**Nordic Experiences in Coordination of Compilation and Communication of Global SDG indicators**

Sara Frankl (Statistics Sweden), [sara.frankl@scb.se](mailto:sara.frankl@scb.se)

Jukka Hoffren (Statistics Finland), [jukka.hoffren@stat.fi](mailto:jukka.hoffren@stat.fi)

Live Rognerud (Statistics Norway), [live.rognerud@ssb.no](mailto:live.rognerud@ssb.no)

Darri Eythorsson (Statistics Iceland), [darri.eythorsson@hagstofa.is](mailto:darri.eythorsson@hagstofa.is)

Olafur Thordarsson (Statistics Island), [olafur.thordarsson@hagstofa.is](mailto:olafur.thordarsson@hagstofa.is)

Maciej Truszczynski (Statistics Denmark), [MTR@dst.dk](mailto:MTR@dst.dk)

**Abstract**

National Statistical Offices are facing major challenges in compilation of statistics in order to address the global and national monitoring needs posed by the 2030 Agenda. It is essential to identify some of the best approaches towards synergies across different data communities, by creating an enabling environment for the integration and use of new and traditional sources of data. Co-operation between NSO’s and non-traditional producers of data, such as civil society, business, and academia, requires utilization of new kinds of networks. It is important to address the challenges encountered by statistical offices in coordinating the statistical follow-up on the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, the reporting of global SDG indicators requires new solutions and advances compared to conventional statistics publishing.

Statistical follow-up on the 2030 Agenda requires data both from other official and non-official data producers. Non–official data producers owe particular data to statistical follow-up on specific indicators. Ensuring that this stakeholder data complies with quality standards of NSO is a challenge, while it poses coordination and cooperation issues faced during the work on statistical follow-up on the SDGs.

Under the session theme of “Facing the Future”, the presentation will reflect on the specific SDG-related perspectives and ongoing activities carried out by Nordic statistical offices, reflections on the way forward and necessary frameworks, and visions for the future. Presentation examines and discusses also issues concerning national data producers’ co-operation and networking as well as reporting platform solutions.

**Keywords**: Sustainable Development, SDG, Agenda 2030

1. Setting the scene

Four years after the 2030 Agenda with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets was adopted[[1]](#footnote-1), it has become even clearer to a growing number of stakeholders that the fulfilment of the SDGs will only be possible, if all stakeholder groups, public and private, play an active role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. At the centre of the implementation of the SDGs lie the data on which performance will be measured and evaluated and new initiatives taken, irrespectively of whether you are a government official, an NGO or a private sector representative.

As one of the key players in the follow-up, the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) are facing major challenges in the coordination and compilation of statistics to address the global and national monitoring needs. This is true even in countries that are regarded as data rich with modern statistical system. It is essential to identify some of the best approaches towards coordination, synergies across different data communities, creating an enabling environment for the integration and use of new and traditional sources of data and towards communication. The five Nordic countries are facing common as well as different challenges in defining their role and setting up sound monitoring frameworks and SDG data dissemination platforms. This paper gives an overview of current state-of-play in a few key areas for all five countries and then it discusses and concludes and gives some reflections on successes and challenges.

* 1. Coordination

The breadth and complexity of the Agenda means that many different producers of statistics and data will need to contribute to the statistical follow-up. These may include organizations within the national system of official statistics as well as other authorities and other actors. Broad involvement in the development of the follow-up will in turn contribute to broader use, trust and engagement.

* + 1. Coordination of global follow-up in Denmark

Statistics Denmark was active in the field of the SDG right from the start. This included among others showing willingness to coordinate national reporting on the global goals. Partly to our surprise this was welcomed by governmental institutions giving us the mandate to carry out the work, which resulted in Statistics Denmark being a national coordinator of the global follow up. One explanation could be that reporting on the global goals was perceived as burdensome by individual government agencies. However, due to its unexpected complexity, the reporting quickly became a challenging task. The complexity can be caused by the fact that reporting can involve coordination between various governmental agencies, not be fully relevant for a country (which means missing national data) or, an ongoing discussion with international agencies on validity of international versus national data. Addressing those issues, taken together with the number of data requests for the SDG follow up requires large amounts of time.

