National Strategies for Development of Statistics and the data ecosystem
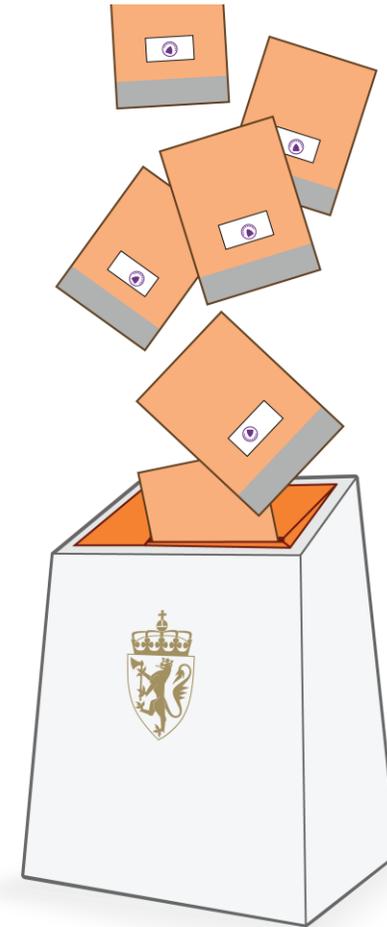
Léandre Ngogang
Statistician
African Centre for Statistics
Economic Commission for Africa
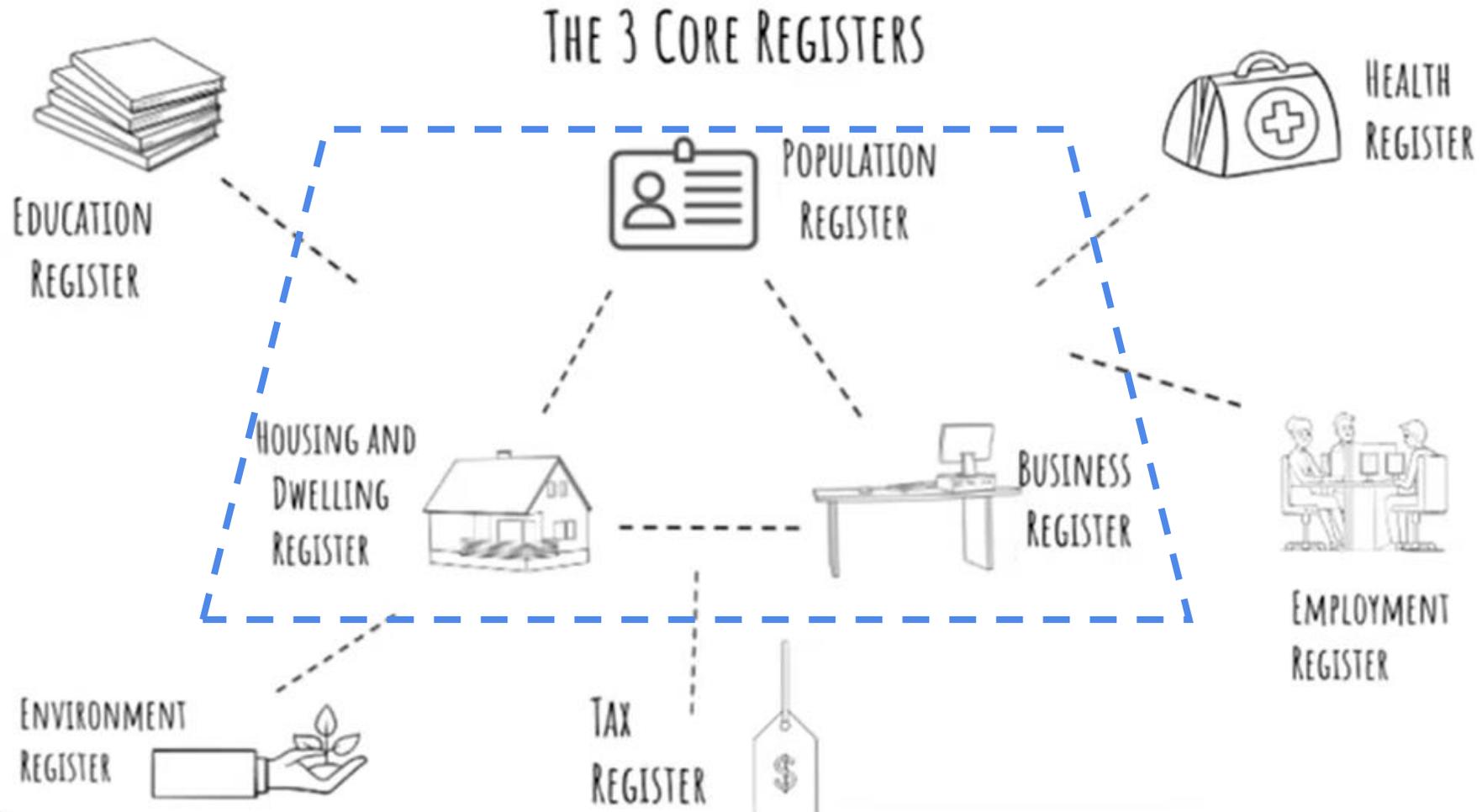
3 September 2025

