Monitoring inclusive and sustainable well-being in the Netherlands

Presentation for the UNECE Seminar on Measurement of Well-being

Edwin Horlings

8-9 July 2024

"brede welvaart"

International statistical framework

An international framework, based on scientific research, provides authority and guarantees neutrality

Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations on
Measuring Sustainable Development

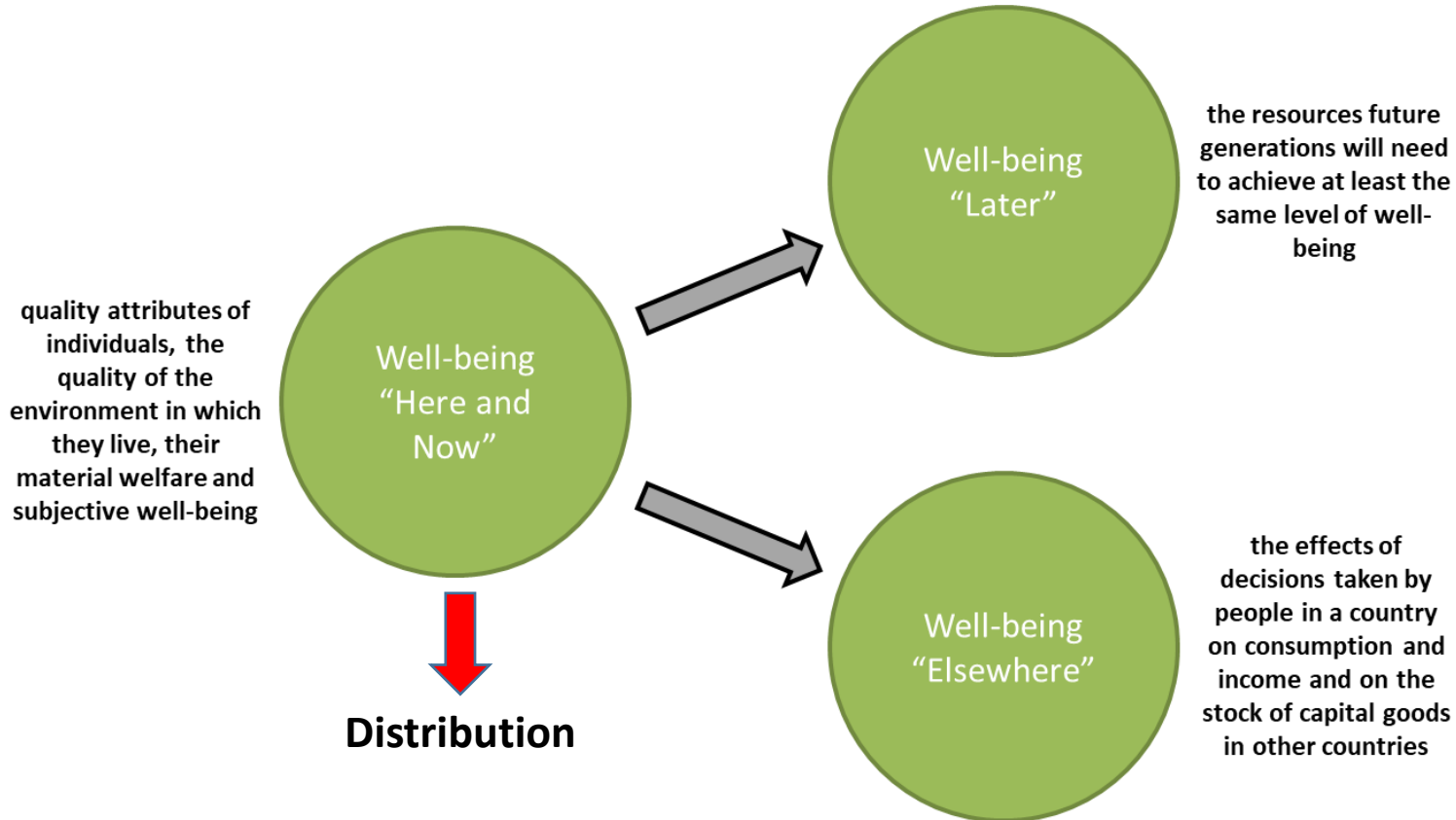**UNITED NATIONS**

Adapted and expanded framework

– The CES Recommendations are the basic framework

– Need to adapt and expand the framework
  - Reduction of themes to more manageable proportions
  - Integration of the Sustainable Development Goals
  - Interpretation of statistical outcomes

– Technical and methodological challenges
  - Selection criteria for indicators
  - Decision rules for observations
  - Visualisations

"Brede welvaart"

(inclusive and sustainable well-being)

Well-being concerns the quality of life <u>here and now</u> as well as the extent to which this quality is achieved at the expense of <u>later</u> generations or of people in <u>elsewhere</u> in the world.

