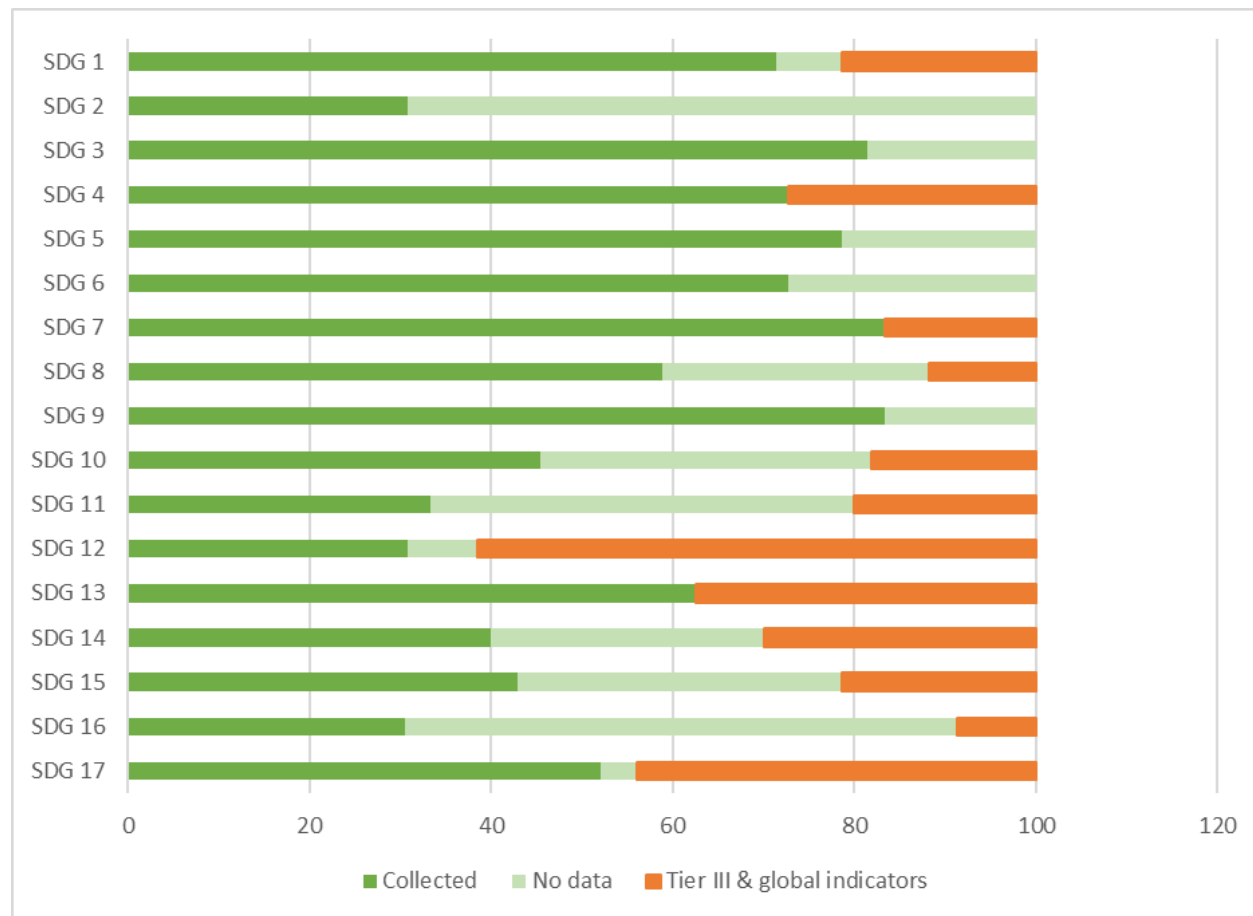
Compilation Voluntary National Report 2020 for Finland

- Finland completed first United Nations Voluntary National Report (VNR) for High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in 2016 and second one is due in summer 2020.
- VNR will consist of government's perspective as well as the perspectives of companies and NGOs.
- The statistical annex of Finnish VNR will be compiled by Statistics Finland. It will be based on Finland's global SDG – indicator reporting platform for the first time.
- Statistics Finland participate to PMO's VNR editorial board in steering the process 27.11.2019 – 30.6.2020.

National compiling of data for global SDG indicators

- Statistics Finland (National Statistical Office, NSO) is responsible for national compilation of data for global SDG-indicators. NSO also act as UN SDG focal point and participates as observator to IAEG-SDG work. Statistics Finland supervises co-operation group and data producers, network.
- National compilation of global SDG data was conducted by Statistics Finland in 2018 and the Finnish National Reporting Platform (NRP) was released in February 2019: www.stat.fi/yk-indikaattorit
- Beside NSI, some 23 data providers are identified.
- Data mainly from national sources, but some data from UN organizations' databases (UNESCO, FAO, WHO etc.).
- Translation of indicator names into Finnish and Swedish were important for dissemination and stakeholder cooperation.

Global SDG data availability



- Collected: 137 indicators (56 %).

- No data: 61 indicators (30%).

- Tier III: 35 Indicators (14%).

- Global indicators: 11 indicators (5 %).

Data providers

- Responsible provider organisation has been defined for all of the SDG indicators.
- Currently even all statistics producers are not able to provide the data:
 - The biggest provider is Statistics Finland responsible for 85 indicators of which data is available for 59 indicators.
 - The Finnish Environment Institute can provide 12 out of 24 indicators.
 - National Institute for Health and Welfare 6 out of 13.
 - Natural Resource Institute 1 out of 9.
 - Customs: 0 out of 2.
- In order to extend and update the SDG -indicator data in NRP, Statistics Finland set up a co-operation network of main data producers and Prime Minister's office in May 2019. Group has advisory and coordinating functions.

Examples of important non-statistical providers of data

SDG data producer network (ca. 20 organisations) is a loose network of mostly non-statistical data providers. It is managed by bilateral meetings with different national agencies and organisations.

- Foreign Ministry: SDG 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 16 (15 indicators)
- Ministry of Interior: SDG1, 11, 13 (6 indicators)
- Cities and city alliances: SDG 11 (7 indicators).
- Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy (University of Helsinki): SDG 5 and 16 (3 indicators)
- Other important, non-statistics providers include:
 - The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Environment, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry, The Finnish National Agency for Education, Finnish Immigration Service, Finnish association to promote sustainable business, Finnish Meteorological Institute, Central Bank, Police.

Experiences of engaging stakeholders

- Identifying, motivating and engaging stakeholders requires a lot of regular contacts to experts: Personal contacts are preferred.
- Continued political and institutional support from prime ministers' office justifies the priority of the work to stakeholders.
- Confidential cooperation, assistance and transfer of expertise between NSO and other organizations' experts is greatly appreciated.
- NSO is required new and board expertise: Understanding of society and social phenomena and processed exceeding traditional data collection and dissemination are essential in order to ask right things from right experts.
- Talking the language of other fields of expertise: "If you do not know exactly what you asking, you most probably are not going to get it."
- In the process, NSOs are finally solely responsible for the validation and ensuring data quality of non-NSO data.

Thank you!

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