

Case study for Road Map on Statistics for SDGs 2.0

Netherlands: Using well-being and SDG indicators to hold government to account

Description	<p>Following a debate on a broader concept of well-being than measured by GDP in the Dutch House of Representatives and a subsequent motion carried by the House, the minister for Economic Affairs requested the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) to compile an Annual Monitor of Well-being. It has been published since 2018 and is used to hold the government to account every year on Accountability Day in May on the basis of not only economic growth in terms of GDP, but also in terms of a broad concept of well-being.</p> <p>The first Monitor of Well-being included over 100 indicators on quality of life here and now, and how this affects the well-being of future generations and that of people living elsewhere.</p> <p>Since 2019, the SDG indicators have been incorporated in this monitor, as there is a lot of overlap between the well-being indicators CBS was using and the global SDG indicators. So every year in May the Dutch government is now held to account partly on how it performs on in terms of wellbeing and SDG's.</p>
Advantages	<p>Parliamentarians have information at their fingertips about how the country is doing on over 200 indicators with red and green arrows showing the direction in which the indicator is moving and an easily readable graph of the position of the Netherlands for each indicator in the EU.</p> <p>It has also led to a dialogue between parliament and NSO.</p>
Challenges	<p>It is quite difficult to reconcile the two indicator sets. It is taking time and we are still progressing every year.</p>
Future steps	<p>The integration of the two indicator sets will continue, as will the expansion of a number of SDGs for which we had little data (e.g. SDGs 14 and 15).</p>
More information	<p>https://www.cbs.nl/en-gb/publication/2020/21/monitor-of-well-being-the-sdgs-2020</p>