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Moving forward: some key messages from the e-Frame project

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Summary

The presentation aims at giving some key messages from the e-Frame project focusing on some activities carried out by the project and on some activities starting from the project. The presentation is built up on a moving forward perspective highlighting some of the topics of the research needs to develop in the next future to support the agenda related to measuring well-being and societal progress:

1. Background key elements beyond GDP debate in e-Frame project perspective
2. The experience of the e-FrameNET European Network on Measuring Progress
3. Moving forward from e-Frame
 1. *The roadmap for future research needs*
 2. *The Handbook for policy use of indicators*
4. Looking forward: the Web-COSI project
5. Some final remarks

e-Frame project - *European Framework for Measuring Progress* - has contributed and is contributing to empower the global and by now long-lasting debate on beyond GDP .

In the last decade, discussions on measuring of well-being and societal progress beyond GDP have been at the forefront of the **European and global agenda**.

For a long time, GDP has been identified with the standard measure of economic progress.

GDP surely represents a macroeconomic measure of the size of economic activity, and, at the individual level, it is a requirement for well-being.

However, the relationship between the level of the economic activity and individual well-being **is not directly proportional.**

Nowadays, the need to go beyond GDP to measure the well-being of people and societal progress is fully recognised at all levels in a worldwide dimension.

Moreover, the necessity to look for a new vision of measuring economic growth is vital in the perspective of the on-going international crisis which highlights the urgency to put **'Man'** at the centre of the economic evaluations.

Beyond GDP debate and e-Frame



Over time, the methodological and conceptual diverse **research activities** for new measurements **have been pushed** by the debate on “beyond GDP” carried on through **several initiatives** promoted by both the public and private world of research and at institutional level.

Among them:

- The OECD World Forums (Palermo 2004, Istanbul 2007, Busan 2009 and New Delhi 2012)
<http://www.oecd.org/site/worldforumindia/>
<http://www.oecd.org/site/worldforumindia/previousoecdworldforums.htm>
- The Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress (the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Commission-2008)
http://www.stiglitz-sen-fitoussi.fr/documents/rapport_anglais.pdf
- The European Statistical System Sponsorship group on ‘Measuring Progress, well-being and sustainable development (concluded in 2011)
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/pgp_ess/0_DOCS/estat/SpG_Final_report_Progress_wellbeing_and_sustainable_deve.pdf

All these initiatives **converge** on the necessity to define **better statistics** beyond GDP with the aim to **integrate** the GDP measure with indicators (new and old) to measure well-being and societal progress.

In particular, the Sponsorship Group on ‘Measuring Progress, Well-being and Sustainable Development’ has called National Statistical Institutes (**NSIs**) to push the definition of sound and timely statistics, thus implying a better use of all the available statistics and developing new statistics and concise indicators.

“Better statistics” beyond GDP means indicators referring to a very wide range of statistics belonging to several domains:

Economic well-being
Health
Education and training
Work and life balance
Social relationships
Policy and Institutions
Security
Landscape and cultural heritage
Environment
Research and innovation
Quality of services

Set of Indicators

at various levels:

Spatial
Temporal
Subjective
Objective

.....

Over time the debate on measuring well-being and societal progress “beyond GDP” and on the complex phenomena to it related has grown up enormously creating a global movement involving a multiplicity of **actors** in the discussion for the “definition” of better statistics beyond GDP:

- besides the traditional stakeholders
NSIs, Academia, researchers, International Organizations
- new actors are willing to give their voices
civil society organizations, social entrepreneurs, consumers, workers, citizens and society at large

The research and the debate “beyond GDP” have been greatly enhanced by *Internet* which contributed to enlarge the community, involving in the “beyond GDP” debate countless of local, national and international actors, contributing to create a global movement.

Web 2.0, giving the opportunity to share knowledge, information and data, contributes to implement new ways of collecting and producing information involving communities and to collect data from communities making it possible a **bottom-up approach**.

Notable **interactive and bottom-up** initiatives are being carried on at European level.

- OECD Better Life Initiative that led to the Better Life Index <http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/>

The tool is designed to invite users to visualise and compare some of the key factors – like education, housing, environment – that contribute to well-being in OECD countries. The aim is to allow understanding what drives well-being of people and nations and what needs to be done to achieve greater progress for all. This initiative is once more pushing the research to explore the diverse dimensions of subjective and objective concepts of quality of life.

On the side of the NSIs, important initiatives of stakeholders **consultation** and dialogue with society at large are currently carried out.

