



Final Report of the “Road to Bern” / United Nations World Data Forum 2021 Project

January 2020 – October 2021

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Executive Summary

The Swiss Confederation, in collaboration with the United Nations, organised the third edition of the United Nations World Data Forum (UNWDF) from Sunday, 3 October to Wednesday, 6 October 2021; which was held in a hybrid format in Bern. On this occasion, the host country took the opportunity to launch the "Road to Bern" programme, which started in January 2020 and ran until the start of the UNWDF 2021.

This final report is divided into four main parts: the preparatory process; the "Road to Bern" and UNWDF 2021. First, the preparatory process for the UNWDF 2021 and the "Road to Bern" is explained. Next, a chapter is dedicated to the "Road to Bern". Not only are the basic concept and the associated activities reviewed, but a sub-chapter is devoted to the Bern Network, the "Road to the SDGs' Implementation", and "Lessons Learned". Finally, there is a chapter on UNWDF 2021. This chapter, which is the most substantial of the report, deals with the sustainability of the event, the topics addressed, the participation, the daily summary of the event, the results of UNWDF 2021, external partners and those of the Confederation, as well as the "Lessons learned". Finally, a conclusion closes the report.

This report is based on the two federal internal reports written earlier at the end of 2021: one on the "Road to Bern" and one on the UNWDF 2021. Only available in English, this document represents a summarised version with all the main information of potential public interest. It was especially made for the UNWDF so that it could be held sustainably in the future.

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1 Summary

The United Nations World Data Forum 2021 (UNWDF) was organised by the Swiss Confederation, in collaboration with the United Nations, from Sunday, 3 October to Wednesday, 6 October 2021; and was held in a hybrid format in Bern.

As the host country of the third UNWDF, Switzerland took the opportunity to launch a programme of activities called the "Road to Bern". The aim of this programme was to promote an exchange of ideas on the topics to be discussed at the UNWDF 2021 and to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) in Switzerland. The "Road to Bern" was implemented by various actors, including three departments of the Federal Administration: the Federal Department of Home Affairs, the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications.

Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the UNWDF, originally scheduled for October 2020, had to be pushed back to 2021. This extraordinary situation, which hit us only three months after the launch of "Road to Bern", disrupted and slowed down activities, which have nevertheless resumed at full tempo. Many of the events forming part of the "Road to Bern" were held either virtually or in a hybrid format, thus broadening participation and reaching a very international audience. In October 2020, a virtual edition of the forum was organised, with 10,000 participants.

Main lesson learned from the launching of the Road to Bern:

1. We maintained momentum, among other things by attracting an audience outside the field of statistics and by engaging the general public. With several activities organised during the year, including not just events but also campaigns on social networks, competitions, publications, etc., more and more people have become involved in areas relating to the key issues of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The UNWDF is of global importance and is linked directly to the 2030 Agenda. It provides a discussion space for the various communities of data producers and users. Open to representatives of the economy, science, the media, national statistical offices, as well as to other administrations and fields, it enables the international community to engage in productive dialogue and also to identify ways of mobilising the resources needed for the development of data. Thus, the aim of the forum is to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through high-quality data.

The forum was attended by several high-level personalities in Bern and online. This included the opening ceremony on Sunday, 3 October 2021, with speeches expected from Federal Councillor Alain Berset, as well as UN Secretary-General António Guterres and Microsoft President Brad Smith, both via video link. In addition, we also note the active intervention of youth representatives from Peru and Switzerland, as well as a group discussion between a statistician, a philosopher, a representative of the sciences and a representative of civil society.

Throughout the seven plenary sessions and 66 parallel sessions, speakers reiterated the need to put people at the heart of data collection and dissemination; while advocating for innovative approaches to ensure the visibility of marginalised communities and the return of any data gathered to suppliers, so that solutions could be localised.

At the end of UNWDF 2021, the "Bern Data Compact for the Decade of Action on the Sustainable Development Goals" was presented, recording the outcomes of the forum. This compact calls on the international community, including the private sector, civil society, the media, the general public and governments, to work together in the data ecosystem to ensure implementation of all aspects of the 2030 Agenda. In addition, UNWDF 2021 was one of the first global UN conferences organised in a hybrid format since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The challenge of organising such an event was met successfully. The expertise acquired during this project can be used to support future major events, including those organised by Switzerland.

Despite restrictions and reticence due to the pandemic, 673 stakeholders travelled to attend the conference on location in Bern. Finally, thanks to this conference and the partnerships created, a powerful link has been forged between development and statistics, which is all the more important in the run-up to 2030 and for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Main lessons learned from hosting the UNWDF 2021:

2. We helped to create a community by bringing together participants from the statistical field and from other fields, also attracting a younger audience, as well as the general public. We also collaborated with many key partners;
3. We made use of a Sustainability Concept and have therefore paved the way for more sustainable events by providing some food for thought for the organisers of future UNWDFs and conferences in general;
4. We were confronted early on with the COVID-19 pandemic and had to be extremely flexible in organising the "Road to Bern" programme and especially, the UNWDF 2021.

As a result, it was important to hold a large number of meetings in order to monitor the situation.

Finally, in order for the efforts put in place under the "Road to Bern" not to run out of steam when UNWDF 2021 ends, it will be necessary for stakeholders to come together to decide on the next steps. Discussions must take place on activities to be planned for the coming months, in view of the fourth UNWDF in Hangzhou, China; and also for the next few years, with 2030 Agenda in mind. The momentum created between the forums should therefore be maintained; in particular, by continuing to carry out various activities, so as to engage the general public on the topic areas surrounding sustainable development and data.

2 Introduction

Organised by both Switzerland and the United Nations, the third edition of the United Nations World Data Forum (UNWDF) was held from Sunday, 3 October to Wednesday, 6 October 2021, in a hybrid format, in Bern. The first edition was held in 2017 in Cape Town, South Africa, while the second edition took place in 2018 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

As the host country of the third edition of UNWDF 2021, Switzerland, on behalf of Alain Berset (former President of the Swiss Confederation and Minister of the Interior), took the initiative to launch the "Road to Bern" programme. This programme was developed by the Federal Administration (Federal Statistical Office (FSO), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Prosperity and Sustainability Division of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) and the Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE)), in collaboration with other national and international actors.

From January 2020 to October 2021, "Road to Bern" had two main objectives: (a) to promote an exchange of ideas on the topics to be discussed at UNWDF 2021 and (b) to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Switzerland.

The UNWDF is a globally significant forum that aims to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with high quality, accessible, timely and reliable data enabling the objective assessment of the situations of individual countries. The UNWDF provides a space for discussion between different communities of data producers and users, such as representatives of national statistical offices, economics, science and the media; with the aim being to present innovative approaches to data compilation, processing and reporting. This community can then engage in productive dialogue and can identify ways of mobilising the resources needed for data development.