Dimensions of well-being

quality attributes of individuals, the quality of the environment in which they live, their material welfare and subjective well-being

Well-being "Here and Now"

Distribution

Well-being "Later"

the resources future generations will need to achieve at least the same level of well-being

Well-being "Elsewhere"

the effects of decisions taken by people in a country on consumption and income and on the stock of capital goods in other countries

Integrating the SDGs

– an international agenda and framework, co-signed by Dutch government

– provide statistics on policy-relevant themes without having to interpret government policy

Framework for SDG indicators in context

– **Resources and opportunities**: rights, freedoms and other possibilities that people have; capacity of infrastructures and systems; access to and affordability of services

– **Use**: number of people, households, companies who use resources and opportunities, including aspects of behavior

– **Outcomes**: positive and negative effects of use

– **Subjective assessment**: people's subjective assessment of outcomes, including satisfaction, concerns, expectations

Resources and opportunities
What resources are used to maintain and improve the healthcare system? Is healthcare affordable and accessible?
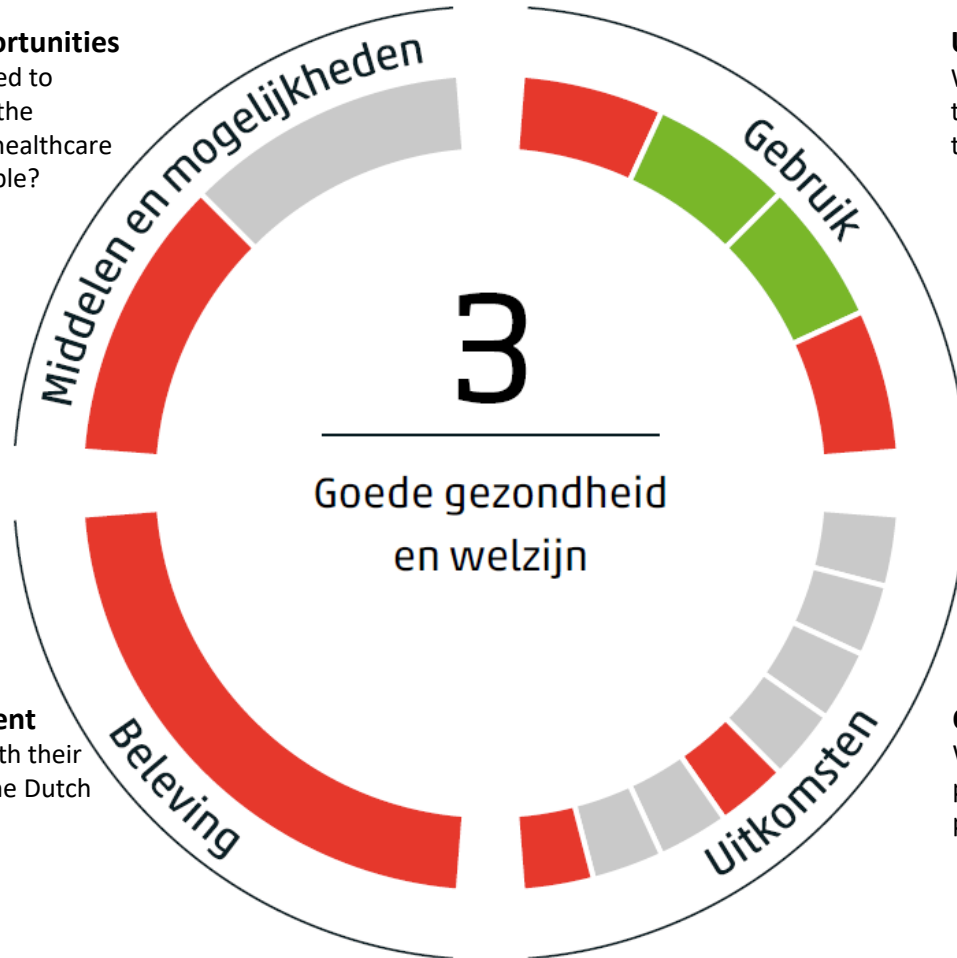
Use
What behavior do people exhibit that affects their health? How do they use health care?

