



# EMOS webinar Spring 2020

## Measuring performance 'Beyond GDP'

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**Household Statistics and Progress Measurement**

Paris, 18 June 2020



# Plan of the webinar

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Presentation in three parts

A. The OECD Experience

B. The HELG report: the statistical agenda ahead

C. From measuring to policy use



# **Part A.**

# **The OECD Experience**



# The OECD and GDP



PARIS 14<sup>th</sup> December 1960

*“**DETERMINED** by consultation and co-operation to use more effectively their capacities and potentialities so as to promote the highest sustainable growth of their economies..”*



*The “**temple of growth**”, “... what St Peter is for Catholics, OECD is for GDP”*

Both in terms of the development of the statistical methodology underpinning the SNA (Stone, Gilbert) and for the policy primacy attributed to “**growth for growth sake.. as supreme objective**”



# The OECD and 'Beyond GDP'

- **Conceptual discussion** ("*Problems of modern society*" in 70s), **measurement tradition** in social (1970s) and environmental indicators (1980s)
- Renewed emphasis in the **2000s**, following release of **SSF report** in 2009, with launch of **OECD Better Life Initiative** in 2011
  - **Addressing limits of** GDP as an overall guide of progress on people's well-being; implies taking into account :
    - ✓ **non-economic factors** that shape people's quality of life
    - ✓ **distribution** of outcomes across population groups
    - ✓ **sustainability**, including depletion of environmental resources
  - **Producing additional and better measures** of well-being
  - **Highlighting trade-offs and complementarities** among different policies across all aspects of people's well-being → **BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES**



OECD  
**Better Life**  
Initiative

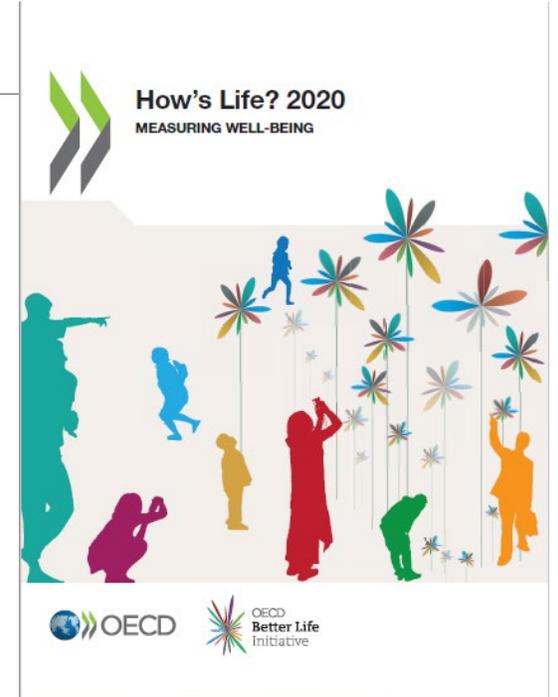
→ Key audience: **National statistical offices, policy-makers, wider public**



# OECD work on 'Beyond GDP'

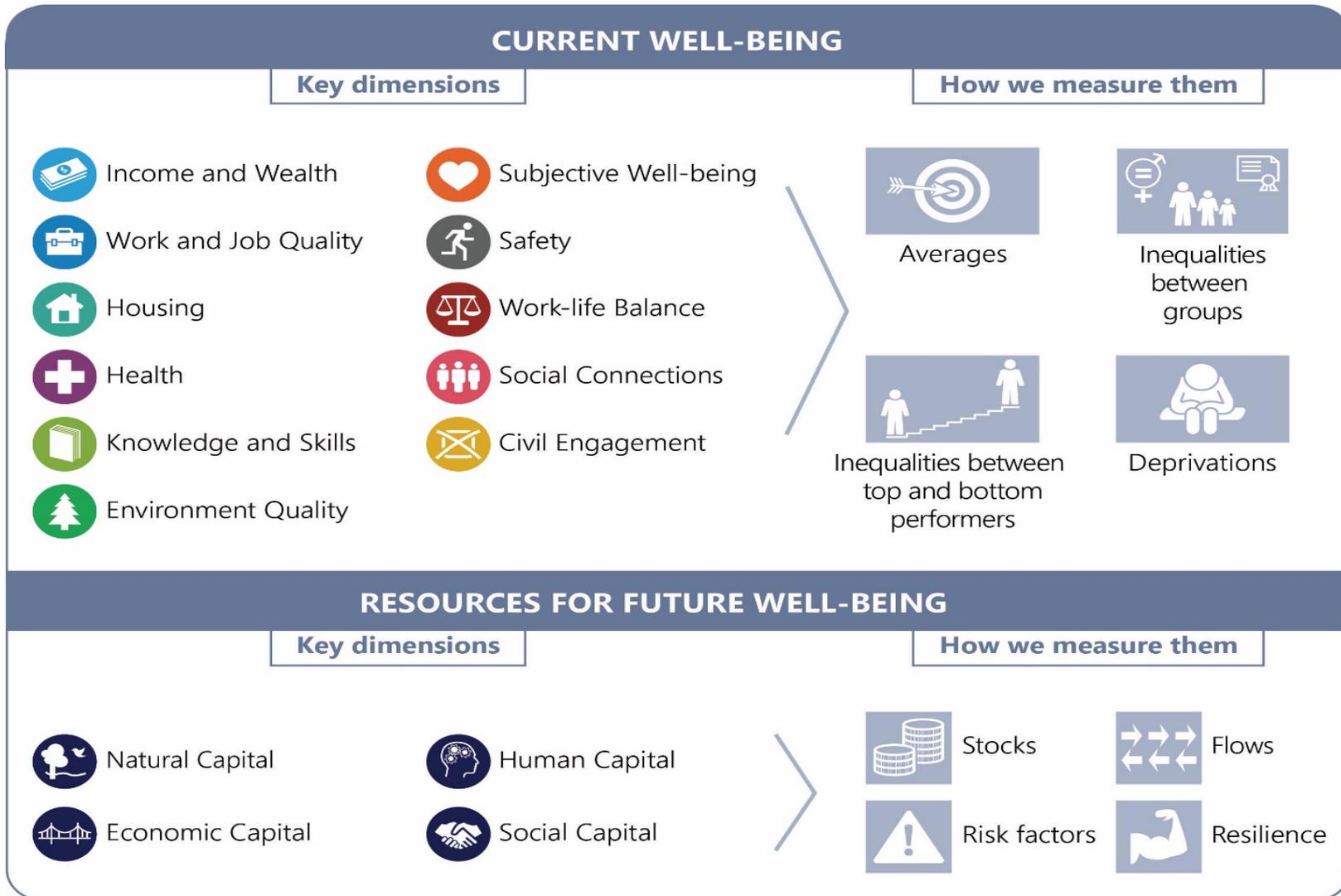
## Three strands

- Analysis and benchmarking
- Methodological work
- Communication and public engagement





