

SIS-CC 2014
WORKSHOP

'Harvesting the fruits of Open Data'



Highlights report

OECD's Statistical Information System Collaboration Community workshop 2014



Highlights report

We are pleased to present the OECD's Statistical Information System 2014 Collaboration Community workshop report.

Thank you to all who participated and contributed to the success of the workshop.

Feedback so far has been extremely positive and we thank those of you who have already completed the online survey. Thank you for your valuable comments which will help us in the planning for next years workshop.

All presentations from the workshop, which were made available right after, are still available on the [workshop web site](#). In addition to the presentations you will find a link to [a selection of photographs](#) taken during the morning of day 2 including the group photo as shown below.



Picture: SIS-CC 2014 Workshop Day 2 Participants

Key points

- We welcomed National Bank of Belgium to the community as a new member,
- 72 participants representing 21 organisations attended the workshop,
- UNESCO Institute of Statistics hosted this years workshop at their Headquarters in Paris,
- Theme was 'Harvesting the fruits of Open Data', a total of 25 presentations over 4 sessions,
- Topics ranged from SIS-CC 5-year Strategy, Community member projects, .Stat Product Roadmap, open data strategies and case studies, Open Data consumers and communities, and evolution of .Stat to further support the delivery of open data,
- A parallel capacity building sessions for Community developers took place on day 2 covering the full Application Lifecycle Management.

Overview and outcomes

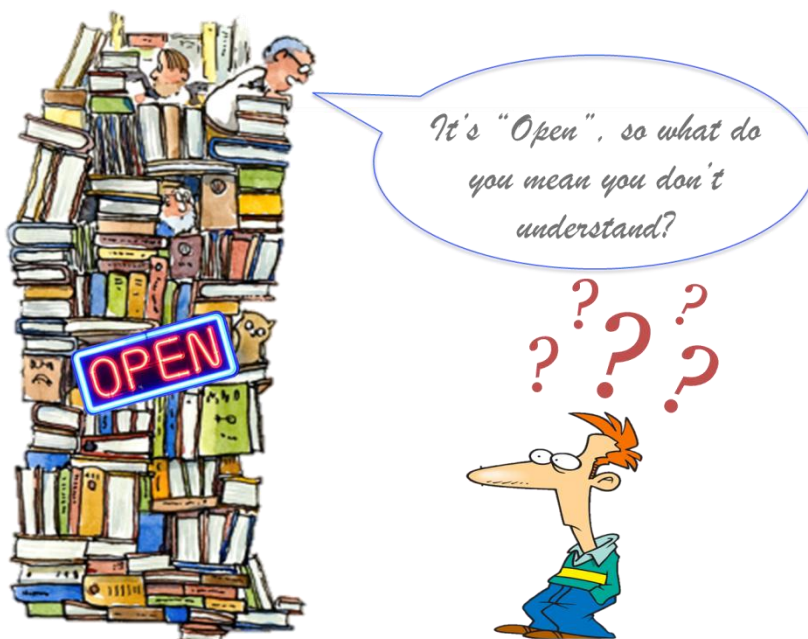
Day 1: Opening

The opening and welcome speech was given by Lester Rodriques, Head of Information Technology and Network Services, in his final workshop before retiring from the OECD at the end of April. Lester has been instrumental in the evolution of the community, even before being officially launched in March of 2011. Lester welcomed Community members, experts from the Open Data industry, and both returning and first time participants to this years workshop, and thanked our hosts UNESCO Institute of Statistics. Lester also welcomed the National Bank of Belgium as a new member to the community who joined at the end of 2013.

Lester emphasised how collaboration is a strategic activity for the statistical community and is recognised as such in the aims of the [High-Level Group for Modernisation of Statistical Processes](#) (HLG). Lester stressed the importance of collaboration to improve efficiency and move towards the 'industrialisation' of statistical processes, enabling the implementation of statistical standards such as [SDMX](#) to facilitate data exchange, and allowing for the creation of joint statistical outputs. This is very much part of the strategic vision for the OECD and of other collaborating organisations. Lester also highlighted how interest in the community continues to grow with an increasing number of requests being received to evaluate the .Stat solution. Lester went on to show how there are now a number of instances of .Stat in place with more to follow in the coming months.

