

Working Paper No. 13
28 March 2006

ENGLISH ONLY

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Working Group on Statistics for Sustainable
Development
First meeting
Luxembourg, 3-4 April 2006
Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda

**STATISTICS SWITZERLAND'S EXPERIENCE IN THE MEASUREMENT OF
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND OUR GOALS FOR THE WG**

Submitted by the Swiss Federal Statistical Office¹

This meeting is organised jointly with Eurostat and OECD
--

¹ This paper was prepared by Andrea Scheller

Statistics Switzerland's experience in the measurement of sustainable development and our goals for the WG

Fact sheet

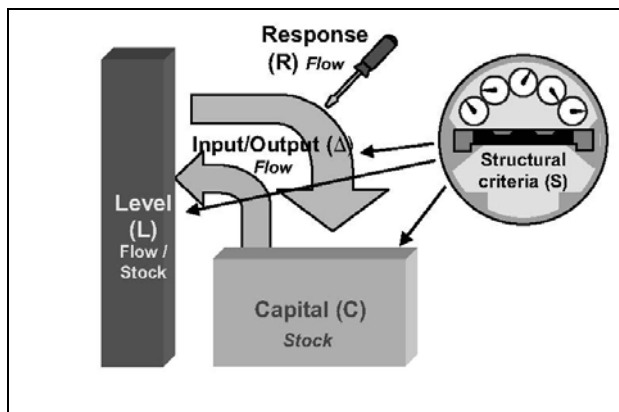
MONET	MONET (the acronym stands for Monitoring of Sustainable Development in German) is a system of indicators designed to monitor progress towards sustainable development. It aims to provide an overall picture of sustainable development (SD) in Switzerland.
Output	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 120 indicators, regularly updated and available on the Internet • 17 key indicators for a quick but concise overview • A variety of publications on concepts, methods and results
Audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Politicians • The administrative sector • The general public
Legal basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratification of the Rio Declaration Agenda 21 (Chapter 40) in 1992 • The revised Swiss Federal Constitution of 1999 (Preamble and Art. 73) • The Swiss Federal Council's Sustainable Development Strategy for 2002 (measure 21)
Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project team with 5 members of three offices (Statistics, Environment and Territorial Development) • A strategic and a technical advisory group with 24 representatives from industry, science, NGO and from cantonal and municipal governments and administrations.
Normative basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The open, but inherently normative concept of SD is clarified and interpreted in a comprehensive and transparent manner: Goal dimensions are formulated in line with the interpretation of the term SD based on the Brundtland Report.

1. SD is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
2. SD means enabling people to live in conditions that are adequate for them in terms of human rights, by creating and maintaining the maximum range of options to ensure that individuals are free to develop their designs for living. When using ecological, economic and social resources, consideration should be given to the principle of fairness among and between present and future generations, both in Switzerland and in relation to foreign countries.
3. Implementing these terms of reference requires comprehensive protection of bio-diversity as the indispensable basis of life; this refers to the variety of ecosystems and species, and to genetic variety.
4. The goal dimensions are social solidarity, economic efficiency and ecological responsibility. The principle of equal priority applies to these three goal dimensions: neither goal must be attained at the long term cost of either of the other goals.

- Postulates are then used to define these goal dimensions and to indicate the direction to be taken in order to create and maintain a sustainable society. Example of a postulate: Environmental impact and risks emanating from production should be minimised, while energy and material flows should be optimised.

Conceptual framework

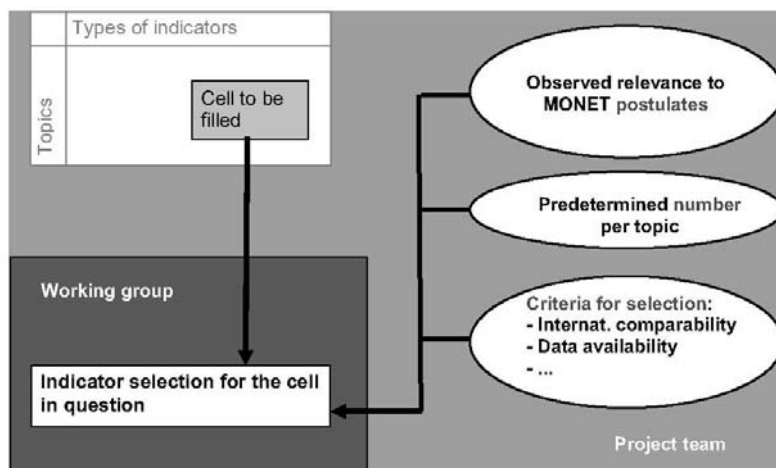
- Procedural approach "How to measure?": a model of five types of indicators to grasp the various variables which shape SD.



- Thematic approach "What to measure?": 26 topics according to policy sectors (e.g. health, mobility, energy)

Indicator selection process

- Participative process with over 80 specialists representing 20 federal offices (to benefit of their sectorial expertise and know-how, but also to promote the concept of SD among them)



- Work in progress
- Monitoring chapter for the SD report 2007 of the Swiss Federal Council
 - Project for enhanced visualisation of the indicator system

Goals for WGSSD

- Share our experiences with SD indicator systems (development, implementation, diffusion)
- Learn from other experiences
- Contribute to the further development of measuring SD
- Strengthen the position of SD indicator systems in statistical offices
- Support efforts to facilitate international comparisons

Information

Andrea Scheller, Swiss Federal Statistical Office, monet@bfs.admin.ch / <http://www.monet.admin.ch>