

*Technical expert workshop on indicators for chemicals
and waste beyond 2020*

3-5 September 2019, WYNG Gardens Trinity Hall, Cambridge, UK

Background Document 6: Considerations for data quality

When considering the data that will underpin an indicator, there are a number of potential issues relating to its quality that are important to bear in mind. Different suggestions for the ‘dimensions’ of data quality exist, an example from Statistics Canada is provided in the table below:

	Dimension	Indicators
1	Institutional environment (authority)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The producer has the legal authority and responsibility to collect information to produce, update and maintain the dataset • Producers' credentials and affiliations are valid and their research/products are commonly used or cited by other researchers and/or users in their field • The facts, biases, exaggerations, or inaccuracies are identified and documented and can be validated with other methods and/or sources of information
2	Relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose or aim for collecting the information, including identification of the target population, discussion of whom the data represent, who is excluded and whether there are any impacts or biases caused by exclusion of particular people, areas or groups
3	Timeliness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data is up-to-date • Data perpetually maintained and available with unique and coherent versioning
4	Accuracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The degree to which the data correctly describe the phenomenon they were designed to measure • Should be assessed in terms of the major sources of errors that potentially cause inaccuracy
5	Coherence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The internal consistency of a statistical collection, product or release, as well as its comparability with other sources of information, within a broad analytical framework and over time
6	Interpretability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The information regarding the data is available / Complete / Clear with supporting documentation
7	Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ease of access to data by users, including the ease with which the existence of information can be ascertained, as well as the suitability of the form or medium through which information can be accessed

Source:

https://seea.un.org/sites/seea.un.org/files/presentation_1_statcan_seea_sdgs_and_global_data_14-02-2019_public_0.pdf