# Analysis and benchmarking: the OECD well-being framework



- Focus on:**
- **people** rather than the economic system
  - **outcomes** rather than inputs and outputs
  - both **averages** and **inequalities**
  - both **objective** and **subjective** aspects
  - well-being both **today** and **tomorrow**



## ... operationalised through a dashboard of indicators

	Single index	Dashboard of indicators
Conceptual	Subjective Well-Being, Green Accounting (MEW/GPI), Ecological Footprint	Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi, CES Recommendations, OECD <i>How's Life?</i>
Policy driven	UNDP's Human Development Index	UN Sustainable Development Goals

### Indicators of:

- Current well-being, country-averages
- Current well-being, inequalities (vertical, horizontal, deprivations)
- Resources for the future (stocks, flows, risks, resilience)

### Selected based on criteria of:

- Relevance (unambiguous interpretation, amenable to policy change, scope for disaggregation)
- Statistical quality (face validity, well-established instrument, comparable definition, broad country coverage, recurrent collection)



# What do these well-being indicators tell us?

## Key messages from *How's Life? 2020*

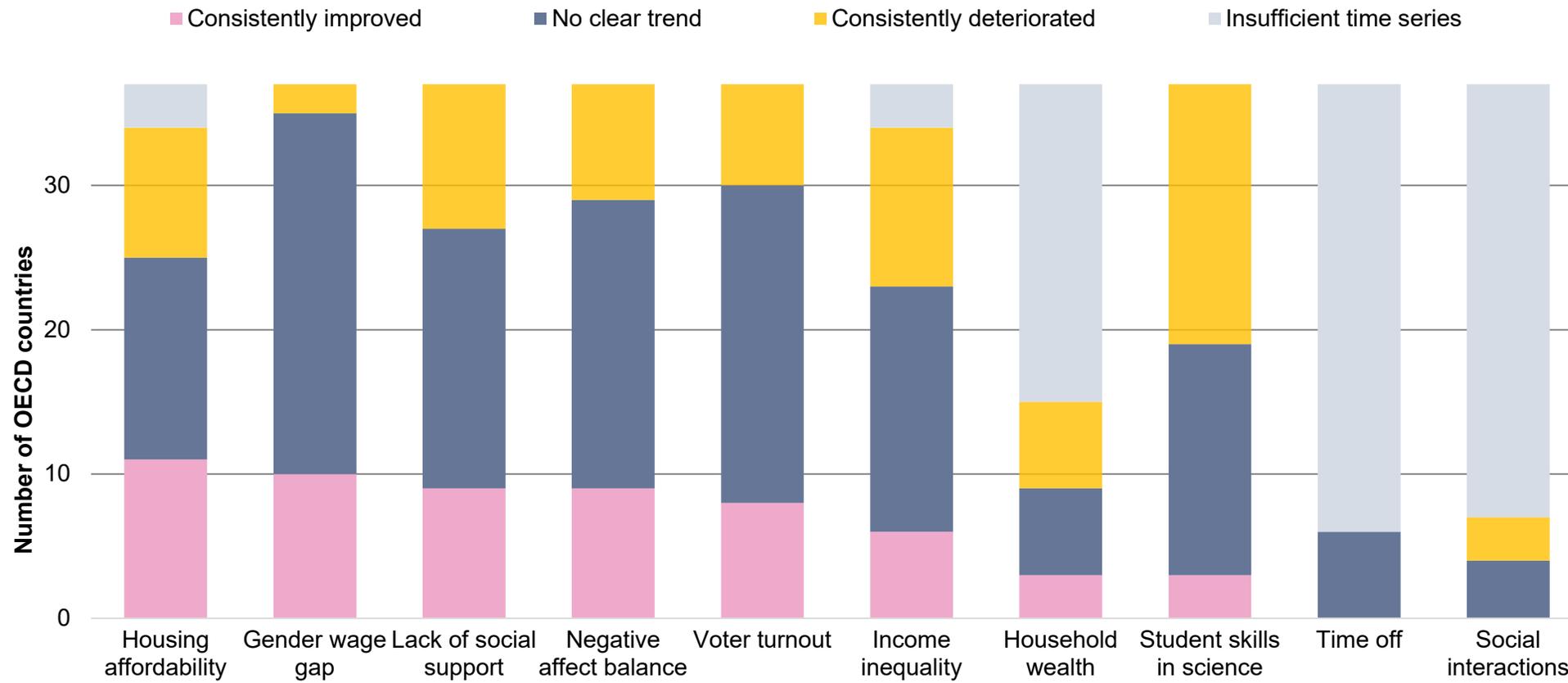
### ➤ In many ways life has improved since 2010

	in 2018	OECD average change
 Household income	Households' average disposable income is around 28 000 USD	+ 6%
 Overcrowding rate	One in eight households lives in overcrowded conditions	- 2.6 percentage points
 Employment rate	Almost 8 in 10 adults aged 25-64 are in paid employment	+ 4.8 percentage points
 Long working hours (in paid work)	7% of employees usually work 50+ hours per week	- 1.7 percentage points
 Life expectancy	The average newborn can expect to live 80.5 years	+ 14 months (1.5%)
 Homicide rate	Deaths due to assault are 2.4 per 100 000 people	- 27%
 Life satisfaction	On a scale from 0 (not at all satisfied) to 10 (completely satisfied), the average life satisfaction in OECD countries is 7.4	+ 2.8%



