



SDG METADATA TRANSLATION PROJECT

Automation plans for Phase 3



WORLD BANK GROUP

SDG Metadata
Translation Team

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Summary



1. UNSD's metadata exchange can provide machine-readable metadata in English via an SDMX API
2. This source metadata will be perfectly compatible with the WB Translation Project, thanks to an identical conversion process and structure due to collaboration
3. This will allow the WB Project to pull the English metadata directly from UNSD in automatic, scheduled releases, with any changes clearly marked for translators

Source metadata 1.0



At the start of the WB Translation Project:

- Source metadata were *manually converted* from Word files into machine-readable format (Markdown/HTML)
- This was a time-consuming, manual process which required proof-reading and frequent adjustments
- Provided by the WB Translation Project team

Source metadata 2.0



After starting collaboration with UNSD:

- Source metadata were *automatically converted* from structured Word templates into HTML
- This dramatically reduced the time spent/cost preparing the source metadata
- Still involved manual work: copy/pasting the source metadata into the structure Word templates
- Still required proof-reading and occasional adjustments
- Still provided by the WB Translation Project team

Source metadata 3.0 (Phase 3)



Future integration with UNSD metadata exchange:

- Source metadata will be *automatically pulled* from UNSD API
- No conversion by WB team is necessary
- Source metadata is IAEG-SDG approved (i.e., version is clear)
- No copy/pasting, proof-reading, adjustments, etc.
- Extremely time and cost efficient



Source metadata releases

Before Phase 3:

- Manually make any updates to the (many) structured Word templates, and upload them to the repository

After Phase 3:

- Run a script to automatically pull in the latest versions of the source metadata from the UNSD API



Impact on translators?

- Because the WB Translation Project and the UNSD global database both use identical conversion process and structure, the transition will be seamless.
 - Thanks to the [sdg-metadata-convert](#) library
- Any changes in the source metadata will be clearly marked in Weblate, easy to find, and will represent substantive changes
- Source metadata releases will be continue to be communicated in advance to translators for full transparency



Impact on maintainers?

- Full automation of source metadata means dramatically less maintenance for the WB Translation Project team
- Allows the team to focus on other areas, like support for the translator experience, and website functionality



Translator experience - images

- Feedback from regional commissions and NSOs has identified a clear area for improvement: the handling of images in Weblate.
- Large images clutter the Weblate translation interface
- Following phase 3 additional development (phase 3a) could address this with a system of placeholders.
- Could be completed by 30 June, at the same time targeted to implement phase 3



What the project has demonstrated

- Open-source software provides power, flexibility, and compatibility
- Weblate is the perfect system to assist this translation need, and is an expertly-managed open-source project
- The “import-translate-export” architecture is the ideal workflow for translating the SDGs
- Conversion of metadata into machine-readable format has great efficiencies in time, cost, and interoperability
- Collaboration and standards-based development are critical ingredients



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