



An
Phríomh-Oifig
Staidrimh

Central
Statistics
Office

Development of a Well-being Dashboard for Ireland

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Introduction

- Programme for Government – develop well-being agenda
- Interdept group chaired by Prime Minister's Office
- Significant user consultation with the “pillars” – business, trade unions, etc
- First job = Data gaps – looked at what's available on CSO system (PX Stat) now – ties in with approach of this project is a multiannual one (start with what we have and add to it over time)
- Started with over 60 indicators – mix of OECD, D/Finance research paper, a few others



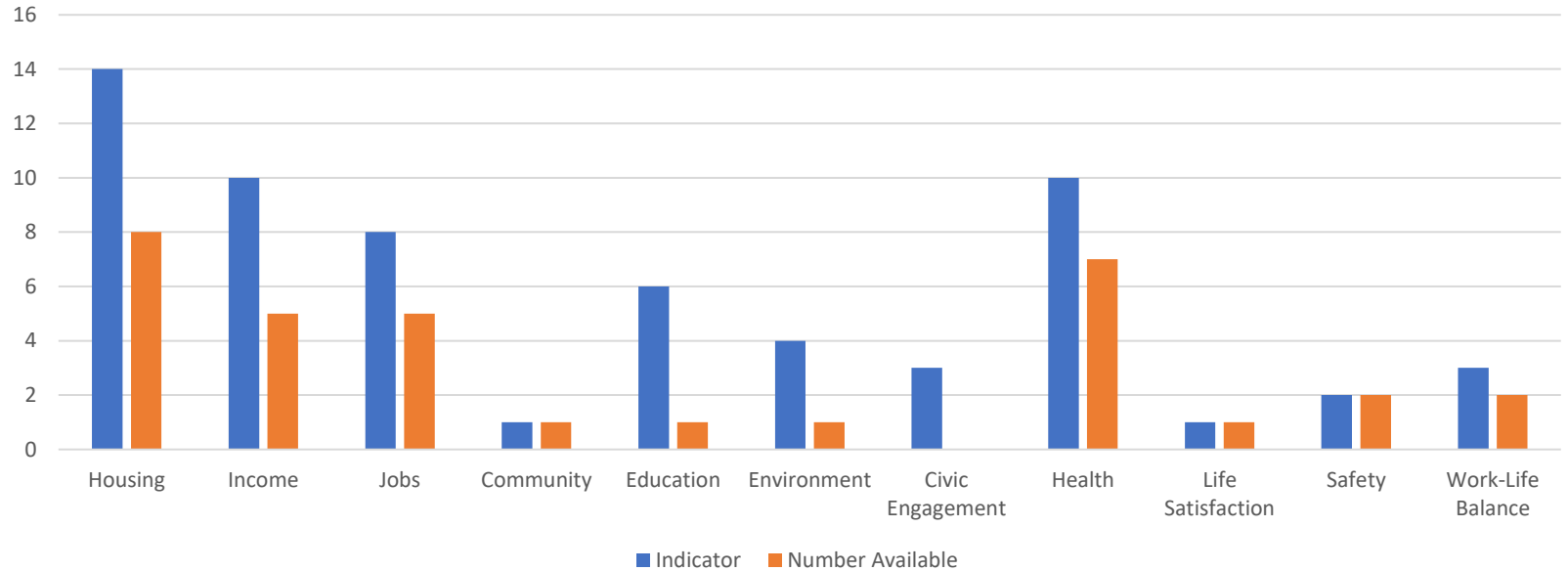
Themes – accord with OECD (with some slight rewording in places)

- Income & wealth
- Mental & physical health
- Knowledge & skills
- Subjective well-being
- Housing & local services
- Environment & climate
- Safety & security
- Work & job quality
- Work-life balance
- Community & social connections
- Civic engagement



well-being initial data gap by Theme

Data gap by Theme



What does the picture of the gaps paint?

1. What's available quickly now from CSO Dissemination Service (PX Stat) are 19 indicators (c.60% of total list) - that is, it's on PX Stat and the definitions are clear so it is usable very quickly in a well-being dashboard
2. Could add to this by agreement on a few indicators where CSO has data rather than some other measure; also add to it by using a non current CSO measure (e.g on volunteering 2013)
3. Also, some non-CSO data is available (e.g. Environmental Protection Agency data), so just to get that into PX Stat
4. In general, more "harder" data (e.g. on jobs) available than "soft" (e.g. civic engagement) – mustn't fall into the trap of going for indicators because the data is more readily available. Need to push ourselves to look for the 'soft' measures also
5. 'harder' data is also more frequently available than the 'softer' data – probably linked to the parent EU Regulations which drive a lot of CSO's production process. So we need to look for other survey vehicles than can supply more frequent 'soft' well-being data



