Linking data to policies. The experience of Italy

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Istat
✓ Which data for policies

The well-being indicators in the economic planning

✓ The indicators to monitor policies

The SDG indicators in the performance plans of the Italian ministries

✓ The story of a fruitful collaboration

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Tokyo, 14-16 November 2018
Which data to orient policies

National Sustainable Development Strategy

- Law 221/2015
- Involvement of local institutions and more than 200 NGOs
- Dialogue between public research and institutions
- Dialogue with the civil society
- 5 vectors: people, prosperity, planet, peace, partnership

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An important innovation

- Law no. 163/2016: the reform of the State budget

- The well-being indicators into the budget process for public policies

- Not only traditional economic measures, but also measures of the dimensions of well-being for assessing public policies

- Italy is the first EU and G7 country whose budget planning includes equitable and sustainable well-being indicators in addition to GDP

- ISTAT played an essential role in defining the indicators

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The Committee for indicators of equitable and sustainable well-being

✓ Set up at ISTAT

✓ Chaired by the Minister of the Economy and Finance

✓ Member: the President of ISTAT, the Governor of Banca d’Italia, two experts from universities and research bodies

✓ Established on 28 November 2016

✓ Principal task: to choose the indicators to be included in the economic planning process
ISTAT

Making available the data of the indicators selected for the last three-year period

Ministry of Economy and Finance

The annex to the Economic and Financial Document

A report to be submitted to the Parliamentary Committees
The testing phase

✓ The objectives were difficult to achieve

✓ A small group of indicators to be increased over time was chosen

✓ Four indicators meaningful for citizens’ quality of life

  - per-capita adjusted available income
  - available income inequality index
  - labour force non-participation rate
  - emissions of carbon dioxide and of other climate-changing gases

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Towards the 12 indicators

✓ The update of the four initially identified indicators provided as of April 2017 was based on two approaches

  Data from the current production process: per-capita adjusted available income and labour market non-participation rate

  New and ad hoc methodologies: available income inequality index and emissions of carbon dioxide and of other climate-changing gases

✓ The Committee concluded its work on 20 June 2017 with the delivery of the final report on the activities conducted
Characteristics of the 12 indicators

✓ The 12 indicators identified among the 130 included in ISTAT’s 2016 equitable and sustainable well-being report

✓ Characteristics of the indicators:
  - theoretical soundness of the indicators
  - guaranteed quality of the statistical measurement
  - selection based on an extended participatory process
  - ability to grasp the specific nature of the Italian case

✓ Recognition for ISTAT of the reliability and methodological soundness of an equitable and sustainable well-being project

✓ ISTAT’s presence in the Committee → examine the production processes → attention to the quality and timeliness of the data
Criteria for the selection

Non-hierarchical criteria

• Sensitivity to public policies

• Thrift

• Feasibility and timeliness

• Extent and frequency of the temporal series
The 12 indicators

1. Per-capita adjusted available income
2. Available income inequality index
3. Index of absolute poverty
4. Healthy life expectancy at birth
5. Excess weight
6. Early leavers from the educational and training system
7. Labour market non-participation rate with breakdown by gender
8. Ratio between the employment rate of women 25-49 years old with children of preschool age and childless women
9. Predatory crime index
10. Civil justice efficiency index
11. Emissions of carbon dioxide and of other climate-changing gases
12. Illegal construction index
They both monitor the reconciliation of work and family times

The labour market non-participation rate with breakdown by gender is not the generic unemployment rate, but one of its broader measures

The ratio between the employment rate of women 25-49 years old with children of preschool age and childless women responds to the need to take account, in the well-being calculation, of a variable that considers the possibility of reconciling paid work with family care work
The connection between indicators and the political planning

International agreed strategies for sustainable development

National strategic planning of the Ministries

Indicators
Indicators to monitor policies

Index of absolute poverty

Ministry of Labour and social policies

Emissions of carbon dioxide and of other climate-changing gases

Ministry of the environment
The story of a fruitful collaboration
The backstory: a long standing relationship

**Presidence of the Council of Ministers – Department for Equal Opportunities**
- Survey on sexual harassment against women
- Survey on integration and living conditions of foreign citizens in a gender perspective
- Survey on discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity
- Survey on women safety

**Institute for the Development of Training for workers**
- Survey on maternity and female participation in the labour market

**Ministry for Health Italian Regions**
- Survey on health conditions and use of health services

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The backstory: a long standing relationship

Means

Results
A fruitful collaboration

2008-2010

Health Data
Main actors and roles

Coordination, data and inputs

Ask for data and funding

Inputs
Connection between data and policies

✓ Grant agreement

• Expansion of the sample to obtain estimates of the most important health indicators with a sub-regional detail
• Thematic focuses on the screening of female cancers and on motherhood

✓ Commission on woman’s health

• Introduction of specific questions to define indicators on breast-feeding
The final results

✓ Data used for monitoring

✓ Regional plans of prevention

✓ Campaign in favour of breast-feeding
Conclusions

✓ Linking data to policies means to establish a close collaboration with policy makers in order to respond to their needs

✓ Awareness of the importance of having indicators adequate to support political decision-makers should become part of the cultural heritage of countries

✓ A law that rules the importance of statistical data in the political decision process of the country is really a very strong instrument to link data to policies and to orient policies better

✓ Further steps can be moved on the field of the connection between the highest level of the strategic planning in the public administrations and the way the policies are measured
Thank you!