Overview of the Guide on Poverty Measurement

SEMINAR ON POVERTY MEASUREMENT, **GENEVA**, 12-13/07/2016

ANNA BIEŃKUŃSKA, CSO OF POLAND

Guide on poverty measurement

- 1. What is the objective of preparing guidelines?
- 2. At what stage of the work are we at the moment?
- 3. What are the next steps?
- 4. Important dates and deadilnes.

What is the objective of preparing guidelines?

The main objective is to provide recommendations for improving the international comparablity and availability of statistics on poverty and the related metadata.

To achieve this aim we need to:

- > prepare an inventory of poverty measures for UNECE countries
- define a coherent set of indicators to measure poverty mainly at the international level
- develop guidelines on the definitions, methods and data sources of the defined poverty indicators
- provide recommendations on the documentation of metadata on poverty

At what stage of the works are we at the moment?

We have prepared the drafts of particular chapters of the publication.

Contents of the guide:

- > Introduction
- Chapter 1. Conceptual background.
- Chapter 2. Monetary poverty.
- Chapter 3. Subjective poverty.
- > Chapter 4. Multi-dimensional poverty, including material deprivation
- Chapter 5. Recommendatins for improving comparability
- > Executive summarry (including recommendations)

What are the next steps?

- Finishing work on particular chapters of the guidelines
- providing the coherence of the contents
- working out the recommendations (in a context of short- and long-term actions)

Principles that should guide the construction of social indicators (by Atkinson)

An indicator should:

- >...identify the essence of the problem and have a clear and accepted normative interpretation.
- >...be robust and statistically validated.
- ...responsive to effective policy interventions but not subject to manipulation.
- >...measurable in a sufficiently comparable way across member states, and comparable as far as practicable with the standards applied internationally by the UN and the OECD.
- >...be timely and susceptible to revision.

The measurement of an indicator should **not impose too large a burden on member states, on enterprises, or on the citizens**.

Source: Atkinson and others, Social indicators. The EU and social inclusion, Oxford 2002.

Principles that should guide the construction of social indicators (by Atkinson) (cont.)

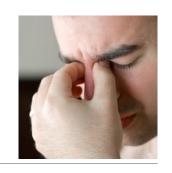
- The portfolio of indicators should be **balanced across different dimensions**.
- The indicators should be **mutually consistent** and the weight of single indicators in the portfolio should be **proportionate**.
- The portfolio of indicators should be as transparent and accessible as possible to the citizens.

Source: Atkinson and others, Social indicators. The EU and social inclusion, Oxford 2002.

Important dates and deadlines

- >12-15/07/2016 discussion at the seminar and the Task Force meeting
- ➤ 2nd half of 2016 finalizing the preparation of particular chapters of the guidelines by Task Force; comments and suggestions by others; editing
- ►02/2017 meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES)
- >03-04/2017 formal consultation with countries
- ≥06/2017 expected adoption of the Guide by CES plenary
- ► 12/2017 Guide on measuring poverty published

Why preparing of the guidelines is so hard?



'It often seems that if you put five academics (or policy makers) in a room you would get at least six different definitions of poverty....'

- David Gordon