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Blue Skies Thinking Network – HLG-MOS workshop 2022

Geneva, 22-23 November 2022

Barteld Braaksma

modernstats
by HLG - MOS



Blue Skies Thinking Network- the ideas factory of the HLG-MOS



- Identify new opportunities
- Generate new ideas
- Develop/evaluate proposals
- ‘Organise’ innovation
 - Core team
 - Activity teams
 - Events



Information: Chris Jones (jonesc@un.org) and Barteld Braaksma (b.braaksma@cbs.nl)

BSTN Core Team

Alison Baily/Eric Deeben (United Kingdom)
Branko Josipovic/Nebojsa Tolic (Serbia)
Carlo Vaccari/Luca Mancini (Italy)
Daniel Elazar (Australia)
Eric Anvar (OECD)
Frankie Kay (Ireland)
Gary Dunnet (New Zealand)
Jean-Marc Museux (Eurostat)
Juan Munoz (Mexico)
Kate Burnett-Isaacs/Marc Peladeau (Canada)
Lilli Japtec (Sweden)

Chris Jones (UNECE, secretary)

Taeke Gjaltema (UNECE, general support)
Barteld Braaksma (Netherlands, chair)
Vince Galvin (New Zealand, champion)



BSTN work in 2022

- Regular (monthly) online core team meetings
 - Identification and discussion of new activity and project ideas (pitches)
 - Support for drafting and fine-tuning of proposals
 - New element: free-form brainstorming
 - Less attention for activity monitoring
- Two physical BSTN events in 2022
 - June 2022: Belgrade (side event of ModernStats World Workshop)
 - July 2022: Newport (hosted by Data Science Campus@ONS)
- Wiki platform: <https://statswiki.unece.org/display/BST>



June 2022: Belgrade

- Hosted by SORS (Statistics Serbia) -> **Many thanks!!!**
- Afternoon session, side event of ModernStats World Workshop
- Topic: Use of “The Cloud” for official statistics
- 50 participants on site, some 15 online
- Four presentations
 - Canada, New Zealand, Serbia, Sweden
- Small Group discussions
- Clear appetite for follow-up
- Report available (ask Ollie!)



July 2022: Newport



Data Science Campus

- Hosted by Data Science Campus of ONS -> **Many Thanks!!!**
- Celebrating five years of Data Science Campus@ONS
- BSTN organised three 1.5h sprint sessions
 - Use of Cloud
 - Continuation of Belgrade discussions
 - Led to project proposal presented yesterday
 - Rapid Survey System
 - Pitches from Canada, Ireland, Netherlands, Serbia
 - Follow-up TBD (link with NPS activity proposal?)
 - Digital Twins
 - Starting from ‘outside perspective’: contributions from UK Digital Twin and Cardiff University (2x)
 - Work will be continued in activity proposal presented here

Looking Back

other activities this year

- Joint Biosecurity Center/
Rapid Survey System (UK/RS)
- Response rates for surveys (NZ/CA/NL)
- Digital Twins (NL/SE/EU/CA/RS/IT)
- App-based surveys (UK/NL/RS)

- Small-scale activities, progress mixed
- Resources always an issue



Looking Forward

activities foreseen for next year

- Open Source Adoption (led by CA)
- Digital Twins (led by NL)
- Non-Probabilistic Surveys (led by IE)

- Activity proposals available
- Open for everyone to join!



Open Source Transformation Knowledge Sharing (CA)

Series of monthly workshops on

1. Establishing and carrying out a strategy for open source adoption
2. Foundational pieces to make the transition
3. Infrastructure
4. Change management
5. Upskilling/hiring to fill gaps
6. Future proofing ourselves (avoid repeat situation)
7. ...



Three work packages foreseen

1. Stocktaking of existing initiatives and relevant partners
2. Use cases for statistical data and methods
3. Standards and architecture for statistical Digital Twins



Range from global (e.g. EU initiative [Destination Earth](#)) to local DTs (city or neighbourhood level); often with geospatial component

We could try to create a DT of our office buildings (!)

...But probably we are not into Formula 1 DTs:

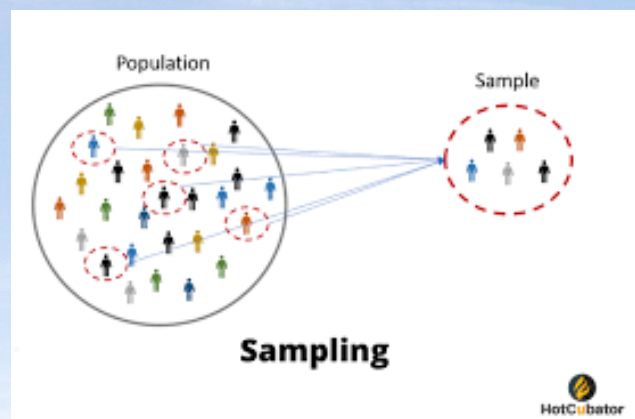
[Formula 1 is Leading the Digital Twin Technology](#)



Non-Probabilistic Surveys (IE)

Purpose: investigate the **feasibility** of using a **non-probability survey** to generate **sufficiently reliable** population estimates.

This approach might be a way to **augment** existing probability-based sample **surveys** and **expand** the range of **statistics** a National Statistical Organisation (NSO) is able to provide.



Further ideas for 2023

- Continue well-established approaches
 - Monthly online meetings
 - Physical meetings
 - Prepare and review project proposals
- Outreach to new groups, inside and outside statistics
 - ESS innovation taskforce and innovation network
 - HLG-MOS workshop steering committees
 - Relevant UNSD groups
 - CEBD/PET lab/Data Science Leaders Network/...
 - Academia
 - ...





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Blue Sky Thinking Network – Looking Back & Ahead

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