Rapporteur Summary

Session title: **Sound data for good governance through EMIS: Strong National Data Systems as Prerequisites to Monitoring SDG4**
Time: **February 6, 2024 - 14:00 – 15:30**
Organizers (and co-organizers if relevant): **UNESCO EDP**

Name and organizations of the Rapporteur: **Pierre Chapelet (ED/PLS/EDP)**
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Guidance:

- Thank you for accepting to be Rapporteur during the 2024 Conference on Education Data and Statistics – Engagement Day.

- Kindly use the below template to share your **consolidated summary in ENGLISH.**

- This summary will be used for at least two purposes: (1) to prepare a report for the Rapporteur to report to the conference; (2) to prepare a detailed meeting report after the conference.

- The Rapporteur is requested to transmit their notes to **the Organizer**, within 4 hours after each session ends.

1. **Please provide a summary or key points for each of the following elements:**

Key topics in-focus
- Effective national Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) as pre-requisite to international reporting - Purpose and characteristics of an EMIS - Global trends in EMIS implementations and recent transformations - Complexities and challenges of EMIS modernization - International, regional and local initiatives supporting EMIS strengthening Member States

Main issues, key messages and takeaways (problems, solutions, future directions, etc. in **400 words**)
The session on "Sound data for good governance" focused on the importance for Member States to have a strong national information system in education, as a prerequisite to both effectively serve increasingly complex or unaddressed managerial requirements at national and sub-national levels as well as to ensure national and international monitoring requirements such as SDG4. 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.

Key messages from the session emphasized that building an effective EMIS is not solely about technology. It requires a strong enabling environment with consideration for and alignment of institutional, organizational and human dimensions.

The first part of the session offered a comprehensive overview of the multitude of EMIS definitions and highlighted 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.

The session highlighted **innovative solutions** and best practices from around the globe. Examples such as Latvia's longitudinal monitoring of student performance and digital adaptive testing, Brazil's 'connected education' initiative, and Estonia's comprehensive digital education strategy showcased how technology could revolutionize data collection, analysis, and utilization in education. Yet, the discussions also pointed out the importance of addressing interoperability leveraging standards, enhancing connectivity, especially in remote areas, and integrating data from diverse sources to create a more cohesive and efficient EMIS.

Looking towards the future, the session outlined **future directions** for improvement and innovation in EMIS. These include the development and implementation of unique student identifiers to track educational journeys, establishment of feedback mechanisms to empower teachers with actionable data, and ensuring robust data protection regulations to safeguard privacy and rights within digital education ecosystems.

In conclusion, the session articulated a vision for a holistic approach to modernizing EMIS, integrating technological advancements with a strong emphasis on capacity building, policy frameworks, and international collaboration. This approach is not only pivotal for overcoming current challenges but also for laying a solid foundation for future-oriented national education monitoring systems that leverage data for good governance and the achievement of quality education for all.

Relevant conference session(s) identified (Please refer to the updated conference agenda via https://ces.uis.unesco.org/)
• Administrative data: challenges and solutions forward (4th session on 7th of February)

Other notes
• N/A
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Data-Driven Approaches to Lifelong Learning