* + 1. Coordination of the 2030 Agenda indicators in Finland

Finland has been one of the forerunners in implementing sustainable development principles and the Prime Minister’s Office has played a key role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Finland. Finland has already completed first VNR for United Nations’ HLPF in 2016 and second one is due in 2020. The Finnish SDG development project for national compilation of global SDG –indicator data was carried out during 2018 at Statistics Finland. Project received the steering and financing from the Prime Minister’s Office. The project employed two experts from NSO and the allowance for the tasks was 150,000 euros. Despite funding from PMO the experts worked independently following statistical codes of conduct and ethics. Statistics Finland set up a cooperation network of main data producers and Prime Minister’s office in May 2019 to ensure and coordinate continue SDG-indicator development.

* + 1. Statistics Iceland at the heart of SDG indicators in Iceland

The oversight and implementation of the SDG´s is governed by a steering committee with representatives from all ministries, Statistics Iceland and the Icelandic association of local authorities. This committee is led by the Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister’s office. The youth council on SDG´s and the United Nations association Iceland have associate representatives on the committee as well. Statistics Iceland has been involved from the very beginning and has produced the statistical annexes for the country reports of 2018 and 2019. Iceland will give its first Voluntary National Review in the summer of 2019[[2]](#footnote-2).

Although the implementation of the 2030 agenda has been met positively in Iceland, it has been a limiting factor on Statistics Iceland’s involvement in the SDG indicator work that no financial resources have been appropriated to the production of SDG statistics so far, but that may change in the foreseeable future as discussion on the topic is taking place with the Prime Minister’s office. The primary task ahead is to coordinate the data collection and validation associated with the international and national SDG indicators. Statistics Iceland is also coordinating with the Icelandic Association of Local Authorities as local municipalities are adopting their own framework for Agenda 2030. Furthermore, Statistics Iceland will advise on use of the indicators in public policy making and on all statistical issues in that regard. Statistics Iceland is looking learn from the experience of the other Nordic NSOs that have progressed further in the field in coordinating and disseminating national and international SDG statistics.

* + 1. Decentralised coordination in Norwegian follow-up

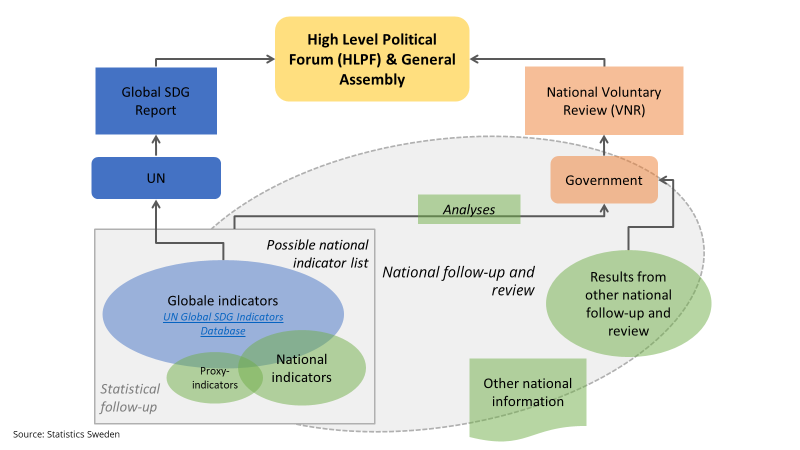
The responsibility for coordinating the national follow-up of the SDGs is divided between twelve line-ministries and reporting is done annually in the budget propositions. Use of statistics and data is somewhat diverse between the different ministries and Statistics Norway has advised a more conform and transparent communication of key figures accessible to a wider range of users. For the time being the global indicators will be used and there is also an interest in looking at the 100 indicators set up by Eurostat to follow EU policies for the SDGs when discussing a possible national reporting platform.