2025

- **Elections in several countries**

  Parliamentary elections

- **How is the electoral list established?**

  Norway and selected African countries

The Nordic Countries model

THE 3 CORE REGISTERS

EDUCATION REGISTER

POPULATION REGISTER

HEALTH REGISTER

HOUSING AND DWELLING REGISTER

BUSINESS REGISTER

EMPLOYMENT REGISTER

ENVIRONMENT REGISTER

TAX REGISTER

The Nordic Countries model – Census costs

2001: Partially based on administrative data

- Staff: 10-15 permanent and 35-40 for data collection
- Costs (total): 14,6 million Euro = 3.2 Euro per person

2011: 100% based on administrative registers

- Staff: 2-3 persons
- Costs (additional): 1.5 million Euro = 0.3 Euro per person
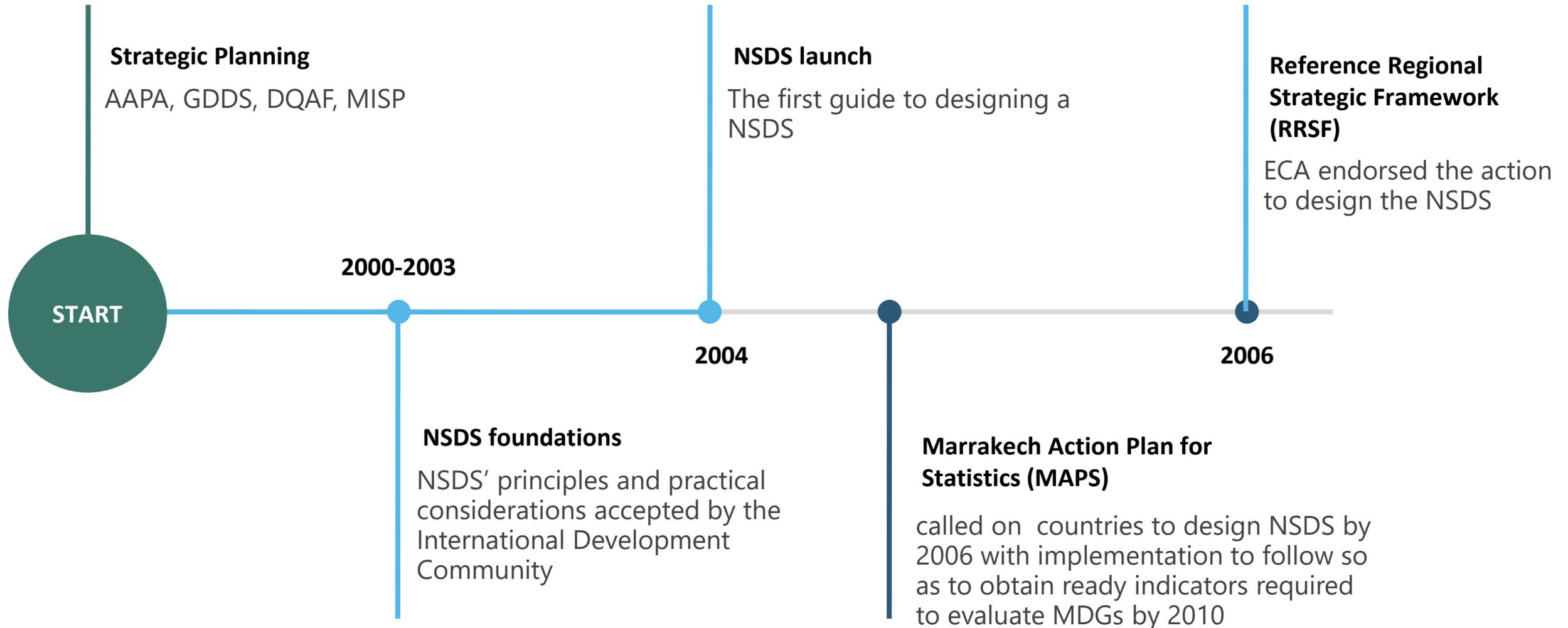
The Nordic Countries model