For this third edition, the Swiss Confederation opted for an international conference respecting the principles of sustainability. To achieve this, a set of actions and recommendations was thus developed and grouped together within a sustainability plan. This is the first time that the forum has been organised with sustainability in mind, aiming to respect the three dimensions - economic, social and environmental - of sustainable development.

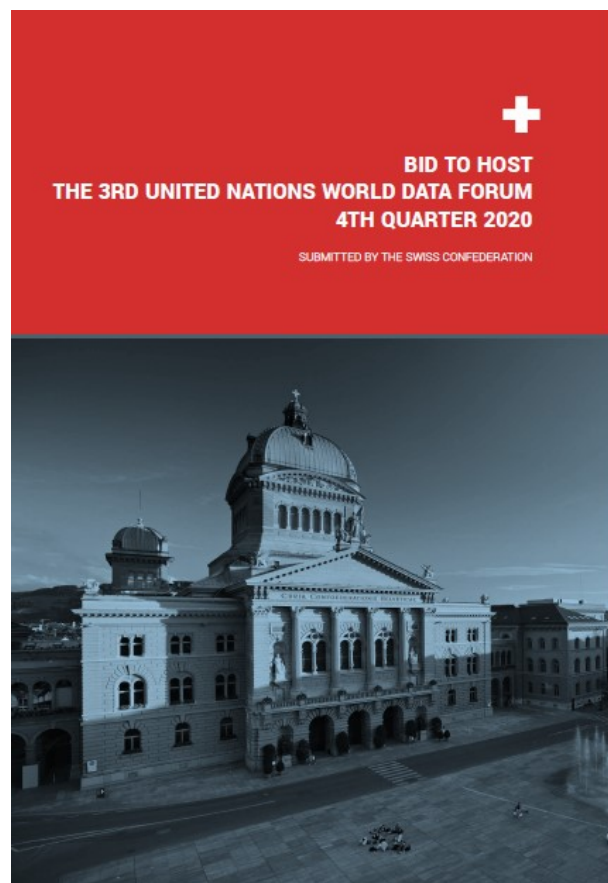
3 Preparation Process

3.1 UNWDF Preparations

3.1.1 "Bid to host the 3rd United Nations World Data Forum 4th Quarter 2020"

Before being declared host of the third United Nations World Data Forum (UNWDF), the Swiss Confederation prepared and submitted an offer entitled "Bid to host the 3rd United Nations World Data Forum 4th Quarter 2020" to the High Level Group on Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building in Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG-PCCB), in August 2018.

In this document, a letter of support listing the reasons why Switzerland should host the third UNWDF was first signed jointly by Alain Berset (former President of the Swiss Confederation and Minister of the Interior) and Ignazio Cassis (Federal Councillor and Minister of Foreign Affairs).



Picture 1: Cover of the Swiss bid

An introduction was provided by Georges-Simon Ulrich, Director General of the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (FSO), once again substantiating the reasons why Switzerland should be the next host and explaining more concrete elements, such as the associated budget and the conference centre in Bern.

Thus, ten main criteria were first mentioned as reasons why all would benefit from a third UNWDF in Bern, Switzerland. The following are among the most important arguments.

1. Support from the Swiss government and the government of the city of Bern;
2. The Swiss culture of dialogue;
3. The headquarters of international organisations;
4. Expert knowledge;
5. Experience in hosting conferences;

6. Easy access to visas;

7. Transport;

8. The Conference Centre;

9. Hotels; and

10. Additional events in support of UNWDF 2021.¹

There are at least 10 reasons why everyone would benefit from the 3rd UNWDF being held in Bern, Switzerland. Some of the most important arguments are highlighted below.

1. Support from the Swiss government and the government of the city of Bern

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development (2030 Agenda) paves the way for a sustainable world in harmony with nature, prosperity, peace and partnership. As a country with a long-standing humanitarian tradition and an internationally well-connected economy, Switzerland has every interest in a sustainable future. The adoption of 2030 Agenda has created a new global framework that can be used as a benchmark for Switzerland's sustainable development. Furthermore, follow-up and review is a key element of the Agenda. Switzerland has long been an advocate of strong official statistics which forms the basis of this approach. The Swiss government supports the bid for the UN World Data Forum. The administration of the city of Bern also supports this bid.

2. Swiss culture of dialogue

Switzerland has a long tradition and culture of dialogue. Direct democracy means that everyone can and should be able to take part in discussions. Minorities have many political opportunities to have their voices heard. This tradition is the best basis to bring the various data producers to the table to strengthen both the national and global statistical system.

3. Home to international organisations

As host to the largest UN headquarters in Europe, Geneva – alongside New York – is one of the largest centres for multilateral cooperation. The Palais des Nations building complex is home to the United Nations Human Rights Council, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. There are also many other international organisations based in Geneva such as the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The UN's Universal

Postal Union (UPU) is also located in Bern. The proximity of these international organisations provides an excellent opportunity to involve these organisations.

4. Expert knowledge

Switzerland has a dense network of renowned universities. The Swiss National Science Foundation launched its Big Data research programme in 2016. The programme has received funding of CHF 25 million and the research will be carried out over 5 years. 36 research projects have been approved that will be carried out at two federal institutes of technology, Swiss universities and other research institutes. Furthermore, Peter Messerli, professor of sustainable development at the University of Bern, is co-chair of the Independent Group of Scientists tasked with drafting the UN Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR). Together with the Swiss Statistical Society, the FSO also actively cooperates with Diego Kuonen, professor of data science at the University of Geneva, an internationally renowned expert on the use of big data and data science for official statistics and the economy. Zurich is home to the Europe engineering hub. Microsoft, Google and IBM also have offices in Switzerland.

5. Experience of hosting conferences

Switzerland regularly hosts international conferences, including events of global importance. For example, several international conferences to solve the Syria conflict were held in Montreux and Geneva. Many other international conferences are regularly held in Basel, Zurich, Lugano, Davos, Interlaken, Montreux and Bern. This experience serves as a basis for hosting the 3rd UNWDF in Switzerland.

6. Easy visa access

Switzerland is part of the Schengen area. It uses the standardised Schengen procedure for visas that allows anyone, regardless of their country of origin, to make a visa application. The usual fee for visa applications is EUR 60. For this event, complete exemption from the visa fee is possible (with the exception of countries in which Switzerland is represented by another Schengen Member State).

7. Transport

Switzerland is located in the heart of Western Europe and is therefore easy to reach. It has four international airports: Zurich, Geneva, Basel and Bern. A cooperation with Swiss International Air Lines is envisaged. There is the possibility that an official carrier agreement could be concluded. The Swiss Federal Railway system and its punctual trains can take participants from the airports to Bern every half an hour. Public transport in the city of Bern is free of charge.