To get a better picture of the state of play of the statistical follow-up in, the Ministry of Finance commissioned Statistics Norway to produce a report on the matter. In early 2018 an assessment of the availability of global and European SDG indicators for Norway[[3]](#footnote-3) was published. The report is frequently used by ministries, civil society, businesses and consultants looking for information about the measurement of the SDGs. It also showcased the need for national coordination as 20 different institutions are producers of relevant statistics for the indicators.

* + 1. Statistical follow-up an integrated part of the overall follow-up in Sweden

Coordination of the follow-up in Sweden is based on the commonly developed view that only the statistical indicators and statistical analyses will not provide an overall picture of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It also needs to include more qualitative information such as on actions and implementation efforts across society and also encompass results from other, more sectoral follow-up, statistical and otherwise. Statistics Sweden’s role is grounded in the statistical follow-up but needs to be an integrated part of the overall follow-up.

**Figure 1 Global and National reporting on the SDGs**



The Swedish government has commissioned Statistics Sweden with coordinating the development, production and availability of the statistical follow-up. To that end, statistics Sweden has proposed a governance structure, a national indicator list (including proposals to develop the list further) and a data platform or portal. The proposals for a governance structure and a national indicator list have been implemented in the form of the assignment of the coordinating role to Statistics Sweden and the task to produce an annual statistical review of Sweden’s progress towards the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda based on the national indicator list proposed by Statistics Sweden.

Implementing the statistical follow-up involves special challenges in an area that spans so many areas and aspects of society. How do you set up the statistical follow-up of an agenda that requires such a thoroughgoing change? In addition to this challenge the government assignment that has been given to Statistics Sweden is in many ways unclear and purposefully vague to leave room for adapting the ambitions to the fact that no additional funding was provided.

The governance of the statistical follow-up includes the coordination role (Statistics Sweden), the role of being responsible for the individual indicators and a contributing role. The role as responsible or contributing agency is distributed to over 70 government agencies, ministries and other organisations. These also form a network of stakeholders that support and advises the coordination activities. Two working groups made up of members from the network have been established. The first one, on quality in the statistical follow-up, has so far developed a metadata template to accompany the indicators to be presented in the first annual statistical review. The second working group will advise Statistics Sweden on the development of the annual statistical reviews. To date, another working group is planned to work on interlinkages but has yet to be set up.

The high engagement of actors within and outside of the statistical system has created high expectations on the coordination and the perspectives present in the follow-up, most notably from the other producers of statistics and data and from civil society organisations. This can be interpreted as a success in that the output produced so far has contributed to the engagement. However, coupled with lack of resources this poses a real challenge for Statistics Sweden as the coordinator of the process. To tackle this challenge Statistics Sweden stresses the ever-evolving nature of the follow-up. It’s important that the actors know that their input will be considered even if it does not show in the tangible output at the moment. Actors are also invited, and expected, to take part in the development of the processes as well as in the statistical production of the indicator used in the follow-up.

* 1. Communication

The purpose of the 2030 Agenda is to achieve transformation into a socially, environmentally and economically sustainable society in all countries and at all levels by the year 2030. It is a long-term social change, described in the 17 goals and 169 sub-goals of the Agenda. This major transformation in society requires a change in both approach and behaviour, which, in turn, requires knowledge and commitment to sustainable development. One strategic tool to achieve this is communication that informs, engages and leads to action. Thus, communication is a key component also in the statistical follow-up of the 2030 Agenda.

The complexity and the multiple actors that need to be involved in the transformation pose many challenges to the implementation as well as to the follow-up and communication of results. As the coordinating agency, an NSO’s role is to make sure that the communicative efforts linked to the 2030 Agenda aim at contributing to the goal of a sustainable society.

* + 1. Communicating strategically in Sweden?