- Information in registers
- Institutions share data
- Data reused for statistics
- A census is possible every day

>90% of statistics are based on administrative data

Can NSDS help reach this level?

NSDS: A brief history

Strategic Planning

AAPA, GDDS, DQAF, MISP

2000-2003

START

NSDS foundations

NSDS' principles and practical considerations accepted by the International Development Community

NSDS launch

The first guide to designing a NSDS

2004

Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS)

called on countries to design NSDS by 2006 with implementation to follow so as to obtain ready indicators required to evaluate MDGs by 2010

Reference Regional Strategic Framework (RRSF)

ECA endorsed the action to design the NSDS
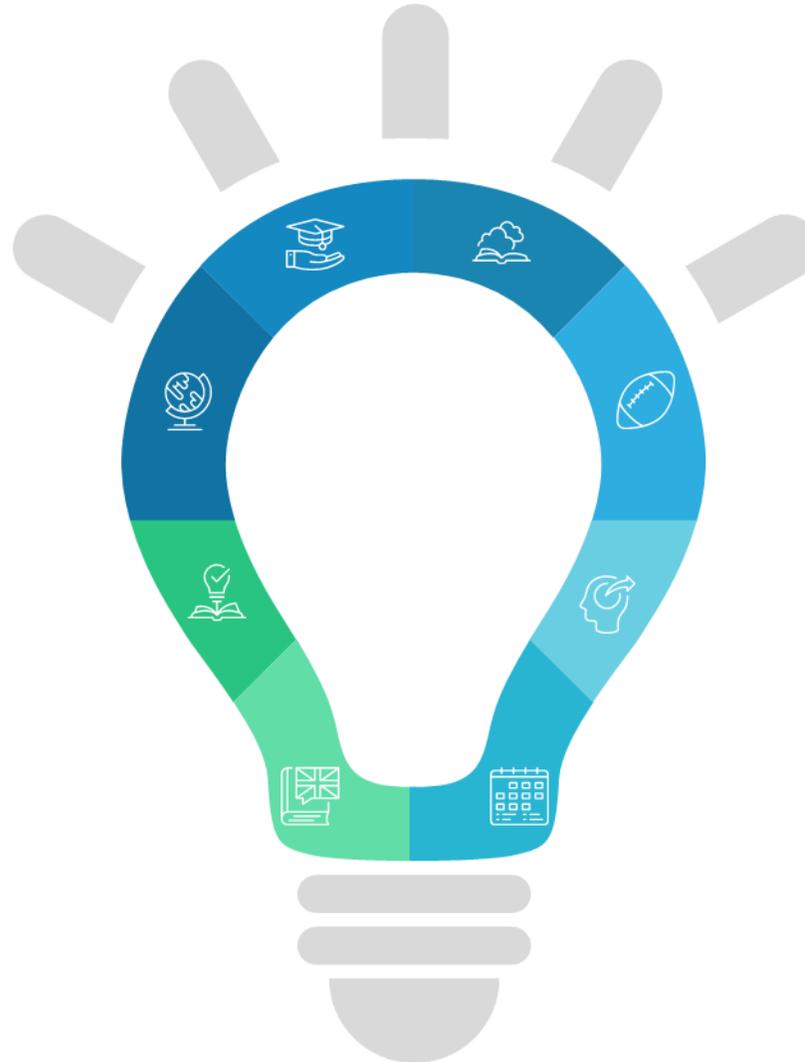
2006

