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University-Government Links: Using relevant statistical data for evidence-based policy making

*ICEIRD – International Conference for Entrepreneurship,
Innovation and Regional Development*

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RSCAS/EUI, Italy

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Presentation Outline

**1. Role of Statistics & Academia in
Evidence-Based Policy-Making**

2. What is  GLOBALSTAT ?

**3. Evidence-based Policy-Making:
Methodological Issues & Examples from
GlobalStat**



Role of statistics & academia in evidence-based policy-making

Potential:

- Support the **strategic planning** in multilevel political structures
- Definition of a set of **common goals** for progress & development (*Europe 2020; MDGs; Paris Accord*)
- Multi-dimensional **performance assessment**
- Help make **decision-making processes & policy instruments** more **transparent** for political actors and public
- Support **innovation** in policy instruments and approaches; activation of actors in a citizens-centred perspective
- **Multiple use and input:** instrumental, conceptual, tactical, symbolic and political



Role of statistics & academia in evidence-based policy-making

Challenges:

- **Normative** character/impact and further implications
- ‘**Rhetoric-reality** gap’ and ‘**means-ends** dilemma’
- The risk of **oversimplify** of complexity together with the **contestation** of evidence
- The tendency of **epistemic community-building**: islands of knowledge issues
- **Multiple use**: instrumental, conceptual, tactical, symbolic and political
 - The strategic/**value-based use** to support interests & aims



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GLOBALSTAT

The Database on Developments in a Globalised World

www.globalstat.eu

GLOBALSTAT

DATABASE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN A GLOBALISED WORLD

CHOOSE, EDIT AND FILTER DATA

1 THEMES

- ☐ Demographics
- ☐ Economic Development & Trade
- ☐ Energy & Natural Resources
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Financial Activities & Structure
- ☐ Food, Agriculture & Fisheries
- ☐ Freedom, Conflicts & Risks
- ☐ Governance
- ☐ Health & Living Conditions
- ☐ Human & Societal Development
- ☐ Human Mobility
- ☐ Technological Development
- ☐ Global Trends
- ☐ Sustainable Livelihood
- ☐ Prosperity of Nations & Human Well-Being

GLOBALISATION IN FIGURES

START BY CHOOSING A THEME

ABOUT
THE PROJECT



WORLD
ID



Why do we need GLOBALSTAT ?

Why are statistics so important?

- Key instruments to quantify, qualify, measure, rank and compare complex phenomena used to evaluate often complicated aspects of reality
- Measure and create reality and impact on behavior
- Are also deeply political (‘governing by numbers’ or ‘Government without governments’) and improve quality of democracy, transparency, debates, policies and scrutiny (evidence-based processes; normative impact)

How do *statistics* impact?

- Increase insight and knowledge
- Support policy-making and evaluation
- Inform monitoring and measurement of progress
- Independent information sources



What challenges does **GLOBALSTAT** respond to?

1. VISIBILITY:

Statistics only slowly become more visible in public domain

→ *outreach: social media and blogs, partnerships, conferences*

2. ACCESSIBILITY:

Clarity and speed of data access needs to be improved

→ *data visualization, extension the themes, data quality, up-dating*

3. USE and LITERACY:

Independent information sources and their use deserve promotion

→ *feedback and refinement*

→ *academic research: factsheets, working papers*



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What is GLOBALSTAT ?