In 2011, 2012, and 2013 the workshop themes were "Laying the foundations for a strong collaboration community", "Building a collective capacity to enable innovation", and "Building products out of our data". Lester introduced this years theme "Harvesting the fruits of Open Data", and highlighted the programme for the 2 days. Lester then handed over to Brian Buffett, Head of Dissemination Systems, UNESCO Institute of Statistics, who provided some introductory words on behalf of Hendrik van der Pol, Director of UNESCO Institute of Statistics.

A keynote was then given by Matteo Maggiore, Deputy Director Public Affairs and Communications Directorate, at the OECD. The presentation titled "The OECD's Delta programme, Accessible, Open and Free" focused on how the OECD dissemination environment is changing to meet the Council directive to make OECD data Accesible, Open and Free by mid-2015. Matteo highlighted the aim to increase the impact of data through our strengths in areas of analysis, case studies and guidelines, and by producing a 360 degree insight into policy issues. Matteo emphasised the important challenge to make data **Accessible** as well as Open and Free, to reach a wider audience than just the experts, and increase the overall impact of the data we disseminate.



Day 1: Session (1) SIS-CCCommunity in action

Presentation topics:

- SIS-CC 5-year Strategy
- Community member projects
- [.Stat product roadmap](#)

The session began with Eric Anvar, Head of Core Information Systems, at the OECD, presenting the strategic directions for .Stat and the Statistical Information Collaboration Community (SIS-CC) for the years 2014-19. The 5-year strategy was a result of extensive consultations with SIS-CC members that took place since early 2013, in particular during the annual workshop in April 2013. Eric highlighted how the Community is being seen as Open Innovation 'in practice': Pooling together ideas, skills, resources and developing products to better meet the needs for public statistics.



Eric then presented the key business objectives for the community: 1. Develop an SDMX & open data strategy; 2. Enable new data experiences; 3. Streamline data dissemination processes.

The next part of the session gave an opportunity for a brief project update from the current member organisations; Australian Bureau of Statistics, the European Commission, Italian National Institute of Statistics, the National Bank of Belgium, Statistics Estonia, Statistics New Zealand, UNESCO Institute of Statistics, and the UK Data Service (UoM) on their successes and challenges over the previous 12 months. Presentations demonstrated that collaboration is working well and very good progress is being made with a number of public versions of .Stat now live, as well as leveraging .Stat for other initiatives within organisations.

Functional challenges	Successes
A need to handle large hypercubes Difficulty to maintain competence under resource cutbacks Full sdmx implementation Still a challenge to manage embargo release	Use of .Stat as a back-end to dynamic publishing Integration of SDMX-RI with .Stat Successful upgrade and launch of .Stat version 5 Increased collaboration with community 1st version of Branding and configuration completed Extensive and well-received training sessions and webinars with user community

The session then continued with a high-level review of the [.Stat product roadmap](#): what has been delivered; what is in progress; and what is planned to be delivered in the next 12 months. There were also key contributions from UIS on [Branding](#), NBB on [Localisation project](#), and ISTAT on the status of the [SDMX-RI integration](#).

Day 2: Session (2) Reviewing open data strategies and case studies

Presentation topics:

- [Open Data and Open Government](#) by Barbara Ubaldi, OECD
- [Designing for open data ecosystem engagement](#) by Kat Borlongan, FivebyFive
- [Disseminate@ABS](#) by Merry Branson, ABS
- [Open Data Benchmarking](#) by Pascale Cissokho Mutter, OECD

Chaired by Brian Buffett, Head of Dissemination Systems, at the UNESCO Institute of Statistics, this session focused on open data strategies and how they transform our way of operating and engaging with stakeholders, plus related challenges and opportunities in the field of data dissemination systems.