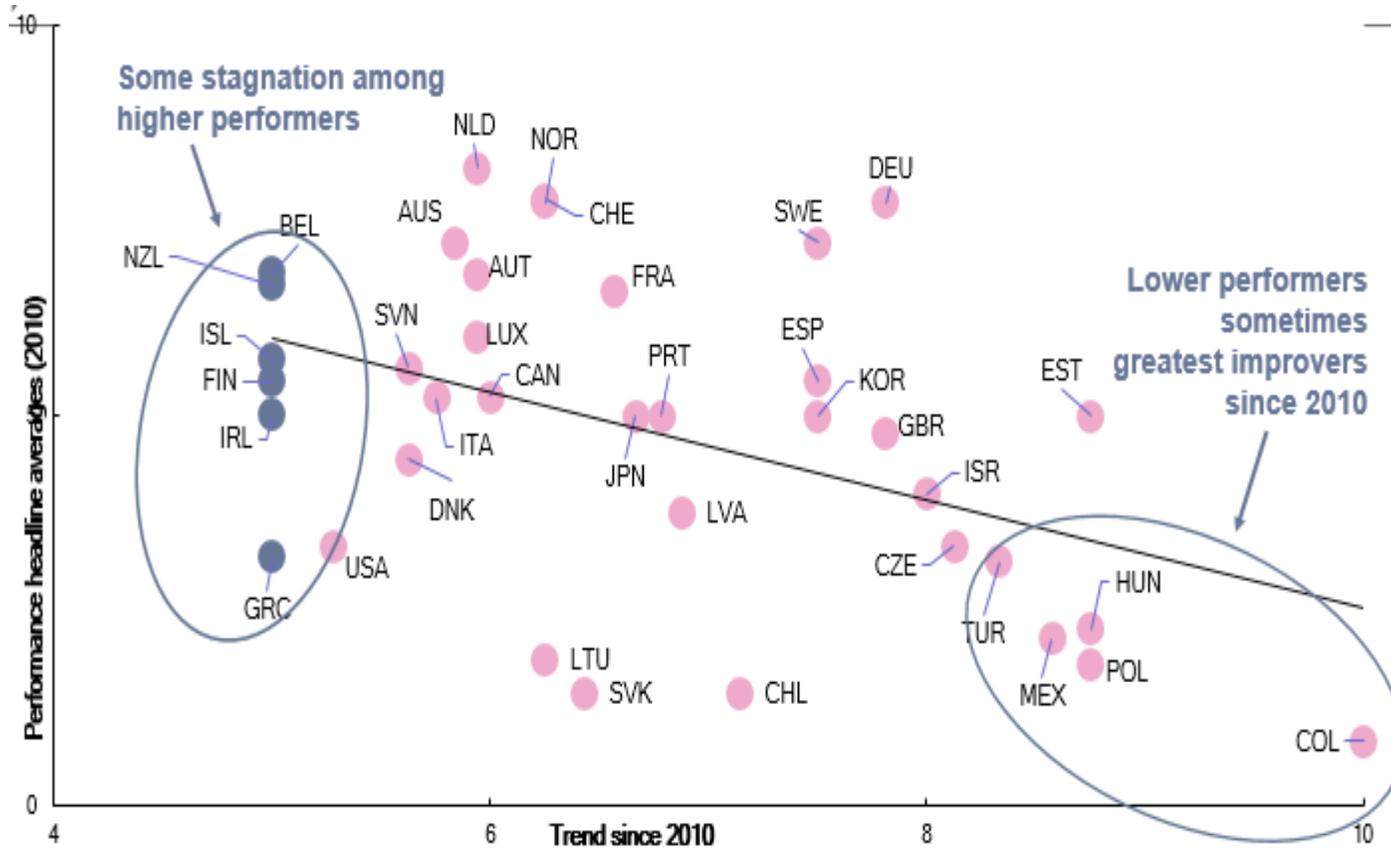
# Key messages from *How's Life? 2020*:

