13th StatsTalk-Africa: Understanding the Role of the UN Regional Hub on Big Data and Data Science for Africa in Advancing the work on official statistics
Tuesday, 19th March 2024
Concept Note

Background

The UN regional Hub on Big Data and Data Science for Africa is a partnership between the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). The main objectives of the hub are to facilitate cross-border collaboration projects that apply big data and data science to complement official statistics, provide knowledge on newly developed methods, algorithms, and tools, and offer training in the use of big data and data science for the community of official statisticians in Africa. The Regional Hub for Africa will undertake various activities that are organized into four distinct workstreams or pillars. This includes advocacy/leadership, research, capability building, and the United Nations Global Platform.

The hub has been a host to numerous collaborative projects and webinars, including the Web Scraping for CPI Collaborative Project, Automated Occupation Classification Coding Webinar, Mobile Phone Data Webinar, Earth Observations for Agricultural Statistics Webinar, and more, in collaboration with its global partners.

This StatsTalk Africa will discuss the collaborative work instituted within the UN regional Hub on Big Data and Data Science for Africa, and ongoing capacity-building initiatives, projects, and planned activities. The first presentation will provide an overview of the Hub and its activities. The second presentation will focus on showcasing additional data science initiatives taking place within the African Center for Statistics. The third presentation will highlight the pioneering and award-winning solution presented by the UN Datathon 2023, led by Statistics Ghana. The solution focuses on "Local Access to Information in Ghana: *"Localizing SDG Indicators and Computing the Novel Access to Information Index*." Notably, the Ghanaian team secured the first prize in the UN Datathon 2023 and received recognition in three categories: Best Youth Team, Best Visualization, and Best Presentation.

Objective

The ACS is convening the monthly webinar series – *StatsTalk-Africa* – to provide a space for a dialogue about data, statistics, and innovative tools with data experts and users. Specifically, StatTalk-Africa aims to:

1. Serve as a knowledge-sharing and exchange platform.
2. Demystify and promote greater understanding of key statistical concepts and alternative data sources that could be harnessed in the African context.

Date and Time

The Webinar will be on Tuesday, 19th March 2024, from 11:00 to 12:10hr EAT.

Language

English will be the official form of communication for this webinar series.

Registration link

Microsoft Teams meeting

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