What is the value? Who are the users? Are we listening to them? These were the questions being asked by the OECD's Barbara Ubaldi from the Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, who presented the work of [Open Data in government](#). Barbara highlighted the biggest challenges facing governments are organisational, institutional, funding, and policy. Less than 50% reported technology as a constraint in their goal to progress OGD initiatives. It is clear that National Statistical Offices (NSOs) are positioned well to be part of the broader Open Government agenda.



Invited speaker Kat Borlongan, Co-founder of Five by Five, showed us **the darker side of hackathons** with many centering on the technology instead of being user centric, often resulting in great applications being left to gather dust on the shelf. Kat highlighted three key things to think about when [designing for Open Data ecosystem engagement](#): 1. Focus on the problem. Access to data alone does not unlock value; 2. Don't just examine open data ecosystem, become part of them; 3. Pay attention, success comes in different forms. A key point being the shift from seeing open data and investment in community engagement as a constraint/compliance, to seeing it as a strategic enabler.

Merry Branson from the ABS then presented the NSO perspective on how .Stat is an important enabler of their ['Open' dissemination strategy](#), and how they are dealing with new and disruptive technology (Mobile, social media platforms etc), as well as the increasing demands from users. Web 3.0, the evolution to an "intelligent web", is coming. Merry emphasised how Statistics help governments and society make informed decisions with NSOs being at the center as the statistical wholesaler.

The OECD undertook a unique [open data benchmarking](#) exercise from May to October 2013 with the objective to define metrics on open data and open access, assess the levels of the OECD in 2013 and 2015, and compare open data practices of 4 IGOs. The outcomes of this were presented by Pascale Cissokho Mutter from the Public Affairs and Communications Directorate at the OECD. Pascale highlighted the four major dimensions of the open data metrics: 1. Open Data Readiness, including quality of metadata, and openness of the formats in use of data; 2. Open Data Governance, including the executive commitment in favour of open data; 3. Community of End-users, including actions taken encouraging individuals to reuse the data, especially by creating conversation with end-users; and 4. Portal Accessibility, including features of the open data portal for increasing the findability of data. In summary there **is great demand** for metrics and tools to assess the advancement of open data, that enables to score and quantify the advancement of open data policies.



Day 2: Session (3) Open Data: Consumers and communities

Presentation topics:

- [Open Data communities](#) by Ulrich Atz, Open Data Institute
- [Making useful sense of statistics in a dynamic world](#) by Per Nymand-Andersen, ECB
- [What do users expect from open data portals](#) by Terri Mitton, OECD

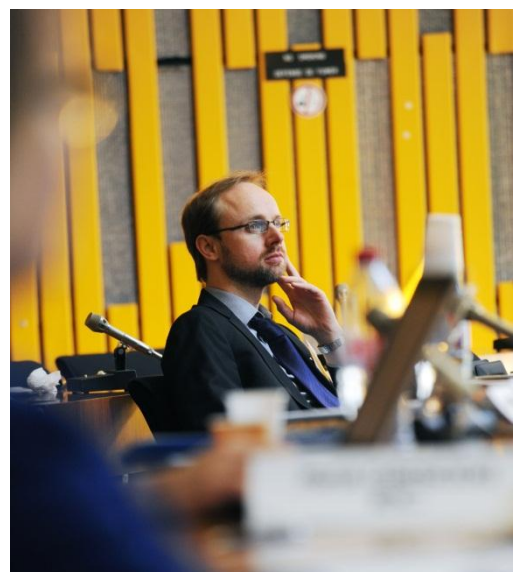
Chaired by Nicholas Syrotiuk, IT Officer, at the UK Data Service, this session focused on how open data serve directly and indirectly a broad range of data consumers and potential data intermediaries, how drawing on value from the consumer requires establishing a 'feedback loop', whereby organisations can mobilise a network of data experts and innovators around their data and benefit from their contributions and innovations. This session also explored open data from a consumer perspective as well as the different approaches to create or join existing open data communities.