8. Conference venue

The Kursaal Congress Centre is one of the most modern in Switzerland. It was renovated in 2012 and includes the 4-star superior lifestyle Hotel Allegro. All hotel rooms will be renovated in 2019. It offers a remarkable range of fine facilities for events of every kind. It has a total of 30 rooms ranging in size from 18 to 1700m² and can accommodate from 2 to 1500 people. The conference centre can host up to 2500 people. The Kursaal Arena, the main room, has capacity for 1500 people. Most rooms have direct daylight. The Kursaal is located in the city centre and offers a direct view of the old city and the Bernese Alps.

9. Hotels

Around 900 hotel rooms have been tentatively reserved for the dates in October 2020. The hotels range from 1 to 5 stars. Other accommodation options also include apartments and Airbnb. Public transport is free to all participants who use one of these types of accommodation. Most hotels are within walking distance of the conference centre or easy reachable by tramway.

10. Additional events in support of UNWDF 2020

The 3rd UN World Data Forum should be integrated into existing Swiss, European and global processes. Switzerland is prepared to organise various events before hosting the forum together with national and international partners (such as HLG-PCCB, UNSD, UNECE, etc.). We are convinced that with these events and preliminary meetings we can attract key stakeholders, ideas and further developments to the forum. On the basis of these preliminary meetings, sessions at the forum should cover these discussions.

Picture 2: Export of the Swiss bid

An overview of the budget followed, together with a reminder of the costs that would be shared equally between the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and Home Affairs. Several sponsors were to be approached afterwards, in particular for the gala dinner.

A letter from the Mayor of Bern, Alec von Graffenried, was also written as a way of emphasizing the reasons for holding the UNWDF 2021 in Bern. The city has a long tradition of official statistics; it can inspire thinkers to achieve high levels of cognitive performance and creativity. The document ended with a presentation of the Kursaal conference centre and an overview of the hotels in Bern.

¹ Previously UNWDF 2020

3.1.1.1 Letters of Support

In addition, several organisations have written to offer their support for a possible UNWDF in Switzerland. Thus, the letters were collected in an accompanying document "Support Letters - 3rd UN World Data Forum". These letters include those from the World Economic Forum (WEF), the Swiss Statistics Society, the University of Bern, the Center for Development and Environment of the University of Bern, Alliance Sud, the Swiss Council for Youth Activities, the Federation of Swiss Enterprises, the Swiss Employers' Union, Travail.Suisse, Transfair and the Swiss National Bank.

3.1.1.2 Candidate Videos

The Swiss Confederation has prepared two candidate videos. The first [video](#) consists of the main candidate video; this is intended to present both Switzerland and Switzerland's motivation for hosting the third forum. The second video features persons who have actively supported the country's candidacy, including Peter Messerli (formerly professor at the University of Bern) and Alois Zwinggi (Managing Director WEF).

3.2 Preparations for the "Road to Bern"

Further to the document produced to host the UNWDF, the last criterion referred to additional events. Indeed, the idea was to integrate the UNWDF into existing Swiss, European and global processes.

The Swiss Confederation announced its readiness to organise several events before hosting the forum, together with national and international partners. Switzerland was thus already sure that, thanks to these events and preliminary meetings, it was going to be possible to welcome stakeholders, ideas and new developments for inclusion in the forum. These events would be grouped together in a programme of activities, which is now known as the "Road to Bern".

The idea was that, based on these meetings and events, the sessions at the forum would cover these discussions.

4 The “Road to Bern”

4.1 Concept

The “Road to Bern” concept was developed by the Federal Administration (Federal Department of Home Affairs (Federal Statistical Office (FSO)), the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Prosperity and Sustainability Area) and the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (the Federal Office for Territorial Development (AER)), in collaboration with other stakeholders. This concept described the idea of a “Road to Bern” and demonstrated how UNWDF 2021, which would be held in Bern, could be supported by a series of preliminary discussions, from January 2020 until 3 October 2021.

In 2020 and 2021, the “Road to Bern” had two main objectives: to promote exchanges on the topics to be discussed at UNWDF 2021 and to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Switzerland.

The concept consisted of, on the one hand, the national “Road to Bern” and, on the other, an international “Road to Bern”. The Confederation thus participated in existing conferences organised by external partners, whether national or international, and organised its own activities, both at national and international levels.

More specifically, the “Road to Bern” aimed at the following detailed objectives: to show the added value of official statistics for evidence-based policy decisions and democratic debate; to facilitate and strengthen dialogue between producers of public and private statistical data and information and users; to demonstrate and strengthen the role of official statistics in monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and public policies in Switzerland; to share and build on know-how and knowledge in measuring sustainable development in Switzerland and in collaboration with other countries and with all institutional, private and associative actors; and to raise awareness and to prepare producers and users of data and statistical information for the objectives of UNWDF 2021.

In addition, the “Road to Bern” sought to convey the following five key messages:



Picture 3: The “Road to Bern” logo - developed by FSO

- A. "Leave No-One Behind": new data sources and official statistics must provide relevant data and information on all social groups and territories. The "Road to Bern" sets the course in this direction;
- B. Accountability: statistical information feeds the democratic debate in an independent, coherent and transparent way. The "Road to Bern" supports and promotes the understanding and use of this information by users;
- C. Data: New sources of data are proliferating and provide an answer to emerging problems. Official statistics provide data that are reproducible, stable and collected in the respect of privacy. The "Road to Bern" helps to bring these two worlds closer together;
- D. Communication: Communication on the challenges posed by the 2030 Agenda is complex. Statistical information facilitates both communication and a general understanding of these issues. The "Road to Bern" promotes statistical storytelling and the development of appropriate communication tools. It also encourages improvement of the ability to understand and appropriate statistical information;
- E. Research and development: the 2030 Agenda includes many complex, interconnected challenges. Statistical information collected and prepared in a consistent manner contributes to a better understanding of these challenges. The "Road to Bern" encourages R&D in the modelling of complex phenomena.

4.2 Activities

In view of all the activities planned within the framework of Road to Bern, we created several sub-groups, e.g. one for the topic of gender, with members such as the Federal Office for Gender Equality and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), as well as another with the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) for all the topics they deal with. We also created ad-hoc groups for events abroad. For example for the events planned in Colombia, we created a working group for several months, with the "Centro de Pensamiento Estratégico Internacional" (CEPEI), the "Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística" (DANE) and the Swiss Embassy in Bogota, Colombia.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, which struck shortly after the launch of the "Road to Bern", 37 activities took place in 2020, of which 18 were national and 19 were international. Whereas in 2021, a total of 34 activities took place, of which 14 were at national level and 20 at international level. From its launch to the opening ceremony of the UNWDF 2021, the "Road to Bern" therefore

included 71 activities (32 national and 39 international – see the list of activities in the appendix); these were mainly panel discussion events but there were also publications and competitions. In June 2020, the UNWDF had to be postponed until 2021, although a virtual edition took place in 2020 on the dates originally scheduled.

Events organised as part of the "Road to Bern" included the webinar series from the Latin American and Caribbean region and the "Road to Bern via Geneva" dialogues on digitalisation and round tables forming part of the [Rendez-vous Bundesplatz](#) show. In addition, two competitions and three social media campaigns were launched, as well as various publications in newspapers, such as the bulletin of the Swiss Statistical Society.

