

# Truth in numbers

## The role of data in a world of fact, fiction and everything in between

Organised under the auspices of the PARIS21 Annual Meetings

## 4 April 2018

#### Bern, Kursaal Conference Centre

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft Confédération suisse Confederazione Svizzera Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Statistical Office FSO

Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

## 4<sup>th</sup> April: Making Data Work for Citizens

(Room Sopra Grande)

#### Agenda

08:30 - 09:00	Welcome Tea/Coffee (Foyer Sopra)
09:00 - 09:15	<ul> <li>I. Welcome</li> <li>Georges-Simon Ulrich, Director General, Swiss Federal Statistical Office (FSO)</li> <li>Johannes Jütting, Manager, PARIS21</li> </ul>
09:15 – 09:45	<ul> <li>II. Opening remarks: Global issues that require global solutions</li> <li>Krystyna Marty Lang, Deputy State Secretary, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)</li> <li>Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)</li> </ul>
09:45 - 10:15	<ul> <li>III. Keynote on Fake News, Bubbles and Official Statistics</li> <li>Vincent F. Hendricks, Professor, University of Copenhagen and Director, Centre for Information and Bubble Studies</li> </ul>
10:15 - 10:45	Discussion Q&A
10:45 - 11:15	Networking Tea/Coffee (Foyer Sopra)
	Networking Tea/Coffee (Foyer Sopra)         IV. Panel discussion: How to better manage and tackle the misuse of data and information in the digital era         Moderator: Marie-José Kolly, Data Journalist, Neue Zürcher Zeitung (NZZ) (Swiss newspaper)         Panellists:         – Georges-Simon Ulrich, Director General, FSO
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12:55 - 14:30	Networking Lunch — provided for all participants (Foyer Sopra)
14:30 - 14:50	<ul> <li>VI. Role of data in SDG implementation</li> <li>Michael Gerber, Ambassador, Swiss Special Envoy for Global Sustainable Development</li> <li>Francesca Perucci, Assistant Director, UN Statistics Division</li> </ul>
14:50 - 15:30	VII. Calling out "bullshit" in a digital world Moderator: Jeven West, Assistant Professor, University of Washington
15:30 - 15:45	Networking Tea/Coffee (Foyer Sopra)
15:45 - 16:00	VIII. Welcome message by Alec von Graffenried, Mayor of Bern
16:00 - 16:45	IX. Panel discussion. Data for Development: the role of of official statistics within the new information landscape
	<b>Setting the scene:</b> Haishan Fu, Director – Development Data Group, World Bank
	<b>Moderator</b> : Kali Taylor, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
	<ul> <li>Panellists:</li> <li>Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the UN-OHRLLS</li> <li>Silja Baller, Practice Lead, Digital Economy and Innovation, World Economic Forum</li> <li>Pieter Everaers, Director, Eurostat</li> <li>Carole Presern, Head, Office of Board Affairs for The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis an Malaria</li> <li>Neil Jackson, Chief Statistician, Department for International Development DFID, UK</li> </ul>
16:45 - 17:15	Discussion Q&A
17:15 - 17:30	X. Closing Remarks – Martine Durand, OECD Chief Statistician

New information technologies have resulted in the current "post-truth" digital era, where the spread of "fake news" through social media and complex algorithms have led to divisive virtual echo chambers and information bubbles of like-minded people. Polarised opinion landscapes and widespread misinformation have formed in an environment where emotions and beliefs prevail over facts and evidence.

Against this background, there is a growing consensus among policy makers that something needs to be done to regulate the new data ecosystem, educate citizens and limit the misuse of data and information.

In today's fragmented information landscape, this conference will look at the role of official statistics and data in making true and reliable information available to society and encouraging the use of facts and evidence by citizens.

To register for the conference and find out more information, please visit: http://bit.ly/truth-in-numbers-bern-4-april