## ➤ ..but well-being dimensions evolved differently across OECD countries





# Key messages from *How's Life? 2020*:

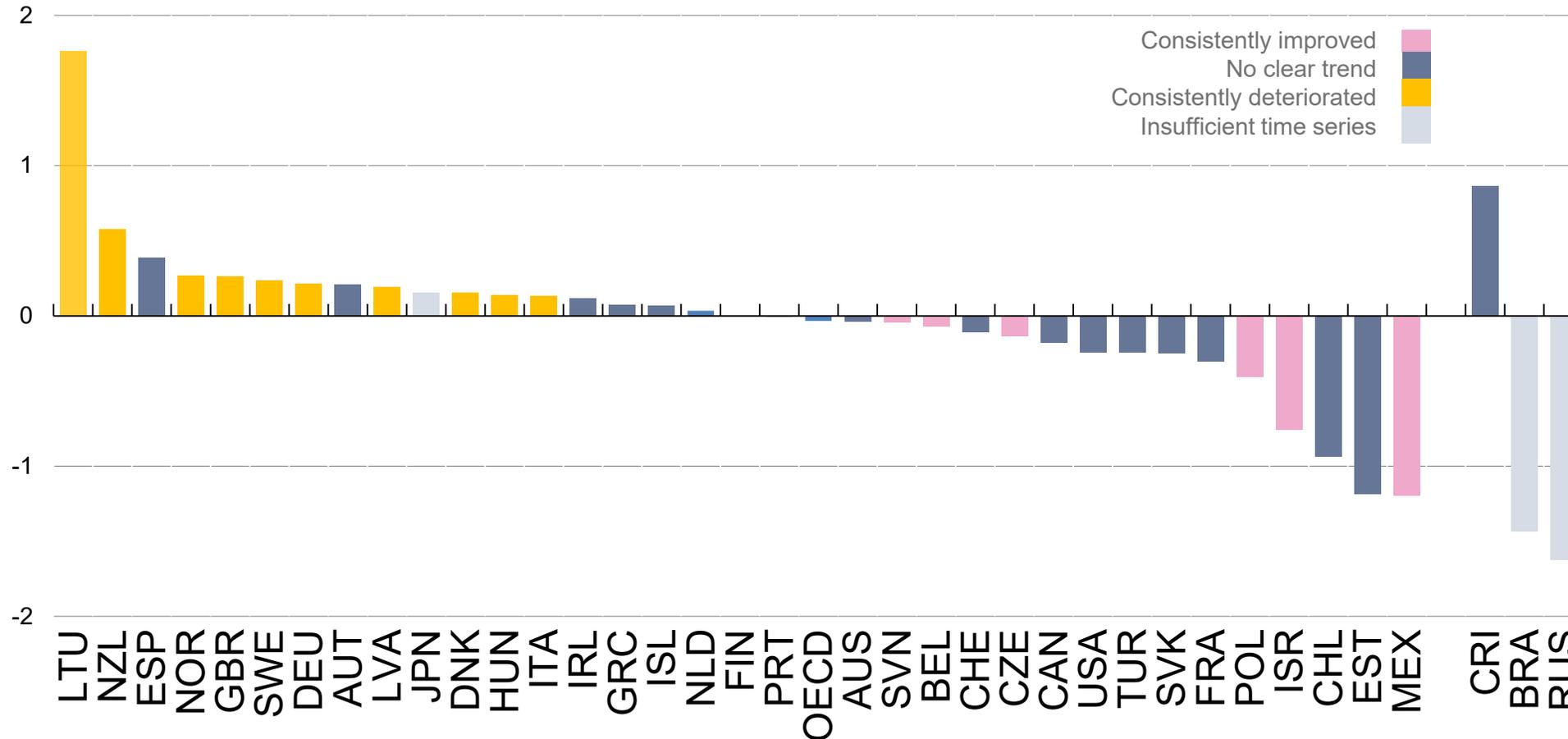


➤ .. with some levelling up since 2010 across countries



# Key messages from *How's Life? 2020*:

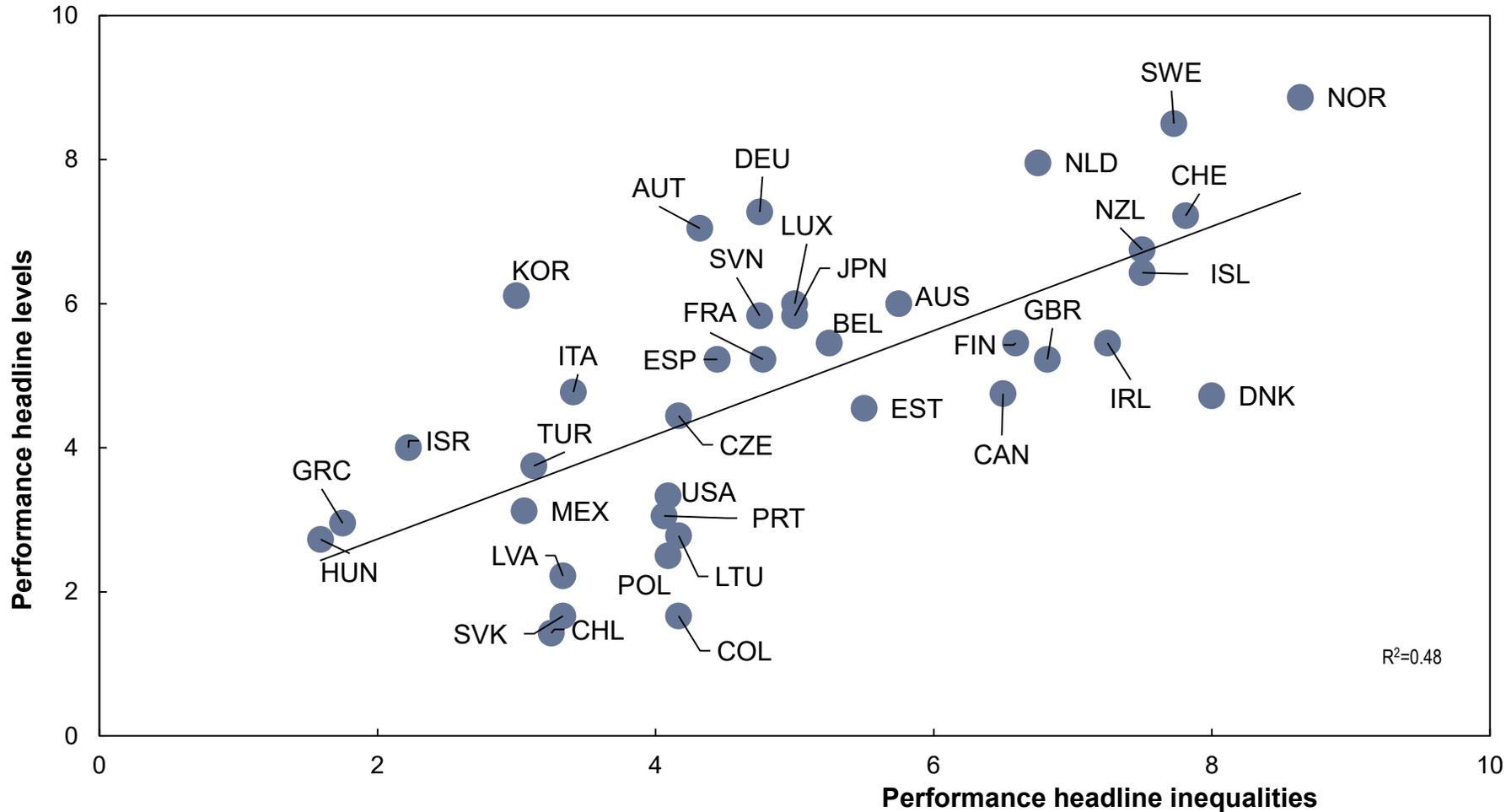
Change in income inequality (S80/S20 ratio) between 2010-17



➤ .. but not always within countries



# Key messages from *How's Life? 2020*:



➤ .. with more equal countries doing better in terms of well-being averages



## Key messages from *How's Life? 2020*:

### ➤ changes in natural/economic/social capital are putting our future at risk



Global **greenhouse gas emissions** reached highest level ever in 2018. OECD countries are consuming more of Earth's materials, per capita, than in 2010. In almost half of OECD countries, more **species are at risk** of extinction. Renewables make up just 10.5% of the OECD energy mix.



**Household debt** in almost two-thirds of OECD countries exceeds annual household disposable income and has deepened in a third of member states since 2010. Large disparities persist across OECD countries on Economic Capital indicators, and have in some cases widened since 2010.



**Trust in government** has improved by 3 percentage points on average since 2010, but less than half of the population in OECD countries trust their institutions (43%). Only 1 in 3 people feel they have a say in what government does. **Women** hold just one-third of all seats in OECD **parliaments**.



# Key messages from *How's Life? 2020*:

## ➤ .. with insecurity, disconnection, despair affecting large shares of the population

### Insecurity

More than 1 in 3 people would fall into poverty if they had to forgo 3 months of their income.

Average household wealth has decreased by 4% since 2010.

### Disconnection

In 7 countries people spend almost 30 minutes less per week interacting with friends and family.

1 in 11 people do not have relatives or friends they can count on for help in times of need.



### Despair

1 in 8 people experience more negative than positive feelings in a typical day.