- **BES** in Italy www.misuredelbenessere.it

ISTAT (the Italian NSI) has instituted with the Italian National Council for Economics and Labour (CNEL) the BES Initiative for measuring Equitable and Sustainable Well-being in Italy. BES has carried out a deliberative process **to define the Italian domains and their indicators**. Through the dialogue between a scientific commission of experts and a national steering committee (with entrepreneurs, unions and the civil society at large) - supported by public meetings, a national survey, a blog and an online questionnaire - BES has reached a co-established decision on which the methodological and technical research is going to build up its activities.

Against the above background supported by the experience of e-Frame activities, we can summarise the main streams of the research for better statistics beyond GDP as follows:



the ***theoretical*** and ***methodological*** aspects of the measurements



the implementation of the tools to ***collect, produce and share*** data



the necessity to enlarge the vision of the statistics taking into account the ***Web 2.0 opportunities***

As already underscored the role of **Internet** is a pillar in the current debate and research for better statistics beyond GDP

Web 2.0 platforms and networks represent the tools to involve the communities for the definition of better statistics beyond GDP

The involvement of the communities appears to be crucial on the way to **reduce the gap** between what statistics say and what people perceive.

The experience of the *European Network on Measuring Progress on Wikiprogress.org*

e-FrameNet hosted by **Wikiprogress** platform constitutes the

➤ **European Network on Measuring Progress**

envisaged by the e-Frame project.

The Network was launched at the e-Frame Initial European Conference on Measuring Well-Being and Fostering the Progress of Societies, 26-28 June 2012, Paris, France

The Network has been set up with the aim to contribute to the establishment of a **European position** on the topics of the measurement of well-being and societal progress raised by the e-Frame project with the objective to enlarge and to foster the debate towards the global frontier of Wikiprogress platform

The nature of the e-Frame European Network

To reach its objectives to

- **connect** stakeholders, researchers, civil society organizations and policy makers on the on going debate on measurement of well-being and societal progress
- **involve** stakeholders in the activities of e-Frame project
- **facilitate the dissemination** of the results reached by projects on the thematic of beyond GDP

e-Frame Net is designed so that members of the Network can communicate through the e-Frame website and the WikiProgress platform

To build the interrelation between e-Frame and Wikiprogress

- at home page of www.eframeproject.eu link to www.wikiprogress.org
- at home page of wikiprogress link to a dedicated section of e-Frame Net as the 'Wikiprogress Europe' platform among the other well being Networks

To join the e-Frame European Network

➤ Step 1 at www.eframeproject.eu

Every one can become a member of e-FrameNet subscribing the registration form at e-Frame website

- ✓ The **members** are organised in a data base, managed by Istat, which enable the creation of
 - a general mailing list for e-Frame debate and activities
 - specific mailing lists for fields of interest
- ✓ The members receive **alerts** of the news of e-Frame project and of others projects and activities related to the topics of the project carried on at European level
- ✓ The **members are asked** to contribute to the initiatives of the project
- ✓ A member of the network **can ask the Network Manager** (Istat) to alert others members of the Network on its initiatives

To join the e-Frame European Network on Wikiprogress

➤ Step 2 at www.wikiprogress.org

Everyone can join Wikiprogress to adhere to the dedicated session on the European Network on Measuring Progress

✓ The Wikiprogress dedicated session on e-FrameNet represents a platform for **knowledge sharing** on measuring well-being and progress in the European context with the aim to

-create a community to share a vision on how to measure the progress of societies in Europe

-create a dedicated space where European data and research articles on well-being and progress can be loaded, visualised and analysed

-invite and inform all parts of the community about the debate on progress and well-being

The structure of e-Frame Net/Wikiprogress

The European Network on Measuring Progress on Wikiprogress is designed to offer **interactivity** between network members and to spread European initiatives and activities on well-being and progress

The activities of e-Frame Net/Wikiprogress

The activities set up by the Network will **respond to the needs** raised by the on-going debate on measuring progress and well-being within e-Frame project and between other related projects

Activities carried on by e-FrameNet/Wikiprogress

- Online debates/webinars around specific topics and in preparation for events
- Guest bloggers/articles invited on chosen topics
- Invite researchers on community initiatives to share information on their projects
- Focus on issues specific to the European well-being and progress, and on differences within and between other regions
-
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*THE **ROADMAP** FOR FUTURE RESEARCH*

Against the diverse activities and tools carried on and against the main findings from the discussions within e-Frame project it has been possible to identify a scale of priority of **needs of research** and **information gaps** which is necessary to investigate in the next future to empower the **construction**, the **understanding** and the **use** of better statistics beyond GDP

The topics of the research needs can be grouped into **four** main streams:

ROADMAP
First Tentative
December 2012
www.eframeproject.eu

- *topics on the official statistics*
- *topics on looking forward dimensions*
- *topics on the usage of non official data*
- *topics on communication issues*

The **measurements issues in official statistics:**

- *Need to continue implementing subjective indicators*
- *Need to construct indicators at different levels: local, national, global*
- *Need to disaggregate at the right dimension (target groups)*
- *Need to harmonize concepts, standards and definitions (metadata)*
- *Need to improve the timeliness of data*
- *Need for a multi dimensional approach*
- *Need for indicators of sustainability*
- ***Need to train at University level on Official Statistics (EMOS)***

The **issues on looking forward dimensions:**

- *Need to develop models capable to describe the trade-off between different dimensions and simulate the various effects*
- *Need to develop risk indicators to measure the social effect of not doing*
- *Need to construct econometric models of simulation to measure the effect of the policies on well being*
- *Need to define quality criteria for indicators*
- *Need to study how the use of well being indicators positively influences the (good) policies*

The **issues on the usage of non official data:**

- *Need to consider non-official data (open data/ big data)*

BIG DATA EVENT
March 2014
Rome
www.cros-portal.eu

- *Need to complement with initiatives beyond official statistics*
- *Need to evaluate the roles for non-official data in order to keep down the costs of the measurement*
- *Need to validate the **quality** of non-official data*

The **issues on the communication side:** (1/2)

- *Need to inform and train the **business world** and educate the market to read new measurements of progress and well-being beyond GDP as a chance to catch*
- *Need to foster the **culture** on the measurement of well being*
- *Need to train at **University level** on the measurement of well being*
- *Need to educate the **opinion leaders** to foster the statistical culture*
- *Need to **spread Europe experience** in a worldwide dimension*

The **issues on the communication side:** (2/2)

- *Need to facilitate the communication to **policy makers***
- *Need to find a **wording** for policy makers*

*e-Frame
Handbook*

- *Need to **develop tools** to improve the use of statistics and indicators*
- *Need to **involve communities** using the opportunities given by Internet*

*Web-COSI
project*

“Handbook on Measuring Progress”

The aim of this cross cutting output of e-Frame is to provide a **Map of policy use of well-being indicators** in order to support policy makers and the policy decision making process.

The handbook will take stock of the results emerged from all the thematic work packages, in particular from workshops, conferences and stocktaking reports produced during the life cycle of the project

Particular attention will be given to use a **wording** able to explain technical concept in a concrete way in order to empower the understanding of the statistics.

The work will be coordinated by Istat and done in partnership with e-Frame Consortium

Introduction

Introducing well-being indicators in policy design

A Thematic topics

A.1 Material condition

A.2 Quality of life

A.3 Sustainability

B Cross-cutting topics

B.1 Indicators legitimacy and stakeholders inclusion

B.2 Policies at local level

B.3 Fostering the debate, dissemination and sharing information

NSIs common initiatives

Tools and software Social reporting Advanced training in beyond GDP: methodologies, indicators and use e-Frame network

Conclusions

Recommendations in a forward looking perspective

- Short description for each topic
- Standardizing the structure of contents (templates)
- Practical approach (emphasis on relevance of indicators, tools, methods)
- Suggestions for use (how to use, uses to date, recommendations)

**First draft version to be presented for discussion at
e-Frame Final Conference February 2014**

Web-Communities for Statistics for Social Innovation

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Consortium : ISTAT (Coordinator), OECD, LUNARIA, e-genius

built up on the increasing trust in collectively - generated statistics with the aim to foster the involvement of citizens for the definition of better statistics “beyond GDP” towards the integration of official statistics and non official statistics

*Web-COSI is based on the European and global crowd sourcing experiences and initiatives beyond GDP to show how this “**collective intelligence**” enforces the sharing of knowledge and data, steering the development of new indicators of well-being and societal progress integrating official and non-official statistics.*

*Taking advantage of Web 2.0, the project wants to implement **new tools** of collecting/producing/visualizing information and data, calling the communities to contribute to reshape the statistics.*

Aims at increasing trust in collectively - generated statistics

Aims at facilitating the uploading of statistical information relating to civil society grassroots organizations

Aims at contributing to integrate official /non-official statistics

Aims at the implementation of “the way” of collecting, producing and visualizing information and data, involving and motivating citizens to contribute and to access statistics

The Consortium

ISTAT the Italian National Statistical Institute (coordinator)



OECD the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development



LUNARIA the Lunaria- Social Promotion Association



I-GENIUS the Social Entrepreneur Business and Enterprise Community **i-genius™**

The consortium sees the collaboration among **two powerful Institutions** (Istat- the Italian National Statistical Institute and OECD- the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development), characterized by a historical top-down approach, and **two young civil society Organisations** (Lunaria – the Italian Promotion Association and i-genius- the Social Entrepreneur Business and Enterprise Community), representing society at large pushing for a bottom-up approach. The consortium is multidisciplinary and well-balanced to work creating synergies in order to impact towards a growing **integration of the different approaches**.