Principles for the operation of the well-being dashboard

- CSO will host – data MUST be on CSO's PX Stat system. When data is updated through PX Stat then (as all our published data is now), it will automatically update through to the well-being dashboard then without any manual intervention (data will constantly be kept to date then)
- So, put the investment in up front so the system runs smoothly after that
- CSO will host non-CSO data on our PX Stat system - governance process put in place to facilitate this



To note

- If the survey is household based then a range of sub-classifications will be available also – sex, age, region, etc. So there may be a trade off between breadth and depth – if every indicator has another 3 or 4 sub-classifications, the dashboard will become very very big
- Ties into the fundamental question – who is the dashboard for? Expert users and/or ‘Joe Public’? – **we are very clear that the dashboard isn’t a replacement for our Dissemination Service (PX Stat) – expert users can still go there**
- Need to be careful around the size of the dashboard – just enough that it meets needs but not too much that it becomes too hard ‘to see the wood from the trees’ – so looking for that ‘Goldilocks’ point I think
- Big gap for CSO = where we have ‘soft’ data it needs to be more frequent; probably need a new survey or 2 to capture many of the gaps (sports, community, mental health, time use, volunteering, satisfaction with democracy) & agree to collect more regularly

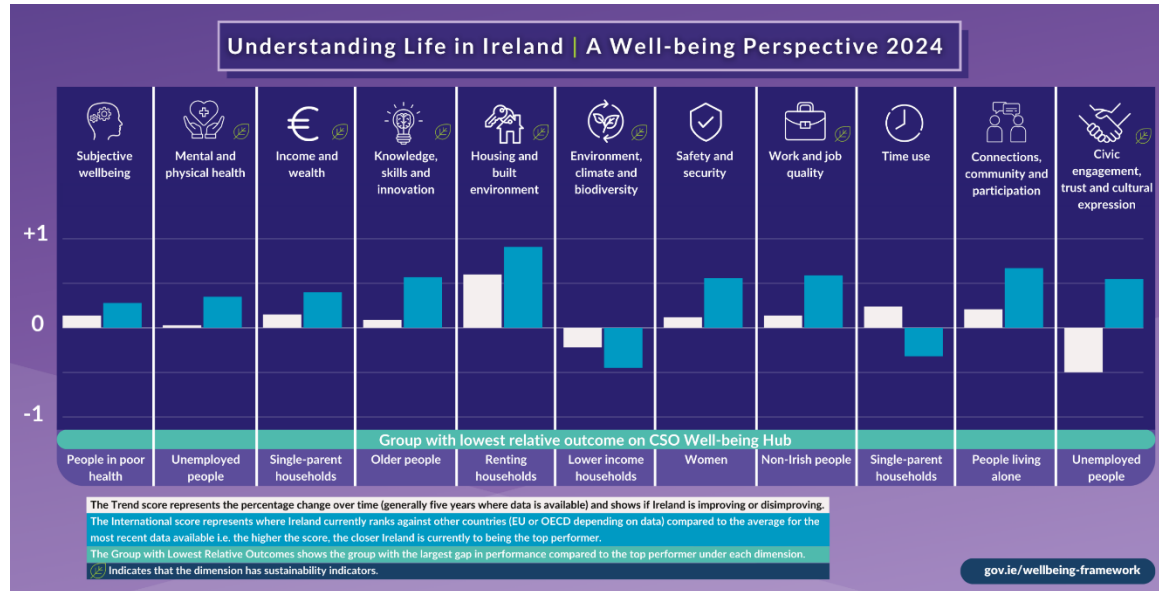


Summary

- Significant engagement to arrive at the 35 indicators - some stakeholders/Departments would have been very attached to “their” ones; Great cooperation with Prime Minister’s Office - good job of managing expectations and arriving at the final list of 35 indicators
- Dashboard provides a high level holistic overview of how our country is doing, economically, environmentally, across 35 indicators
- think about longer-term challenges that face the country in a new way, by reviewing economic, social and environmental outcomes together
- tensions can exist across the dashboard, e.g. between environmental and economic, short term vs long term
- These indicators are representative - they cannot include all data on life in Ireland, nor reflect completely the totality of life experiences.
- Start with what we have and build over time (e.g. on the “capital”/“future generations’ side of things) - since updated to mark indicators which are particularly important from a Sustainability perspective



well-being assessment - 2024



Some final thoughts

- Technical challenges of dashboard creation – relatively easy to overcome
- What can be challenging is arriving at a manageable list – need strong engagement, 'holding the line'
- Challenge for National Statistical Institutes to deliver more on the 'softer' data side of things
- And of course, the real challenge of embedding a 'well-being' / more longer term approach in policy development
- Lots of similar type data/dashboards emerging – SDGs, 'Just Transition' - communication challenges within a more crowded space?





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Any Questions?

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