

FUSION REGISTRY

Use Case – Applying Validation Schemes to Fusion
Registry

FUSION REGISTRY
VERSION 9

Tutorial

This guide describes about Validation Schemes in the
Fusion Registry

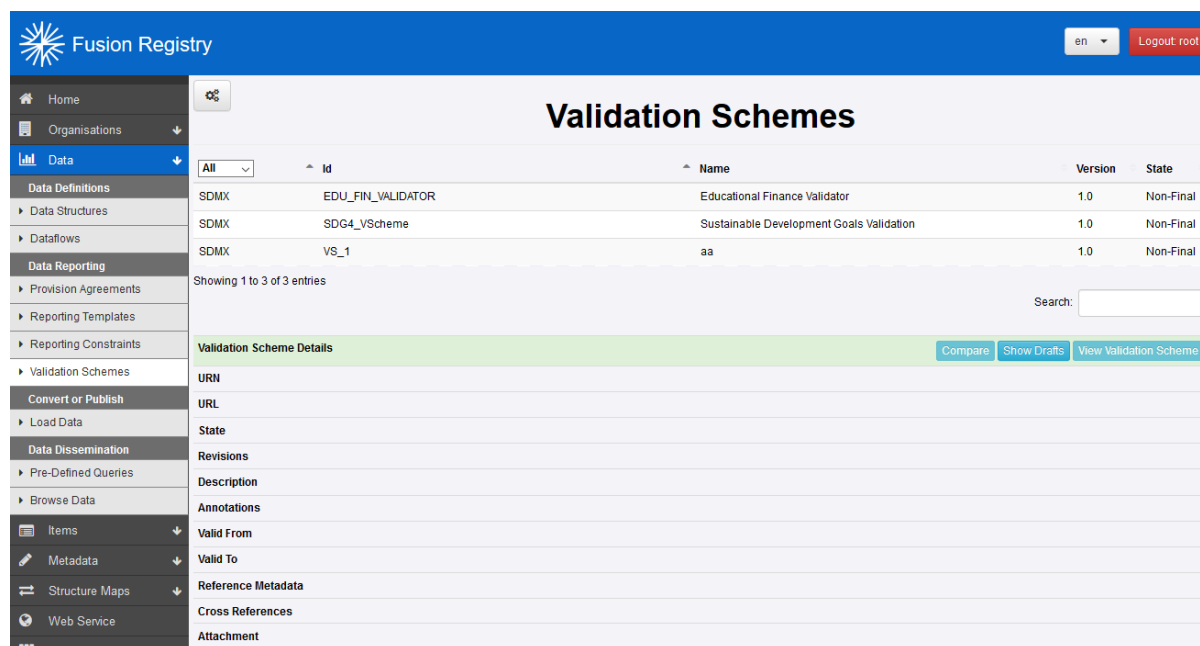
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1 Overview

1.1 What is a Validation Scheme?

Validation Schemes define one or more validation rules which can be executed against a Dataflow at the data validation stage of a data load. Each validation rule consists of a mathematical expression or a link to an aggregation hierarchy which is used to create an expression. This validation goes beyond syntactical and semantical validation of the dataset and is instead checking that the values supplied in the dataset conform to specific business rules. Examples of this could be that a particular field must have a value less than 100, or that the total value reported must be the same as the total of a set of other observation values.



All	Id	Name	Version	State
SDMX	EDU_FIN_VALIDATOR	Educational Finance Validator	1.0	Non-Final
SDMX	SDG4_VScheme	Sustainable Development Goals Validation	1.0	Non-Final
SDMX	VS_1	aa	1.0	Non-Final

Showing 1 to 3 of 3 entries

Search:

Validation Scheme Details [Compare](#) [Show Drafts](#) [View Validation Scheme](#)

URN

URL

State

Revisions

Description

Annotations

Valid From

Valid To

Reference Metadata

Cross References

Attachment

Figure 1 – Showing example Validation Schemes in the Fusion Registry

A Validation Scheme must be assigned against a single Dataflow and may consist of one or many validation rules. A single Validation Rule consists of:

- an ID and name
- an optional description
- a type: either a custom expression or a hierarchic expression
- a result type (either numerical or code type) and a value (e.g. 100 or GDP)
- an equality operator (one of the following mathematical operators: =, <>, <, <=, >, >=)
- an expression (e.g. [EUR]+[FR])

The Validation Scheme rules will be applicable to all datasets submitted against the Dataflow the Validation Scheme is linked to.

