SOUND DATA FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE:

STRONG NATIONAL DATA SYSTEMS AS PREREQUISITES TO MONITORING SDG4

6 FEBRUARY 2024

14:00 - 15:30

ROOM XI, UNESCO HEADQUARTERS
PARIS, FRANCE

2024 CONFERENCE ON
EDUCATION DATA
AND **STATISTICS**

BACKGROUND

A strong national data system is a prerequisite to monitoring nation education outcomes and sector performance, and for effective education sector governance. However, many countries face difficulties in data collection, processing, storage and analysis. Fewer than half of Global Partnership of Education partner developing countries gather, communicate, and utilize sufficient education data (GPE, 2019).

The limited structural capacities in education management are holding many countries back from the benefits of real-time data management in education and progressing towards SDG 4. Given the importance of evidence-based and crisis-resilient planning and management in today's unpredictable world, **strengthening national Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) should be a top priority** and a core component of education reforms and transformation efforts. Without an integrated data architecture for education management, monitoring and planning, education stakeholders are left to fly blind, unable to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of their management and planning.

While requirements for national alignment with international standards and methodologies were defined by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), the question still remains: **how to set up, maintain, and keep abreast national education management information system (EMIS)** able to both effectively serve increasingly complex or unaddressed managerial requirements at national and sub-national levels as well as national and international monitoring requirements such as SDG4?

In response to this question, this parallel session will explore global and national trends, challenges, innovative approaches, tools and initiatives that enhance capabilities of national education data ecosystem for improved system management, monitoring capacity, and sound governance in education. Employing a comprehensive and action-oriented framework for EMIS transformation, the session will provide an opportunity to understand how member states can strengthen their national EMIS to ensure that they can adequately support national education governance as well as monitor and steer achievements linked to different SDG4 targets and beyond.

The first part of the session offers a comprehensive overview of the multitude of EMIS definitions, global trends, and highlights the need for system-wide and sector wide integration of education data architecture. As EMIS transformation pathways have been evolving rapidly in recent years, Member States are growingly focusing on the digitalization of national education monitoring systems and administrative management processes to produce greater accuracy and timeliness of education information flows between homes, schools, districts, and central managers and to foster evidence-base decision making. Speakers on the panel will be country officials and relevant international agencies that will testify of their involvement in recent interventions that have directly impacted system-wide data integration architectures, both horizontally (sector wide EMIS architecture including the components of each lifelong learning stages) and vertically (linking education data ecosystems with other ministries and government agencies) to ensure information interoperability and improvement of education sector management capacities.

In the second part, the session addresses the complexities of national-level EMIS modernization. Acknowledging the varied maturity stages of EMISs globally, the session further highlights the critical role of diagnostic tools to formulate tailored digital transformation roadmaps that advance better governance in national education systems. Building on this foundation, the session will also delve into international, regional, and national initiatives that support EMIS transformation referred in the first part of the session to equip Member States with wide-ranging services, technologies, and knowledge networks, enhancing their capacity to facilitate effective EMIS transformation.

Objectives:

1. Deepen understanding of global education data ecosystem and governance challenges and foster knowledge exchange among country and institution representatives
2. Highlight emerging technology's capabilities in optimizing data integration, coverage and analysis in support to effective decision-making and governance in education
3. Emphasize the importance of accessing maturity of education data systems to develop realistic transformation pathways in support to governance effectiveness.

4. Encourage member states to align with global standards for increased effectiveness and sustainability of education data governance.

Expected Outcomes:

1. Enhanced awareness of global challenges in education data governance & ecosystem challenges and trends.
2. Shared understanding of technology's potential in data ecosystem and recognition of the importance of administration diagnostics and support.

Format: The meeting will be organized around keynote speakers' presentations followed by structured panel discussions and Q&As.

Organizers:

*   UNESCO PLS/EDP – EMIS Team (Inter-agency organization while UNESCO leads)
*   Focal Point: Pierre Chapelet, Senior Project Officer, Email: p.chapelet@unesco.org

AGENDA

Introduction (4 minutes)

The session will begin with an opening remark by the UNESCO representative, providing a brief overview of the session's objectives and structure.

Part 1: Global Trends of National Education Data Ecosystems (38 minutes)

- **Keynote Presentation (8 minutes):** The keynote presentation, delivered by an international expert will focus on the conceptual boundaries of EMIS and provide an overview of current trends in EMIS governance.

- **Panel Discussion (30 minutes):** A structured 30-minute panel discussion led by the moderator will revolve around the theme, "the latest trends in education data ecosystem modernization". Interventions will shed light on recent developments such as EMIS horizontal and vertical integrations, unique identifier approaches, interoperability and data protection standards. The panel will feature a diverse range of perspectives from three country representatives and an international institution representative.

- 3 Country Representatives (Jordan, Brazil or Malaysia, Estonia or Ukraine, (all TBC))

- 1 International Institution Representative (Jonathan Challener, OECD | CNIL)

Part 2: Building Sustainable EMIS Transformation Pathways (38 minutes)

- **Keynote Presentation (8 minutes):** The keynote presentation, delivered by an international expert (GPE) will focus on the challenges and complexities of EMIS modernization in light of the global trends.

- **Panel Discussion (30 minutes):** A panel discussion facilitated by the moderator, features panelists representing ministry officials alongside international organizations. The focus of the discussion will be on strategies to bolster member states' capacities in response to the challenges and complexities referred in the first part of the session and

highlighting the critical role of diagnostic tools and international initiatives to build sustainable EMIS transformation pathways.

- 2 Country Representatives
  - South Africa (TBC)
  - Gambia (TBC)
- 1 Representative from UNESCO HQ on EMIS Maturity Assessment Tool and Sound Data for Good Governance (SDG) Initiative
- 1 Representative from African Union on KIX AU EMIS Norms and Standards Assessment Framework

Q&A (5 minutes)

Closing Remarks (5 minutes)

The session will conclude with a 5-minute recap of key insights and takeaways from both parts. A call to action for collaborative efforts and tailored technical support in education data governance will be made. Attendees will be provided with contact information for follow-up and participation in future initiatives.