UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM STAFF COLLEGE

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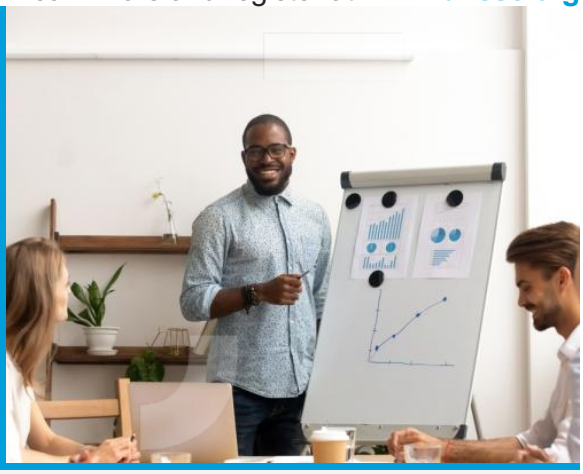
ONLINE

04 OCT 2027 - 29 OCT 2027

Data Visualization and Storytelling Fall 2027

Data and EvaluationManagement



LANGUAGE
English

DURATION
4 weeks

ENROLL BY
01 Oct 2027

PRICE
1,100 USD

LOCATION
ONLINE

TARGET
Everyone

CONTACT elp@unssc.org

This instructor-led course offers a double opportunity: i) to strengthen core data visualization and storytelling skills and ii) to apply data visualization and storytelling tools and principles for reporting and communication purposes. The course covers aspects related to the interpretation, visualization and presentation of data that is of direct relevance to the work of the United Nations (UN).

Introduction

Part of our responsibility as UN staff is to turn information and data into stories that help to inform our stakeholders, including national authorities and civil society. However, data complexity can often obscure our main findings or hinder a true understanding of impact.

How do we make information more accessible to different audiences? Often this is done by displaying data and information visually. If not done carefully, however, our efforts can lead to confusion.

The ability to create impactful data visualizations, such as graphs or maps, has become a core skill for analysts, researchers and managers in the United Nations system as part of the vision of UN 2.0 and the Quintet of Change. It enables evidence-based decision-making, ensuring that policies and interventions are grounded in accurate and up-to-date information. Data-driven insights empower the UN to track progress, identify gaps, and optimize resource allocation, ultimately improving the effectiveness and efficiency of its programmes.Whether we capture disparate data points or research findings in meaningful and impactful, visual stories often means the difference between our stakeholders making, or not making, evidence-based decisions.

Read the summary results and testimonials of the previous editions in this presentation.

Objectives

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- Explain the steps to select the right visualization while considering the data, audience, and objective
- Apply fundamental design principles to declutter graphs and focus attention
- Communicate effectively our key messages with data
- Identify when and how to use interactive visual displays, GIS, data dashboards and Generative AI for data visualization.

Course methodology

This is an online-led instructor course.

Participants will get access to the UN Learn platform, where they will find the asynchronous learning material. They will have the opportunity to practice with optional exercises between the webinars, interact with instructor and peers in discussion forums and work on a final assignment.

The weekly instructor-led webinars are conducted on Zoom. The webinars will take place every Monday and Wednesday from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM CET. Participants need a computer (or mobile device), a reliable internet connection and either a headset with a microphone to connect to the audio through a computer.

For detailed information on the course content and methodology, kindly check the **SYLLABUS**.

Course contents

This course is an immersive and interactive virtual learning journey where participants will practice the craft and science of data visualization using data examples relevant to the work of the United Nations.

The course is organized in 4 weekly modules, as follows:

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Week 1

- Explore the many forms and purposes of data visualization across the UN context.
- Learn the core principles of effective design .

Week 2

- Apply visualization principles to real-world data sets, refining charts and visuals for impact.
- Practice selecting the right visual formats to match data types and messages.

Week 3

- Discover how Geographic Information Systems (GIS) enhance spatial storytelling and decision-making.
- Experiment with interactive data displays to engage users and deepen understanding.

Week 4

- Design and interpret data dashboards that integrate multiple indicators and sources.
- Visualize qualitative data to reveal patterns and insights beyond numbers.
- Explore emerging applications of Generative AI in data visualization to accelerate and enrich design workflows.

Target audience

The course is intended for UN staff exposed to interpreting, analyzing, communicating and reporting on data It is geared to all interested UN personnel (professional and general service staff) at headquarters and field locations.

Cost of participation

The course fee is $1,100.