Subjective assessment
Are people satisfied with their own health and with the Dutch healthcare system?

Outcomes
What is the current physical and psychological health of the population and the quality of care?

Middelen en mogelijkheden

Gebruik

Beleving

Uitkomsten

3

Goede gezondheid en welzijn

Monitor

Brede Welvaart

& de Sustainable Development Goals

2024

Visualisations

Trends in well-being and SDG's: Here and now
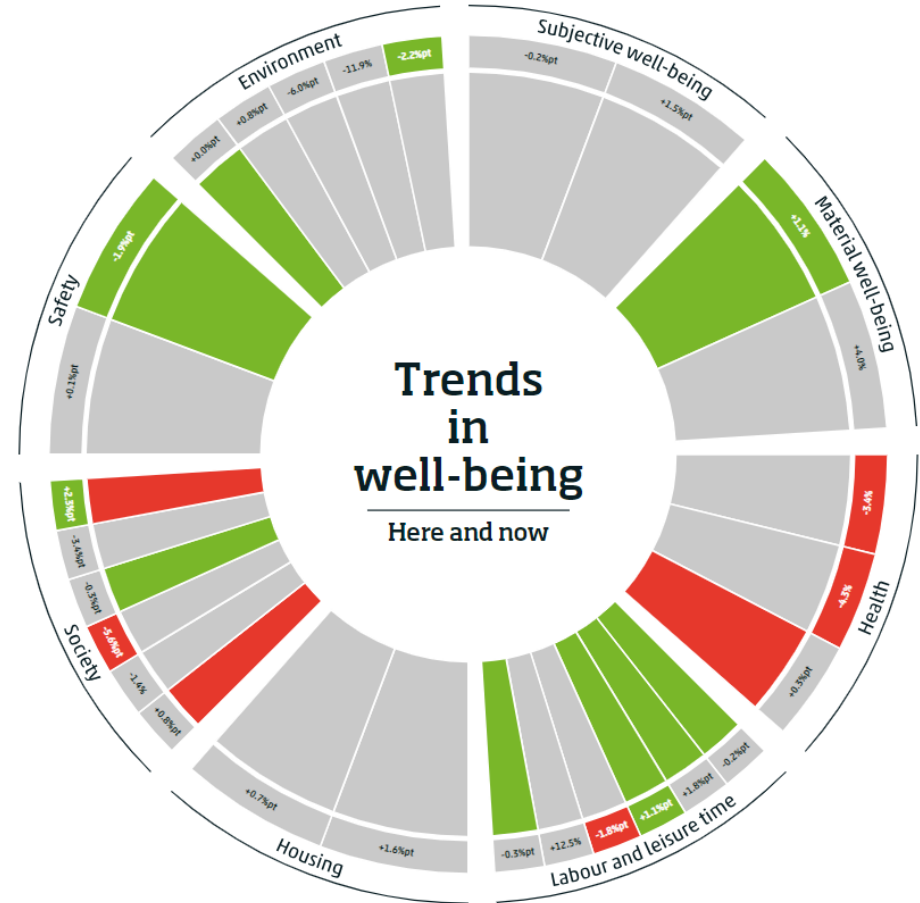
Brede-welvaarttrends en SDG's (BWT): hier en nu
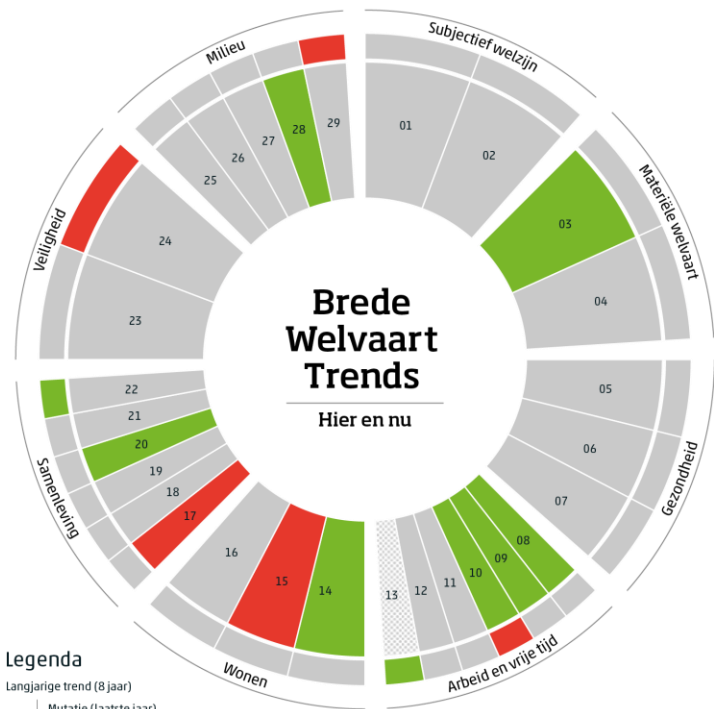
Positie in EU

De balken geven de positie aan van Nederland in de Europese Unie per indicator.

