

# The Global Project on Measuring the Progress of Societies

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ilerleme

التقدم

progress

進歩

voortgang

progresso

fremskridt

framsteg

progrès

haladás

进展

progreso

진보

Measuring the Progress of Societies



## Basic idea

- For many, years Gross Domestic Product has been the dominant way in which progress has been measured. While this captures important aspects of progress (material well-being), it fails to capture many other aspects of life that people value
- Even the evolution of material well-being and living standards of the 'typical' citizen is often badly captured by the change in GDP per capita



## The Global Project is an effort...

- To broaden the benchmarks that are used to assess progress
- Complement (but not substitute) GDP with other measures of well-being, of the quality of life and of the state of the natural environment



## 3 axes to the Global Project...

- Network
- Measurement agenda for OECD (and other international organizations)
- Policy implications – beyond statistics



# Network: providing a platform for a Growing Movement



- National initiatives: Australia, US, Ireland, South Africa, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Canada, Netherlands, etc.
- International Association of Supreme Auditors
- Local initiatives:
  - US: Community Indicators Consortium
  - EU: Council of Europe
  - UK: Young Foundation and the NEF
  - France: FAIR
  - Italy: Sbilanciamoci
  - Latin America: Como Vamos
- Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative
- International Society for Quality of Life Studies
- World Women's Forum
- WEF Global Council "Benchmarking the progress of societies"



# Network: providing a platform for a Growing Movement



- OECD Global Forums
  - Palermo 2004
  - Istanbul 2007
  - Busan 2009
  - India 2012
- Build a partnership with international national and local organisations, foundations, etc.
- Partners: WB, UNDP, UNICEF, IADB, AfDB, EC, INTOSAI, UNESCWA, UNESCAP
- Associates: national and international organisations, NGOs, universities, etc.



# Events 2009

- **March:** Conference on “The use of evidence for policy processes” (Paris)
- **April-September:** regional conferences in preparation of the III World Forum
- **June:** Conference of the International Institute for Information Design on visualisation of statistics (Paris)
- **July:** Conference of the International Society for Quality of Life Studies (Florence)
- **July-September:** Summer Schools
- **August:** Session at the conference of the International Statistical Institute
- **October:** 3<sup>rd</sup> OECD World Forum



# Measurement Agenda



- Breadth of measurement challenges well defined by Stiglitz/Sen Commission
- Report delivered on Sep 14
  - Classical GDP issues
  - Quality of life
  - Sustainability
- OECD will follow up in several domains
- European Commission 'GDP and Beyond': communication and media event Sep 8 in Brussels



## Policy links

- Beyond statistical agenda
- OECD's Secretary General plans to bring discussion to OECD analytical and policy work
- Roadmap at Busan meeting



# Funding arrangements

- OECD
- Financial contributions from
  - International bodies (World Bank, European Commission,...)
  - Private sponsors (foundations, corporations)
  - Governments (Italy, Korea, Turkey,...)



## Activities/synergies with other organisations

- Partnerships already in existence
- Participation by other international organisations in World Forums Busan and India
- Active role as partners (helping process along, contributing research, bringing 'progress' idea into their respective work)



## Challenges/Risks 2009-10

- Developing a clearer identity – distinguish Global Project from OECD
- Does the crisis underline or diffuse the issue?
- Medium-term funding

