



## **2<sup>nd</sup> UNNES Beyond GDP sprint 2023 meeting**

The importance of Here & Now, the Future and Elsewhere

Gerard J. Eding, director of National Accounts

15 June 2023

# GDP and beyond: main challenges





"Yet the gross national product does not allow for the health of our children, the quality of their education or the joy of their play. It does not include the beauty of our poetry or the strength of our marriages, the intelligence of our public debate or the integrity of our public officials.

It measures neither our wit nor our courage, neither our wisdom nor our learning, neither our compassion nor our devotion to our country, it measures everything in short, except that which makes life worthwhile."

**Robert F. Kennedy**  
University of Kansas, March 18, 1968

From a GDP perspective, nuclear warheads do just as well as hospital beds or apple pie.





### < 2014

Demand for new well-being indicators is increasing



### June 2014

Dutch parliament debated, motion to explore the possibilities of defining well-being in broader terms than GDP



### June 2015

Working group discussed draft proposal with experts (oa CBS)



### July 2015

House of Representatives requested CBS to report (September report)



### October 2015

Temporary Committee on explorative study of a broad definition of well-being in close consultation with CBS experts



### January 2016

CBS suggests to publish a report containing a selection of indicators to give a broad picture of well-being



### April 2016

Committee recommends that CBS develop an annual 'Monitor of Well-being'



### December 2016

The cabinet stated that it would commission CBS to compile an annual Monitor of Well-being, and make funding available



### January 2017

The House of Representatives debated the findings of the Temporary Committee with the cabinet, which adopted all the Committee's recommendations  
Thus it was officially confirmed that CBS was to publish an annual Monitor of Well-being



### May 2018

Monitor was presented on Accountability Day

# The Dutch experience: a conceptual measurement system



# Arriving at a GDP and Beyond standard?

- Which is conceptually sound.
- Links to important (global) policy initiatives.
- Informs governments, industrial enterprise and civil society how to shape the transition agenda's towards a more sustainable world (fit for purpose).
- Is adaptive to new policy needs and uses
- Is flexible to suit regional differences

# An international measurement framework

CES Recommendations:

outcome of UNECE/European Commission/OECD Task Force (with World Bank and ten statistical agencies)

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations on  
**Measuring Sustainable Development**





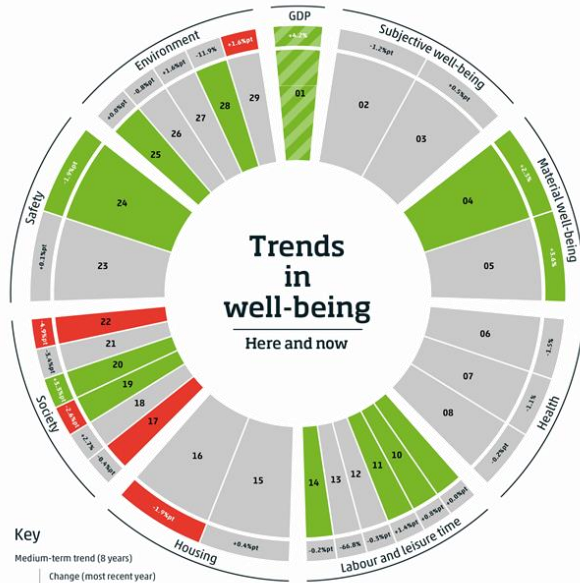


“Well-being concerns the quality of life here and now as well as the extent to which this quality is achieved at the expense of future generations or of people in other countries”

# Visualising the indicator set



## Trends in well-being: Here and now



## EU ranking

The bars show the Netherlands' ranking in the European Union for each indicator.

