

8th meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics

24-26 June 2025, Singapore

Hosted by Statistics Singapore and Enterprise Singapore

Wednesday, 25 June 2025: 2.00 – 3.20 p.m.

Progress update on the Task Team “Wellbeing and Sustainability”

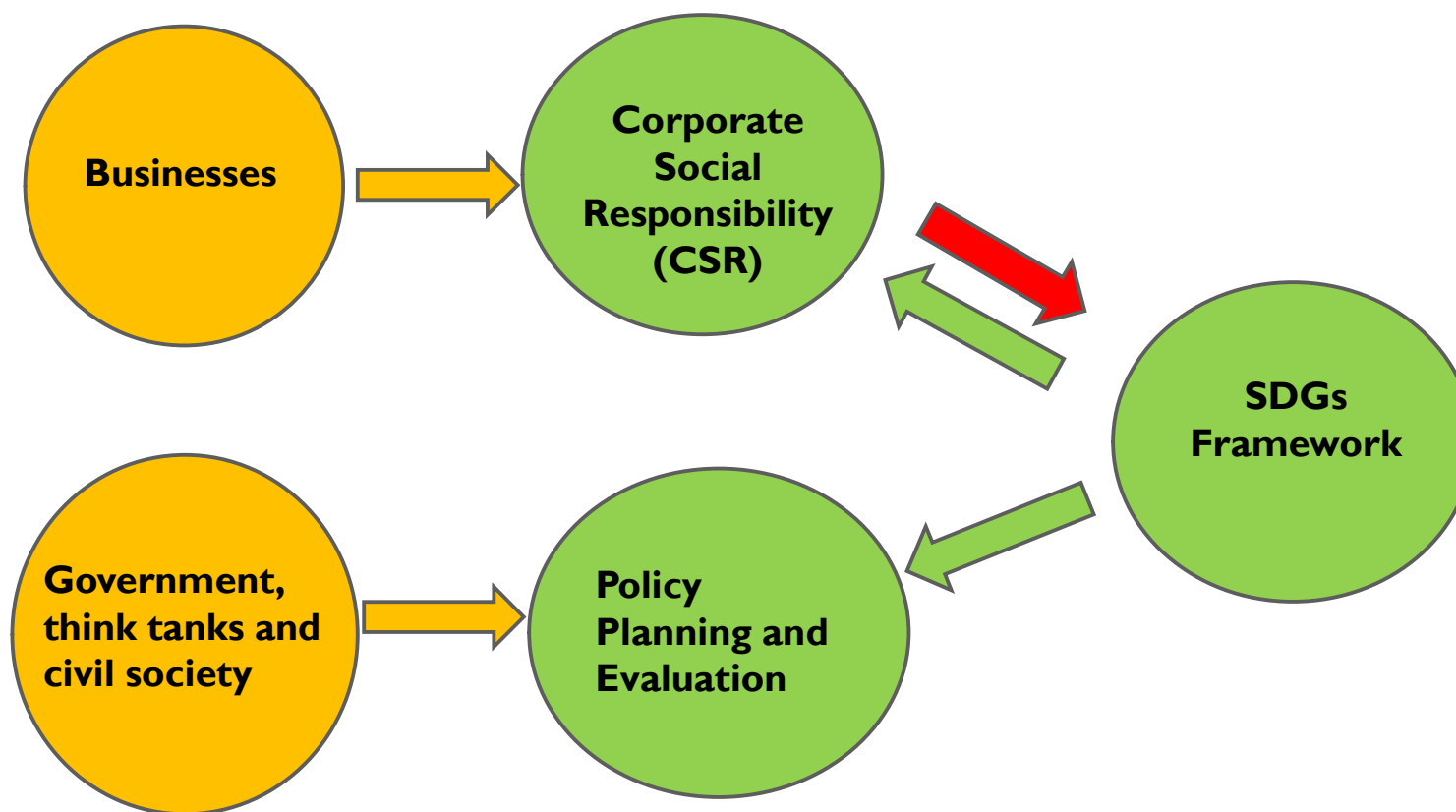
Stefano Menghinello, Istat

ITALY

Outline of the presentation

- The Task Team on Wellbeing and Sustainability is on a **“Stand by” mode** (not active, not cancelled)
- **Strong demand on sustainability in business statistics:** SDGs, environment and climate change
- Some examples based on the Italian experience:
 - ✓ **Productivity and sustainability: conflict versus synergy**
 - ✓ **Mapping companies located in areas with environment risks**
- Alignment of programme with the **Expert Group on Wellbeing Measurement (EGWM)**
- Conclusions

