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**Capacity-building for statistics for the 2030  
global agenda monitoring: information  
support of the sustainable development goals  
adopted at the 47th session of the UN  
Statistical Commission  
- Serbian view -**

Moscow, 22-23 June, 2016

# Content of Presentation



- General View
- Brief Assessment of Situation in the EU/Eurostat
- Assessment of Capacities to Produce SDG Indicators in Serbia
- Statistical Office of Serbia - Capacities to Produce SDGs

# Transformative Agenda and the Road Map

- The **objective of the UN transformative agenda** is to modernize and strengthen the global, regional and national statistical systems, irrespective of the level of statistical development. It aims to increase the capacity of statistical systems to respond more effectively and efficiently to the new policy requirements and become more flexible
- The 47th session of the UN Statistical Commission Conference approved the structure of the **Road Map** and further work in the following five areas:
  - assessing readiness of countries to report on SDG indicators,
  - selecting regional indicators,
  - clarifying the setup of reporting on SDG indicators,
  - **identifying needs for capacity building for SDG indicators** and
  - communicating and disseminating statistics for SDGs.
- The Conference also, encouraged National Statistical Institutions to take a leading role in coordinating data flows for SDG reporting at national level.

# Capacity-building - General view

- Capacity-building for statistics for the 2030 global agenda monitoring could be defined as the long term **process of developing and strengthening the abilities, processes, skills and resources** that organizations and communities need to adapt and develop in the changing world
- Capacity-building **focuses on understanding the obstacles** that inhibit people, governments, international organisations and non-governmental organisations from realising their development goals and to enhance the abilities that will allow them to achieve measurable and sustainable results
- Capacity building **involves all stakeholders**; government, ministries, governmental organisations, local authorities, non-governmental organisations, professionals, community members, academics,...
- Capacity building **has to tackle problems related to policy and methods of development, considering the potential, limits and needs** of certain country

# Capacity-building - General view



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Capacity building develops in three directions:

- **Human resource development** - process of equipping individuals with the understanding, skills and access to information and perform effectively
- **Organizational development** - the elaboration of management structures, processes and procedures as well as relationships between the different organisations and sectors (public, private...)
- **Institutional and legal framework development** - making legal and regulatory changes to enable organisations, institutions and agencies at all levels and in all sectors to enhance their capacities

# Capacity-building - General view

Statistical organisations at the same time face with :

- Increasing demands for more detailed, high-quality and timely data
- Decreasing budget allocations
- Declining rates of response to their traditional collection instruments

***Statistical organisations have to find solutions to the problem of reconciling increasing data demands with existing —or even shrinking — resources.***

- Official statistics has to add a new dimension to innovation and modernization:
  - **utilisation of new and non-traditional data sources** (such as big data, for official statistics purposes) and
  - a greater **reliance on administrative data** sources
  - **rapid spread of innovative technologies**, their use in collection, processing and dissemination of data (mobile devices in data capture, advanced visualization tools in dissemination and statistical clouds...)

# Situation in the EU/Eurostat

- After 2015 there is no, as priority, **document on Sustainable Development Policy in the EU**
- Official statistics in the EU covers more than 40% indicators from the list of SDGs
- It would take approximately 2 years to compile the rest of the SDGs
- Certain number of indicators are not obtained by the Official statistics (e.g. SDG 16, SDG17...) There is some kind of uncertainty (confusion) about what will be decision of the Eurostat concerning the issue of SDGs
- Eurostat's general recommendation for Member States: each state should decide on who should be SDG country coordinator (and system of coordination among ministries in general)
- For Eurostat it is important fulfillment of two criteria:
  - validity
  - measurability

# Assessment of Capacities to Produce SDG Indicators in Serbia

Work done in 2016

**Inter-ministerial Working Group (WG)** was formed on the basis of Government Decision

Members of the WG:

- 10 Ministries,
- 3 Governmental Agencies,
- SORS and
- Representative from the UN

Main responsibilities:

- Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government - Head of WG
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Coordinator and Representative in the UN
- Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS) – main provider of indicators and coordinator of the Official Statistical System in Serbia



# Assessment of Capacities to Produce SDG Indicators in Serbia

## Work done in 2016

- Transformative agenda and the post-2030 global agenda monitoring and SDGs were presented in details
- Prioritisation of the SDGs (given by Government) was done, and responsibilities by SDGs indicators and relevant ministries
- Preparation of the Action Plan (in progress)

# Assessment of Capacities to Produce SDG Indicators in Serbia

- Currently, work is underway for drafting a National Strategy keeping in mind Serbian priorities in accession to the EU
  - There exist nearly 100 various strategies which could be linked to SDG indicators
  - SORS has got a task to make an overview of existing SDG indicators and their links with indicators that exist in the EU - until the end of 2016
  - SORS is developing European system of Sustainable Development Indicators and through European (IPA) funded national project is finalising compliance with European Statistical System

# Assessment of Capacities to Produce SDG Indicators in Serbia

## Obstacles – potential weak points

- Issue of capacity is critical and the scale of needs is enormous, but appreciation of the problem is low
- Link between needs and potential sources is weak.
- Links with politics and policies There is a lack of realistic funding - budgetary constraints
- Interagency - communications are poor.
- Alternative ways of capacity building are not adequately recognised

# Assessment of Capacities to Produce SDG Indicators in Serbia

Some questions that remain or not clearly answered

- How responsibilities for indicators will be allocated?
- Will a single institution be in charge of collecting and coordinating all indicators?
- Which institution will be responsible for reporting?
- What will be the international reporting “architecture”, including the UN NY, UN regional, EU ...?
- Not all definitions in place?

# Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS) - current involvement in the national process

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- Frequent contacts with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Assistance in answering SDG related questions to the Minister of Foreign Affairs;
- Clear and open ambition to be part of the 'drafting team' of National Action Plan and Strategy;
- Wide contacts to the Governmental organisations, NGO and business are still weak;

# SORS - current involvement in the national process

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A comprehensive data mapping is currently being conducted:

- Data availability identified in the SORS;
- Next step – identification of government agencies (or non-governmental institutions) that hold the requested data (if the data are not covered by SORS);
- With the help of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and/or Secretariat of Public Policies and improved coordination, data availability would be reached faster.

The outcome of the mapping process will be used as input to the Inter-ministerial Working Group for the National Action Plan and Strategy.

# SORS - capacities to produce SDG indicators in Serbia

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Main SORS' characteristics:

- Office characteristic capacities:
  - Not sufficient staff number
  - Good staff qualification
  - Ability to produce almost all Sustainable Development Indicators (according EU/Eurostat's regulations)
- Inter- agency capacities:
  - Beside its own chapter, in other 16 out of 35 chapters in accession process to EU, SORS is involved in direct work; That is good basis for good capacities for production and coordination for producing SDGs

# SORS - capacity building – indirect support/input

Draft of the New Law of Official Statistics (in procedure) is institutional and legal framework development, making legal and regulatory changes that enable organizations, institutions and agencies at all levels to enhance also, their capacities.

New Law of Official Statistics would provide SORS:

- Full independence of the Office
- Office status – SORS would be linked to the National Assembly not to the Government
- New data sources
- Stressed coordination SORS role within Statistical System

In in general that means:

"The more political power and influence that an organisation can exercise, the higher level of capacity it has."





**Thank you**