The activities organised within the framework of the international "Road to Bern" are the result of collaboration with partners such as the United Nations, other countries, financial institutions, international organisations and academia in particular. Before the majority of international events went online, they were staged in France (Paris), Egypt (Cairo), the United States (New York and Washington), as well as in Switzerland in Davos and Geneva. In total, the international "Road to Bern" spread over four continents: Europe, Asia, Africa and America (North and South America). Ten countries² were greatly involved in organising the events. To set up all the activities, the Swiss Confederation was able to count on 58 partners, 47 of whom were external to the Swiss Confederation.



Picture 4: FSO building with SDG car at the FSO Open Day - picture taken by FSO

As far as the national "Road to Bern" is concerned, many initiatives were taken to include the Swiss public. These included the "Tour de Suisse", launched in June 2021 in Fribourg, the FSO Open

² France, United States, Russia, Madagascar, Poland, Mali, Colombia, Moldova, Thailand, Egypt.

Day on the role of official statistics regarding sustainable development in August 2021, which was the first in eleven years, and the round tables forming part of Rendez-vous Bundesplatz.

In terms of participation, the FSO Open Day was a great success and was the most visited event of the national "Road to Bern", with 950 participants. Participation at the other events ranged from 30 to several hundred participants. In addition, the events were held in nine Swiss cities, spread across three language regions: French-speaking Switzerland, German-speaking Switzerland and Ticino. Switzerland was able to count on 22 national partners, 16 of whom were external to the Swiss Confederation, to implement the 32 activities. The partners included five academic partners, eight national organisations, four from the private sector and five from national and cantonal governments. Social media campaigns are also worth mentioning, with the associated publications achieving more than 30,000 views.

4.3 The Bern Network on Financing Data for Development

The UNWDF is closely linked to development. One of its main objectives is to close the data financing gap in developing countries and to support their statistical systems, so that they can produce the relevant SDG indicators to measure their progress. For this reason, Switzerland committed to hosting the UNWDF 2021 in order to bring the statistical and development communities closer together. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the FSO therefore convened the Bern Network on Financing Data for Development (Bern Network), as part of the preparatory process.

This network brings together developmental actors, such as bilateral and multilateral development agencies, international agencies and think-tanks specialising in data. The Bern Network was launched in early 2019, with the aim of contributing to the funding of development data. It has convened several times, engaged in dialogue and produced recommendations for better funding. Its main project and achievement is the "Clearing House for Financing Development Data". This virtual platform can help countries and their developmental partners to identify funding opportunities, implement large-scale projects, advocate for data and statistical support and connect to new partners. The virtual clearing-house contributes to implementation of the Bern Data Compact.

<https://bernetwork.org/>

<https://smartdatafinance.org/>

4.4 Swiss activities and projects after the UNWDF 2021

The Swiss Confederation conducted the "Road to Bern" programme from January 2020 until the opening ceremony of UNWDF 2021 in Bern, on 3 October 2021. The idea was that all the efforts put in place under the auspices of the "Road to Bern" should not run out of steam at the end of the forum, but should continue beyond that. The names and forms of these new initiatives have not yet been decided on. It will have to be finalised during the discussions with all of the stakeholders in the coming months. However, it is desirable that activities continue at least until the next forum in 2023 in Hangzhou, China. Like the "Road to Bern", this new project would also be established around the world and with the same ultimate objective: realisation of the 2030 Agenda.

The last plenary session of UNWDF 2021 was devoted to what happens next, "The Road from Bern... navigating the data future". On this occasion, it was noted that the statistical community is undergoing a transition towards the exploitation of non-traditional data sources. The COVID-19 pandemic will have had the effect of causing the geo-spatial community to take rapid action. The launch of the Clearing House for Financing Development Data, which is certain to have a positive future impact on financing data by helping to match aid with demand, was welcomed. Finally, the World Bank and the OECD also intervened to announce their future projects. The former announced the launch of [the Global Data Facility \(GDF\)](#), which aims to support data and statistical priorities at global, regional, national and EU levels, delivering on a promise made at the UNWDF in 2018; while the latter plans to adopt a recommendation on improving data access and sharing.

4.5 "Lessons Learned"

4.5.1 Lessons Learned 1: Maintaining Momentum

It is important to get momentum going very early on when the date and location of the UNWDF is determined. A concept written in conjunction with all stakeholders makes it possible to define the common objectives for the UNWDF. The aim is, throughout the period leading up to the forthcoming edition of the UNWDF, to plan a number of activities and events (although not exceeding the resources available) in collaboration with partners in all fields, in order to reach an ever-growing audience for the UNWDF. Partnerships created beyond the field of statistics in all these activities are essential.

It turned out to be extremely positive not to focus "just" on the key event of UNWDF 2021, but to create a dynamic that preceded the forum. This enabled the various forums to be linked together, so that throughout the months between forums, discussions continue intensively.

Attracting an audience outside the field of statistics and engaging the general public, in particular, in this issue, remains difficult; but with several activities organised throughout the year, which included not just events but also campaigns on social networks, competitions, and publications, etc., more and more people became involved in areas related to the key issues of the 2030 Agenda.

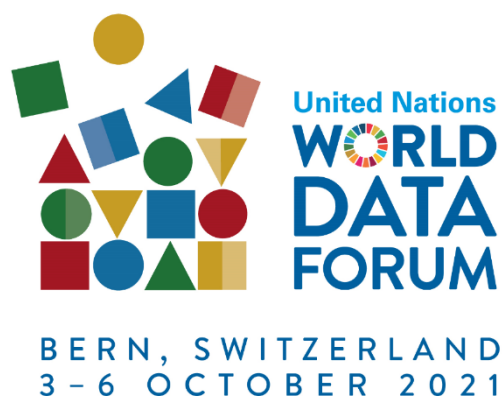
5 United Nations World Data Forum 2021

5.1 A Sustainable forum

The Swiss Confederation decided to make the UNWDF 2021 an international conference respecting the principles of sustainability. To achieve this, a set of actions and recommendations were developed and grouped together as part of a sustainability plan.

The [sustainability concept](#) was drafted by the Road to Bern/UNWDF project team, in collaboration with the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), the Federal Office for Territorial Development (AER) and the Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE), as well as in partnership with the United Nations, Kursaal Bern AG, the aviation company SWISS, Bern Welcome, Switzerland Tourism and CBM Global, which works closely with the International Disability Alliance.

The conference thus aimed to respect the three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – of sustainable development. The main challenge was to better control CO₂ emissions, waste management and water consumption, without neglecting any social and economic factors. Of course, it was also a question of ensuring gender equality, balanced geographical representation, accessibility for persons with disabilities and the economic benefits that the event could bring to the Bern region and Switzerland.