As communication efforts have to date been on an ad hoc basis, Statistics Sweden’s aim is to plan for more strategic communication so as to make sure the efforts have the required effects, that it supports change by informing, engaging and leading to action. The strategic communication plan will include, among other things:

* Options for digital data platform solutions with different levels of ambition.
* Analyses of important user groups.
* Visibility in the media.
* Social media presence (Facebook, Twitter).
* Statistics Sweden’s presence at national, regional and local events with links to the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development.
  + 1. National Reporting Platforms

Statistics Denmark has from the outset shown engagement and willingness to become an important voice in the debate on the statistical follow up of the 2030 Agenda in Denmark. The first step in this direction was developing a national SDG data platform to present the Danish follow-up on the global goals, targets and indicators. The development of the platform was organized as a project with a project manager and a steering group. In its current form, the data on the platform is mainly based on the data sources from Statistics Denmark’s own production system and is compiled in collaboration with different units within the office. But there is also an ambition to further develop the platform so that it shows development in other SDG relevant domains, such as municipalities’, private sector’s activities and contribution to the SDG and civil society’s activities.

Statistics Finland received financing from the Prime Minister’s Office to conduct a development project in 2018 for compiling national data for the global SDG indicators and to complete a national database for the global SDG indicators. The project included two mapping rounds to find possible indicator data producing institutions and organizations, followed by a compilation of existing data, metadata and translation of indicator names into Finnish.

The SDG indicator compilation posed major challenges for Statistics Finland as it brought up totally new data validation, methodological, conceptual, metadata and cooperation issues as well as methodological and metadata assistance to other national data producing institutions. The Finnish national reporting platform (NPR) for the global SDG indicators was published in February 2019 and contained national data for 131 of the 243 global SDG indicators. Since then the coverage has been expanded by 20 indicators. The NPR is built with PxWeb.

Discussions are ongoing in Norway about a national statistical platform for presenting relevant official data for a more transparent communication on how Norway is performing towards the goals. It is foreseen that a platform be established before the next Norwegian Voluntary National Review that will possibly take place in 2020. Norway will seek inspiration in the other Nordic NRP solutions.

Since 2018 the prime minister’s office in Iceland issues an annual report highlighting the status of the SDGs in the country. Communication of SDG statistics in Iceland has thus far been conducted by the publication of an appendix to the SDG report written by Statistics Iceland. This configuration is problematic as the report and appendix are written in parallel and thus the report takes limited consideration of the statistics. To improve communication the SDG statistics should be produced and reported continuously as new data is acquired and new indicators are mapped.

Work is starting in Iceland on a National Reporting Platform (NRP) for global SDG statistics to improve communication on progress towards the goals. The platform will be modelled on the UK NRP which is available as an open source platform free of charge and is already used by the US, Armenia, Rwanda and Ghana for reporting SDG indicators. Statistics Iceland aim to have the NRP established by the end of the year 2019.

Statistics Sweden has proposed to develop a specific web page where the statistical follow-up of the Agenda can be gathered and displayed. In June 2019 no decision on extra funding for this activity had been made. However, the commission for the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development stated in their final report that:

*“…[there] is a need, and a demand, for a platform or portal where data and statistics can be made available in digital format for the actors to monitor the developments and facilitate accountability.”*

Statistics Sweden has tentatively concluded that the most reasonable solution would be to set up a data platform within the frame of Statistics Sweden’s own website. This would safeguard the sustainability of the future management and development of the platform as it would be developed within the same architecture and with the same technical tools that are in use now and develop as the website develops. It is also believed that a website hosted by an NSO will be a trusted source of information and signal independence of the statistical follow-up.

* 1. National indicators

The goal and targets of the 2030 Agenda is followed up by a set of global indicators. However, the Agenda needs to be implemented on the regional and national levels as well as on the global level and considering different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respect policy space and priorities.

National indicator sets have been developed in Sweden and Finland. Denmark has plans to develop national indicators.

* + 1. Finnish sustainable development indicator baskets

Finland has been one of the forerunners in implementing sustainable development principles into public policies. The state of sustainable development monitoring is based on the Society’s Commitment to Sustainable Development, “The Finland we want by 2050”, which is Finland’s way of implementing the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations and its Sustainable Development Goals. The Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development defined these objectives in 2013 and they are in line with global SDGs. The national sustainable development policies are on responsibility of the Prime Minister’s Office together with the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development.

