

CONCEPT NOTE

Third meeting of the Technical Cooperation Group on SDG4-Education 2030 Indicators (TCG)

Montreal, Canada

31 May – 2 June 2017

The UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) and UNESCO Education Sector's Division of Education 2030 Support and Coordination (UNESCO ED/ESC), with the support of Montreal International and Tourisme Montreal, are pleased to announce the 3rd Meeting of the *Technical Cooperation Group (TCG) on the Indicators for SDG4-Education 2030* which will bring together key stakeholders in the field of education statistics to continue the activities of the group. This meeting will take place from 31 May to 2 June 2017 in Montreal, Canada.

The TCG was formed in 2016 to lead the development and application of the global and thematic indicator frameworks to monitor the education targets in SDG 4. It is chaired jointly by the Director of the UIS and the Director of UNESCO ED/ESC to guarantee an efficient articulation between UNESCO divisions and units and other international stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Education 2030 Agenda. The UIS acts as the Secretariat.

The aim of the TCG is to coordinate efforts to implement SDG 4 efficiently, particularly the thematic monitoring framework on education (which also includes the 11 global SDG 4 indicators). The SDG 4 - Education 2030 Framework for Action ratified that the UIS remains “*the official source of cross-nationally comparable data on education*”. It also clearly recognised that: “*In addition to collecting data, the UIS will work with partners to develop new indicators, statistical approaches and monitoring tools to better assess progress across the targets related to UNESCO's mandate, working in coordination with the Education 2030 Steering Committee*”¹.

The TCG is composed of 28 Member States, including Members of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators, representatives from civil society organizations and from international organizations, such as OECD, UNICEF, the World Bank and UNESCO itself. Members of the SDG 4 -Education 2030 Steering Committee are invited to participate as Observers.

The first two TCG meetings, which took place in Washington DC, United States of America (12-13 May 2016) and Madrid, Spain (26-28 October 2016), achieved the following main objectives:

- Review and revision of the 43 thematic indicators proposed in the Education 2030 Framework for Action taking account of changes proposed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators.

¹ *Education 2030 Framework for Action*, paragraph 100

- Agreement on a list of 29 thematic indicators for reporting in 2017 and a set of indicators requiring further methodological development that were endorsed by the SDG 4 – Education 2030 Steering Committee in December 2016.
- Sharing of national and regional experiences in the development and implementation of the follow-up and review processes of SDG 4.
- Agreement on the Terms of Reference, initial membership and work plan of the TCG.
- Establishment of three Working Groups to take forward the work in 2017 on (i) Indicator Development to guide the development and implementation of the SDG 4 indicators, (ii) Capacity Building to identify capacity building needs at the national level and (iii) Country Reporting to guide data reporting and data sharing of the SDG 4 indicators.

More information about the two previous TCG meetings and related documents are available at <http://tcg.uis.unesco.org/index.php#our-strategy>

This 3rd TCG meeting aims to provide an opportunity for participants to be briefed on key national, regional and international initiatives towards the implementation of SDG 4, to provide feedback to each of the Working Groups and to approve the TCG work plan for 2017 and 2018.

The meeting will be organized over three days. The first day (31 May) will be devoted to face-to-face meetings of the newly formed Working Groups to further advance their work. The second and third days (1-2 June) will involve the entire TCG and take place in plenary sessions.

The main objectives of the meeting are:

1. To update members on developments since the 2nd TCG meeting (IAEG-SDGs, UN Statistical Commission, SDG4 timeline, Education 2030 Steering Committee, GAML, and other international initiatives);
2. To report on the progress to date and intended roadmaps for the following 12-18 months of the 3 TCG Working Groups;
3. To discuss and agree on the work plans, critical milestones and deliverables of each Working Group and for the TCG for 2017-2018;
4. To share national and regional initiatives in the implementation of SDG 4 follow-up and review;
5. To inform participants on CapED, a project aimed at developing the statistical capacity of 10 participating countries to monitor and report on SDG 4; and
6. To discuss and agree on the process for rotating membership to the TCG.