01 02	03 04	05 06 07	08 09 10 11 12 13	14 15 16	17 18 19 20 21 22	23 24	25 26 27 28 29
Subjectief welzijn	Materiële Welvaart	Gezondheid	Arbeid en vrije tijd	Wonen	Samenleving	Veiligheid	Milieu
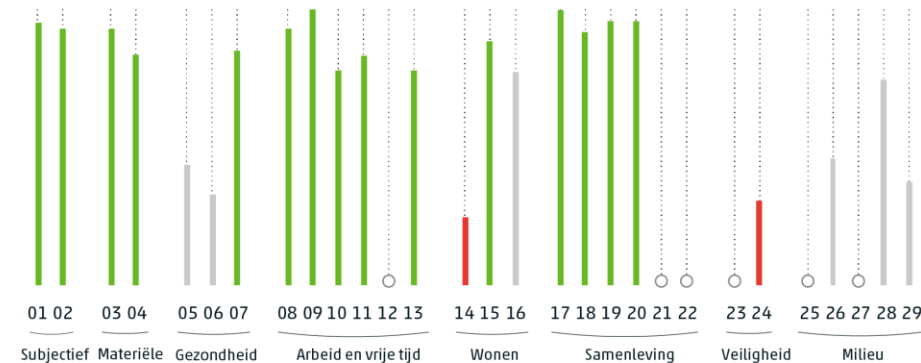
01 Tevredenheid met het leven
02 Ervaren regie over het eigen leven

03 Mediaan besteedbaar inkomen
04 Individuele consumptie

05 Gezonde levensverwachting mannen
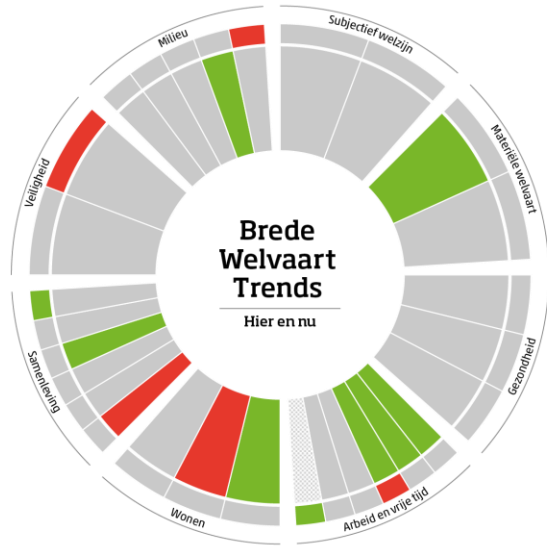06 Gezonde levensverwachting vrouwen
07 Overgewicht bij volwassenen

08 Langdurige werkloosheid
09 Nettoarbeidsparticipatie
10 Hoogopgeleide bevolking
11 Tevredenheid met vrije tijd
12 Tijdverlies door files en vertraging
13 Tevredenheid met werk (werknemers)

14 Totale woonquote (huur en koop)
15 Thuiswonende jongvolwassenen (25-29 jaar)
16 Tevredenheid met woning

17 Contact met familie, vrienden of buren
18 Inspraak en verantwoordingsplicht
19 Vertrouwen in instituties
20 Vertrouwen in andere mensen
21 Ontwikkeling normen en waarden
22 Vrijwilligerswerk

23 Vaak onveilig voelen in de buurt
24 Slachtofferschap van traditionele criminaliteit

25 Beheerde landnatuur in Natuurnetwerk Nederland
26 Kwaliteit van zwemwater binnenwateren
27 Stikstofdepositie en landnatuur
28 Stedelijke blootstelling aan fijnstof ($PM_{2,5}$)
29 Milieuproblemen