Finland has also established a national set of sustainable development indicators to monitor progress towards SDGs. The national indicator set has been formulated by sustainable development monitoring group, that is set up, mandated and steered by Prime Minister’s Office. Progress towards the target state will be monitored by means of 10 indicator baskets linked to the commitment. Each basket contains 4 to 5 indicators. The indicators were defined in spring 2017 by the network of experts that carries out the monitoring. The state of the indicators in each basket is updated on an annual basis. In connection with the update the public authority who knows the content of the basket provides an interpretation of the indicators where the state of the basket is considered from the perspective of sustainable development. The updating of the baskets takes place between September and May. There is a preliminary estimate of the time of update for each basket.

* + 1. Integrated national indicator list in Sweden

Statistics Sweden has proposed a national indicator list comprising all of the global indicators and complemented with 50 + national indicators to adapt the follow-up to a national context. Consultations have been carried out with actors in the statistical system, the potential data producers, and with users in the form of government agencies and civil society organisations. Input was sought primarily on what national (or domestic) indicators are needed to complement the global ones.

At present the list contains 294 unique indicators of which 9 are considered proxies that should be abandoned when an indicator complying to the methodology of the corresponding global indicator can be produced in Sweden. It is estimated that approximately 70 percent of the indicators are readily available to be presented in the first annual statistical review. A small portion of these indicators will be estimations made by international organisation.

The national indicator list will be subject to further development, both regarding the development of statistics to be used for global reporting and to further develop the adaption of the indicator list to the national context. Focus will be on developing indicators in areas not covered by existing, well-established follow-up systems and dealing with areas of horizontal nature where many actors have to be involved to make progress. Further plans for development of the national statistical follow-up framework also include the development of links to other national sectoral follow-up, to the government’s action plan as well as development of the collaboration with civil society organisations.

* + 1. National baseline indicators in Denmark

Statistics Denmark will coordinate a project on selection of national baseline indicators. The first step will be a nationwide consultation in order to give a robust basis for the work and ensure that national indicators in a relevant manner address issues identified as important by as wide a group of stakeholders as possible. The list of the selected indicators will be presented to the Danish government as a possible input to both national baseline and the updated national action plan for the SDGs.

* + 1. Analyzing the need for national SDG indicators in Iceland

Now Statistics Iceland is focusing on coordinating with data producers to increase the coverage of global indicators. There are no immediate plans for developing national SDG indicators for the time being. However, Statistics Iceland is starting work to develop a domestic SDG network to determine the need and potential utility of a set of national SDG indicators.

* 1. Non-official data and statistics

Data from non-official sources is a much-discussed topic in the statistical community. The first issue to be addressed in this context is what types of data we talk about. Generally, it could be discussed whether it is data showing a ‘section’ of a bigger picture, such as Big Data, but also data from civil society could fall under this term.

* + 1. Civil society data

To address the ambitions to develop the statistical follow-up, both Statistics Sweden and Statistics Denmark have concluded it will not be enough to use official statistics only. It is therefore necessary to reach out to other data producers and investigate what data sources can be applicable. In this regard several initiatives are ongoing considering how to include data from different sources in the statistical follow-up on the SDGs. Initiatives are carried out in dialogue with various stakeholders, be it private sector, civil society, or municipalities.

There is willingness from Statistics Denmark to receive and publish data from civil society, and there is willingness from civil society to deliver data. However, in the Danish case the data provided by civil society seldom fully corresponds to the requirements of the indicators and, consequently, the indicator is only partially covered. The challenge is then to explain the figures that are not fully covering the indicator, but also to complement the provided figures with additional data. Which again poses a question of comparability of data covering the indicator. An additional complication is - provided figures from national reporting platforms are to be used for international data transmissions - that there is no knowledge on international comparability of data provided by civil society.

In the case of Sweden, the idea is to use data and statistics from civil society to shed light on the situation for vulnerable groups in the society that are not easily captured by official statistics.