1.2 How are Rules Applied

A validation rule operates on a single dimension, an example of a rule to calculate Total from the inputs Males and Females would look like the following:

$$[T] = [M] + [F]$$

Note: the syntax used in a validation scheme puts code Ids into square brackets.

This rule would be applied to every series where all other parts of the series key match, so the following series there would be two matches to this rule, one for employment, and one for unemployment.

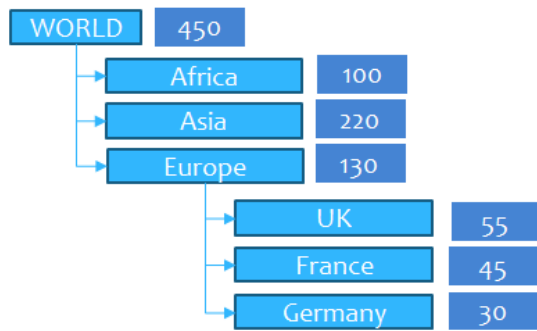
Country	Sex	Employment Status	Time	Value
UK	M	EMP	2008	2
UK	F	EMP	2008	2
UK	T	EMP	2008	4
UK	M	UEMP	2008	3
UK	F	UEMP	2008	3
UK	T	UEMP	2008	6

For a validation rule to be executed there must be data reported for the output, and at least one of the inputs. If data are missing in the inputs, then they are treated as zero values. In the following example, only 1 rule is matched, and there is only one input (Male).

Country	Sex	Employment Status	Time	Value
UK	M	EMP	2008	2
UK	T	EMP	2008	2
UK	M	UEMP	2008	3
UK	F	UEMP	2008	3

There are two types of validation rules, ones which use a custom written expression, as described above. The second type references a Hierarchy in the Registry, and the Hierarchy is used as the basis for an Aggregation expression. For example the following image shows a hierarchy of countries, against theoretical reported values. This is an example of a hierarchy being used to validate a dataset.

A hierarchy can be applied to any dimension that uses the same Codelist as the Hierarchy. When values are read in the data file, the totals at each sub-hierarchy are summed up to ensure they are consistent with the parent value. If any values are missing data, they are treated as having a value of zero.



Note: the Registry only checks data in the submitted file, and does not cross check against any persisted data when validating. For example if you have already stored the totals in a Registry database, submitting a Dataset containing the values making up the totals, the Registry will not validate from the file against the totals already stored.

1.3 About this Tutorial

This tutorial describes the manual steps in the process to create a Validation Scheme. It is required that your Registry be populated with structures that support this process (such as Data Structure Definitions and Dataflows).

2 Creating a Basic Validation Scheme

2.1 Overview

This section will explain the creation of a simple Validation Scheme that demonstrates when Data is loaded into the Registry that the rules within the scheme will be used for validation purposes.

2.2 Creating the Validation Scheme from the User Interface

2.2.1 Validation Scheme Authoring Wizard

A Validation Scheme is created or maintained by using the authoring Wizard. The cogs icon, used to open the wizard is only available to authenticated Agency or Admin users.

		Name
		Educational Finance Validator
SDMX	SDG4_VScheme	Sustainable Development Goals Va
SDMX	VS_1	aa

Showing 1 to 3 of 3 entries

Validation Scheme Details

URN
URL
State

There are four steps to creating a Validation Scheme and are described in the following sections:

2.2.2 Step 1: Details

The first step allows for the specification of the ID and other associated high-level values which make up the definition of the Validation Scheme.