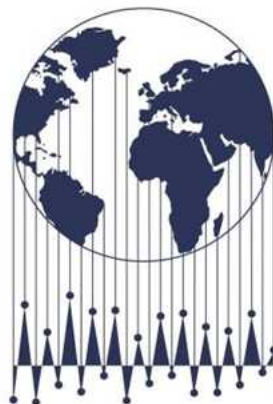
- We base our work on the ever closer interlinkages between **Globalisation**, **Sustainable Development** and **Human Well-being** and the huge variation, but also overlap in their approaches, definitions and measurement.
- We realise that, by using proxies for measurement, statistical data also become **policy-relevant tools**, because they:
 - are used to evaluate many aspects of abstract concepts and reality;
 - are key instruments to quantify, qualify, measure and rank;
 - not only measure, but create reality and impact on behaviour.
- Our research goal is to **analyse** and **measure** how these 3 central concepts and their measurement influence global governance and policy-making processes.
- Our work seeks to **foster** democratic empowerment; to **enable** and **encourage** people to use data; to increase the transparency in multiple ways; and to **improve** the quality of informed public debate and discussion.



How does GLOBALSTAT work?

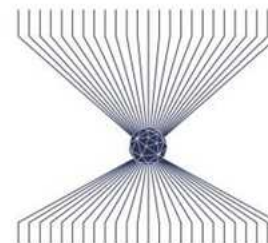
1 SELECTION

- Definition and selection of data sources
- Identification and analysis of relevant data from over 80 international institutions and entities
- Data on 193 sovereign nation states and 4 former state federations



2 HARMONISATION

- Definition of concepts, methodology, statistical operations
- Notes on relevance of data, years and countries



3 STANDARDISATION

- Data are organised as a panel with rows for countries and columns for years
- Calculation of aggregates if:
a) data is available for more than 1/2 of the member countries
b) and the total population of these countries represents at least 2/3 of the aggregate's population
- Aggregate values provided for the world, 5 continents, 2 development status groups, 10 regional integration communities and international organisations



4 VISUALISATION

- Uploading of data in uniform table design
- Full data download in excel format or bar and line charts applying filters for countries and years
- All meta data exportable





In particular, **GLOBALSTAT** has:

- **Longitudinal structure:** a sample of countries is followed over time
- For each indicator, **observations across space** refer to all UN member countries, while **entries over time** start from 1960 to latest available year
- **Each individual data** entry refers to a given nation in a given year
- Benefits of **panel data**:
 - exceed what time-series data analysis and cross-section data analysis can provide individually
 - increases the number of data points and, consequently, the input available for statistical estimation and inference
 - offers answers to research questions that cannot be delivered by conventional analyses

193 Nation States

COUNTRIES AND GROUPS (193/193) ▲

Country ▼

Search Country/Group 🔍

- ☒ Afghanistan
- ☒ Albania
- ☒ Algeria
- ☒ Andorra
- ☒ Angola
- ☒ Antigua and Barbuda

5 Continents

COUNTRIES AND GROUPS (211/211) ▲

World ▼

Search Country/Group 🔍

- ☒ World
 - ☒ Africa
 - ☒ Algeria
 - ☒ Angola
 - ☒ Benin
 - ☒ Botswana
 - ☒ Burkina Faso
 - ☒ Burundi
 - ☒ Cameroon
 - ☒ Cape Verde

12 Integration Communities and International Organisations

COUNTRIES AND GROUPS (0/17) ▲

Continent or Group ▼

Search Country/Group 🔍

- ☒ World
 - ☐ Africa
 - ☐ Americas
 - ☐ Asia
 - ☐ Europe
 - ☐ Oceania
 - ☐ ASEAN
 - ☐ AU
 - ☐ CAN/MERCOSUR/UNASUR
 - ☐ CARICOM
 - ☐ EU



DEMOGRAPHICS (Status quo & Challenges)	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TRADE (Diversity & Catch Up)	ENERGY (Finite Resources & Renewables)	ENVIRONMENT (Conditions & Threats)
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES & STRUCTURE (Texture & Relations)	FOOD, AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES (Patterns & Challenges)	FREEDOM, CONFLICTS & RISKS (Crisis & Perils)	GOVERNANCE (Institutions & Structures)
HEALTH & LIVING CONDITIONS (Well-being & its Fundaments)	HUMAN & SOCIETAL DEVELOPMENT (Quality & Features)	HUMAN MOBILITY (Migration & its Background)	TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT (Participation & Progress)
GLOBAL TRENDS (Prospects in Key Areas)			
SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD (Sustainable Development in the Light of Human Activities)			
PROSPERITY OF NATIONS & HUMAN WELL-BEING (Beyond GDP – Indices' scores)			