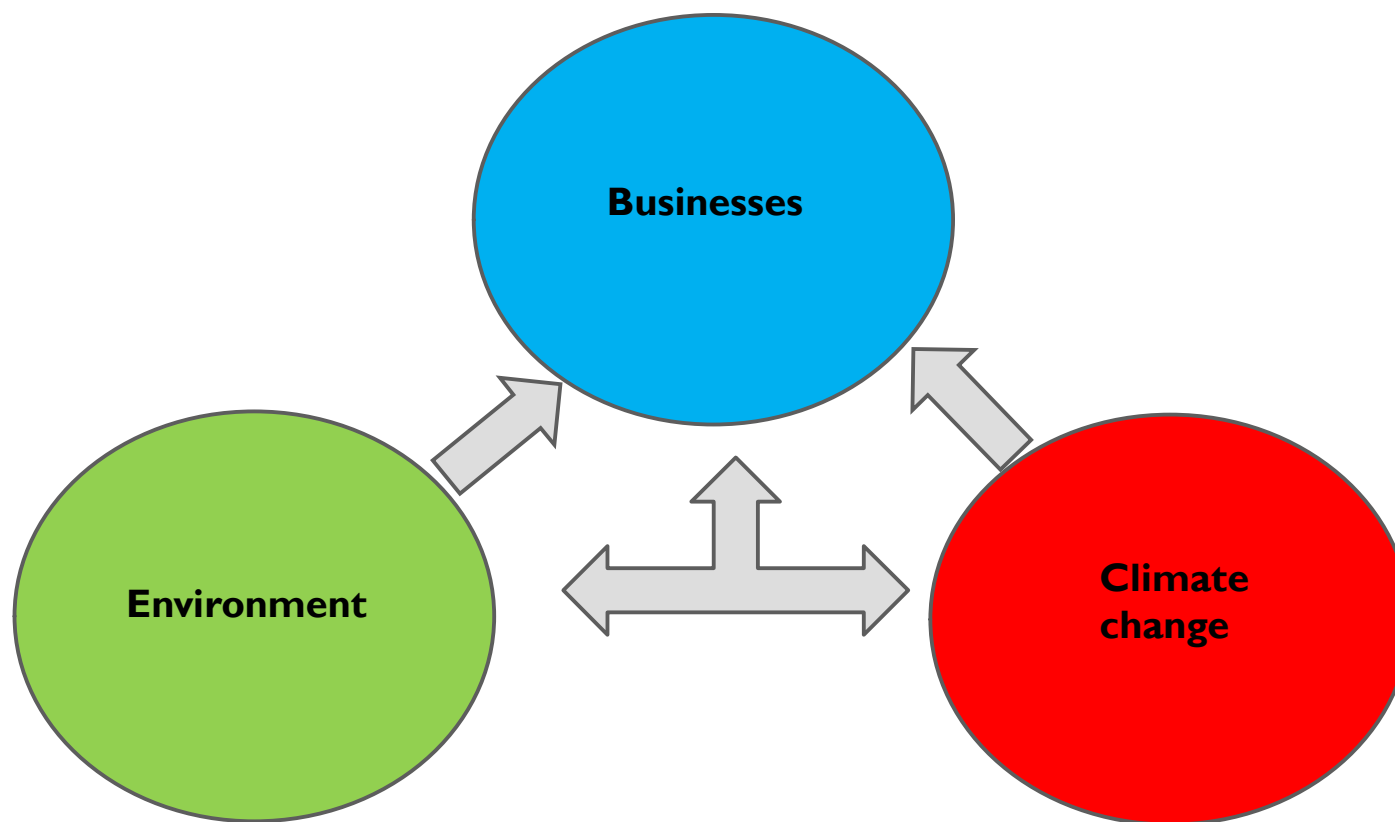
Strong demand on sustainability in business statistics: SDGs



