

A statistical framework for measuring sustainable development - Relevance for SDGs and post-2015 design?

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Introduction

- A statistical framework for measuring sustainable development....
-relevance for the SDGs/post-2015 design?

TFSD/CES Recommendations

- Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD work
 - 2005-2009 - Working Group for Statistics for Sustainable Development (WGSSD)
 - 2009-2013 - Task Force for Measuring Sustainable Development (TFSD)
- TFSD membership
 - UNECE, Eurostat, OECD, Canada, France, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, World Bank and European Commission
- Two consultations of countries/institutes
- Endorsement Conference of European Statisticians (June 2013)
 - 62 countries (56 UNECE countries and 6 OECD)
 - *CES recommendations on measuring sustainable development*



TFSD/CES Recommendations– Implementation

- Published in Spring 2014
- Countries using the framework/pilot testing
 - Australia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Netherlands, Russia, Slovenia, Turkey and Ukraine
- Institutes using the framework
 - OECD (*How's Life?* publication - Chapter on sustainability)
 - Friends of the Chair (FOC) on broader measures

TFSD/CES Recommendations – Main outcomes

- **Statistical framework (“Here and now” vs. “Later” vs. “Elsewhere”)**
 - Basis: Brundtland and Stiglitz-Sen-Fittoussi report
 - Includes insights from initiatives of United Nations, Eurostat /European Commission, OECD, World bank, National measurement systems and latest academic work
- **Policy relevant**
 - 20 SD themes (Subjective well-being, Consumption and income, Nutrition, Health, Labour, Education, Housing, Leisure, Physical safety, Land and ecosystems, Water, Air quality, Climate, Energy resources, Mineral resources, Trust, Institutions, Physical capital, Knowledge capital, Financial capital)
- **Flexibility**
 - Three indicator sets (90, 60 and 24 indicators) to cater to various perspectives
 - Country differences in indicators
 - Linkable to company level frameworks -Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)

1. Measurement vs. target setting

TFSD/CES themes	High Level Panel Report
TH1. Subjective well-being	
TH2. Consumption and income	
TH3. Nutrition	
TH4. Health	
TH5. Labour	
TH6. Education	
TH7. Housing	
TH8. Leisure	
TH9. Physical safety	
TH10. Land and ecosystems	
TH11. Water	
TH12. Air quality	
TH13. Climate	
TH14. Energy resources	
TH15. Mineral resources	
TH16. Trust	
TH17. Institutions	
TH18. Physical capital	
TH19. Knowledge capital	
TH20. Financial capital	

2. Data revolution

- Data availability for TFSD/CES recommendation
 - EU/OECD
 - Majority of indicators are available
 - Worldwide (“small set”)
 - Data for >100 countries for 17 out of 24 indicators
- Measurability of targets
 - All HLP targets can be linked to TFSD/CES recommendations
 - In many cases there are still issues of measurability
 - Examples from HLP
 - “Stem the external stressors that lead to conflict”
 - “Support an open, fair and development-friendly trading system”
 - “....reforms to ensure stability of the global financial system”
 - “Safeguard ecosystems, species and genetic diversity”

3. Difference between countries

Rank	19 higher income countries	19 lower income countries
1	GHG emissions	Gross Domestic Product
2	Life expectancy at birth	Unemployment rate
3	Government debt	Protected areas
4	Gross Domestic Product	GHG emissions
5	Official Development Assistance	Energy intensity
6	Educational attainment	Renewable energy
7	Water quality	Population structure and changes
8	Income	Income inequality
9	General Employment rate	Life expectancy at birth
10	Unemployment rate	Energy consumption
11	Energy consumption	General Employment rate
12	Energy intensity	Generation of waste
13	Renewable energy	R&D expenditures
14	R&D expenditures	Government debt
15	Income inequality	Acidifying emissions
16	Generation of waste	Mortality
17	Poverty	Gross fixed capital formation
18	Obesity prevalence	Productivity
19	Protected areas	Water abstraction
20	Gross fixed capital formation	Drinking water

Based on analysis of indicator sets of 38 countries: Luxembourg, Norway, Switzerland, Australia, Austria, Netherlands, Ireland, Sweden, Germany, Belgium, Denmark, United Kingdom, Finland, France, South Korea, Israel, Spain, Italy, New Zealand, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Malta, Portugal, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Hungary, Latvia, Argentina, Mexico, Turkey, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Romania, Brazil, Montenegro, South Africa, Serbia, Vietnam and Morocco



Conclusion

- TFSD/CES Recommendations
 - Convergence towards a common way of measuring SD
 - A **flexible** measurement **framework** that includes **policy** drivers
- TFSD /CES work can assist to answer questions of the OWG
 - Measurement vs. Target setting
 - Data revolution
 - Differences between countries