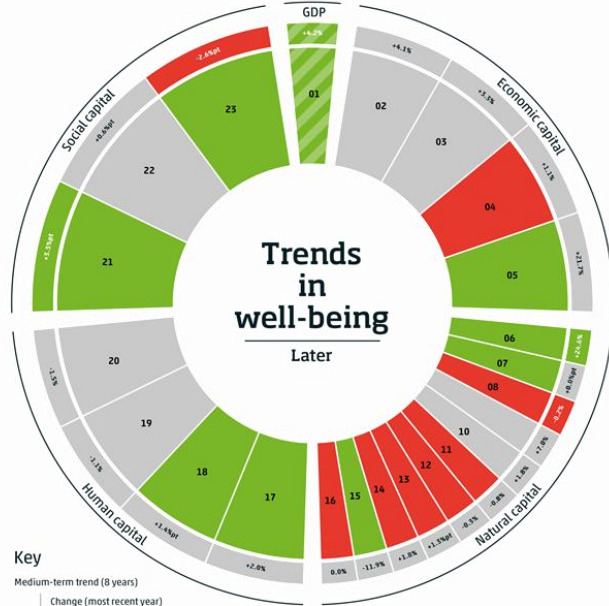


01 Gross domestic product / 02 Satisfaction with life / 03 Feeling in control of own life / 04 Median disposable income / 05 Individual consumption / 06 Healthy life expectancy of men / 07 Healthy life expectancy of women / 08 Overweight population / 09 Long-term unemployment / 10 Net labour participation / 11 Higher educated population / 12 Satisfaction with leisure time / 13 Time lost due to traffic congestion and delays / 14 Satisfaction with work (employees) / 15 Housing quality / 16 Satisfaction with housing / 17 Contact with family, friends or neighbours / 18 Voice and accountability / 19 Trust in institutions / 20 Trust in other people / 21 Changes in values and norms / 22 Voluntary work / 23 Often feeling unsafe in the neighbourhood / 24 Victims of crime / 25 Managed natural assets (terrestrial) within NNN / 26 Quality of inland bathing waters / 27 Nitrogen deposition and terrestrial nature areas / 28 Urban exposure to particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) / 29 Environmental problems

## Key

- High ranking
- Middle ranking
- Low ranking
- No data

## Trends in well-being: Later



### Key

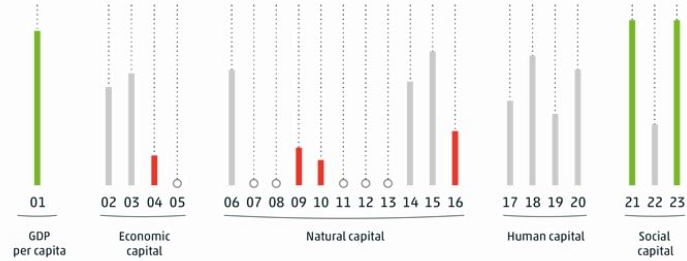
Medium-term trend (8 years)

Change (most recent year)



## EU ranking

The bars show the Netherlands' ranking in the European Union for each indicator.

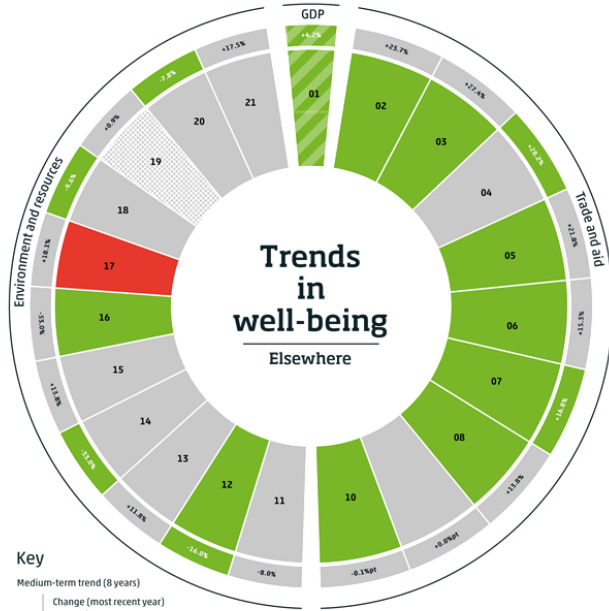


01 Gross domestic product / 02 Physical capital stock / 03 Knowledge capital stock / 04 Average household debt / 05 Median wealth of households / 06 Renewable electricity capacity / 07 Managed natural assets (terrestrial) within NNN / 08 Green blue space, excluding conventional farming / 09 Phosphorus surplus / 10 Nitrogen surplus / 11 Fauna on land / 12 Fauna in freshwater and marshes / 13 Surface water with good chemical quality / 14 Ground water abstraction / 15 Urban exposure to particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) / 16 Cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions / 17 Hours worked / 18 Higher educated population / 19 Healthy life expectancy of women / 20 Healthy life expectancy of men / 21 Trust in other people / 22 Feelings of discrimination / 23 Trust in institutions

### Key

- High ranking
- Middle ranking
- Low ranking
- No data

## Trends in well-being: Elsewhere



### Key

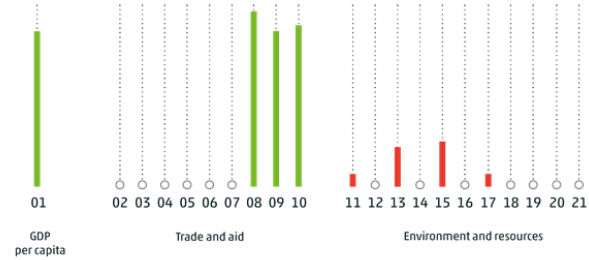
Medium-term trend (8 years)

Change (most recent year)



## EU ranking

The bars show the Netherlands' ranking in the European Union for each indicator.