Legenda

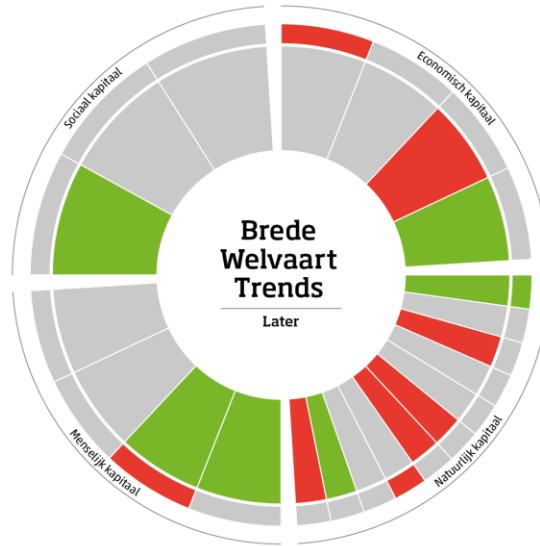Langjarige trend (8 jaar)
Mutatie (laatste jaar)

- Stijging Brede Welvaart
- Geen verandering
- Daling Brede Welvaart
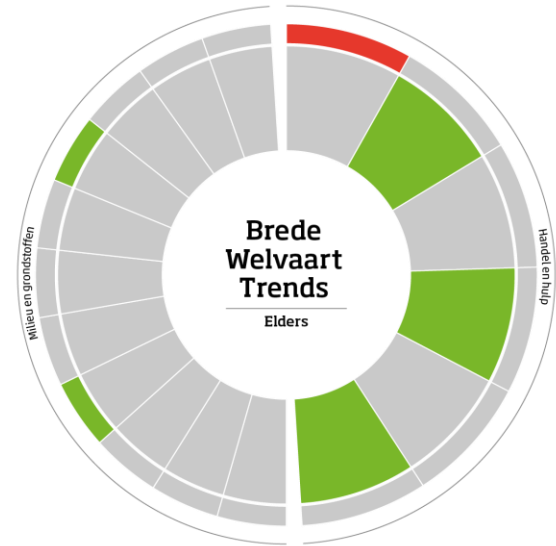- Onvoldoende data(kwaliteit)

Dimensions of the CES Recommendations

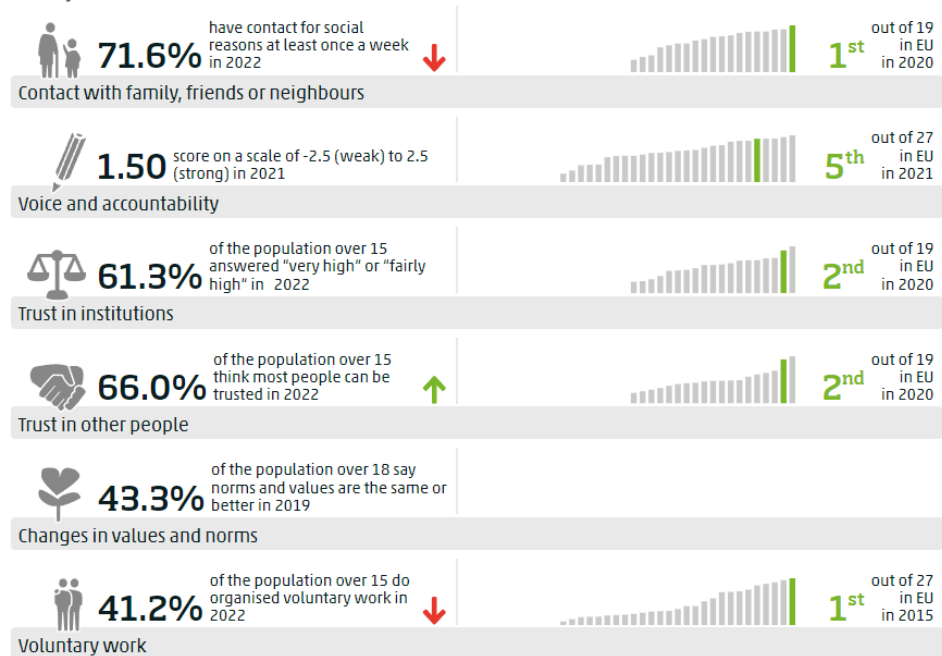*"here and now"*   *"later"*   *"elsewhere"*

Dashboards

– Sparse: as little information as possible to make understanding easier for users

– Colours to signal significant observations

– No composite index

Housing

🏠 **23.9%**	of disposable household income in 2021	**23rd** out of 25 in EU in 2021
Housing costs (rented and own homes)		
😊🏠 **86.3%**	of the population over 18 are satisfied or very satisfied in 2022	**8th** out of 27 in EU in 2017
Satisfaction with housing		