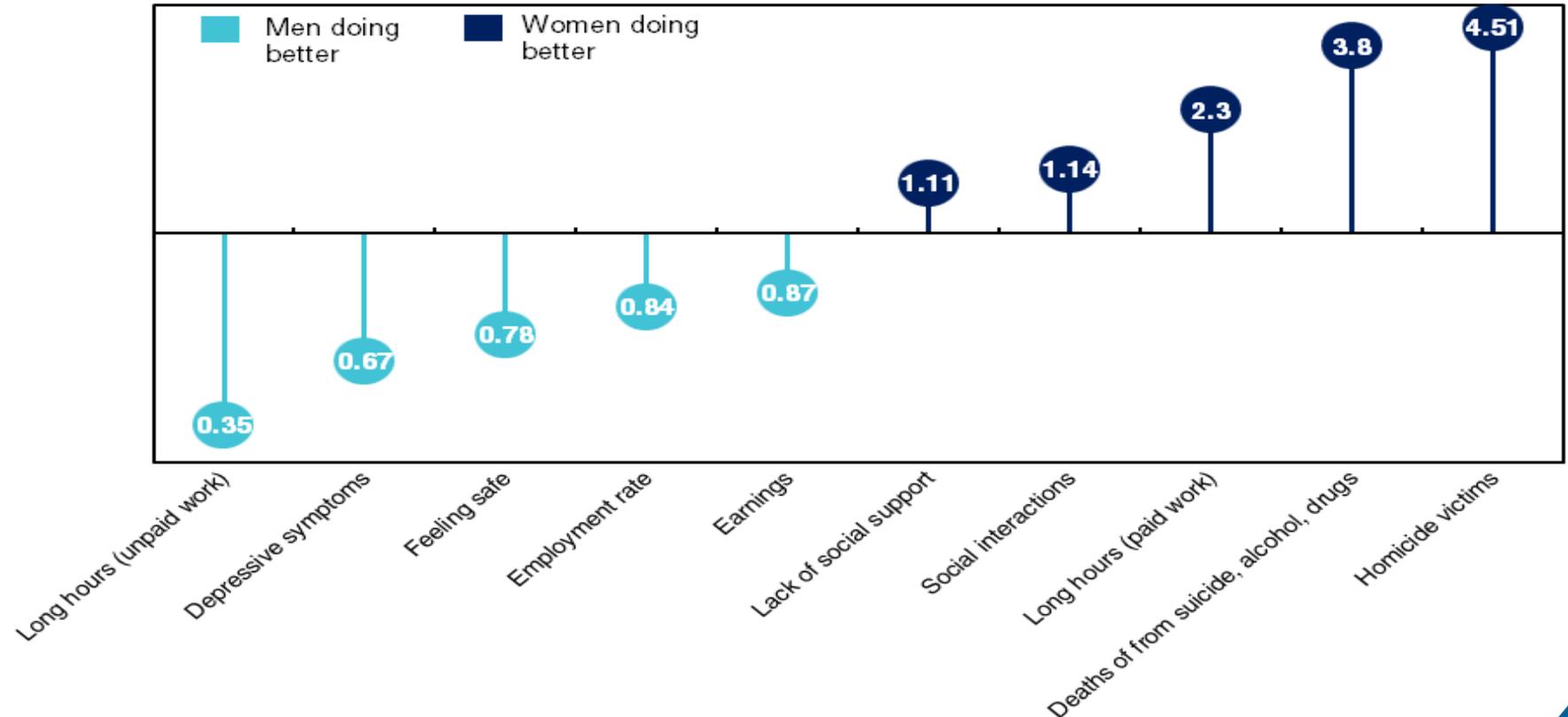
7% of the population in OECD countries report very low life satisfaction.



# Key messages from *How's Life? 2020*:

➤ .. with large gender differences

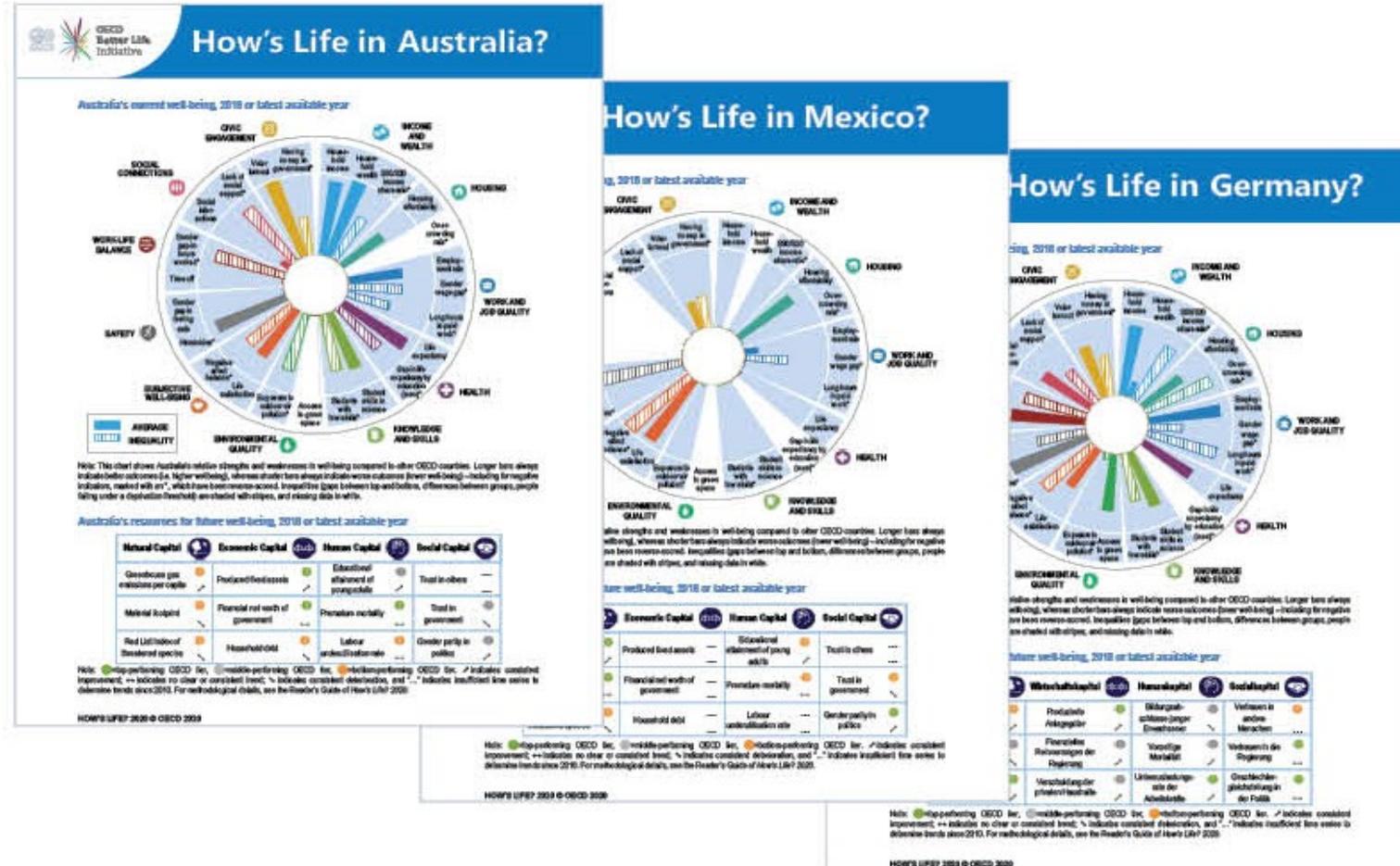
OECD average gender ratios (distance from parity)