Picture 5: The UNWDF logo - developed by the UN



Picture 6: Cover of the sustainability concept

This was the first time that the forum had been organised with sustainability in mind. As the host country, the Swiss Confederation hoped to provide a framework for rich discussions, with a view to improving the use of data and ensuring that no-one is left behind. It also sought to respect the environment, human beings and the local economy.

In addition, through this sustainability concept, the Swiss Confederation was aiming to provide useful elements for the organisers of future events who might like to focus their management activities on sustainability. Indeed, the partnerships concluded and consolidated during the forum also included the transfer of knowledge and experience to

the organisers of future events. The measures and recommendations set out in the concept will undoubtedly be used to develop more sustainable events in the future.

Overall, feedback on the sustainability concept has been overwhelmingly positive. Although the actions and recommendations grouped together in the document had many different types of impact on the smooth running of the UNWDF 2021 as a climate-neutral event, some worked less well than others. As a result, below, a special chapter lists the positive points and the points that still have room for improvement for future event organisers, who will be able to draw on this information. (See also: [Report on the Implementation of the Concept of Sustainability](#))

5.2 Topics

The UNWDF 2021 programme was structured around six topic areas:

- New Approaches to Capacity Development for Better Data;
- Innovations and Synergies between Data Ecosystems;
- Leaving No-One Behind;
- Understanding the World through Data;
- Building Trust in Data and Statistics;
- Where Are We Now?

5.3 Shareholdings

Despite the pandemic, 673 name badges (103 for International Geneva, 173 for Switzerland and 397 for the rest of the world) were created and handed out to participants in Bern, while 7000+ people participated virtually in the hybrid forum.

180+ countries were represented throughout the forum. A satisfactory distribution between countries can be highlighted, with a majority of participants coming from Europe (30%), a large proportion from Asia (27%), and even a considerable proportion originating from Africa (19%) and North America (12%). We note further a lower turnout from Latin America and the Caribbean (10%), as well as from Oceania (2%).

The profile of participants was also well balanced at gender level, with more women (51.4%) than men (47.1%).³

The majority of participants were under the age of 44, with an equal proportion aged 25-34 (31%) and 35-44 (31%). Next, a considerable proportion of participants was aged 45-54 years (19%) and 55-64 years (9%). There was, however, a smaller proportion of younger participants between 15-24 years (5%) and older (65 and over (2%).

In terms of the type of organisation to which the participants belonged, the largest share came from international agencies (24%) and national statistical offices (19%). A professional/academic contingent (14%) and other governments (13%) also figure. Civil society and the private sector were represented in equal numbers (9%). Other profiles were even more seldom, such as philanthropic organisations and donors (2%), the media and professionals in the geo-spatial field (1%).

5.4 UNWDF 2021 Summary⁴

5.4.1 Sunday, 3 October 2021

The forum saw several high-level personalities in attendance, including at the opening ceremony on Sunday, 3 October 2021.

³ 1.5% of the participants surveyed did not wish to share this information.

⁴ The daily summaries are based on the final report of our partner "International Institute for Sustainable Development" (IISD), see: <https://enb.iisd.org/un-world-data-forum-2021>.

A highlight of the first day was Alain Berset, Head of the Federal Department of Home Affairs, stressing the need to create an information base for political engagement, in recognition of the fact that the pandemic is threatening 50 years



Picture 7: Opening ceremony at the UNWDF with Alain Berset and Georges-Simon Ulrich - Picture taken by IISD

of development progress. He reiterated the importance of reliable data that can be used to understand and act on the world, as climate change, migration, geopolitical uncertainties and growing inequalities render the world more volatile.

In a video message, UN Secretary-General António Guterres called for responsible investment in data, noting that people must be both empowered and protected. He welcomed the launch of new funding instruments and spaces such as the UN Peace Security Data Hub.



Picture 8: Hornroh at the opening ceremony at the UNWDF - Picture taken by IISD

Also via video, Brad Smith, the President of Microsoft, explained that regardless of the problem, data can play an indispensable role in providing a solution. He outlined key actions that need to be taken, including: ensuring trust in data by protecting data security and confidentiality, promoting data openness and increasing opportunities for capacity building of individuals.

To close the opening ceremony, a reception on a musical note followed, with a performance by the Hornroh musicians and their alphorns.

5.4.2 Monday, 4 October 2021

On the second day, three high-level plenary sessions took place: "Have we been going about capacity development the wrong way?"; "How to innovate timely data for Covid-19 and the SDGs?" and "Leaving no-one behind, the need to measure equity!" The parallel session organised by Switzerland in particular, is also worth noting: "Smart investments in data for development", with a focus on the launch of the "Clearing House for financing development data".



Picture 9: Stefan Schweinfest and Georges-Simon Ulrich - Picture taken by IISD

To close the day, a "Meet'n'Jazz" drinks reception was offered to participants, so that they could continue their discussions informally against a background of music played by the Bern University of the Arts.

Summary Table 1: Plenary Sessions

Name of Session	Organisation of Session
Have we been going about capacity development the wrong way?	United Nations World Data Forum (UNWDF) Programme Committee
How to innovate timely data for COVID-19 and the SDGs?	United Nations World Data Forum (UNWDF) Programme Committee
Leaving no one behind, the need to measure equity	United Nations World Data Forum (UNWDF) Programme Committee

Summary Table 2: Sessions organised by Switzerland

Name of Session	Organisation of Session	Session Type
Smart investments in data for development: Launch of the Clearing House for Financing Development Data	Bern Network Secretariat; Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC); Swiss Federal Statistical Office (SFSO); Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21); United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD-DESA); Open Data Watch (ODW); Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD); World Bank; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	Parallel session

5.4.3 Tuesday, 5 October 2021



Picture 10: Plenary session at Kursaal Arena - Picture taken by IISD

On the third day, two high-level plenary sessions were held: "Making it add up, counting on data and statistics during pandemics and other disasters!" and "Trust in Data: balancing quality, privacy and transparency!". In particular, an intervention by Switzerland took place during the parallel session "Data-driven Vaccination Strategy for a COVID-19-free World".

The day ended with a gala evening, during which presentations were held on "fake news", gender statistics and a discussion on digitalisation. Three groups of musicians performed throughout the evening, giving it a festive feel.

Summary Table 3: Plenary Sessions

Name of Session	Organisation of Session
Making it Add Up, Counting on Data and Statistics During Pandemics and other Disasters	United Nations World Data Forum (UN-WDF) Programme Committee
Trust in Data: balancing quality, privacy and transparency	United Nations World Data Forum (UN-WDF) Programme Committee

Summary Table 4: Sessions organised by Switzerland

Name of Session	Organisation of Session
Gala evening: "A wonderful dream of love, peace and data for everyone"	Federal Statistical Office

5.4.4 Wednesday, 6 October 2021

On the last day of the forum, two plenary sessions were held: "Data for Accountability to the People" and "The Road from Bern... navigating the data future!" Switzerland was particularly active during the last day of the forum, organising two parallel sessions: "TWICE INVISIBLE, Lack of Education in Crises Leaves Internally Displaced Children behind -- Time to Act!"; "Building Trust in the Humanitarian Data Ecosystem" and the plenary session "Data for Accountability to the People".