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NSDS - What a contribution despite challenges!

Considerable support to statistical development in Africa

- Coordination of the NSS
- Data availability
- Data quality (MDAs, NSO, classifications, etc.)
- Funding of statistical production
- Reforms (institutional, organizational), infrastructure, capacity, etc.

Coordination of partners supports

- Framework for partners' support in statistics

Improved institutional statistical environments

- Statistics legislation
- NSS governance

Inclusive process

- Enabled synergies and interactions with stakeholders
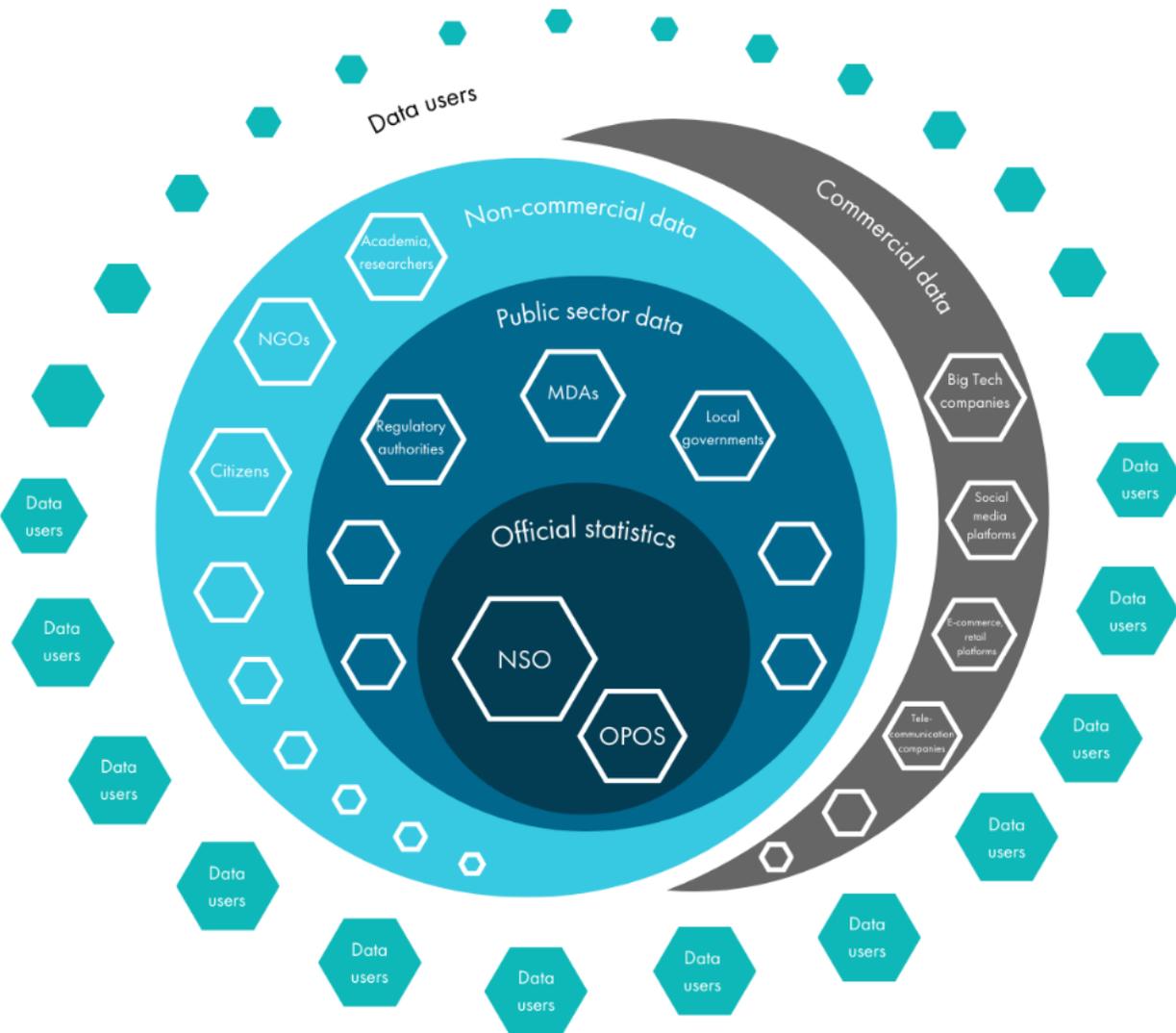- Statistical council role