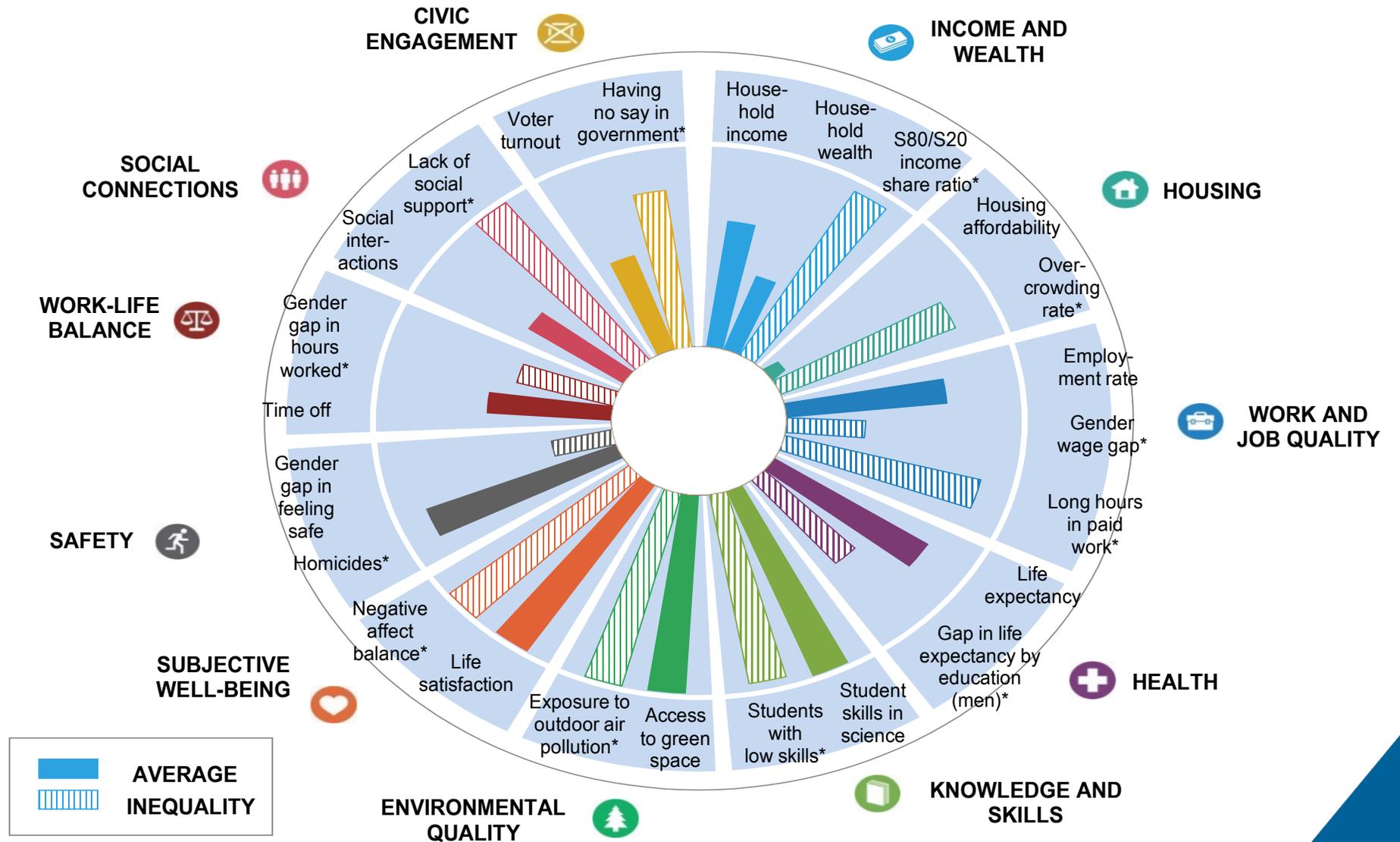
# How's life in your country?

