

Consultation on the Summary of the Report of the Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Task Force for Measuring Sustainable Development

Deadline for reply: April 18th 2011.

This consultation aims to collect your views on the extended Summary of the report of the Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Task Force for Measuring Sustainable Development (TFSD). The TFSD would appreciate if your comments are structured along the questions provided below. Any relevant documents and references to country experiences, including references to Sustainable Development Indicator (SDI) sets can be attached to the questionnaire.

Country:	
Institution:	
Contact person:	
Phone:	E-mail:

Questions

- Overall assessment.* Do you find the Report's basic approach to the measurement of sustainable development relevant, practical and comprehensive in terms of the**
 - underlying concepts
 - coverage
 - relevance for statistics at a national level
 - appropriateness for official statistics
- Conceptual vs. thematic categorization.* The Summary includes a conceptual and a thematic categorization of Sustainable Development Indicators (SDI). In the conceptual categorization, three dimensions are distinguished: current human wellbeing, future human wellbeing ("capital approach") and the international dimension. In the thematic approach, sustainable development is split into policy themes (education, health, etc). Both approaches have advantages and disadvantages, which are articulated in the Summary. **Do you see advantages in linking the conceptual and thematic categorisation? How useful do you consider the conceptual approach for measuring sustainable development and developing national SDI sets?****
- SDI experiences.* Do you have a system of Sustainable Development Indicators in your country?**
 - If yes,
 - Indicators/themes*
Are there indicators or themes in your SDIs that are not mentioned in the Summary?
 - Number of indicators*
From your experiences with stakeholders, **what is the optimal number of indicators in an SDI set a) for communication, b) for analysis of trends and c) for monitoring of objectives?**
 - "Small" set of indicators*
The TFSD was mandated to propose a "small" set of SDI indicators. However, the number of SDI proposed in the Annex 1 to the Summary is still quite large. Potential methods to reduce the number of SDI include visualisation, monetization, mathematical techniques, combining themes or introducing a hierarchical structure (headline/level 2 and level 3 indicators). **Does your country have experience any of these, or other, approaches to reduce the number of indicators?** If so, please, elaborate.
 - If no,
 - Are there plans to start work on SDI's in your country?** If yes, please elaborate.

4. Measurement experiences. The TFSD plans to include an overview of countries' measurement experiences with regard to the three dimensions of sustainable development under the conceptual categorization mentioned above. Any references/documents would be greatly appreciated.

a) *Current wellbeing*

Does your country have experience/work in progress/plans in measuring human wellbeing and quality of life (both objective and subjective measures)?

b) *Capital*

Does your country have experience/work in progress/plans in measuring capital stocks of natural, human and social capital? Do you have an opinion on the "limits of monetization" when it comes to capital measurement? The TFSD has a specific interest in making an inventory of projects on social capital since the methodological challenges are greatest here. **Does your country have any experience in measuring social capital?**

c) *International dimension*

Does your country have experiences/work in progress/plans in measuring the international dimension of sustainable development, such as ecological footprint calculations?

5. Data availability. The Annex 2 in the Summary shows the data availability of the proposed SDI set in a number of international databases (for the EU and OECD countries). However, there are a number of indicators that were not available in these databases. **Please, indicate whether these indicators are collected and available in your country? If your country is not included in Annex 2, please add information on data availability in your country in the table.**

6. Visualisation and communication. One of the most important aspects of an SDI set is communication of the results to the users (media, general public, policy makers, etc.). A discussion of these aspects will be included in the final report. **Does your country have experiences in the field of visualisation and communication of SDI sets as well as getting the involvement of stakeholders? Does your country consider trends in the SDIs, link them to policy targets or compare SDIs to other countries (EU or OECD-average)?**