During the closing session, Amina J. Mohammed highlighted the opportunity to build on the innovative partnerships created during the COVID-19 pandemic. Another highlight was the presentation by Francesca Perucci, UN Statistics Division (UNSD), of the Bern Data Compact for the Decade of Action on the Sustainable Development Goals, providing commitments to strengthen partnerships and leverage solutions to produce inclusive data. Thomas Gass, from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, then said that data is power and that it must be given to people, so that everyone can be involved in achieving the SDGs.

As at the end of each previous UNWDF, it was time to announce the next host. Elsa Dhuli, from the Albanian Institute of Statistics, announced that the fourth session of the UNWDF would be held in Hangzhou, China, in 2023, and the fifth session in Medellín, Colombia, in October 2024.

To celebrate this and to pass the baton, Georges-Simon Ulrich, Director General of the Federal Statistical Office, presented a traditional Swiss cowbell to Jiang Xiaowei of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Switzerland. Jiang Xiaowei said he was looking forward to being the next host of the UNWDF.

With his closing words, Stefan Schweinfest, Director of UNSD, urged the data community to "stick together". Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, commended participants for advancing state-of-the-art data solutions and partner-



Picture 11: Switzerland hands over to China - Picture taken by IISD

ships. Finally, Georges-Simon Ulrich closed the forum by urging everyone to take the inspiration gained in Bern and turn it into action.

A last "Meet'n'Jazz" reception closed the forum on a new musical note.

Summary Table 5: Plenary Sessions

Name of Session	Organisation of Session
Data for Accountability to the People	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
The road from Bern ... navigating the data future	High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics (HLG-PCCB) for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Summary Table 6: Sessions organised by Switzerland

Name of Session	Organisation of Session	Session Type
Data for Accountability to the People	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	Plenary Session
"TWICE INVISIBLE, lack of education in crises leaves Internally Displaced Children behind -- Time to Act!	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	Parallel session
Building Trust in the Humanitarian Data Ecosystem	Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), Centre for Humanitarian Data	Parallel session

5.5 UNWDF 2021 Results

5.5.1 Key Results

The UNWDF 2021 has led to concrete results, such as the Bern Data Compact, but the experience gained goes beyond that.

The UNWDF 2021 was one of the first global UN conferences organised in a hybrid format since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a challenge to organise a conference of this size both online and in person with the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to the professionalism of the partners and careful planning, this challenge was met successfully.

Many stakeholders did participate online, but it is above all the number of face-to-face participations that must be noted, since almost 700 people made the trip to attend this conference. This can be commended in view of the restrictions and reluctance associated with the pandemic.

Thanks to this conference, and in particular the networking that took place throughout the conference (both formally and informally), a strong link was created between two dimensions - development and statistics - which is all the more important in view of the Decade of Action for achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

5.5.2 Bern Data Compact for the Decade of Action on the Sustainable Development Goals

As was the case for the first two UNWDF, the results of the forum were recorded in a final report published at the end of the forum, the [Bern Data Compact for the Decade of Action on the Sustainable Development Goals](#).

The Bern Data Compact expresses the commitments of the participants to strengthen partnerships and take advantage of solutions to produce inclusive data. It calls on the international community to work together to ensure investments in national data ecosystems, with a view to enabling the production of high-quality, timely, open, reliable and disaggregated data for evidence-based decision-making where every individual is represented. The compact recognises and invites governments, civil society, the private sector, the geo-spatial community, academic and professional associations, the media, the general public, the donor and philanthropic community and the UN system to cooperate in gathering more data.

To accelerate the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan, adopted at the first UN World Data Forum in South Africa in 2017, the compact calls for commitment and action on the way to the fourth UNWDF, including building data capacity, establishing partnerships, cultivating efforts to leave no-one behind and to build trust, and increasing investment. (See the Bern Data Compact, in the Appendix)

5.5.3 Switzerland's contribution to implementation of the Bern Data Compact

Together with partners such as PARIS21 and the Bern Network, Switzerland (SDC) has developed an innovative platform, the Clearing House for Financing Development Data (<https://smartdatafinance.org/>), which was launched at UNWDF 2021. This virtual platform can help countries and their developmental partners to identify funding opportunities, implement large-scale projects, advocate for data and statistical support and connect to new partners. The virtual clearing-house contributes to implementation of the Bern Data Compact.

5.5.4 Video "What have statistics ever done for us?"

A video was produced for the opening ceremony of the United Nations World Data Forum 2021 (UNWDF). It was shot to demonstrate the added value of statistical information, in a humorous tone. (See the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HigpKOWNdXU>)

5.5.5 Book "SDGraphical"

This impressive book is the result of years of work by the United Nations Statistical Commission. It presents a wealth of data and indicators on the state of the world in which we live. Like a magnifying glass, it highlights the points where our collective efforts are bearing fruit and those where they are not or not yet. (See the book:



Picture 12: The book SDGraphical - picture taken by IISD

https://roadtobern.swiss/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/BFS_SDG_Web_CoverInhalt.pdf

5.6 UNWDF 2021 Partners

As part of the UNWDF organisation, several key partners contributed to the success of the conference.

Kursaal AG	Our main partner was Kursaal AG, which provided us with the venue for the forum in Bern.
City of Bern / Bern Welcome	The city of Bern was very supportive. Hotels offered particularly valuable collaboration. Forum participants staying in Bern were able to benefit from preferential rates. The city of Bern was also a sponsor for UNWDF 2021.
Lufthansa Group airlines:	"Swiss International Airlines" (airline of the Lufthansa Group) was the official carrier of UNWDF 2021 in Bern. The Swiss national airline is one of our main partners for UNWDF 2021. It offered all participants up to 10% off its standard rates.

	A video on the 2030 Agenda produced by the "Road to Bern"/UNWDF project group was broadcast on aircraft ahead of UNWDF 2021.
Bernmobil	We collaborated with Bernmobil on the conference. A video on the 2030 Agenda produced by the "Road to Bern" / UNWDF project group was broadcast on public transport in the city of Bern.
Publibike	Publibike was one of our partners in the forum. We worked together to give participants free use of the bike for the first few minutes of their ride.
Switzerland Tourism	Switzerland Tourism provided us with occasional support, particularly in the creation of the sustainability concept for the UNWDF 2021.
CBM Global/ "International Disability Alliance"	CBM Global, which works closely with the "International Disability Alliance" provided us with occasional support, particularly in connection with the creation of the sustainability concept for UNWDF 2021.
Mercator	Mercator was the main sponsor of the "Road to Bern".
International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)	The IISD was an important partner on site, taking professional photographs and writing a daily report after the conference.
European Free Trade Association (EFTA)	To enable everyone to participate in the forum, it was conducted in hybrid form, although financial support was also available for some participants. In this context, we worked closely with EFTA. EFTA covered the costs of participation in UNWDF 2021 for a limited number of participants from the statistical institutes of the Eastern and Southern regions of the ENP who were making a presentation. Funding was provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

5.7 Support from other federal offices

"EDA-Events" has been one of our main partners in the Confederation. For information, "EDA-Events" is a specialist department for the organisation of events and congresses of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), which is normally dedicated solely to the offices and divisions of the FDFA.

