

## National Statistical Offices' (NSOs) Focal Points Meeting Arab Development Portal (ADP)

[www.arabdevelopmentportal.com](http://www.arabdevelopmentportal.com)

Le Bristol Hotel

*Beirut, Lebanon*

14 November 2017

### Background

The ADP was launched on 25 April 2016 as a bilingual data warehouse and knowledge platform that offers timely and high quality data and knowledge on key development topics in the Arab region based on national and international sources. The ADP hosts an interactive data browsing and extraction facility equipped with visualization tools to make data more digestible and user-friendly. It also hosts a rich pool of resources such as publications and blog entries, along with the latest news and events. It is the only platform that offers a centralized database of indicators extracted from the countries' main national data producers and providers. The ADP is firmly positioning itself as the main reference for researchers, entrepreneurs, policy-makers, academics, students, civil society workers, journalists and bloggers, active citizens who are concerned with the development trajectory their country or the region is taking.

The ADP supports open data, access to information, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and data-based journalism. It champions innovation, sustainability, and social entrepreneurship across the region. Its interactive, multi-source and bilingual database offers more than 3,600 indicators<sup>1</sup>. The ADP is in the process of expanding its database to enhance its thematic coverage of the SDGs. In October 2017, ADP team will launch the SDGs tracking tool. This tool offers a multi-level monitoring mechanism of progress on SDGs based on the global indicators but also on national indicators and targets identified in national development plans of selected Arab countries.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information, you can request the *ADP Catalogue of Services* at [Info@arabdevelopmentportal.com](mailto:Info@arabdevelopmentportal.com)

## Workshop Objectives

In the past three years, the ADP has managed to develop an institutionalized relationship with the National Statistical Offices of the Arab countries and most NSOs have appointed focal points to directly coordinate with the ADP team. In addition, representatives from different Arab NSOs participated in the workshops organized by ADP.

The first consultation meeting with the NSOs was held in November 2014 and was attended by representatives from eight NSOs<sup>2</sup>. In this meeting, participants discussed the situation of data portals in their respective countries and briefed the ADP team on the on-going efforts to improve on their visibility and relationship with users. In April 2016, representatives of eight NSOs<sup>3</sup> joined the ADP Launching Ceremony and the Regional Workshop on the SDGs. Among other topics, this workshop focused on open data and data dissemination, with a specific focus on the role of NSOs in publishing official statistics.

The ADP team also convened a third workshop with the NSOs on database management and data dissemination strategies and tools in November 2016 and February 2017. These meetings were attended by representatives from 17 NSOs<sup>4</sup>, the GCC stat and experts from the United Kingdom, South Africa, Brazil and Sweden. During these meetings, NSOs representatives presented their dissemination strategies and the different databases and website technologies adopted by their institutions. Participants emphasized the need to cater users' expectations by allowing them easy access to their data.

Most recently, the ADP convened the fourth NSOs training workshop in March 2017 which offered hands-on-training on the process of producing attractive analytical and visual content on SDGs related data using user-friendly and open software and tools.

In follow-up to this continuous effort, the ADP is organizing the first annual meeting bringing together all focal points to introduce them to the new ADP database, system and SDGs tracking tool, discuss needs and data sharing, assess ADP workshops and e-learning courses, get updated on SDGs reporting and discuss means to improve on the current mechanism of coordination.

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<sup>2</sup> Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, and Tunisia.

<sup>3</sup> Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Sudan, Yemen

<sup>4</sup> Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kurdistan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria and Tunisia.

**Profile of participants:** This meeting will be attended by the focal points assigned by each National Statistical Office in the Arab Countries.

## Agenda

*November 2017*

09:00 – 09:30 Welcome Coffee and Registration

09:30 – 10:00 Welcoming Session

- Welcoming Remarks
- Introduction: Objectives of this meeting and update on previous workshops held with the NSOs

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*-Farah Choucair, ADP Project Manager and Technical Specialist, UNDP-RBAS*

*-Yasmine Koujou, ADP Research Officer and National Statistical Offices' Coordinator, UNDP-RBAS*

**Group Photo**

10:00 – 11:00 Session I: Briefing on the Arab Development Portal (ADP)

- ADP website
- ADP new database
- SDGs tracking tool

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*-Diana Assaf, ADP Web Editor, UNDP-RBAS*

*-Yasser Najem, ADP Senior Statistician, UNDP-RBAS*

*-Yasmine Koujou, ADP Research Officer and National Statistical Offices' Coordinator, UNDP-RBAS*

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 – 12:30 Session II.1: Training on ADP's new system for the NSOs

The ADP has succeeded in building strong relationships with the NSOs of the Arab countries and most NSOs have appointed Focal Points to directly coordinate with the ADP team in different areas including data sharing. During this session, participants will be introduced to the new ADP system. This system was developed in a way that allow each NSO to update the national data of their countries directly on the portal.

**12:30 – 13:30    Session II.2: Working Session**

Participants will be guided to try the new system.

**13:30 – 14:30    Lunch Break**

**14:30 – 16:00    Session III: Country Updates on SDGs reporting**

**16:00 – 17:00    Session IV: Working Relationship with the NSOs**

- Data sharing
- Technical assessments needs
- Means to improve the current mechanism of coordination
- Suggestions of new topics and trainings

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*-Farah Choucair, ADP Project Manager and Technical Specialist, UNDP-RBAS*

*-Yasmine Koujou, ADP Research Officer and National Statistical Offices' Coordinator, UNDP-RBAS*