**12
thematic
plus
3
horizontal
areas**



GLOBALSTAT offers a wide range of data:

CHOOSE, EDIT AND FILTER DATA

TABLE RANKING BAR LINE SHARE EXPORT SYMBOLS

1 THEMES
Health & Living Conditions

2 SUB-THEMES
Health

3 INDICATORS
Under-5 mortality rate, total

Category: Under-5 mortality (per 1,000 live births)

Under-5 mortality rate, total *i*
Rate - ‰

Select more years or

	Under-5 mortality (per 1,000 live births)	
Groups and Countries/Years	1960	2013
Afghanistan	359.5	97.3
Albania	x	14.9
Algeria	246.6	25.2
Andorra	x	3.0
Angola	x	167.4
Antigua and Barbuda	x	9.3
Argentina	x	13.3
Armenia	x	15.6
Australia	24.9	4.0
Austria	42.9	3.9
Azerbaijan	x	34.2
Bahamas	x	12.9
Bahrain	200.3	6.1
Bangladesh	262.2	11.1



GLOBALSTAT on most different topics:

CHOOSE, EDIT AND FILTER DATA

1 THEMES
Human Mobility

2 SUB-THEMES
International Migration

3 INDICATORS
Dual citizenship acquisition tolerated

☒ Dual citizenship acquisition tolerated

☐ Female migrants as % of all international migrants

☐ International migrant stock

☐ International migrant stock, by sex (%)

☐ Net migration

SELECT DATA

COUNTRIES AND GROUPS (197/197)

YEARS (2/54)

Search Year

1983

Category: Dual citizenship acquisition is tolerated / ...