Productivity and sustainability: conflict versus synergy

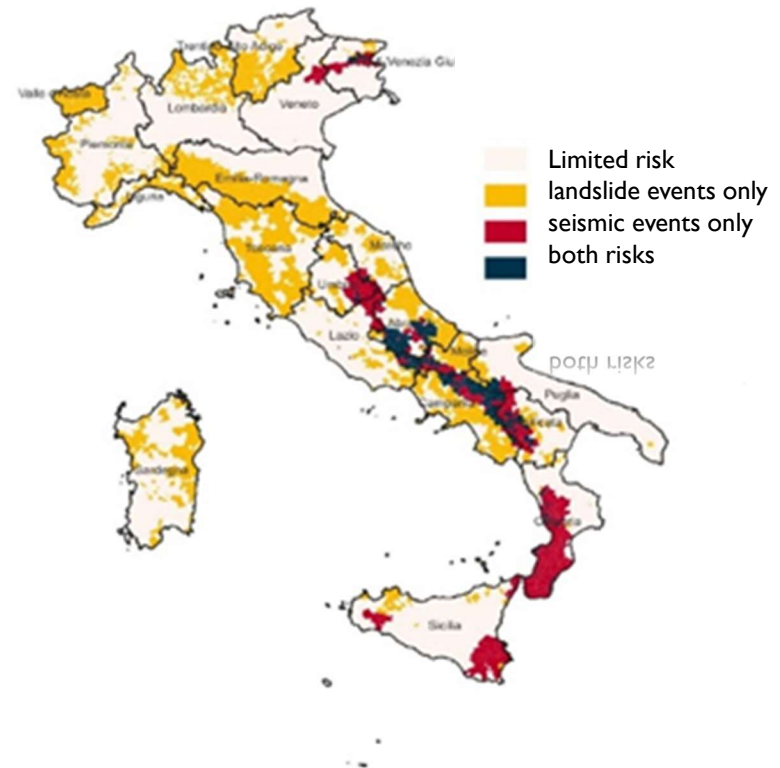
- The **governance of transitions** (environment, digital, social) is bringing out **new information needs**
- The crucial question that comes from policy makers **is whether the transitions are complementary or conflictual**. The answer to this question goes beyond the SDGs framework and **requires micro-founded analysis**.
- ISTAT has recently published a **research report** in the field of **business statistics** that tries to answer this question. <https://www.istat.it/comunicato-stampa/sostenibilita-ambientale-e-performance-economica-delle-imprese-manifatturiere-anno-2022/>
- Micro econometric analysis on Italian firms confirms that **some specific environmental sustainability actions** increase the **productivity level** of companies. In particular, investments in energy efficiency or in the use of renewable resources determine the greatest increase in productivity.
- The analysis carried out **does not prove the presence of a causal link between the two variables**, there could be an endogeneity problem

Strong demand on sustainability in business statistics: environment and climate change



Mapping companies located in areas with environment risks

- Analysis presented by ISTAT in its Annual Report the State of the Nation with a **big impact on Med**
- **Methodology:** link between business register of local units integrated with SBS data with the map environmental risks
- **Unit of analysis:** municipality (there are a little bit less than 8.000 municipalities in Italy)
- **18% of value added of resident businesses is located in municipalities with at least a serious environmental risk.**
- The **National Civil Protection Agency** has already requested these data at the sub-municipal level



Alignment of programme with the Expert Group on Wellbeing Measurement (EGWM)

- **SDGs represent a strategic framework for the UN Statistical Commission** to which all the programmes of the various UN groups must relate
- The **link** between the UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics and the **Expert Group on Wellbeing Measurement (EGWM)** is established through the **network of economic statisticians promoted by the United Nations** in which I participate as a member on behalf of our committee
- The Expert Group on Wellbeing Measurement (EGWM) recognises that **the relationship between SDGs and business statistics is underestimated** and there are large areas for improvement
- The **SDGs framework is currently being reviewed** both from a strategic point of view (objectives) and technical (identification of the most appropriate indicators) so we have the chance **to be more relevant as a community of business statisticians**

Alignment of programme with the Expert Group on Wellbeing Measurement (EGWM)

How to be more relevant for SDGs?

- ❑ to make **more explicit direct and indirect linkages** of Business and trade statistics with SDGs goal
- ❑ **UN handbook on business statistics** provides a Global overview
- ❑ **Coverage of indicators across countries**
- ❑ **New indicators** more oriented to **business sustainability**
- ❑ **New goals?** Not feasible in the short terms

- Direct impact
- Indirect impact



Conclusions

- **A final decision** on Task Team on Wellbeing and Sustainability must be taken by the end of the year
- In the meanwhile, should our committee produce **a position paper on Business statistics and SDGs** to be published as an annex to the final report for the next Statistical Commission or an internal document or a web document?
- An answer to these two questions should take into account the following factors:
 - ✓ The **relevance of this topic for individual countries** both in terms of information demand and the need to share best practices between countries
 - ✓ The **need to build a specific capacity in producing new data** based on new data sources (CSR are not standardized documents)
 - ✓ The **need to establish a closer link** between the program of activities of our Committee and the **UN agenda on SDGs**