Without the support of "EDA-Events", it would not have been possible to organise this conference. The involvement of this partner was essential for the organisation in general. Logistics was an

important aspect, especially with the COVID-19 pandemic coming into play and causing a series of challenges. In addition, together with the specialised services of the Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva, "EDA-Events" took over the management of issuing visas, together with all the exchanges of emails and phone calls that this entailed. Finally, one of our partner's core responsibilities was the creation, printing and delivery of on-site security badges for participants.

In addition, the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM), the Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva, the Federal Office of Police (fedpol), the Federal Office of Public Health of Switzerland (FOPH) and the Federal Office for Construction and Logistics (FOCL) were also involved in the organisation of UNWDF 2021 and provided major support for the smooth running of the conference. Our partner "EDA-Events" was thus in charge of the coordination at the level of all these federal actors, whose services were essential for organising the conference.

5.8 "Lessons Learned"

5.8.1 Lessons Learned 2: Creating a Community

As a reminder, the aim of the UNWDF is to bring together not only participants from the statistical field but also to broaden participation out to other fields. Thus, the forum is open to representatives of the economy, science, the media, national statistical offices, as well as other administrations and fields. In the future, however, an attempt should be made to increase the involvement of the private sector, which was poorly represented. Thought must be given to what private businesses might gain from such an event, in order to boost their numbers at the next and subsequent UNWDF(s).

In order to attract a younger audience, a number of competitions were launched, while cooperation with strategic partners close to young people was sought; in particular, this was to ensure that the voice of young people was represented at UNWDF.

Finally, for the conference to be a success, from an organisational point of view, it is also necessary to include many key partners who would be able to provide support and who would be willing to meet together in multiple events when necessary.

5.8.2 Lessons Learned 3: Making Use of a Sustainability Concept

The sustainability concept has been the subject of repeated praise by our partners and participants. It is the first UNWDF to deal with the sustainability factor, i.e. it was concerned with the sustainability of the event itself.

Some sustainability factors worked very well, such as providing vegetarian buffets only, with various meatless dishes offered throughout the duration of the forum to guests, who were impressed by this initiative. In addition, the use of reusable tableware from the conference venue rather than the use of PET bottles should be noted. Another extremely positive and appreciated factor was the presence of sign language interpreters for the plenary sessions. However, some aspects of our sustainability concept were less successful than expected. Concerning the last point mentioned, relating to the SDG 10, it was difficult, if not impossible, to meet all demands and to provide support for all special cases or what were sometimes even isolated cases. As a result, although some people may have needed more support, this was not possible within the framework of the UNWDF 2021. This aspect was therefore criticised. In addition, the reusable cups distributed were not used. It was also difficult to estimate the number of participants and, in so doing, to limit food waste. Food leftovers were not taken away by guests.

In this way, we paved the way for more sustainable events by providing some food for thought for the organisers of future UNWDFs and conferences in general; this was thanks to our actions and recommendations, which may be reused or even improved upon and adapted to take account of the relevant concerns. In addition, we are proud to say that we achieved a climate-neutral event by offsetting all our emissions in collaboration with ClimatePartner.

5.8.3 Lessons Learned 4: Flexible Organisation

We were confronted early on with the COVID-19 pandemic and had to be extremely flexible in organising the "Road to Bern" programme and especially, the UNWDF 2021. As a result, it was important to hold a large number of meetings in order to monitor the situation.

Firstly, it became necessary for Switzerland to invest a large amount of money to postpone the forum, which had been planned originally for October 2020. For example, the contracts of three staff members taken on for the project had to be extended by one year. In addition, the "Road to Bern" turned out to be much longer than expected. Even though this called for additional resources (financial and human), it also proved to be a positive factor, because it gave the organisers more time to prepare the forum.

The transition from a conference with about 1500 participants on site to a hybrid conference, with half of the participants present and live-streaming from five out of the nine rooms, was a major logistical (and costly) challenge.

The situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic was by no means simple, as the immigration rules for entry into Switzerland were constantly changing. In addition, the situation differed greatly around the world, so that some sessions that should have originally taken place in Bern were cancelled or only held virtually. Informal exchanges with the Federal Office of Public Health and the State Secretariat for Migration were very important during this period, as they enabled us to take into consideration different implementation scenarios.

Switzerland also proposed a change to the structure of the Host Country Agreement (HCA). In view of the health situation, the host country wished to introduce a paragraph on health. In addition, given the launch of a sustainability concept, the host country also wanted to introduce a chapter dedicated to sustainability.

6 Conclusion

Launched in January 2020, the "Road to Bern" was soon confronted with the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, activities were disrupted and slowed down but were able to pick up steam again. Many events were held either virtually or in a hybrid format, which allowed for a more inclusive audience in terms of region, profession and socio-economic background. People who did not have the financial resources or the time to travel to the event were able easily to participate online. Hence, as they were organised in virtual form, it was possible to go ahead with a large number of events. However, such events had certain limitations insofar as they did not encourage human interaction or spontaneous exchanges between participants, especially as informal exchanges can sometimes achieve greater progress than formal editions.

The first objective of the "Road to Bern" was to promote the exchange of ideas on the topics to be discussed at UNWDF 2021. This proved to be very successful, with a large number of activities planned at national and international level. This demonstrates the involvement of many national and international partners in the preparation of the UNWDF 2021 both around the world and in Switzerland. The second objective of the "Road to Bern" was to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Switzerland. To achieve this, the Swiss public must be aware of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 goals; currently, less than

10% of the Swiss population is familiar with it. The initiatives launched by the Road to Bern/UN-WDF project group therefore aimed to increase this awareness. The FSO's Open Day, the Tour de Suisse with the use of a customised vehicle bearing the image of the SDGs, the launch of two competitions on the SDGs, the inscription of the SDGs on the square in front of the Swiss Parliament Building), and the dissemination of messages on public transport in Bern and on the SWISS airline all contributed to this process. However, engaging the general public has been extremely resource-intensive. The efforts undertaken have probably raised awareness among a new, but still small, part of the population. Efforts must continue in this direction and this will take time. The activities launched by the Road to Bern, which have had a promising impact, are therefore only a beginning and will need to be continued.

As far as UNWDF 2021 is concerned, in general, the feedback received from this third edition was extremely positive. The pleasure and relief of being able to gather together at such a large international conference was shared by all those present. After more than a year and a half of virtual exchanges, it was essential to meet face-to-face again, in order to exchange ideas. As a result, many informal discussions and meetings were possible outside the sessions, especially at the three social events that were organised.