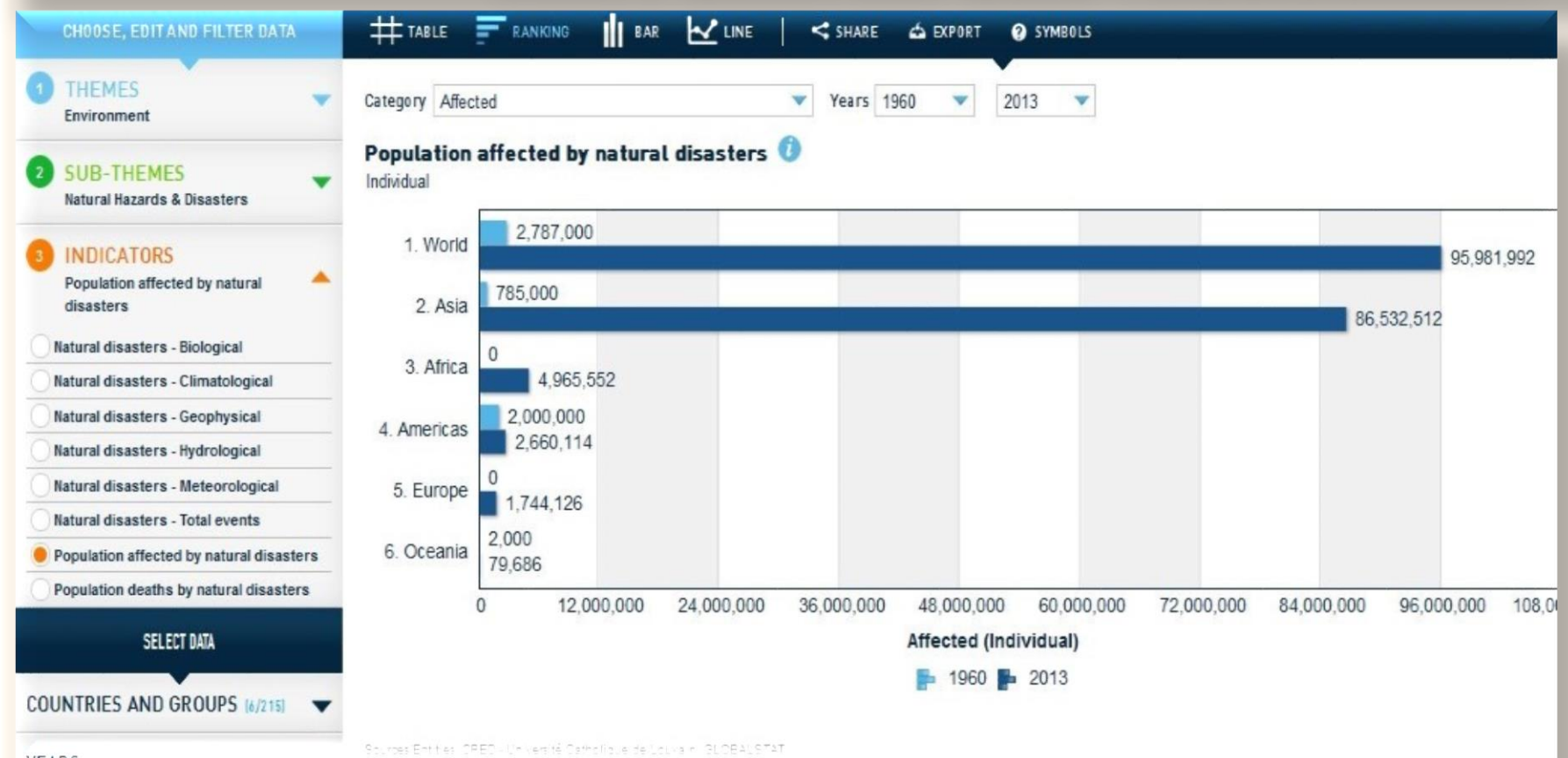
Dual citizenship acquisition tolerated

Score

Select more years or

Groups and Countries/Years	Dual citizenship acquisition is tolerated / not tolerated	
	1960	2013
Afghanistan	1	1
Albania	1	1
Algeria	x	1
Andorra	0	0
Angola	x	1
Antigua and Barbuda	x	1
Argentina	1	1
Armenia	x	1
Australia	0	1
Austria	0	0
Azerbaijan	x	1
Bahamas	x	1
Bahrain	x	1

GLOBALSTAT offers different data visualizations:

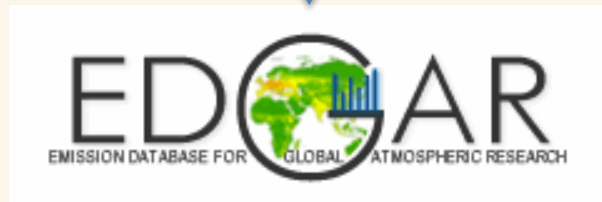




- **Public officials:** variety of themes and international resources
- **Journalists:** reliant, independent source of information
- **Researchers:** source and starting point for data collection
- **Students:** attractive tool to understand and use data
- **Teachers:** structured instrument to deepen knowledge
- **Citizens:** easy and intuitive introduction to data