Statistical advocacy
- Government...

Support national development
- Aligned to the NDP

National data ecosystems
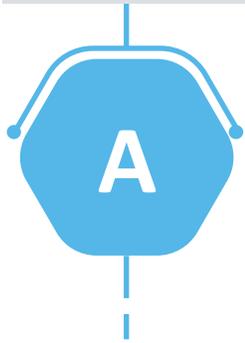

The NSDS covers a limited number of actors

The national data ecosystem requires proper and adequate data governance

Data governance:
A system of decision rights and accountabilities for the management of the availability, usability, integrity and security of data.
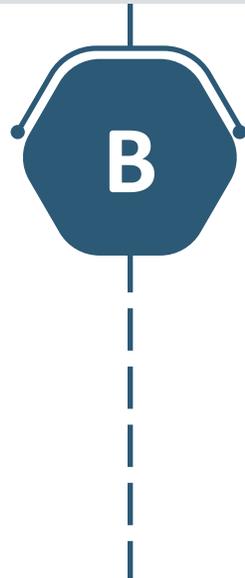
Working Group on Data Governance (56th UNSC, in 2025)

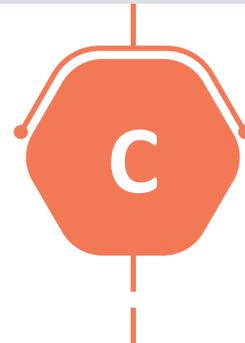# NSOs strategies regarding the national data ecosystems

A

Do nothing

The NSO decides not to react to the expansion of the national data ecosystem

B

Observe and wait for opportunities (passive engagement)

The NSO observe without engaging unless clear opportunities present themselves.

C

Influence and shape (active engagement)

The NSO allocates specific resources to build partnerships and is present during discussions and decision-making processes

D

Lead (pro-active engagement)

The NSO seeks and is given a leading role in shaping the national data ecosystem.

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Recent reflections

Data governance framework

NSDS

How can NSO engage the data ecosystem?

- Vision and strategy
- Review legal frameworks, institutional arrangements and mandates
- NSO mandate and organizational set-up
- Acquire skills and competencies
- Establish technical infrastructures and standards to facilitate interoperability
- Develop new mindsets on data integration and sharing
- Outreach, transparency and communication

Need for a Road map for data governance!

Useful links

1. Chapter 5 - National Data Ecosystems and Governance (Handbook on Management and Organization of National Statistical Systems), https://projects.officialstatistics.org/hb-mgnt-org-nss/handbook/chapters/C5/C5.html

2. The Nordic model: Using administrative registers for statistics production, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pq6ardjQflM

3. Handbook on Management and Organization of National Statistical Systems, https://unstats.un.org/capacity-development/handbook/index.cshtml

4. Image of the polling ballot in slide 2, https://www.valg.no/en/#:~:text=Election%20day%20is%208%20September,Advance%20voting

Thanks!

Questions and comments
ngogangwandji@un.org