Invited speaker Ulrich Atz, Head of Statistics at the Open Data Institute presented how the ODI is a catalyst for the evolution of open data culture to create economic, environmental, and social value. They are helping to unlock supply, generate demand, and create and disseminate knowledge to address local and global issues. They convene world-class experts to collaborate, incubate, nurture and mentor new ideas, and promote innovation. Ulrich discussed how [open data communities](#) go beyond governmental groups with a look at examples from the private sector. Ulrich also highlighted the benefit of using standardised tools such as the ODI's [Open Data Certificates](#) to measure Open Data readiness.



Trustworthy statistics have a welfare-enhancing effect in society and constitute a knowledge base that is fundamental to sound decision-making. The world of statistics is challenged by its responsibility to reflect and explain complex financial and economic phenomena, as well as their relative importance in, and impact on, today's society. This was the topic of [the presentation](#) by Per Nymand-Andersen from the ECB who was invited to speak about the role of statisticians to proactively extract relevant statistics, and with this information explain the dynamics of today's financial and economic environment tailored to different user groups. Per highlighted how the statistician must render the information easily understandable and user-friendly for policy-makers, market actors and frequent user groups – thereby proactively guiding the non-layman through an ever-increasing supply of publicly available statistics and concepts, and making a necessary contribution to sound decision-making in today's dynamic society.

[What do users expect from open data portals?](#) This was the topic of the presentation by the OECD's Terri Mitton from the Public Affairs and Communications Directorate. Terri explained how over the past two years, the OECD has conducted extensive research into open data user requirements and expectations which is now driving the development of a data portal that aims to provide an environment to address the identified needs by creating an easy way for external audiences to find, use and understand OECD data. Terri highlighted how making data available ('open') is more than just gathering, displaying, and delivering datasets via a portal. Some crucial questions had to be asked, such as how to structure and curate the data so that it can reach its re-use potential. In addition, it was found to present a number of organisational challenges that must be overcome in order to successfully meet user's expectations.



Day 2: Session (4) Evolution of .Stat to further support the delivery of open data and wider dissemination strategy

Presentation topics:

- [Operationalising .Stat in a decentralised publishing environment](#) by Tony Breen, SNZ
- [Building a scalable architecture](#) by Jens Dossé, OECD
- [SDMX Global Registry and supporting data exchanges](#) by Gerard Salou, ECB
- [To Boldly Go – The Linked Open Data experience](#) by Eoin McCuirc, CSO Ireland

Chaired by Danny Kerschietter, Head of Statistical Information Systems, National Bank of Belgium, this session focused on how .Stat has been at the forefront of open data in the world of statistics since a decade, providing multi-format data delivery, and releasing the first SDMX-JSON web service in 2013. This session also explored how the .Stat solution is further evolving to meet requirements related to the expansion of open data: becoming web service centric, with a capacity to scale and adapt to more flexible data dissemination processes.



The session was opened with a presentation by Tony Breen, SDDM Programme Manager at Statistics New Zealand, that looked at how they have [operationalised .Stat in a decentralised publishing environment](#). More specifically this relates to the development of the Data Hub Management Portal and the automation of many of the manual processes that are needed to operate the DPI, DataSet Copy and EntryGate. Tony provided an overview of the DataHub Management Portal, a browser based interface that allows data authors to: address the skillset gap issue by consolidating and simplifying the toolset and interfaces, broader use and standardise adoption; and eventually shifting the data load to data authors. Statistics NZ operates a decentralised publishing model where the data, content, and publications are prepared by survey teams; use of Fusion registry to manage DSD's, help standardise structural metadata and ultimately streamlining loads and eventual use to build output OLAP cubes off their platforms.