ALL OF US: *Awareness and Knowledge
about Development in a Globalised World*

Evidence-Based Policy-Making: *Climate Change & Environment*



1970-2014



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change



United nations conference
on climate change
COP21/CMP11



1990-2012,
only Parties
to Annex I



THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP



1960-2011

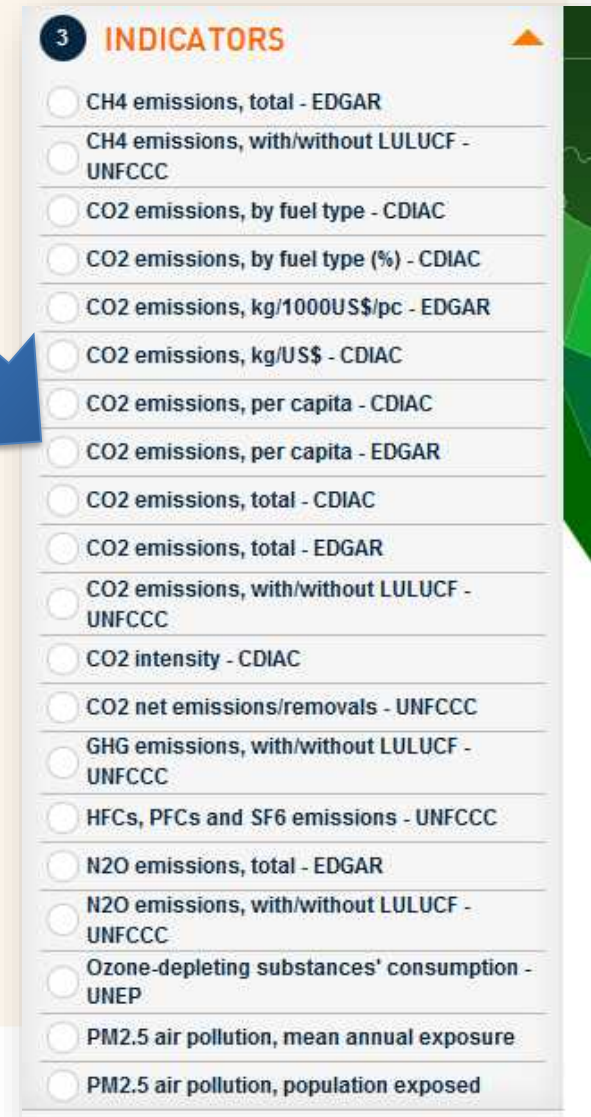
Key Data Providers
on air emissions

Different definitions, file formats, time and country coverage

What's in GLOBALSTAT?



