

## Measuring the Progress of Societies



Global Project

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**THE WORLD BANK**  
Working for a World Free of Poverty

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Helping you Make  
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[Programme and presentations](#)

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#### Venue

The seminar was hosted by the [US Census Bureau](#) and arranged jointly by the Census Bureau, the OECD and the World Bank. It was held on 15-16 July in the headquarters of the US Census Bureau located in Suitland, Maryland, just outside of Washington, DC (metro station "Suitland" on green line).

#### Format

It was a two-day seminar in plenum, with no parallel sessions. There were around 20 presentations and discussants were allocated to the sessions. A few panels were organised. The conference was video recorded, allowing other interested parties to watch it on the seminar website (coming soon).

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## Purpose

The seminar was to contribute to the development of tools to help people transform statistics into knowledge and decisions. A first condition for statistics to be used this way is that relevant statistics become known, available, and understood by wider audiences. The seminar was held in the context of the [Global Project on "Measuring the Progress of Societies"](#). It contributed to one of the goals quoted in the Istanbul Declaration: "produce a broader, shared, public understanding of changing conditions, while highlighting areas of significant change or inadequate knowledge".

## Scope

The seminar was seen as a continuation of the previous seminars organized in [Rome](#) and [Stockholm](#) and of the first International Exhibition on "Innovative Tools to Transform Information into Knowledge", organised during the second OECD World Forum on "Statistics, Knowledge and Policy" (Istanbul, 27-30 June 2007).

We looked at tools and applications for making statistics more popular, while avoiding the pitfalls of populism, over-simplification or propaganda. We based all these initiatives on scientific standards, observing the basic principles of objectivity and good communication.