The Global Project on Measuring the Progress of Societies

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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**: 3rd 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, ...)

Measuring the Progress of Societies
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