Society

👪 **71.6%**	have contact for social reasons at least once a week in 2022 ↓	**1st** out of 19 in EU in 2020
Contact with family, friends or neighbours		
✏️ **1.50**	score on a scale of -2.5 (weak) to 2.5 (strong) in 2021	**5th** out of 27 in EU in 2021
Voice and accountability		
⚖️ **61.3%**	of the population over 15 answered "very high" or "fairly high" in 2022	**2nd** out of 19 in EU in 2020
Trust in institutions		
🤝 **66.0%**	of the population over 15 think most people can be trusted in 2022 ↑	**2nd** out of 19 in EU in 2020
Trust in other people		
🌷 **43.3%**	of the population over 18 say norms and values are the same or better in 2019	
Changes in values and norms		
👫 **41.2%**	of the population over 15 do organised voluntary work in 2022 ↓	**1st** out of 27 in EU in 2015
Voluntary work		

Distribution of well-being

- Individual indicators by sex, age, education level, country of origin/birth

- Cumulative differences for c. 7,000 individuals

Highest completed level of education

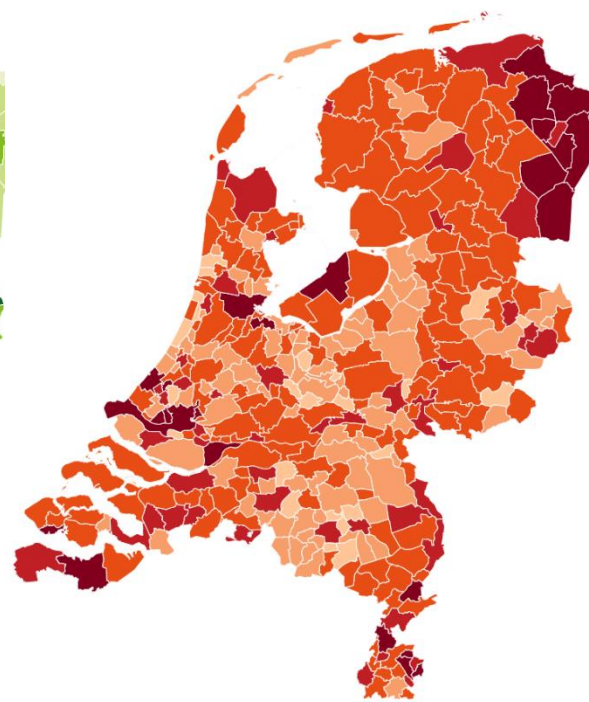|			
Low	31.7%	59.8%	8.5%
Medium	17.9%	62.8%	19.2%
High	8.9%	54.2%	36.9%
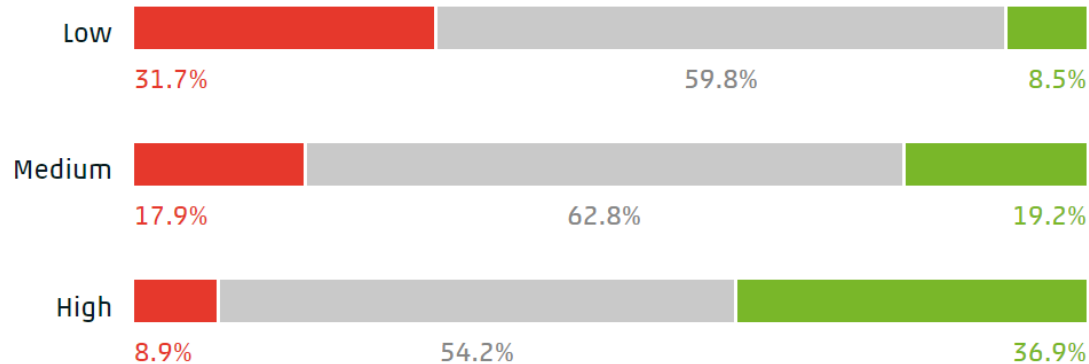
Regional well-being
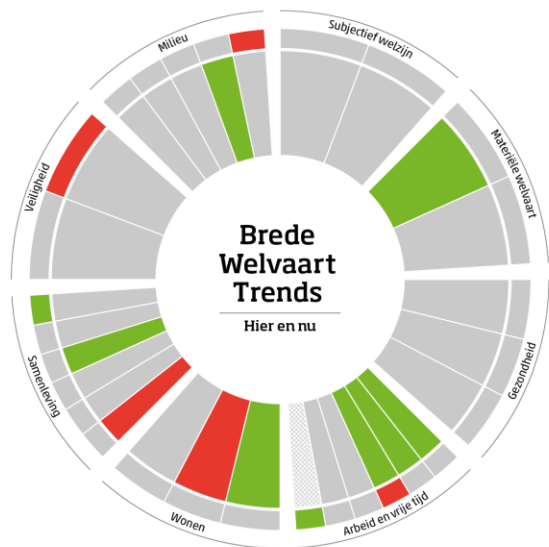
12 provinces

