

Assessment of Data Stewardship in Latin America and the Caribbean



Process

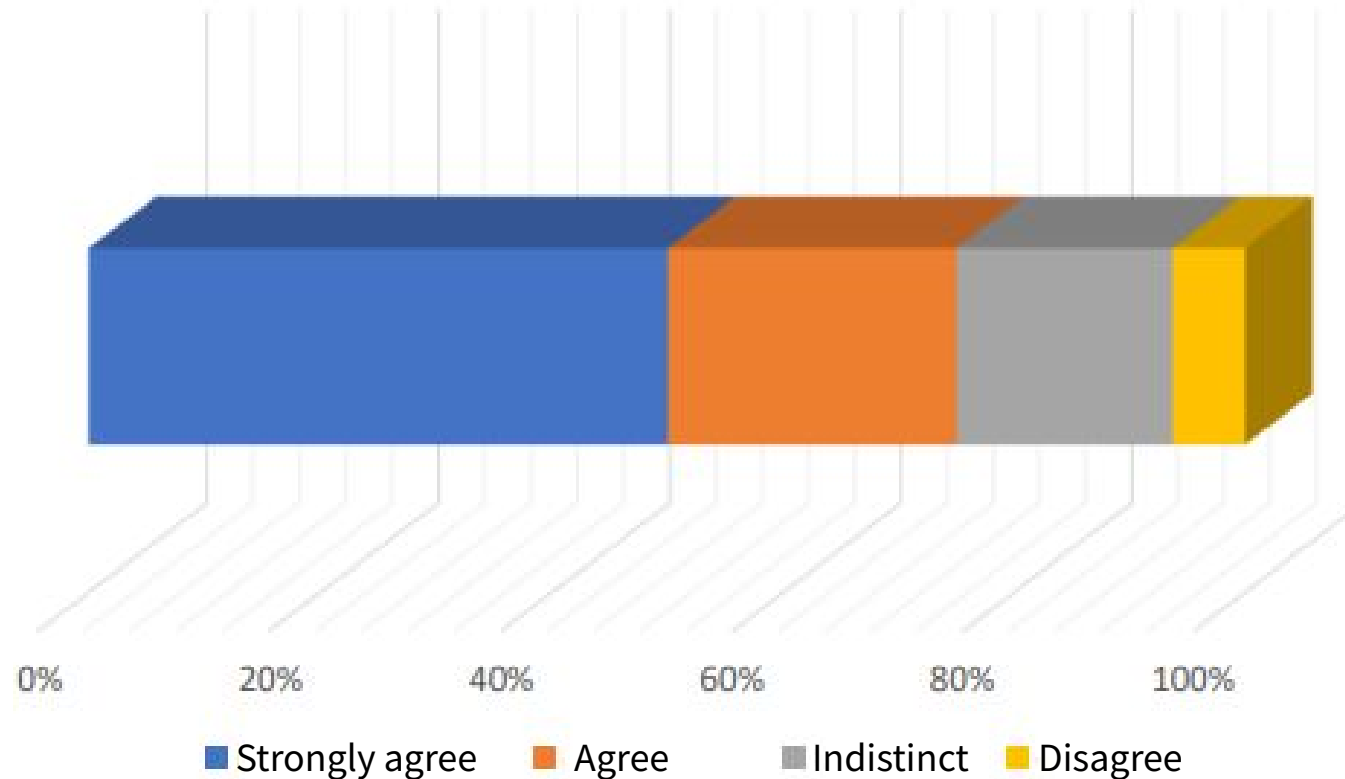
Throughout the year 2022, the ECLAC Data Stewardship Working Group, led by DANE of Colombia and INDEC of Argentina, carried out a series of meetings and a regional workshop in which the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean were able to report on the state of situation within their countries regarding the concept of Data Stewardship. The workshop was accompanied by the subsequent completion of a survey that turned out to have a greater diagnosis on the scope of the concept of Data Stewardship in the role of the National Statistical Offices of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Survey

The survey had the active participation of 16 countries. The gender approach has been included throughout the questionnaire, since the idea of Data Stewardship, being a new and inclusive concept, already contemplates the gender perspective.

Survey results

We asked the countries surveyed to comment on the following sentence: "The data steward should supervise the production of data by non-state actors and establish standards for the entire national data ecosystem, including those actors that are not part of the State"



Survey results

What do you think are the relevant components necessary for the application of Data Stewardship in your country?

- Technological infrastructure
- Regulatory frameworks or laws
- Common quality standards
- Political and/or institutional will

What do you consider to be the main challenges that your NSO face and that could be solved/mitigated through deepening the Data Stewardship approach in your country?

- Lack of access to alternative sources of information (AARR) for statistical information production
- Absence of schemes for the exchange and interoperability of data and metadata in secure environments
- Quality assurance in statistical information production
- The need to consolidate an efficient management of data providers for statistical information production

Survey results

How would your National Statistical Office define in a few words the use and meaning of the term Data Stewardship?:

- It is highlighted the role of the NSOs as data stewards and the emphasis on its scope to the entire data ecosystem (not just public actors)
- Words such as: manage and custodian of data are prioritized, as well as roles related to quality assurance, security and the ethical use of information

How do you think the Data Steward can play an important role in promoting the operationalization of data in an equitable and inclusive manner?:

- Establishing regulatory frameworks
- Facilitating the participation of new actors
- Creating agreements
- Strengthening capabilities

Survey results

What are the challenges, if any, that your National Statistical Office must face when making data exchange agreements with different actors in the data ecosystem?:

- The common challenge is the willingness of the data producers, whether public or private, to access the exchange of information.
- The reasons to explain this phenomenon vary: lack of political will, absence of legal liability, temporary sustainability of agreements, security assurance standards and technological infrastructure, among others.

What measures do you consider can facilitate, in ethical and legal terms, better collaboration and use of private data for statistical purposes?:

- The most common response found is related to regulatory strengthening.
- The need to establish laws that facilitate this exchange is highlighted and, in countries where they exist, the importance of a better understanding of the law by private parties is emphasized.

Next steps

The completion of the recently presented survey is only one part of a much larger task that is currently in process. The main objective is to advance in the definition of a regional concept of Data Stewardship in order to propose enabling elements for its implementation and mainstreaming by the NSSs, particularly the NSOs, taking into account the particularities, challenges and different starting points from the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In this sense, the working group is currently shaping the commented index that will serve to prepare the final document that will have a diagnosis of what the concept of Data Stewardship means for our region, and also compiles different experiences at the regional level in terms of this concept, as well as it is expected to contain a preliminary report regarding on how our countries access -or not- to administrative records and other sources (thanks to a report from ECLAC).

We aspire to define a new meeting of the working group in the upcoming weeks, with the aim of reporting progress on the matter and defining details of the final document, which is expected to be ready by the middle of this year.

This is a task that requires a greater involvement of the countries of this region, making it possible to provide a regional approach to an issue that is acquiring increasing global relevance.