## Country profiles





# Country-wheels: how's life in Finland? (averages and inequalities)

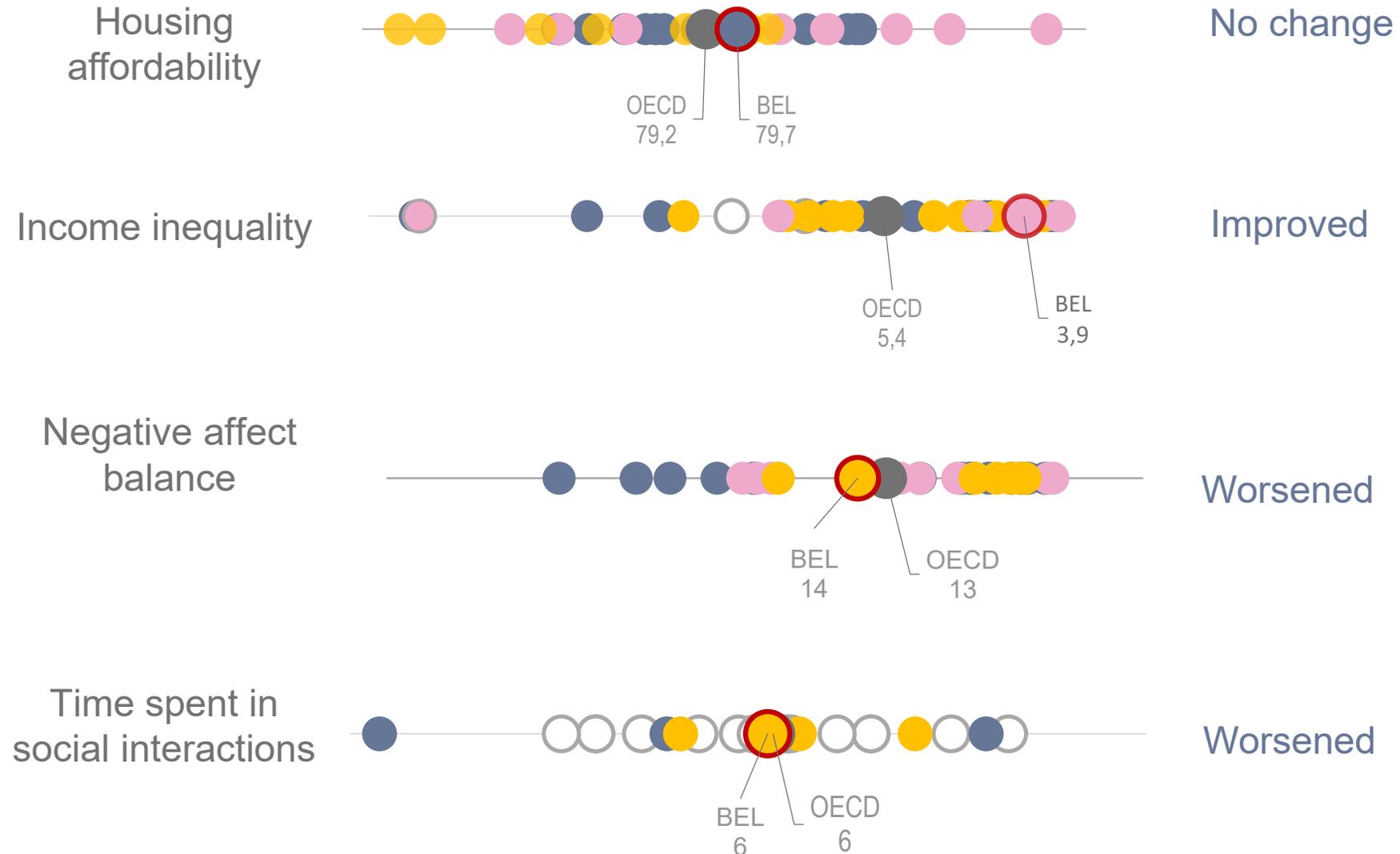


OECD (2020) *How's Life? 2020: Measuring Well-being*, OECD Publishing, Paris,  
<https://doi.org/10.1787/23089679>

[www.oecd.org/howslife](http://www.oecd.org/howslife)



# Has life improved since 2010?: Belgium





# Is well-being on sustainable? The United Kingdom

Natural Capital 	Economic Capital 	Human Capital 	Social Capital 
Greenhouse gas emissions per capita <b>1</b> ↗	Produced fixed assets <b>3</b> ↗	Educational attainment of young adults <b>3</b> ↘	Trust in others <b>2</b> ...
Material footprint <b>2</b> ↔	Financial net worth of government <b>3</b> ↘	Premature mortality <b>2</b> ↔	Trust in government <b>2</b> ↔
Red List Index of threatened species <b>3</b> ↘	Household debt <b>3</b> ↔	Labour underutilisation rate <b>1</b> ↗	Gender parity in politics <b>2</b> ↗

Note: **1**=top-performing OECD tier, **2**=middle-performing OECD tier, **3**=bottom-performing OECD tier. ↗ indicates consistent improvement; ↔ indicates no clear or consistent trend; ↘ indicates consistent deterioration, and “...” indicates insufficient time series to determine trends since 2010.



# Engaging with the public: the *OECD Better Life Index*



Index

Responses

Countries ▾

Topics ▾

FAQ



## Create Your Better Life Index

Rate the topics according to their importance to you:

	Housing	<input type="range"/>
	Income	<input type="range"/>
	Jobs	<input type="range"/>
	Community	<input type="range"/>
	Education	<input type="range"/>
	Environment	<input type="range"/>
	Civic Engagement	<input type="range"/>
	Health	<input type="range"/>
	Life Satisfaction	<input type="range"/>
	Safety	<input type="range"/>
	Work-Life Balance	<input type="range"/>

Reset Help

Let us know what

Gender differences



# OECD Methodological work



All Guidelines have common structure

- Conceptual (what are we talking about)
- Empirical (what can we say based on current evidence)
- Methodological (what is the state of current statistics)
- Recommendations (what is needed)

➤ .. and goal: encourage NSOs to use these measures in their own data collections



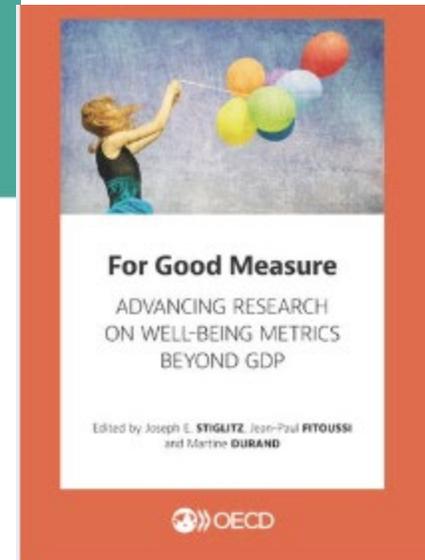
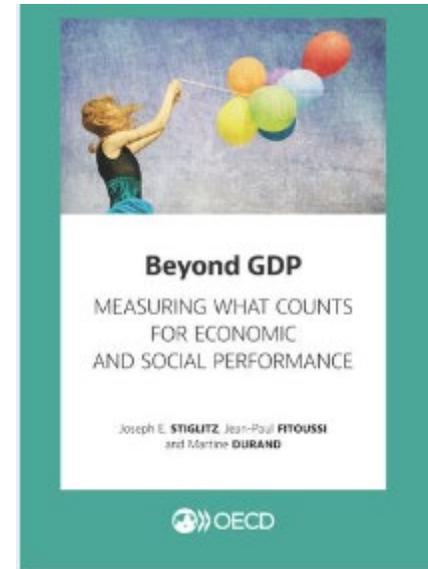
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**Part B.**  
**The HELG report:**  
**the statistical agenda ahead**