Jens Dossé, Head of Unit at the OECD, presented the extensive work programme that showed how .Stat will evolve to support the changing landscape, including: its positioning in the wider dissemination environment and integration with other tools and processes; use and mapping to international models and standards; and the creation of a SISCCommunity Architecture Task force to drive forward these changes. The presentation entitled [Building a scalable architecture](#) looked at the capacity to scale to this future demand, through an architecture that provides the platform for a wide range of machine-readable web services, and enhanced or new data experiences.



Gerard Salou, ECB and Chair of the SDMX Secretariat presented the [SDMX Global Registry](#) which went live in March of this year. Gerard described the basic functionality and how it could be used by organisations for data exchanges. Gerard then highlighted the next steps in the evolution of the Global Registry.

The final presentation of the day and the 2014 main workshop was given by invited speaker Eoin McCuirc, of the Central Statistics Office of Ireland. Eoin boldly went into their [experiences in relation to Linked Open Data](#), a topic of great interest, but still yet to gather the traction from the international Statistical Community at large. Eoin highlighted how the CSO, as part of the OpenCube project, plans to publish all CSO StatBank data (time series data) as linked open data. Eoin also talked about the successful app competition designed to encourage the use of the Census 2011 linked open data.

Some tweets



Some feedback

“Great job done at selecting a topic and building an agenda around the topic supported by interesting presentations”

“Bringing in external persons and companies to present on topics such as open data is excellent and really informative and useful”

“Unique moment to meet other community members and discuss evolution of .Stat”

“Many thanks for the invitation and for having organised this interesting workshop”

“Very interesting and useful workshop”

“A BIG THANK YOU to UNESCO for hosting the 2014 workshop”

Appendix A – Selection of presentations

Presentation	Presenter	Organisation	Session
.Stat Product Roadmap 2013-14	Jonathan Challener	OECD	Session (1) SIS-CCommunity in action
Localisation in .Stat project	Danny Kerschier	NBB	Session (1) SIS-CCommunity in action
Branding .Stat	Weichen Wilson LEI	UIS	Session (1) SIS-CCommunity in action
SDMX-RI and .Stat integration	Francesco Rizzo	ISTAT	Session (1) SIS-CCommunity in action
Open Data and Open Government	Barbara Ubaldi OECD	OECD	Session (2) Reviewing open data strategies and case studies
Designing for open data ecosystems engagement	Kat Borlongan	Five by Five	Session (2) Reviewing open data strategies and case studies
Disseminate@ABS	Merry Branson	ABS	Session (2) Reviewing open data strategies and case studies
Open Data Benchmark + Open Data Benchmarking - Metrics.pdf	Pascale Cissokho	OECD	Session (2) Reviewing open data strategies and case studies
Open Data Communties	Ulrich Atz	ODI	Session (3) Open Data: Consumers and communities
Making useful sense of statistics in a dynamic world	Per Nymand-Andersen	ECB	Session (3) Open Data: Consumers and communities
What do users expect from open data portals	Terri Mitton	OECD	Session (3) Open Data: Consumers and communities
Operationalising .Stat in a decentralised publishing environment	Tony Breen	SNZ	Session (4) Evolution of .Stat to further support the delivery of open data and wider dissemination strategy
Building a scalable architecture	Jens Dosse	OECD	Session (4) Evolution of .Stat to further support the delivery of open data and wider dissemination strategy
SDMX Global Registry and supporting data exchanges	Gerard Salou	ECB	Session (4) Evolution of .Stat to further support the delivery of open data and wider dissemination strategy
To Boldly Go – The Linked Open Data experience	Eoin McCuirc	CSO Ireland	Session (4) Evolution of .Stat to further support the delivery of open data and wider dissemination strategy

Note: for a full list of presentations please see the [workshop community site](#).

Innovation
International
SIS
Collaboration
Community
Strategic
Standards
Collective
Dissemination
Capacity
Enabling