Throughout the seven plenary sessions and 66 parallel sessions, speakers reiterated the need to put people at the heart of data collection and dissemination; while advocating innovative approaches to ensure the visibility of marginalised communities and the return of any data gathered to providers to locate solutions. The event generated a wave of multi-stakeholder collaborative projects, which participants will seek to exploit and use in other policy areas.

The Bern Data Compact for the Decade of Action on the Sustainable Development Goals aims to strengthen partnerships and to produce inclusive data to leave no-one behind. It calls on the international community, including governments, the private sector, civil society and the general public, to work together to ensure investment in the data ecosystem; this is to enable the production of high quality, timely, open, reliable and disaggregated data for evidence-based decision-making, where every individual is represented.

On the participation side, it would have been desirable to have more private sector and more political representatives at the forum. Thought should be given to how to involve them more, to what benefit they can achieve from it, so that they can be asked to make their own contributions.

With regard to the extraordinary situation, we are also delighted that we succeeded in adapting to the different rules in force and that we were able to welcome almost 700 people during the four days of the conference. Despite the large number of visitors, the conference did not result in any spreading of coronavirus.

7 Appendix

7.1 National Activities

- 27.01.2020: SDGs: Exchange - Networking – Perspectives
- 18.02.2020: 2020 General Assembly of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Switzerland
- 19.05.2020: The human and social sciences and innovation: creating change
- 26.06.2020: The 7th Swiss Conference on Data Science
- 29.06.2020: Measuring progress towards the SDGs - from indicators to new data sources
- 27.08.2020: Measuring progress towards the SDGs
- 28.08.2020: Energy Hackdays 2020
- 03.09.2020: SEVAL congress 2020: Participation in Evaluation - Illusion or Necessity?
- 05.10.2020: Science Café Bern: The power of numbers
- 12.10.2020: Science Café Thun: The power of numbers
- 21.10.2020: Could worldwide social inequality be the downfall of sustainable development?
- 22.10.2020: The FSO introduces itself – the people behind the statistics and what businesses can learn
- 22.10.2020: Is Switzerland a developing country?
- 28.10.2020: Forum ö 2020: And now what? Forging the future of Switzerland's economy together!
- 18.05.2021: Sustainable Development Forum: Leave no one behind
- 05.06.2021: Tour de Suisse: First stop in Fribourg with Jacques Ducrest
- 02.07.2021: Tour de Suisse: See you in Zurich with Georges-Simon Ulrich
- Tour de Suisse: Meeting in Lausanne with Petra Keller Guéguen
- 28.08.2021: Open day at the FSO 2021: Official statistics for sustainable development
- 01.09.2021: Data as the raw material of a modern state
- 06-08.09.2021: Swiss Statistics meeting 2021

- 09.09.2021: Away from plastics - approaches and solutions
- 16.09.2021: Food systems: are we eating at the expense of the most vulnerable?
- 22.09.2021: International cooperation with the private sector, a good development?
- 28.09.2021: Development cooperation - Quo vadis?
- 05.05.2021 (Launch): Sustainability in numbers
- 27.09.-10.10.2021: Videos on buses and trams in Bern
- 03.10.2021 (Publication date): Sustainability videos with Swiss personalities
- 03.10.2021 (Publication date): Video "What have statistics ever done for us?"
- Undated: Union of Swiss Cities website
- Undated: Newsletter of the European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN)
- Undated: Newsletter of the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (SAHS)

7.2 International Activities

- 13.01.2020: New approaches to capacity development for better data: How to scale up innovation?
- 19.01.2020: 2nd International Forum on Migration Statistics (IFMS)
- 21.01.2020: A new perspective on the economics of Global Health
- 19.02.2020: 1st dialogue of the Road to Bern via Geneva - Collecting data
- 28.02.2020: Making innovation, funding and governance work for development data in the "Decade of Action"
- 02.03.2020: UN Statistical Commission Side Event: More and Better Financing of Data for Development
- 04.03.2020: United Nations World Data Forum Information Briefing & Breakfast
- 08.04.2020: Unlocking the SDGs as a shared results framework: From ambition to action
- 22.04.2020: 2nd dialogue of the Road to Bern via Geneva: Data Protection
- Data visualisation competition "Leave No One Behind" organised by Ecoparc and the FSO
- 26.05.2020: 3rd dialogue of the Road to Bern via Geneva": Sharing data
- 08.07.2020: HLPF 2020 - Side event: On the way to the UNWDF - why gender data and accountability matter

- 10.07.2020: Moldova demographic outlook 2020 in the context of World Population Day & UN75 global conversation
- 05.10.2020: 15th Session of Asia-Pacific Stats Café Series: Financing Statistical Development
- 12.10.2020: 2nd ASEAN Forum on SDGs with National Development Planning Agencies
- 14.10.2020: 4th dialogue of the Road to Bern via Geneva: Using Data: Making data user-friendly – Towards Data Commons
- 15.10.2020: Data innovation in official statistics - "Road to Bern" webinar
- 19.10.2020: Virtual United Nations World Data Forum 2020
- 23.11.2020: DATA 2025
- 12.02.2021: 52nd UNSC Session Side Event: Enhancing financing for development data – Progress and innovations for implementing the CTGAP
- 17.02.2021: On data and design 17 – Stories around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- 18.02.2021: 52nd UNSC Session Side Event: Bern 2021 and a forward look at the UN World Forum
- 15.02.2021: Violence against women in the public and private spheres: measure it to end it
- 25.02.2021: 5th Dialogue of the Road to Bern via Geneva – On Data and Tech 4Good
- 07.04.2021: The UNWDF and the Road to Bern initiative in the LAC Region
- 19.05.2021: 6th Dialogue of the Road to Bern via Geneva: On Environmental Data
- 09-10.06.2021: Regional conference on regional accounts
- 17.06.2021: The UNWDF and Road to Bern Initiative in Warsaw: Harnessing Remote Sensing for Sustainable Cities
- 18.06.2021: Challenges and opportunities in strengthening official local statistics: Madagascar-Switzerland discussions
- 24.06.2021: The use of non-traditional data sources for Official Statistics in the LAC region
- 30.06.2021: Data Science and Official Statistics - Road to Bern webinar
- 15.07.2021: Building back better through smart investments in development data
- 17.08.2021: SDG 17: Success cases of multi-stakeholder partnerships in the LAC region

- 25.08.2021: Combining data produced by private entities with official statistics: the Gender Statistics Case
- 10.09.2021: The Road to Bern Moscow
- 14.09.2021: Leveraging the power of data for better lives: World Development Report 2021
- 23.09.2021: Data Literacy: experiences for evidence-based decision making
- 30.09-01.10.2021: 8th Global Forum on Gender Statistics
- Undated: Shaping resilient societies: Can one succeed?