Validation Scheme Wizard

1. Details

2. Attachment

3. CSV Import

4. Expression builder

Language  	en
Draft	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Id	VS_DEMO
 Agency	[UNESCO] United Nations Organization for Educ; 
 Version	1.0
 Name (en)	Validation Scheme Demonstration
Description (en)	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; height: 60px;"></div>
Valid From	<input type="text"/>
Valid To	<input type="text"/>
Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Final <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Previous

Next

Finish

Like all other SDMX Structures, the Id, Version, Name and Agency are mandatory, and the other values are optional. Enter these values and click on the “Next” button.

2.2.3 Step 2: Attachment

This step assigns the Validation Scheme to a single Dataflow.

Validation Scheme Wizard

1. Details2. Attachment3. CSV Import4. Expression builder

Dataflow UNESCO:SDG4(1.0)

Data Structure Details

Pos	Component Id	Component Type
1	STAT_UNIT	Dimension
2	UNIT_MEASURE	Dimension
3	EDU_LEVEL	Dimension
4	EDU_CAT	Dimension
5	SEX	Dimension
6	AGE	Dimension
7	GRADE	Dimension
8	SECTOR_EDU	Dimension
9	EDU_ATTAIN	Dimension
10	SUBJECT	Dimension
11	WEALTH_QUINTILE	Dimension
12	INFRASTR	Dimension

Previous Next Finish

Click on the Dataflow field which will show all of the Dataflows in the Fusion Registry. Select the Dataflow to attach this Scheme to and its details will be displayed in the lower half of this page.

Click on the “Next” button once the correct Dataflow has been selected.

2.2.4 Step 3: CSV Import

This step is optional and allows for the creation of a number of validation rules via text entry.

Validation Scheme Wizard

1. Details

2. Attachment

3. CSV Import

4. Expression builder

This step is optional. Use this step to import custom validation expressions. The CSV may include quotes for each value, example "AN_ID","A Name","A description". Any CSV rules will be added in addition to any rules which may exist for this Validation Scheme.

Each validation expression can contain 'meta' information such as an **Id**, **Name**, and **Dimension Id**.

The rules' expression is then broken down into: **Dimension Id** on which the rule is operating, e.g REF_AREA; **Output**, either numerical, or Code Id in square brackets e.g [EUROPE]; **Equality Operator**, valid values are =,<>,<=>,>=>; and **Expression**, where each Code Id in the expression must be placed in square brackets, for example [UK]+[FR]+[DE]. Valid operators are +,-,/,* and brackets '()' are supported.

Rule Details	Column Index	Rule Expression	Column Index
Rule Id	1 <input type="text" value="1"/>	Dimension Id	3 <input type="text" value="3"/>
Rule Name	2 <input type="text" value="2"/>	Output	4 <input type="text" value="4"/>
Rule Description	<input type="text"/>	Equality Operator	5 <input type="text" value="5"/>
		Expression	6 <input type="text" value="6"/>

Example:

```
SERIES_CHECK,Europe Total,REF_AREA,[EUROPE],="([UK]+[FR]+[DE]) - (([ES]+[IT]+[LUX]) * 2)"  
VALUE_CHECK,Europe Equal,REF_AREA,118.27,="([UK]+[FR]+[DE]) - (([ES]+[IT]+[LUX]) * 2)"
```

Previous

Next

Finish

To create a rule, enter the rule details on its own line in the text area. Elements of the rule must be separated by commas. Each element must conform to the expected value of that field (e.g. the ID element must not contain illegal characters; the equality operator may only be one of the permitted values). The field order is determined by the drop-downs at the top of this step and can be changed by the user.

Syntax of an Expression:

Each expression operates on a single dimension, and is made up of three parts:

1. Resultant
2. Equality Operator
3. Operands and Operators

The resultant and operands can either be numerical constants (e.g 100) or the Id of a code (e.g EUROPE). If a code id is used, the syntax demands it is placed in square brackets [EUROPE].

