

# Well-being and sustainability – outcome of the work and next steps

Søren S. Andersen (ssa@dst.dk)  
Director, Business Statistics



# Aim of the the Task Team

- Request for more non-financial information on business activity – how can business statistics deliver?
- Contribute to the fulfilment of the SDG's
  - Transition and innovation
  - The environmental/climate impact and performance
  - The social dimension, including diversity, equality and human rights responsibility
  - Contribution to the society (taxes, job creation)
- Need for relevant and feasible indicators
- Need for integration af data / statistics

# The Task Team - a broad and active group

- Several Statistical bureaus
- International statistics organisations (OECD, EU)
- Business reporting organisation (Global Compact, Global Reporting Initiative, UNCTAD)
- Inspired by the SDG's and UNCTAD's "Guidance on core for entity reporting on contribution towards implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals"
- Frequent meetings since CEBTS' start in 2018
- 18 indicators produced / selected
- Innovative work presented by TT members

# Indicators proposed (1)

- Proportion of women in managerial positions
- Annual growth rate of real total gross value added per employed person (productivity indicator)
- Average hourly earnings for employees in businesses by sex
- Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
- Gross value added of businesses per employed person (growth indicator)
- Sector employment as a proportion of total employment



## Indicators proposed (2)

- Water-use efficiency in businesses (per unit of value added)
- Level of water stress attributable to businesses
- Share of renewable energy consumption in businesses
- Energy efficiency in businesses (per unit of value added)
- Green investment by businesses
- Greenhouse gas emissions generated by businesses per unit of value added



## The indicators proposed (3)

- Research and development expenditure as a proportion of gross value added
- Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants
- Number of companies publishing sustainability reports
- Openings (vacancies) in businesses
- Taxes and other payments of businesses to the Government
- Total taxes paid by businesses as a proportion of total government tax revenues



# The indicators in practice

- Technical sheets developed
  - Definitions and classifications
  - Data source guidance
  - Algorithms for compiling
  - Proposal for breakdowns (by ISIC, size and ownership)
  - Frequency
- Further guidance in the “*Manual on the Principal Indicators for Business and Trade Statistics*”
- Prioritization:
  - Difficult to prioritize further among indicators
  - Start with ISIC breakdown (and maybe not at two-digit level)
    - others can come later



# Challenges for producing the indicators

- Somewhat different coverage of different statistics
  - National Accounts
  - Environment / energy statistics
  - Labour force statistics
  - Business statistics
- Weak definition on e.g. green investments
- Often only NA-statistics are compiled in constant prices
- Different breakdowns in different statistics
- Lack of data in many countries
- Lack of resources





# The way ahead – draft work programme

- The headlines (based on discussions in the TT):
  - Support of the implementation of the already agreed-upon CEBTS indicators
  - Develop indicators on selected key aspects about the enterprise sector's effect on *equality and social inclusion*
  - Develop indicators on selected key aspects about the enterprise sector's '*green transition*' and its *environmental / climate effects*
  - Contribute to further develop and promote integration of data and statistics from different domains, including micro data linking (MDL) with a focus on data related to well-being and sustainability



# Support of the implementation

- The aim: Encourage the production of the indicators
- The methods:
  - Promotion of the manual / the indicators
  - Offer (on-line) seminars and training courses to (group of) countries on production of indicators – broken down by e.g. environmental and social indicators
  - Offer (further) guidance as follow up, in example on establishing (new) data sources for the indicators
- Establish data collection at UN level (via int. org.?)
- Timeframe – 2023 and onwards



# Develop new indicators

- The aim: More statistical information on the business sector on *social* and *environmental* aspects, respectively
- The methods:
  - Formation of small subgroups
  - Analyses on the specific needs
  - Look for data sources on employments/employees
  - Look for data sources on environmental issues
  - Generation of new (ESG) data
  - Propose relevant and feasible indicators
  - Drafting of technical sheets
  - Contributions to Handbook volume 2
- Timeframe: 2023: Analyses, 2024: Indicators developed

# Integration of data and statistics from different domains

- The aim: Work with coherence and integration between data and statistics
- The methods:
  - Studies at country level on options for Micro Data Linking and integration
  - Sharing of experience via wiki
  - Highlighting needs for harmonisation
  - Discussions within CEBTS and with other domains on adjustments
- Timeframe: 2023 and 2024



# Points for discussion

- Recruitment to the task team – a broader participation and representation is necessary to continue – **WHO is interested?** 😊
- The topics and the prioritization – **can we manage** all proposed tasks?
- Implementation: **Ideas re how** we can support the development and delivery of the indicators?



**THANK YOU!**