40 regions

345 municipalities

3 Caribbean islands
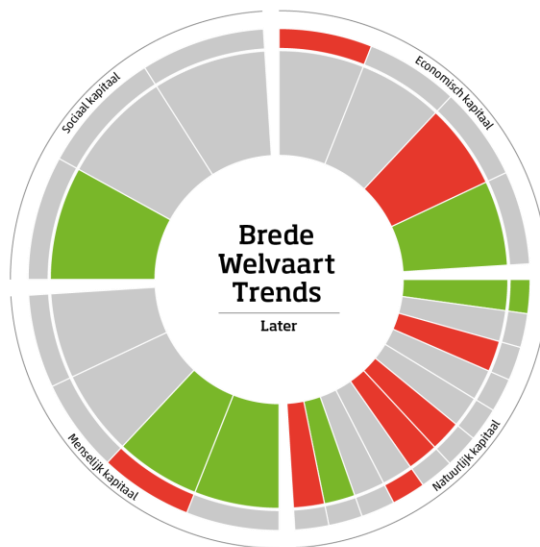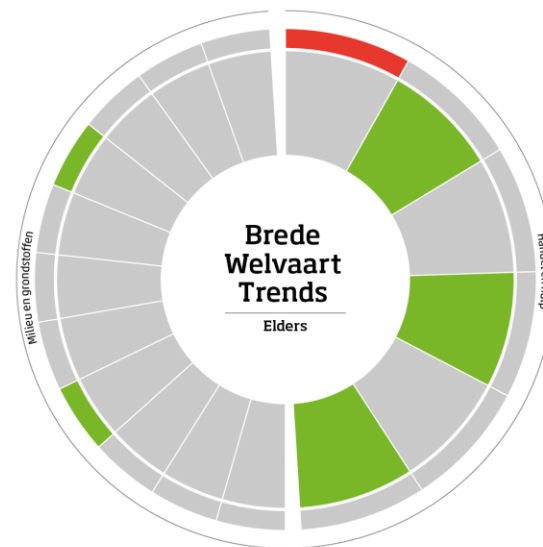
From indicators to a narrative

Number of indicators

"here and now"
29

"later"
22

"elsewhere"
17

*Everything included (SDGs, resilience) around **300 indicators***

Layering conclusions

MBW&SDGS IN A NUTSHELL
3-pager
conclusions about concepts

SUMMARY
short, easier to read
indicators linked to concepts

MAIN OBSERVATIONS
bullets, shorter, less complicated
indicators linked to concepts

FULL TEXT
detailed description of indicators
expert knowledge, nuance, complicated

Main conclusions in 2024

The Netherlands is a social and prosperous society 'here and now'

- A close-knit society with high subjective well-being, high material prosperity and a lot of work
- Not everyone benefits from high material prosperity

With current developments, the next generation will achieve lower well-being 'here and now'

- Natural capital is deteriorating
- The economy is only slowly becoming more sustainable
- Essential institutions appear to be at a standstill
- Young adults have been lagging behind for two years in a row

Critical evaluation (the seven-year itch)

Publications

15 May	**"Accountability Day"** ➔ **MBW & SDG's (since 2018)** **(since 2019)**
17 September	**"Budget Day"** ➔ **Factsheets Well-being for each department (since 2023)**
25 September	**International SDG Day** ➔ **SDGs International (since 2016)**
30 November	**MBW-SDG Caribbean Netherlands (since 2023)**
7 December	**Regional MBW (since 2020)**

First observations

- Usefulness and accessibility in relation to usage

- 'Indicator creep'

- Match with major societal challenges and themes

- Communicating about recognisable groups

- Incomparable international frameworks

Four capitals of well-being 'later'

- Economic capital, Natural capital, Human capital, Social capital are ubiquitous

- Hard to explain what they mean in real life

- Appear to have a strong economic bias

- Social capital is a reservoir for everything not included in economic, human or natural capital