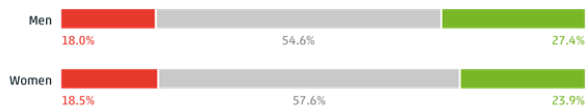
01 Gross domestic product / 02 Total imports of goods / 03 Imports of goods from Europe / 04 Imports of goods from Africa / 05 Imports of goods from America / 06 Imports of goods from Asia / 07 Imports of goods from Oceania / 08 Total imports from LDCs / 09 Official development assistance / 10 Remittances / 11 Fossil fuel imports / 12 Fossil fuel imports from LDCs / 13 Imports of metals / 14 Imports of metals from LDCs / 15 Imports of non-metallic minerals / 16 Imports of non-metallic minerals from LDCs / 17 Biomass imports / 18 Biomass imports from LDCs / 19 Land footprint / 20 Material footprint / 21 Greenhouse gas footprint

## Key

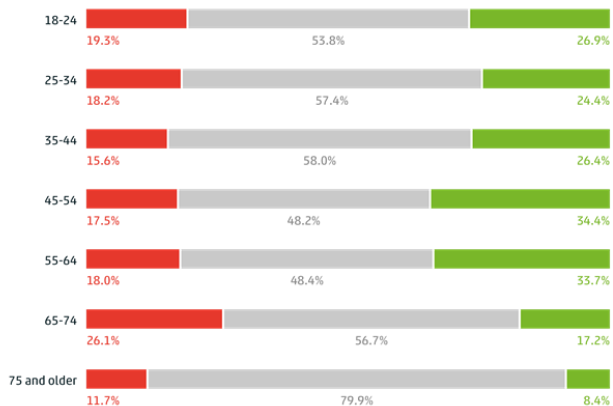
- High ranking
- Middle ranking
- Low ranking
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## Percentage of every population group that is located at the top, in the middle or at the bottom of the distribution of well-being, 2021