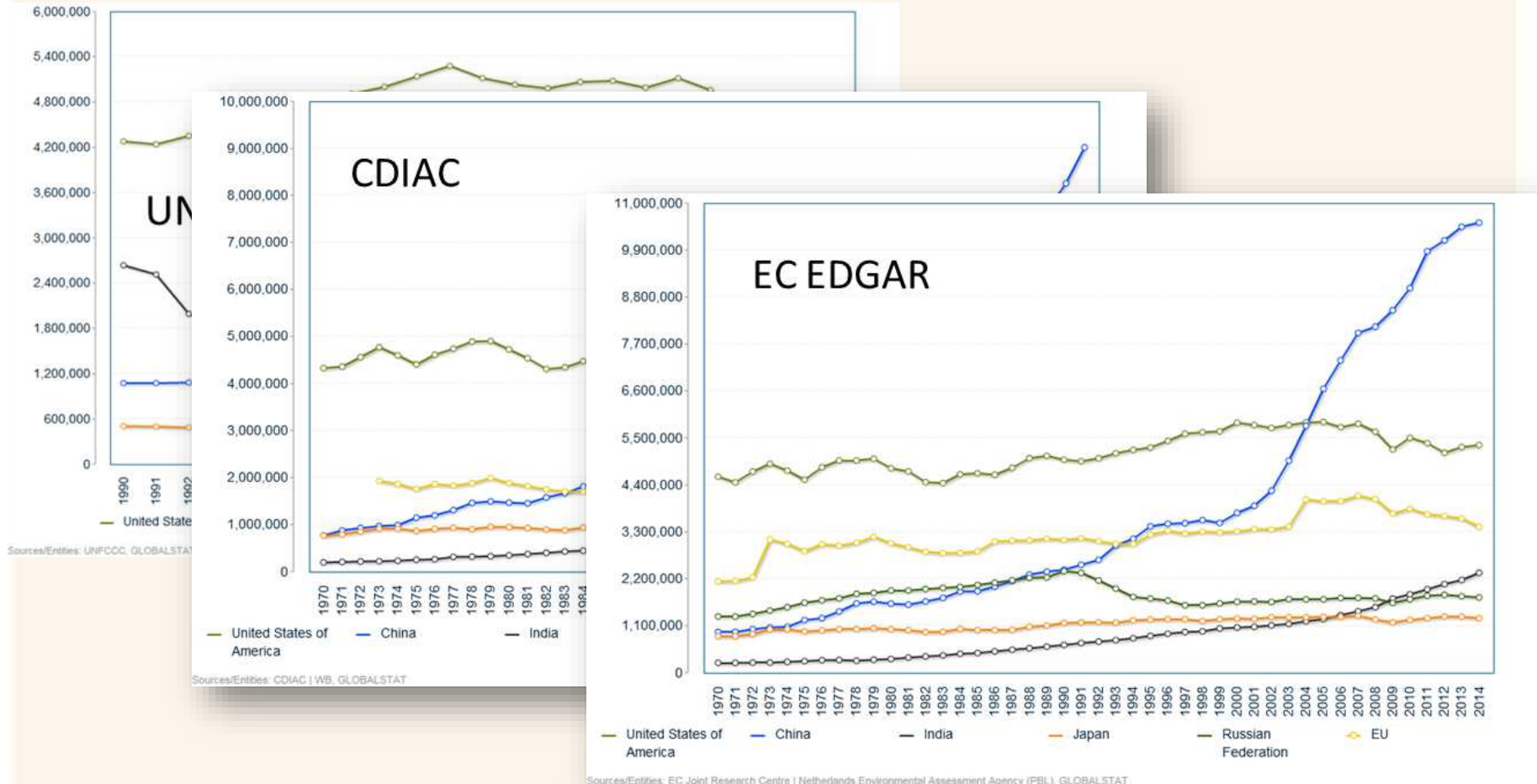
- GHGs emissions, air pollutions, ozone completion
- Biodiversity and Habitats (protected areas, coastal zones)
- Forests' protection and certification
- Natural Disasters
- Water availability, management and pollution





Examples from GS with CO₂ emissions

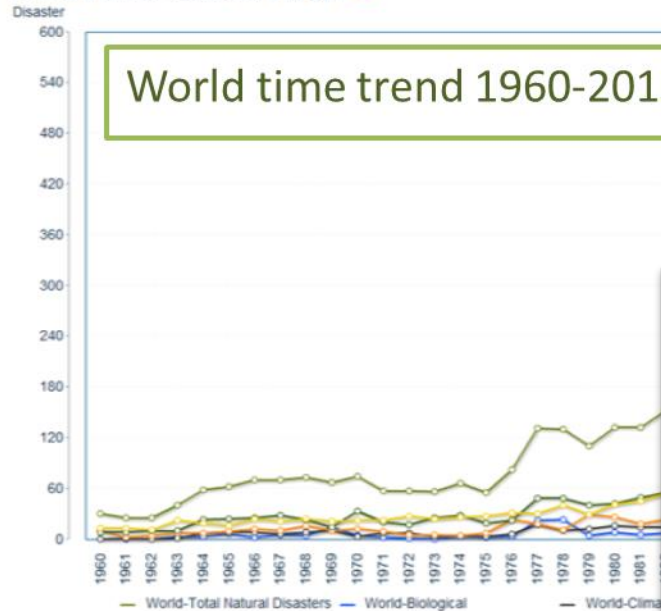
Top 5 emitting countries + 1: China, USA, India, Japan, Russia + EU



