United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Unitar Online Catalogue

Statistics, Knowledge and Policy: Understanding Societal Change (2016a)

□□□□ : 9 □□ 2016

□□ :	Course
□□ :	Web-based
□□ :	9 □□ 2016 to 3 □□ 2016
□□ :	5 Weeks
□□□□ :	Governance, , Public Finance and Trade
□□ :	http://www.unitar.org/pft/events
□□ :	US$800.00
□□□□□ email:	pft-training@unitar.org

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The underlying aim of the course, which has been developed in collaboration with the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), is to foster the development of sets of key economic, social and environmental indicators to provide a comprehensive picture of how the well-being of a society is evolving.This course and its online discussion forum will also act as a catalyst to encourage each participant to consider, in an informed way, the crucial questions: Is life getting better? Is our obsession with gross domestic product to measure progress of a society unhealthy and misleading? This course also seeks

to encourage the use of indicator sets to inform and promote evidence-based decision-making, within and across the public, private and citizen sectors.

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At the end of the course, the participants should be able to:

- Recognize the role of statistics in the democratic decision making
- process;
- Demonstrate that progress of societies can be measured beyond GDP;
- Compare the meaning of 'well being' across societies;
- Describe the different ways to think about progress and to measure
- progress; and
- Discuss how to turn statistics into knowledge.

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The course consists of the following four modules:

- Module 1: General introduction to Measuring the Progress of Societies
- Module 2: What to measure: progress and its dimensions
- Module 3: How to measure progress
- Module 4: Ensuring that measures are used

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In order to ensure the best possible outreach, the course will be delivered through e-learning. Through a multiple-instructional setting, the goal is to achieve the learning objectives by means of learning technologies that match personal learning styles and by the inclusion of non-linear learning that aims at the development of just-in-time skills of adult learners. At the same time, in order to allow participants maximum flexibility of scheduling , the learning will be conducted in an asynchronous manner. Using a state-of-the-art training architecture, UNITAR will combine self-learning with assessments and online discussions. The pedagogy - adapted specifically to professionals in full-time work - will help train participants through various experiences: absorb (read); do (activity); interact (socialize); reflect (relate to one’s own reality).

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This course is aimed at all those who have an interest in increasing the use of evidence in public debate and policy making, either in the developed or developing world. The target audience will include:

- Researchers (economists and statisticians) who want to learn methods to measure overall societal progress and its multiple dimensions;
- Practitioners (from national and local governments, NGOs, etc.) who want to know how to implement progress initiatives;
- Policy makers with an interest in developing, or using, sets of progress measures to improve decision making; and
- Media and others who want to communicate information to citizens.

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A certificate of completion will be issued to all participants who complete the course-related assignments and assessments successfully. *Course schedule is subject to change. Course fee is non-refundable but transferrable to another course or participant and subject to change as per UNITAR's policy on pricing.*