* + 1. Private sector data

Private (i.e. enterprise) sector was on the ‘SDG board’ right from the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. In Denmark, the possibility of discussing how to measure contribution of the private sector to the global goals was and is a heavily discussed topic. Particularly, the crucial aspects of ‘doing no harm’ and ‘positive pursuits’. The activity of the private sector was and still is accompanied by a heavy interest from various stakeholder groups that request more and comparable data about private sector. There are various challenges in trying to measure contribution of the private sector to the 2030 Agenda in a statistical way. Firstly, the 2030 Agenda in itself does not have many indicators that are directly applicable to the activities of the private sector. In consequence, there are parallel attempts to propose new indicators with relevance for the follow up on the private sector. Here UNCTAD or GRI could be mentioned. Indicators proposed here pose new demands to data availability which to a large extent are not yet met by the current statistical production. Besides data gaps, the comparability of company CSR reporting is lacking. This challenges the NSOs in compiling statistics as the CSR reports currently provide one of the best information approximating the intentions of the 2030 Agenda.

The ultimate ambition of following up on private sectors’ activities regarding ‘doing no harm’ and ‘positive pursuits’ is far from accomplished. Statistics Denmark is currently conducting a pilot survey that aims to present figures on private sector that complement the existing follow-up on the 2030 Agenda. The pilot survey focuses on company strategies regarding the SDG and on some selected targets. To reach this goal, Statistics Denmark has prepared a specific ‘company’ questionnaire and has plans of complementing the replies with figures on UNCTAD core indicators. The results of the pilot are expected mid-June.

The overarching question is also who will be the users of the data on private sector as a whole – would it be the general public, or would data also have appeal to other users, such as investors? The latter would set new demands on data, including answers to the challenging issue of data confidentiality and privacy of statistical units.

* 1. Interaction with users and producers

The complex task of following up the implementation of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda requires broad collaboration within and outside of the systems of official statistics. The underlying principle of leaving no one behind adds to the challenge.

Statistics Denmark has established a Partnership for SDG data. The primary idea was collaboration between all stakeholders to ensure the best possible reporting on the UN indicators and a dialogue between data producers, data users and stakeholders. Furthermore, through a dialogue with stakeholders, a parallel goal was to ensure that it is data that are topic for debate and not the methodology or data sources. And finally, a dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders draws the attention to other data sources than those already used in Statistics Denmark.

Statistics Sweden has developed the national indicator list in broad collaboration with both users and producers of data and statistics and in consultation with civil society organisations. A network of data producers is established and working groups have been established to work in collaboration on specific topics. With scarce resources, it is important to focus on the right things. Continuous coordination and collaboration with a wide range of actors is therefore considered key for the follow-up to evolve in a successful direction.

Statistics Finland established a collaboration group in April 2019 to improve collaboration in SDG data collection. This group consists of the main data producing bodies such as the National Institute for Health and Welfare, the Finnish Environment Institute, the Natural Resources Institute as well as the Prime Ministers’ office and the Ministry of Foreign affairs. The future collaborative work plan for 2019 include updating and completing current NPR data as well as publishing an SDG indicators statistical summary report.

Statistics Iceland is now starting to work on organizing an SDG network to map the different data producers operating in the country, such as the Directorate of Health, the Environment Agency, the Marine Research institute, etc. and identify areas of missing data. In the fall of 2019 Statistics Iceland will organize a collaboration group of SDG data users to better understand their needs and potentially start work on developing a national set of indicators depending on the needs of the SDG data using community.

1. Facing the future of SDGs and statistics

The expectations from the international community on the national statistical follow-up do not necessarily match the national ambitions both when it comes to establishing national indicators or which role the NSO should have. On the other hand, all offices experience a relatively high interest from civil society and NGOs in the international as well as the national work on indicators for monitoring the SDGs. The examples from the five Nordic countries show that where the NSO’s are tasked to support the 2030 Agenda and SDG implementation nationally, this is well received from the users. The NSOs also get in contact with new user groups and the SDGs are a platform for building new partnerships and strengthening old ones. This can open new doors that also have repercussions for the general work of the NSO where utilizing new data sources and disaggregation of data according to new user needs are two major takeaways so far.