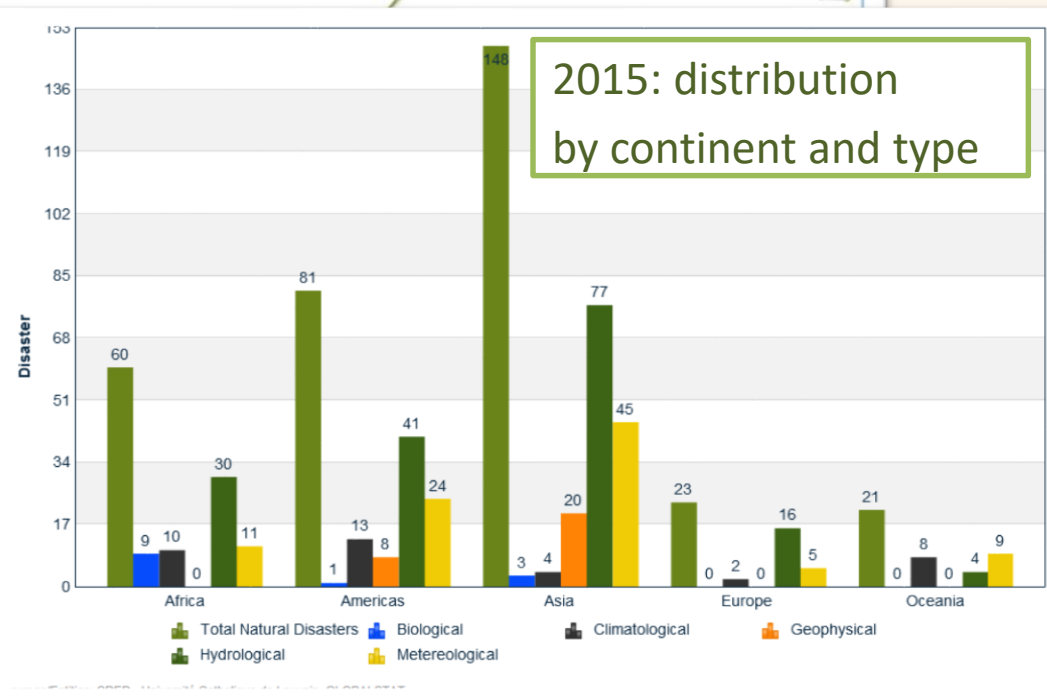


Examples from GS on natural disasters

Natural disasters - Total events by type



Sources/Entités: CRED - Université Catholique de Louvain, GLOBALSTAT



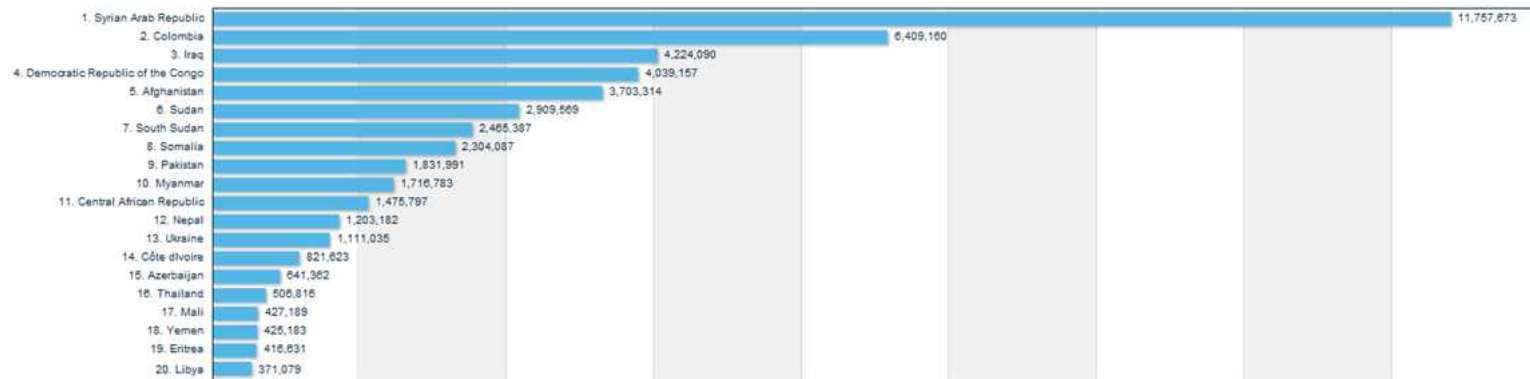


Key Data Providers on migration and asylum

Example from GS: the refugee crisis

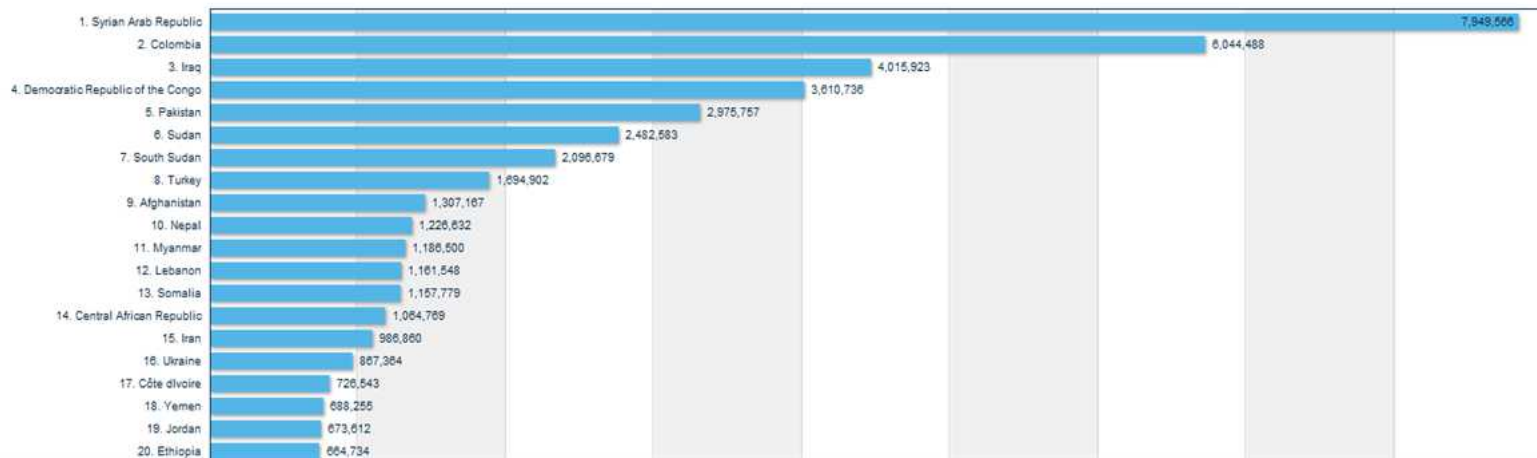
UNHCR's persons of concern, total by origin ⁱ

Individual



UNHCR's persons of concern, total by residence ⁱ

Individual



Further (possible) developments:

A set of open questions to stimulate our discussion:

- Openness to **public scrutiny and contestation**: *What narratives and power structures emerge from the use of statistics and evidence in politics?*
- Relation to **development of participatory structures** in political systems: *Is evidence an opportunity structure and what are potential framing structures?*
- **Institutional capacity to select, evaluate and process evidence**: *Evidence as part of knowledge production process; Substitution of discourse and deliberation through evidence-based processes?*
- **Institutional requirements to guarantee neutrality of the access to evidence**: *Who defines what at which stage?*
- **Instrumental limits**: *What sort of evidence? The one-size-fits-all vs national adaptation; the 'post-factual' reality; the risk of politicisation; etc.*



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Many thanks for your attention!

**Comments are welcome at
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Visit the website: www.globalstat.eu