The project using Web 2.0 applications wants to contribute to the new participatory process and to the interaction among the online communities allowing producers and consumers of information to meet without “boundaries” exploring the role of official and non official statistics

THE MAIN GOAL

*Web-COSI project will use the WIKIPROGRESS.org platform hosted by OECD for developing a global dimension of sharing information/data on “beyond GDP through the empowering of the tool **Wikiprogress.stat***

The Wikiprogress platform was launched at the 3rd OECD World Forum on “Statistics, Knowledge and Policy” held in Busan, Korea in 2009. It’s an open source platform crowd sourced allowing users to generate content by developing information and data on well-being and economic progress beyond GDP

Web-COSI aims at catalysing beyond GDP initiatives for better statistics by

- **mapping and exploiting** the existing and new initiatives in Europe and in the world carried out by different communities
- investigating the **initiatives carried out by the NSIs**, focusing on some EU experiences compared with others abroad (such as Canada and Australia), to involve communities in shaping the definition of the statistics beyond GDP and to use locally generated, grassroots data and statistics from the community (bottom up)
- distilling the best practices of the **civil society initiatives** that support the need for official and non official grassroots statistics beyond GDP in the debate and deliberation about policy issues
- investigating the **experiences of social entrepreneurs** with the aim to highlight the importance of their involvement in the debate on the measurement of well-being beyond GDP to steer the venture capital investment towards sustainable and socially innovative initiatives and businesses

- a **Wikipedia of progress statistics** developed by a total redesign and upgrading of Wikiprogress.stat to make it more users friendly easier to upload and access data and to generate data visualization
- an **interactive crowd-sourced map** of initiatives on well-being and societal progress in Europe set up on Wikiprogress.org with an emphasis on grass roots community based programmes
- a **European Wikiprogress University Programme** set up, to get students involved in individual and group projects to develop knowledge and data sharing on open source platforms
- an **effective campaign that will engage citizens**, resulting in over 15,000 more visitors (citizens) on Wikiprogress and 1,000 more twitter follower and facebook likes

Besides the above activities Web-COSI will deliver reports analyzing **collective production/initiatives** on beyond GDP statistics

Web-COSI PROJECT *expected impacts*



Built on the awareness that the power of online communities grows ever stronger and that the institutions of diverse type and scope cannot ignore their centrality towards the definition of better statistics for better policies for a better quality of life

Web-COSI will impact through:

➤ **engaging citizens in the dialogue about societal progress** with the final seek to make statistics more accessible for society at large. Through:

-web campaign, web competition, crowd-sourcing on specific topics using social networks, online discussions, blogs, eBrief, data visualisation and an extensive network and local grassroots partnerships

-organization of dissemination and communication formal open events: 5 workshops and a final conferences

➤ **engaging and motivating citizens on beyond GDP statistics** pushing to contribute, access and utilize them. Through:

-redesign and upgrading of **Wikiprogress.stat** allowing users to upload information and results (including data and metadata) on measuring different dimensions of societal progress

Some final remarks

The European and global research has **definitively** moved towards better statistics beyond GDP



The theoretical and methodological aspects **are converging** on the new measurements



The technical aspects on the **ICT tools** to collect, produce and share information and data are moving fast



The Web 2.0 open new opportunities towards the **integration** of official and non official data

Looking forward there are research **gaps** that need to be filled in as well as actions that are started but need to be further developed or implemented

As available resources are limited, it is vital to **join efforts** and to coordinate research activities at a European level

The roadmap presented has identified a number of “needs” to be addressed in future research agendas at a European level in order to **consolidate** the availability and the use of indicators on well-being, progress and sustainable development

Nevertheless, it would be recommended, as an initial step, to find a large consensus on **setting priorities** with regard to the above mentioned needs and to schedule the future actions in the light of the objectives of Horizon 2020

Partnerships between NSIs, the academia and other relevant actors in the well-being debate is the way to follow to contribute to a large extent to reach faster and sounder results

But the success of the future research will depend also (mainly) by the **PEOPLE** who want to work to build up new statistics

The European Statistical System has to invest in **Human Capital** to realize the change

The **e-Frame Summer School**, co-sponsored by Eurostat within the European Master on Official Statistics (EMOS) initiative, surely represents a pillar in this direction:

thank you for your participation!



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THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION