Multi Dimensional Indicator Frameworks: Integrating Policy Oriented and Conceptual Approaches

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Integrating policy-oriented and conceptual approaches

-One of the outcomes of the *5th Beyond GDP sprint*: statistical systems need to be more policy relevant.

 -Need to supplement policy datasets (such as SDG indicators) with more conceptual approaches:

-> Filling gaps in policy agendas (because of theoretical underpinning of conceptual models).

-> Helping meaningful translation from global indicators to regional/national indicators (see great problems encountered with reformulating the SDG agenda at regional or country level).

-> Conceptual systems help us to see how indicators are related (e.g. by use of satellite accounts)

Indicator sets versus composite indicators
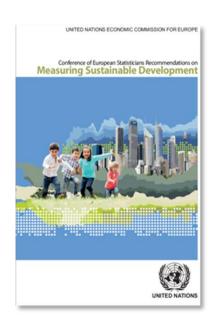
Advantage of <u>indicator sets</u>:

-Policy makers need to be informed about possible trade-offs and synergies

-Indicator sets also can reveal how phenomena are linked. E.g. making distinction between input-, throughput- and output/outcome indicators.

Advantage of <u>composite indicators:</u>

-Easier to communicate the message to a broader audience (e.g. comparing gdp to wellbeing measure)

-Agreeing with Rutger Hoekstra: let us aim for a dashboard of indexes (communication) & dashboards of indicators (details)

Building on <u>existing</u> work, not reinventing the wheel

-Taskforce for Measuring Sustainable Development: UNECE, OECD, Eurostat, European Commission, World Bank, 10 Statistical Agencies.

-Report analysed the commonalities between existing datasets.

-The Report integrates work on monetisation of capital, (World Bank) accounting systems (SNA satellites such as SEEA).

-> showing how indicators are related, instead of presenting a "shopping list".

->and providing link a with the SNA which is (whether we like it or not) still the most important statistical information system for policy makers.

-Distinguishing wellbeing "here and now", "later" and "elsewhere".

-Agreeing on <u>universal</u> themes. But with regionally/country specific <u>indicators</u> (see SDG agenda)

Conclusion

Need to integrate policy and conceptual approaches, in order to:

(1) Translate global policy initiatives to regional or national level.

(2) Show how indicators are related: use of SNA satellites, newly suggested accounting systems by Rutger Hoekstra, time use statistics.

This all pleads for indicator systems (dashboard approach, preferably distinguishing wellbeing "here and now", "later" and "elsewhere").

However, for purposes of communication composite indicators are of vital importance.