
2016 Regional Workshop on Educational Statistics for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia 18-21 April 2016 Istanbul, Turkey

Summary report

UIS organized a regional workshop on education statistics for the 12 following countries forming the region called Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Each country was represented by two national statisticians except Kazakhstan which nominated a third self-financed participant and Uzbekistan which didn't send representatives.

The main objectives of the workshop were to:

- Discuss the data issues and ISCED and resolve data inconsistencies or gaps.
- Review all countries ISCED 2011 mapping and update the information.
- Present new UIS education questionnaires
- Present the 2013 new ISCED Fields of Education and Training.
- Make presentations data, indicators and analysis disseminated by UIS.
- Present the SDG₄ indicators and monitoring framework.
- Provide an opportunity for national statisticians to exchange and learn from each other's on new areas of education monitoring in line with the new SDG₄.
- Meet the members of each country team and identify possible areas where UIS can support work at the national and regional level.

1) Outcomes & results obtained:

After one day of bilateral meetings with each of the 11 countries, the second day of the workshop was mainly dedicated to the presentation and discussion of the timeliness of data for the region, the latest changes to the UIS education survey-including the introduction of the ISCED-F 2013 fields of education. This was an opportunity to present an overview of the Education Survey completeness and timeliness for the region during the last four years. Overall, the countries participating to workshop have a good response rates and data quality for the different UIS education questionnaires, with Eastern European countries doing slightly better than Caucasus and Central Asia's ones. The first day was also an opportunity to present UIS recent outputs

based on the data reported by countries-with focus on the analysis of students' mobility flows data which is a topic of big interest for this region.

The third day was dedicated to detailed presentations and discussions of the Education 2030 and the related monitoring framework and to the presentation of the results of a regional survey that UIS conducted prior to the workshop to map the availability of data and indicators to monitor Education 2030. The day was concluded with two countries' presentation done by Georgia and Moldova on their national educational statistical system. In general the mapping survey had a good response rates but several countries said they didn't have enough time to consult with national agencies to provide a complete and accurate picture regarding national data availability to monitor SDG 4. In some countries there were also issues about coordination between Ministry of Education and National Statistical Office. Finally the fact that the questionnaire has not been translated in Russian made it difficult to fully understand some questions in some cases. The presentation of the mapping was followed by a round table discussion of the survey results and the major data gaps in each country.

The fourth and last day was dedicated to discussing the national plans and regional initiatives related to the integration of the Education 2030 agenda in national and regional education strategies and to do a mapping of national surveys that can be used to produce data to monitor SDG 4. These sessions provided an excellent opportunity to do a round table where each country was asked to describe national initiatives related to SDG, which kind of national learning/skills assessment and other surveys are conducted in the country and at which frequency. The results of this round table were compiled and documented and will be useful to understand data availability in each country.

Overall results obtained:

- The bilateral meetings offered a very good opportunity to discuss and solve issues related to ISCED mappings and reported data.
 - All country ISCED 2011 mapping have been discussed and reviewed.
 - National statisticians participated very well during the plenary sessions and contributed very actively.
 - The general impression is that the workshop was found very useful by the participants and that it offered an excellent opportunity to countries to exchange and learn from each other
 - UIS established closer connections with members of country teams which will contribute to improve communications and responsiveness of countries
 - Participating countries have found the activities around the presentation and discussions of the Education 2030 Agenda very informative, useful and timely and they thanked publically the UIS for that.
 - Through the survey on the mapping of data availability and during the round table discussions UIS was able to gather very useful information on the extent to which countries of the region are ready to produce the required data to monitor SDG 4.
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