For example an expression to validate the reported value for EUROPE may look like the following:

```
[EUROPE]=([UK]+[FR]+[DE]) - (([ES]+[IT]+[LUX]) * 2)
```

When importing this via CSV the output, equality operator, and expression are all supplied in their own CSV field. So a full example of a CSV rule would look like the following:

```
SERIES_CHECK,Europe Total,REF_AREA,[EUROPE],="([UK]+[FR]+[DE]) - (([ES]+[IT]+[LUX]) * 2)"
```

This would create the rule with the following characteristics:

- **Rule Id:** SERIES_CHECK
- **Rule Name:** Europe Total
- **Rule Description:** <none> (no column index supplied)
- **Dimension Id:** REF_AREA
- **Mathematical expression:** EUROPE = (UK+FR+DE) - ((ES+IT+LUX) * 2)

2.2.5 Step 4: Expression Builder

Rather than use the CSV import (step 3) to create a validation rule, it may be easier to create a validation rule through the user interface on step 4.

The screenshot shows the 'Validation Scheme Wizard' interface at step 4, 'Expression builder'. The interface is divided into four steps: 1. Details, 2. Attachment, 3. CSV Import, and 4. Expression builder. On the left, a list of dimensions is shown, with '[REF_AREA] Reference area - 1' selected. The main area displays a table with one rule: 'EUR1' with the name 'Europe Totaliser'. Below the table, there are buttons for 'New Rule', 'Edit Rule', and 'Delete Rule'. A search box is also present. The 'Custom Rule Expression' section shows the expression: '[SDG_EUR]=[DE]+[FR]+[GB]'. At the bottom right, there are 'Previous' and 'Finish' buttons.

The left-hand side of the page shows all dimensions for this Dataflow followed by a number. The number indicates the number of Validation Rules against that particular dimension. The right-hand side shows the rules that have been defined for the currently selected Dimension. Selecting a rule shows the expression for that rule (i.e. the logic of the rule itself) or if this is a hierarchical rule then the aggregation hierarchy is displayed.

Editing or creating a rule displays a dialog where the values for the rule can be defined. This is similar to step 3 of the Validation Scheme Wizard.

Modify Rule

ID: EUR1 Name: Europe Totaliser Rule Type: Custom Expression

Description: Rule Description (Optional)

Result: Code = Expression: [DE]+[FR]+[GB]

SDG_EUR

Quick Code Lookup

Id	Name
AD	Andorra
AE	United Arab Emirates
AF	Afghanistan
AG	Antigua and Barbuda
AI	Anguilla
AL	Albania
AM	Armenia
AO	Angola
AR	Argentina
AS	American Samoa

Close **Modify Rule**

As stated previously a rule must have an Id and Name and may have an optional description. The control at top-right allows the user to distinguish between a **Custom Expression** and a **Hierarchical Expression** (this choice is only available for Dimensions with a Concept that represents a Hierarchic codelist).

The Mathematical Expression can be defined as either a Code evaluated against an expression (e.g. EUROPE=FR+DE) or a value evaluated against an expression (e.g. 55 >= GE). The expression area may be typed into manually and the user will need to do this in order to add mathematical symbols and numbers as appropriate. However the Quick Code Lookup, situated at the bottom of this page, lists all of the codes for this Dimension. Clicking an item in this list will insert it into the expression area.

For Hierarchic Rules, these can only be created when the Codelist referenced by the Dimension is also referenced by a Hierarchy – this permits the Rule Type option of **Aggregate Using Hierarchy** to be selected. If no hierarchies exist which use the same Codelist as the Dimension, the Rule Type option will be fixed on **Custom Rule**.

When the rule type is set to **Aggregate using Hierarchy** the result and expression section of the dialog is replaced with a list of available Hierarchies that can be selected (under the heading “Hierarchy to Use”). A Hierarchy must be selected and the view of the selected hierarchy is shown to the right of the hierarchical list.

Figure 2 showing a rule which has been set to use the hierarchy H1

Once the rule has been defined, clicking “Add Rule” will dismiss the dialog and add this rule to the selected dimension.

Note that during creation, rules are not validated for logic or contradictory values. So it is possible to create nonsensical rules such as EUROPE >= EUROPE. It is down to the user to ensure that the Validation Rules have a logical sense.