'Top-down' bias

Subjective well-being

:) **83.4%** of the population gave their life a score of 7 or more in 2022

2nd out of 19 in EU in 2020

Satisfaction with life

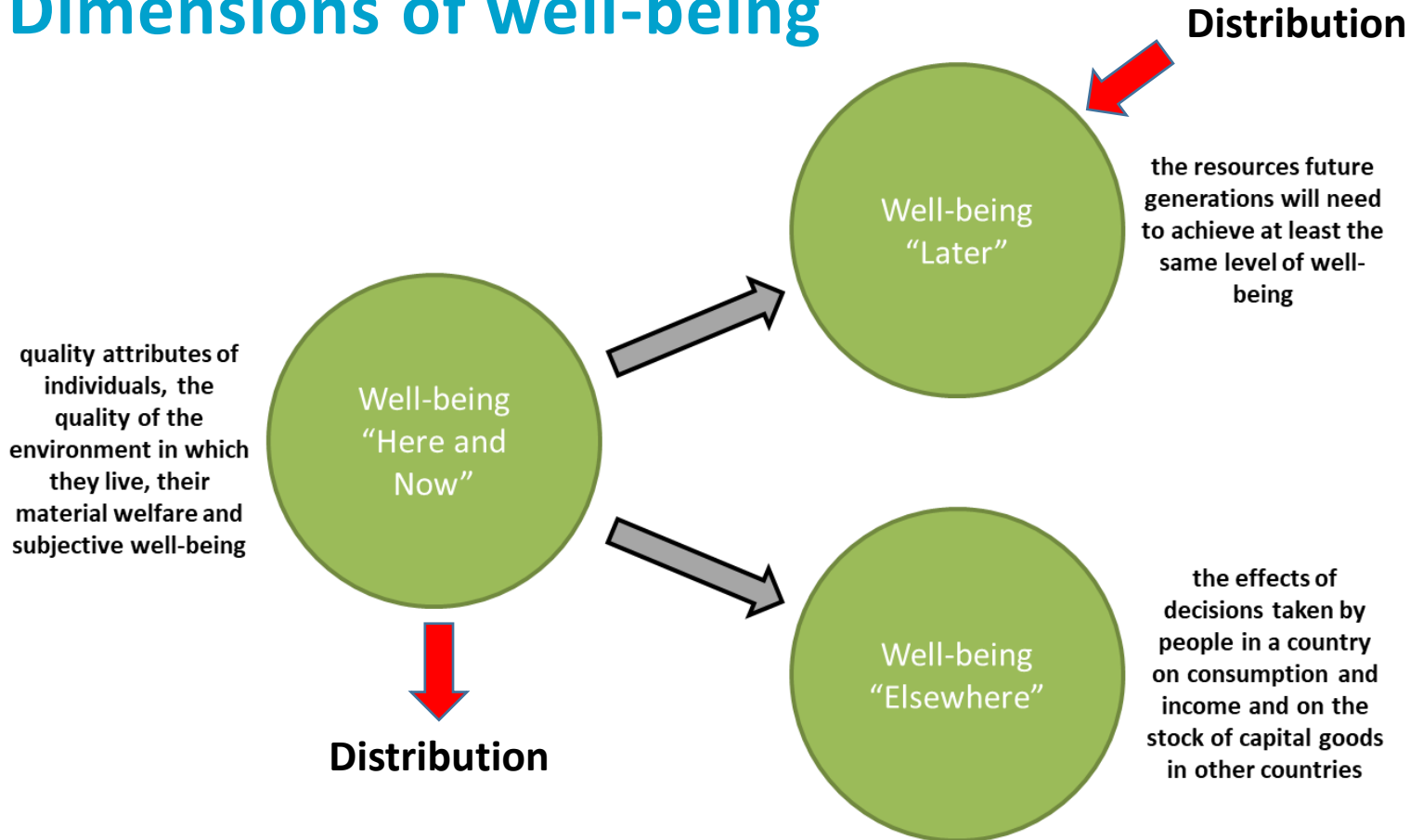**52.6%** feel in control (scores 4 or 5 on a scale of 1-5) in 2022

3rd out of 27 in EU in 2017

Feeling in control of own life

– Pay more attention to deprivation

– Measure well-being of recognisable groups (e.g. old-age pensioners or households living on social security)

Dimensions of well-being

quality attributes of individuals, the quality of the environment in which they live, their material welfare and subjective well-being

Distribution

Well-being "Here and Now"

Well-being "Later"

Distribution

the resources future generations will need to achieve at least the same level of well-being

Well-being "Elsewhere"

the effects of decisions taken by people in a country on consumption and income and on the stock of capital goods in other countries

Distribution

Statistical framework of the future

125 years reliable statistics