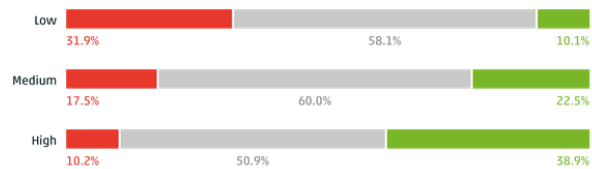
### Sex



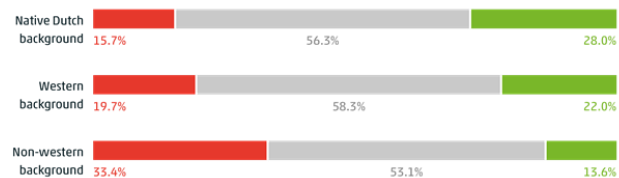
### Age

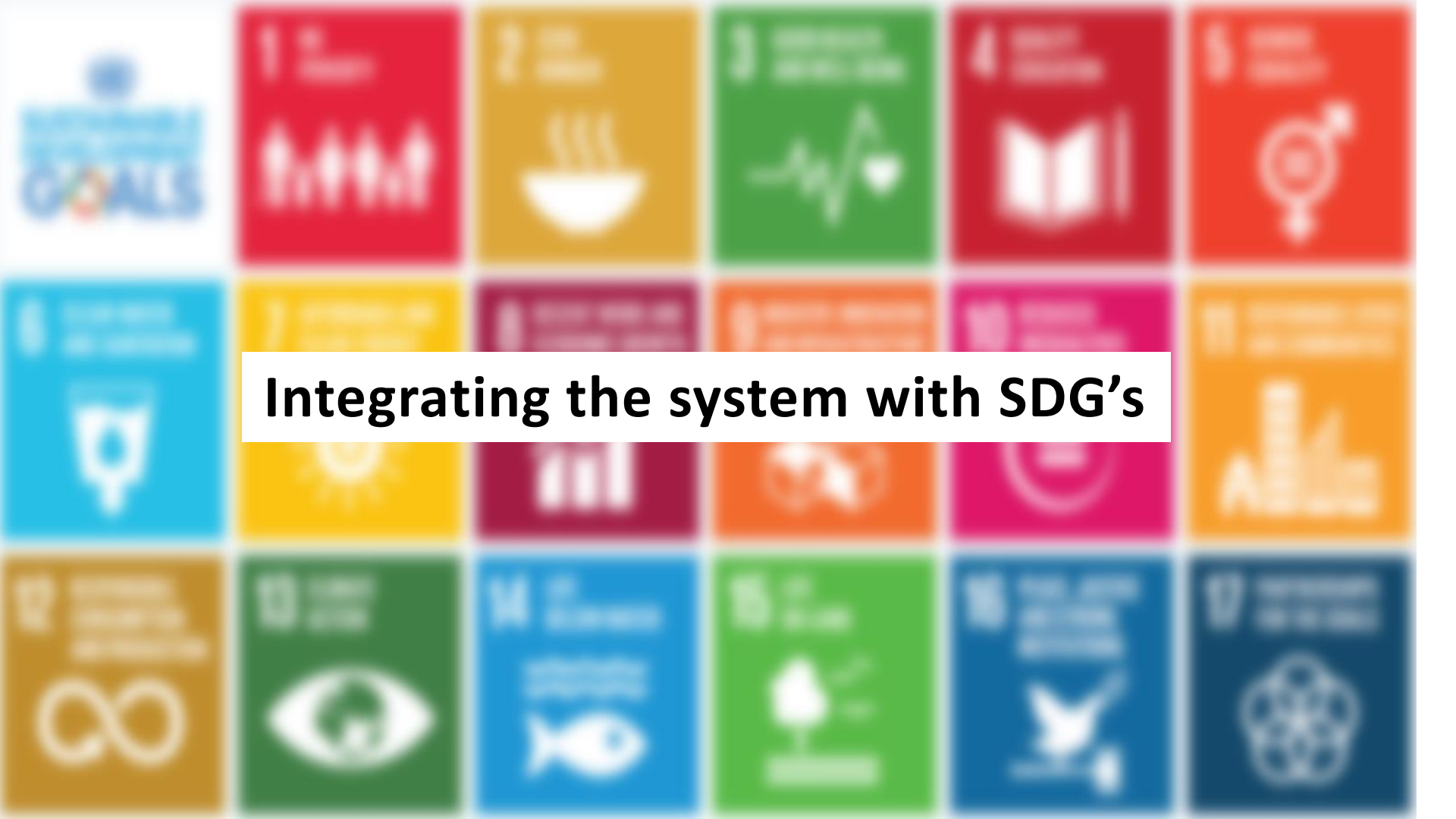


### Highest completed level of education



### Migration background



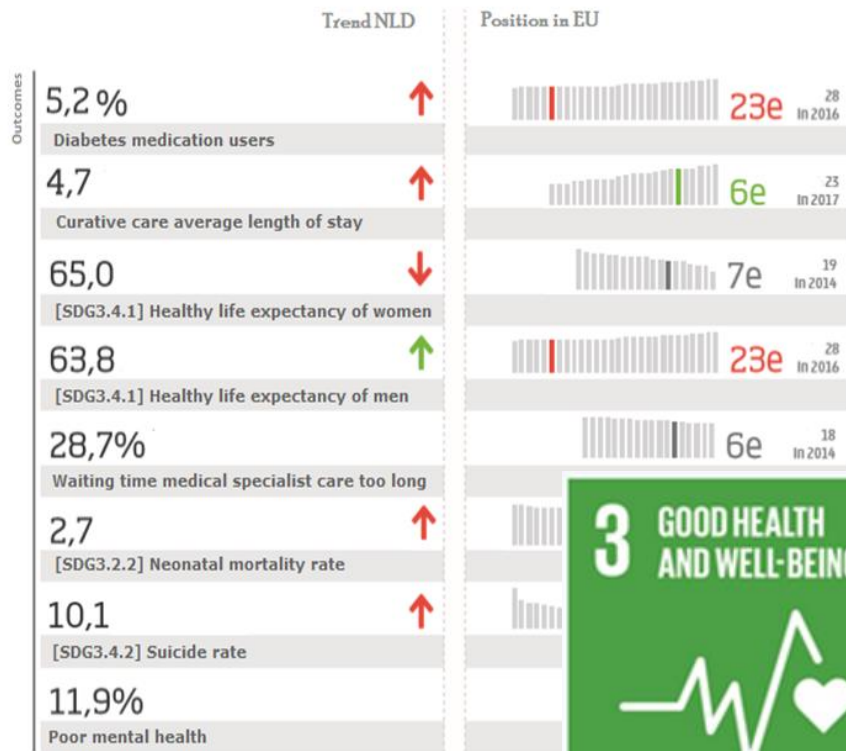
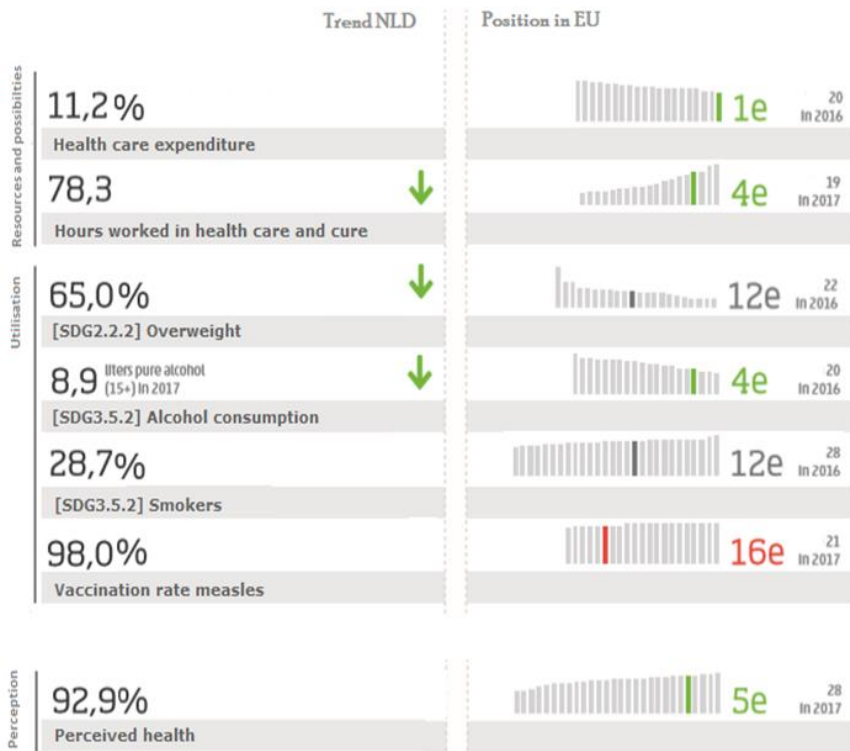


**Integrating the system with SDG's**

# SDG-plus monitoring

- Embracing the **UN SDG agenda**.
- **Adding indicators** specifically relevant for the Dutch policy context.
- **Enriching** SDG monitoring with the “here and now”, “later” and “elsewhere” dimensions.
- Using a **typology of indicators (input-throughput-outcome)** which may enhance policy evaluations in terms of effectiveness and efficiency.





**The Dutch experience:  
policy implementation, use and  
challenges ahead**





Monitor Brede Welvaart  
Caribisch Nederland



Verenigde Staten, Rijswijk 2021



# Monitoring of wellbeing and SDGs I

## Ex post analysis:

- Monitoring at national level (6<sup>th</sup> edition)
- Regional monitoring for municipalities, including the Caribbean Islands.
- Annually presented at Accountability debate in Parliament (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in May)
- Increasingly used in political debate and policy.

# Monitoring of wellbeing and SDGs II

## Ex ante analysis:

- New development: wellbeing and SDG **factsheets for each of the Ministries** (link with budget, strong support from Ministry of Finance)
- Steadily **growing as (a new) basis for policy evaluation** (by other (government) agencies)
  - e.g. development of a tool (Policy Compass) to evaluate new policy measures.

# Investment has proven its value added

Importance of solid conceptual basis of measurement system and indicator system on wellbeing, with three dashboards:

- Present wellbeing
- Future wellbeing (sustainability)
- **Inclusive wellbeing (distribution of wellbeing within and between countries)**

# (UNNES) Challenges ahead

1. How to use (existing) economic, environmental and socio-demographic accounting systems in order to describe how indicators are related
  - > tracking potential trade offs and synergy effects.
2. Elsewhere/Inclusive dimension. Global consultation through regional commissions on themes and indicators to be included?
3. Increasing sets of indicators and (the development of) composite indexes (for communication purposes)

**Thanks you for your attention/ Questions?**







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**Facts that matter**