

Data-driven decision making support at the local level

This business case was prepared by Statistical office of Serbia and is submitted to the HLG-MOS for their approval.

Type of Activity			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New project	<input type="checkbox"/>	New activity
<input type="checkbox"/>	Extension of existing project	<input type="checkbox"/>	Extension of existing activity
<i>Projects are undertaken by separate project teams. Projects are expected to produce a significant contribution to achieving the HLG-MOS vision</i>		<i>Activities are undertaken by Modernisation Groups. These activities produce smaller, more detailed outputs to help achieve the HLG-MOS vision</i>	
Purpose			
<p>The general purpose of this project is to define ways of involving National statistical institutes (NSI) in the process of data-driven decision-making support at the local municipalities level. Data-driven decision making support at the local level aims to facilitate understanding and perceiving social, demographic and economic phenomena through data extracted, compiled and analysed from various data sources by using statistical methods.</p> <p>NSI's data are used by many different categories of stakeholders and they also present general interest for the local community, although this is not always well understood. NSIs, in order to go beyond their traditional role of providing mostly statistics at national level, and to support the new emerging data ecosystems as well as to strengthen their position as trustworthy and valuable organisations, need to create strategic partnerships at local level. Partner organisations represent various data sources that can also be used in statistical production (Business associations, e.g. local Chambers of commerce) and may also contribute specific knowledge in certain areas. The expertise of NSI's staff in different domains, their skills and experience, make any NSI fully qualified to be a reliable partner and to take an active part in providing data for local level decision making support.</p> <p>This project aims to help NSIs in adding a new role in its core activities. This project is in line with ongoing HLG MOS activities and it is in line with keynotes, conclusions and future development tasks from the Conference of European Statisticians held in 2019, especially in both domains 'The emerging role of national statistical offices as offices for statistics and data' and 'Creating modern partnership framework for official statistics'.</p>			
Description of the activity			
<p>The project is divided into three work packages, which are necessary to cover key demands of the stakeholders and build experience in the statistical community.</p> <p>WP1. Creating a pilot project for one city in every country interested to be part of this project</p> <p>Idea is to choose one city in every participating country and to explore possibilities of creating DDMS at the local level. It requires the collaboration of NSIs (regional office if they exist in NSI) and local</p>			

government. Where possible other partners like a local chamber of commerce, private companies or academic institutes can be included. The goal is to help local governments with establishing new strategic policies, monitoring and evaluating policies and to help with building good local investments plans. In collaboration with the partners a pilot project needs to be defined. That can relate e.g. to local economy, mobility, social structure, SDGs... or a combination. The relevance to decision making support must be clear.

An additional goal is to define the needs of the local community and individuals and with accurate and timeless information help them to facilitate daily activities. This can be, for many NSIs and countries, a starting point for establishing the contribution of NSIs to the concept of smart cities.

Different data sources e.g. administrative sources, NSI statistical surveys and non-standard sources (e.g. big data) can be used to support the process of the decision making. The HLG MOS Machine learning project output should also be very useful in this subject.

WP2. Establishing strategic partnerships at the local level

NSIs see the need to undertake new roles beyond traditional ones as being only data providers. The best and maybe the only way to deal with that is establishing strategic partnerships which will open doors to new data sources and to opportunities to gain new skills. Partnerships aim achieve goals that cannot be achieved independently. Resources (statistical data, geospatial data, skills, expertise, common goals, best practices etc.) can often be joined at a local level. The creation of new partnerships, however, is not trivial.

Countries participating in the project will share case studies of the strategic partnerships they have established, or are trying to establish, among NSIs, private or public sector partners, in various domains, with the focus on lessons learned concerning what was planned and what still needs to be achieved.

For instance, SORS developed partnership work with a Serbian Electric company to use NSI analytics skills and Electric company domain skills to predict the price of the electricity. There are more examples of this kind of activities, and it will be described and presented as experiences that could be adopted and shared by various countries.

WP3. Establishing strategic communication at the local level

DDMS at local level increases visibility and reinforces the relevance of NSI. Crucial is to establish a common understanding and common purpose between all partners in this act.

The Strategic communication project is finishing soon, so this proposed DDMS WP will rely on the results achieved by that project and concretize them on the local level.

The strategic communication project will be used as the ground base to define the way of the communication among data stakeholders on the local level. The goal of this WP is to set up the guidelines and write down the best practices.

Spreading the results of DDMS at the local level project is very important. Results of the project will be disseminated through the web and organizing seminars in UNECE countries. The organisation of meetings with NSIs management could be one of the targets of this WP as well.

Some NSIs have already established some kind of cooperation at the local level. This WP may also contribute to exchanging best practices, sharing knowledge and tools among NSIs and cities involved in such activities.

Most of the WP work can be done independently but of course there are some relations and dependencies. Work can be done largely through virtual meetings, but face to face meetings have proved to be highly effective and can be a real speed boost to the project.

Alternatives considered

Instead of treating it as a standalone project it is possible to distinguish some of the work packages as standalone processes and to reallocate them as separate activities to other Modernisation Groups.

How does it relate to the HLG-MOS vision and other activities under the HLG-MOS?

The main idea of this proposal relies on the assumption that DDMS at local level increases visibility and reinforces the relevance of NSIs and represents a step forward in changing the role of official statistics. Also, this proposal directly benefits from recent HLG-MOS projects such as Strategic communication and ML, as well as follows up conclusions and recommendations from CES 2019.

Proposed start and end dates

Start: *January 2020*

End: *December 2020*