



## **Impact of emerging concepts on official statistics on the road to post-2015 development agenda**

Prof. Savas Alpay\*

Director General, SESRIC, Ankara – Turkey, [salpay@sesric.org](mailto:salpay@sesric.org)

Many developing countries have statistical systems and mechanisms where ‘measuring for results’ is still in its infancy period and has a wide room for improvement. The measurement of progress in terms of reaching objectives set for the development of countries can only be achieved through reliable and good quality statistics as they inform decision makers about the effectiveness of policies and programmes conducted. In this respect, internationally agreed common frameworks, such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), have ignited the first sparks of an evidence based decision making culture for the developing countries. As the MDGs come to an end in 2015, the discussions for the post-2015 period are taking place to determine the new framework: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In parallel, the High-Level Panel Report (HLPR) on the Post-2015 Development Agenda also called for a “data revolution” which increases the significance of the role of relevant statistical authorities in the on-going discussions. Given this background, this presentation will first give an overview of the statistical capacities of the Arab countries with available data with an aim to show their strengths and weaknesses in official statistics. After the launch of HLPR in 2013, a confusion has emerged among the official statisticians about the terms “big data”, “data science”, etc., on which the presentation will try to demystify the misleading hype around them. Finally, the presentation will touch on the humanisation of the integration of statistics into decision making processes by revisiting the storytelling concept.

**Keywords:** statistical capacity, Arab countries, data revolution, storytelling.