The dissemination and communication of SDG indicators can be done with NRPs but might only reach a limited number of general audiences, and maybe mainly experts and NGOs. And what should be the role of the national statistical offices in assessing the progress towards the 2030 Agenda objectives? Purely technical assessments are rarely enough, and more holistic assessments and interpretations should also be made and published.

The SDGs are ambitious also in the sense that they take a much broader view of progress and state of sustainability than previous development goals. The practical challenges of data compilation require previously unseen collaboration with a diversity of actors. Instead of just producing new social, economic and environmental statistics also more intense conceptual and methodological work for sustainability indicator frameworks is required. Beside the national statistical office, other institutions produce relevant data in each country and not all of them are currently part of what is regarded as the national statistical system. One vital task for the NSOs is the validation of relevant data provided by other government agencies, research institutes, private companies and NGOs. A tool for this is to ensure the that the data is produced according to good statistical practices to ensure data quality and comparability. Assistance to other national data producing institutions as well as international support, assistance and statistical capacity building are emerging new areas.

The maximum coverage of SDG indicators, which can be compiled with currently available data, is estimated around 50-70 per cent in all Nordic countries. The SDG indicator framework hints that much of the indicator data should be already available since it has been included to the indicator set by the UN. The tier classification on data availability is vague and does not hold for all of countries although they are regarded as normative requirement for all countries by actors and data users outside statistical community. Thus, the seemingly absence of a large amount of the data needed poses normative political and public pressures on NSOs to increase the data coverage.

Challenges for Nordic NSOs also include further disaggregation of data as the collected data in many cases are optimised to minimum samples to minimise cost and response burden. The extensive use of registers also limits the possibilities to disaggregate along all dimensions requested by the 2030 Agenda. Thus, in many cases current data does not necessarily allow the in-depth disaggregation recently emphasized by UN organizations. As the disaggregation of the SDG indicator set seems to deepen over time, the basic statistical data collection samples must be reconsidered. Development of data for indicators currently undefined, with non-existent data or in need of development are major challenges. In some cases, indicator data could be calculated from existing databases with considerable additional work. In most cases considerable amount of resources and methodological assistance from NSO are needed.

# Conclusions

Within the framework of the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda, several important tasks, traditionally not common tasks for Nordic NSOs, must be tackled. To get a quick overview of the state-of-play in the Nordic countries the key findings is summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1 Commonalities and differences in implementing statistical follow-up of the 2030 Agenda in the Nordic countries**



**\* All countries have gone through rather extensive mappings of their data availability, but it should be taken in to account that somewhat different principles have been used and the level of possible disaggregation for relevant indicators is generally not reflected.**

**\*\* 80% is covered if globally calculated indicators and non-statistical indicators. Coverage of national list 78% (87% expected to be produced within a couple of years**

Analysing these findings and based on the experiences four years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs the following conclusions are shared among the five Nordic NSOs:

(i) Continued political, institutional and financial support for the national production of the SDG indicator work is highly important. The national compilation of data for SDG indicator set requires high level support that justifies the priority of SDG indicator work.

(ii) Interagency expert co-operation is needed to be able to compile data for the national reporting. Close and trustful cooperation between statisticians and other experts is crucial in the fields of concepts and classifications, definitions and calculation methodologies.

(iii) Several methodological and conceptual challenges needed to be addressed on national level. Other important challenge is the validation process to ensure data quality of non-official statistics.

(iv) Close and trustful cooperation and collaboration with partners and stakeholders in the user community is important for the coordination agency to understand user needs and challenges that needs to be measured and communicated.

1. <https://undocs.org/A/RES/70/1> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23408VNR_Iceland_2019_web_final.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://www.ssb.no/natur-og-miljo/artikler-og-publikasjoner/indikatorer-til-fns-baerekraftsmal> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)