

Developing an International Relations Function at a National Statistical Office

Workshop Proposal for Planning and Statistics Authority, Qatar, 31 Oct, 2023.

Updated 5/10/23

Objectives:

By the end of this session, participants will

- Understand how an active international relations function can strengthen the work of a national statistical office
- Gain knowledge of the different systems, processes and skills needed to ensure the team's effective functioning
- Develop ideas and techniques for formulating an international strategy for their own organisation

Facilitators:

- Nikki Shearman, Head of International Relations, UK Statistics Authority (UKSA).
- Rob Bumpstead, Chief of Staff, UKSA.
- Alison Baily, Policy and Programme Manager, UKSA.

Participants:

Around 20 members of the Public Affairs Department, Qatar Planning and Statistics Authority.

Programme outline:

Morning Session, 0930-1300: Overview and Strategy

- Introduction to ONS and the UK statistical system
- An Overview of the International Statistical Landscape
- Understanding What You Want to Achieve From Your International Engagement
- Developing An International Strategy for Your Organisation
- Strategy Exercise

Afternoon Session, 1400-1630: Delivery

- Working With Other Institutions In International Engagement
- Building an International Relations Function – structure, systems and processes
- Next Steps and Evaluation

Programme detail:

Morning: Overview and Strategy

09:30-09:45 Welcome and Introductions

09:45-10:30 Scene setting

- Introduction to ONS, the UK Statistical System and ONS International Development work.
- Introduction to PSA, the Qatari Statistical System and their International Relations activities and structure (*PSA colleagues to present*)
- An overview of the International statistical system
 - UN, OECD and other multilateral institutions
 - Spotlight on UN Statistics Division

10:30-11:00 UKSA International strategy

- Overview of the UK Government Statistical Service International strategy.
- What's the point of a strategy and how should an international relations team influence global statistical trends?
- Examples of successful international engagement by ONS and other statistical offices

11:00-11:15 Break

11:15-13:00 Developing a strategy for PSA

- Discussion of PSA ambitions, goals, key stakeholders for international engagement and translating these into a strategy
- Prioritising and identifying organisations PSA wants to engage and purpose/objectives of engagement
- Alignment with wider national strategies
- **Group activity** - teams work together to develop the outline of their international strategy

13:00-14:00 Lunch

Afternoon: Delivery

14:00-14:30 Working With Other Government Departments and NSIs In International Engagement

- Cooperation, Alignment and Loose Alliances
- Working with other National Statistical Institutes (NSIs), opportunities.
- Working with secretariats and other groups – who your key allies are
- Relationship building between meetings
- Working with other NSIs, secretariats and other groups
- Coordinating International Engagement With Other Government Departments

- 14:30-15:00 Building an International Relations Function to Deliver Your Strategy
- What role does an International Relations Team (IRT) play in the functioning of a statistical office?
 - ONS international relations team structure and responsibilities.
 - Supporting the UK Senior Leadership Team – why do we do this and what forms can it take?
 - Discussion
- 15:00-15:15 Break
- 15:15-16:15 The Operational Side of Delivering International Work – What Systems and Processes Do Statistical Offices Need to Have in Place to Engage Internationally in a Safe, Effective and Efficient Way?
- Logistical aspects of an IRT function
 - Preparing for An International Meeting
 - Identifying objectives and delegates
 - Processes for coordinating input and agreeing policy positions
 - How to put together a good briefing pack for your leaders
 - Discussion with PSA IRT about their logistical functions/ staff support
 - **Group Activity** – Teams work together to develop their own outline structure for an International Relations Function
- 16:15-16:30 Next steps and Course Evaluation