



Regional Training Workshop on Economic Statistics SDMX

24-28 February 2020, Manila, Philippines

Concept Note & Agenda

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BACKGROUND

SDMX, which stands for Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange, is an ISO standard (17369) designed to describe statistical data and metadata, normalize their exchange, and improve their efficient sharing across statistical and similar organizations¹. It provides an integrated approach to facilitating statistical data and metadata exchange, enabling interoperable implementations within and between systems concerned with the exchange, reporting and dissemination of statistical data and their related meta-information. Further, SDMX was recognized and supported as a preferred standard for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata by UN Statistical Commission in 2008 (Decision 39/112 point (b)²).

SDMX for International Merchandise Trade Statistics. An inter-agency working group consisting of Eurostat, the International Trade Centre (ITC), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was established in 2013 with the purpose of specifying uniform structures, concept definitions and code lists for the transmission of IMTS data and metadata in accordance with SDMX. The working group, chaired by UNSD, had developed a first version of the Global Data Structure Definition (DSD) of SDMX standards for International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) in consultation with member countries in 2016. The DSD was submitted to SDMX Secretariat in early 2017 for review; and subsequently made public at UNSD website³. In September-October 2017, UNSD conducted two pilot implementation projects in Mexico and Morocco resulting to amendment of DSD to the version 1.1 (2018). UNSD and AUC undertook SDMX-IMTS regional training workshops for African countries in September 2018 and February 2019. The workshop aimed to introduce global DSD of SDMX-IMTS and train staff of National Statistical Offices in data mapping and utilizing SDMX tools.

SDMX for System of National Accounts. The adoption of the System of National Accounts (SNA) 2008 the work on the associated transmission programmes created a new momentum for the alignment of international standards for the compilation and dissemination of macro-economic statistics. The SDMX sponsors (BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IMF, OECD, United Nations and World Bank) mandated the ECB, Eurostat and the OECD to propose Data Structure Definitions (DSDs) to implement SDMX in National Accounts according to the SNA 2008. This DSD is now available on the SDMX registry for: main

¹ See <https://www.sdmx.org>

² See <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/39th-session/documents/statcom-2008-39th-report-E.pdf>

³ See <https://comtrade.un.org/sdmx>

national accounts aggregates, sector accounts, Supply-Use & Input-Output tables, and Government Finance Statistics. The international organisations involved in collecting national accounts data have commenced the exchange of this data using SDMX and are promoting the use of SDMX for country reporting in order to minimise burden.

In this regard, UNSD in collaboration with ADB, ASEAN, and EU-ASEAN ARISE project will conduct a Regional Training Workshop on Economic Statistics SDMX targeting 10 Southeast Asia countries.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the training workshop are to:

- Introduce general concepts of SDMX including technical specification, content-oriented guidelines and implementation tools to compilers of SNA and IMTS
- Train subject matters experts on specific global SDMX Data Structure Definitions of SNA and IMTS; and teach IT experts on various SDMX tools
- Assist both statisticians and IT experts in implementing SDMX by conducting mapping exercise between national database and SDMX code lists for specific domain
- Identify interested and capable institutions/countries as SMDX pilot implementation projects in 2020-2021

PARTICIPANTS OF THE WORKSHOP

The workshop will bring together the subject matter and IT experts from institutions responsible in the compilation of SNA and IMTS in Southeast Asia region. Interested regional organizations in Asia will be also attending the workshop.

Subject matter experts should have few years of hands-on experiences in the data compilation for respective domains and possess depth knowledge on data structures and variables.

IT experts should have knowledge of relational database including writing SQL queries. Experience in using SQL Server is preferable.

CONTACT PERSONS

For further information, please contact

ADB	UNSD
<p>Mr. Stefan Schipper Statistician Statistics and Data Innovation Unit Asian Development Bank Tel: + 632 8632 4274 Email: sschipper@adb.org</p> <p>Ms. Melissa Pascua Statistics Officer Statistics and Data Innovation Unit Asian Development Bank Tel: +632 8632 6439 Email: mpascua@adb.org</p> <p>Ms. Ma. Roselia Babalo Senior Operations Assistant Asian Development Bank Tel: +632 8632 5768 / Fax 632 636 2361 Email: mrbabalo@adb.org</p>	<p>Mr. Daniel Buenavad Mendez Associate Information System Officer United Nations Statistics Division Email : buenavad@un.org</p>
EU-ASEAN ARISE	
<p>Mr. Agus Sutanto Statistical Coordinator, EU-ASEAN ARISE Plus Tel : +62 087808883510 Email: agusbellarmino@gmail.com</p>	<p>Ms. Miradni Judo Project Officer ARISE Plus Telp : +62 813 192 85 966 Email : miradni.judo@asean.org</p>

Draft Agenda

Opening Session

- Welcome remarks
- Adoption of agenda

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
	Introduction to SDMX	Hands-on: Generic Data and IT Tools	Self-Paced Hands-on Exercise – Own Data	Putting them together – Generating SDMX	Conclusion
9:00-10:45	What is SDMX? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information Model - Content-Oriented Guidelines - IT architecture 	Overview of IT Tools + Installations Step-by-step hands-on demo generating SDMX output (Generic DSD): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data preparation - Data mapping - Generate output 	Generic Data Preparation and Mapping (continue) Track 1: IMTS Track 2: SNA Track 3: IT	Own Data Preparation and Mapping Track 1: IMTS Track 2: SNA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare data sets - Apply data mapping - Use mapping assistant - Use “Test Client” tool Use “SDMX web services” (optional)	Continuation of self-pace hands-on ... ----- Round table discussions Summary of work done Way forward
11:00-12:30	Overview of SDMX objects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concept Scheme - Code lists - Data structure definition 				
14:00-15:15	<u>Parallel Sessions</u> Global DSDs: Introduction, Artifacts, Mapping	Generic Data Preparation and Mapping	Own Data Preparation and Mapping		
15:30-17:00	Track 1: IMTS Track 2: SNA	Track 1: IMTS Track 2: SNA Track 3: IT	Track 1: IMTS Track 2: SNA		

Pre-requisites

The SDMX workshop consists of two main streams:

1. Methodology split into two sub-streams: SNA and IMTS
2. IT

Methodology stream:

Methodology requires substantive knowledge of IMTS or SNA statistics concepts including their classifications and national data structure with code lists used by the National Statistical Institute (NSI) and basic knowledge of standard code lists used in SDMX (https://sdmx.org/?page_id=1498).

IT stream:

IT stream requires basic knowledge on the following is recommended:

1. Basic SQL queries
2. Basics of XML (Extensible Mark-up Language) and DSD
3. Basic data warehousing concepts (Dimensions, attributes, etc).
4. Basic knowledge of IIS (Internet information service) is recommended: Used to host the SDMX web service.

The following IT tools will be used to produce SDMX workshop. Hence a basic idea of these tools and possibly installed on participants' laptop would be recommended. (Please choose .Net or java version depending on your needs).

1. **Mapping assistance:** this module facilitates mapping between the structural metadata provided by an SDMX-ML Data Structure Definition (DSD) and the statistical data of the NSI. [Click here to download mapping assistance.](#)
2. **SDMX NSI web service:** Tool to expose the SDMX data of NSI in the SDMX-ML format as SOAP/REST services. [Click here to download the SDMX NSI web service.](#)
3. **SDMX test client:** "this module tests the SDMX-RI building blocks and exposes/browses the dissemination environment of NSI". [Click here to download the SDMX test client.](#)
4. **SQL management studio:** For managing data from SQL server locally. [Click here to download the SQL management studio.](#)