# High Level Expert Group on Measuring Economic Performance and Social Progress (2013-2017)

- **Independent group**, hosted by OECD, established to pursue ‘Beyond GDP’ agenda undertaken since 2009 nationally and internationally
- **Two reports** released in November 2017 in Incheon (Korea) at 6<sup>th</sup> OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy:
  - Chair’s Summary (***Beyond GDP: Measuring What Counts for Economic and Social Performance***)
  - Collection of authored chapters by selected HLEG members (***For Good Measure: Advancing Research Beyond GDP***)





# HLEG membership

## Chairs

- Joseph E. Stiglitz, Columbia University
- Jean-Paul Fitoussi, Sciences-Po, Paris and Luiss University, Rome
- Martine Durand, OECD

## Members

- Yann Algan, Sciences-Po, Paris
- François Bourguignon, Paris School of Economics
- Angus Deaton, Princeton University
- Enrico Giovannini, University of Rome Tor Vergata
- Jacob Hacker, Yale University
- Geoffrey Heal, Columbia University
- Ravi Kanbur, Cornell University
- Alan Krueger, Princeton University

- Nora Lustig, Tulane University
- Jil Matheson, Former UK National Statistician
- Thomas Piketty, Paris School of Economics
- Walter Radermacher, Former DG Eurostat
- Chiara Saraceno, Honorary fellow, Collegio Carlo Alberto, Turin
- Arthur Stone, University of Southern California
- Yang Yao, Peking University

## Rapporteurs

- Marco Mira d'Ercole, OECD
- Elizabeth Beasley, CEPREMAP, Sciences-Po



## Two key messages

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- **Measures:** *“What you measure affects what you do. If you measure the wrong thing, you will do the wrong thing. If you don’t measure something it becomes neglected, as if the problem did not exist”*
- **Policies:** *“Issues of measurement are not only technical, but go to the root of our democratic system; they will shape whether it can reconnect to the concerns of ordinary people”*



## Three main themes

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### 1. Better measuring the effects of the crisis



*could have led to different policy response*

### 2. Deepen analysis of themes already in SSF (e.g. vertical inequalities, sustainability, subjective well-being) and begin enquiry into new ones (e.g. vulnerability, resilience, inequality of opportunity, trust)



*recognising and addressing concerns that weigh heavily in people's daily life*

### 3. Encourage use of new well-being metrics in policy decisions



*moving beyond identifying "problems", to anchor well-being metrics in the design, implementation and evaluation of public policies (3<sup>rd</sup> lesson)*



# 1. Better measuring the effects of the crisis

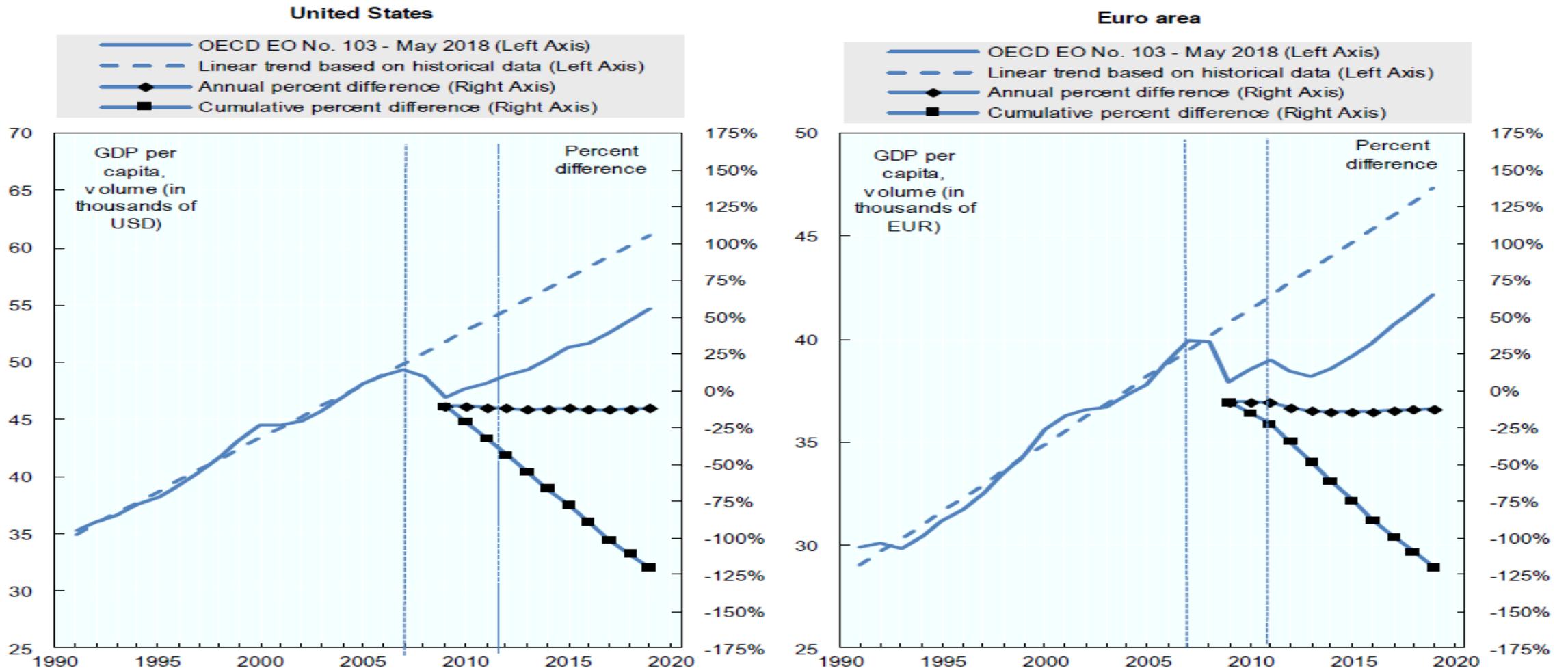
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- Need to pay greater attention to:
- the **permanent effects of the recession** : “missing wealth”
  - **impacts** of the crisis **on more intangible aspects** of people’s life (e.g. economic insecurity, subjective well-being, trust)
  - **balance sheet** (liabilities & assets) **for all sectors** (private liabilities may become public when banks default)



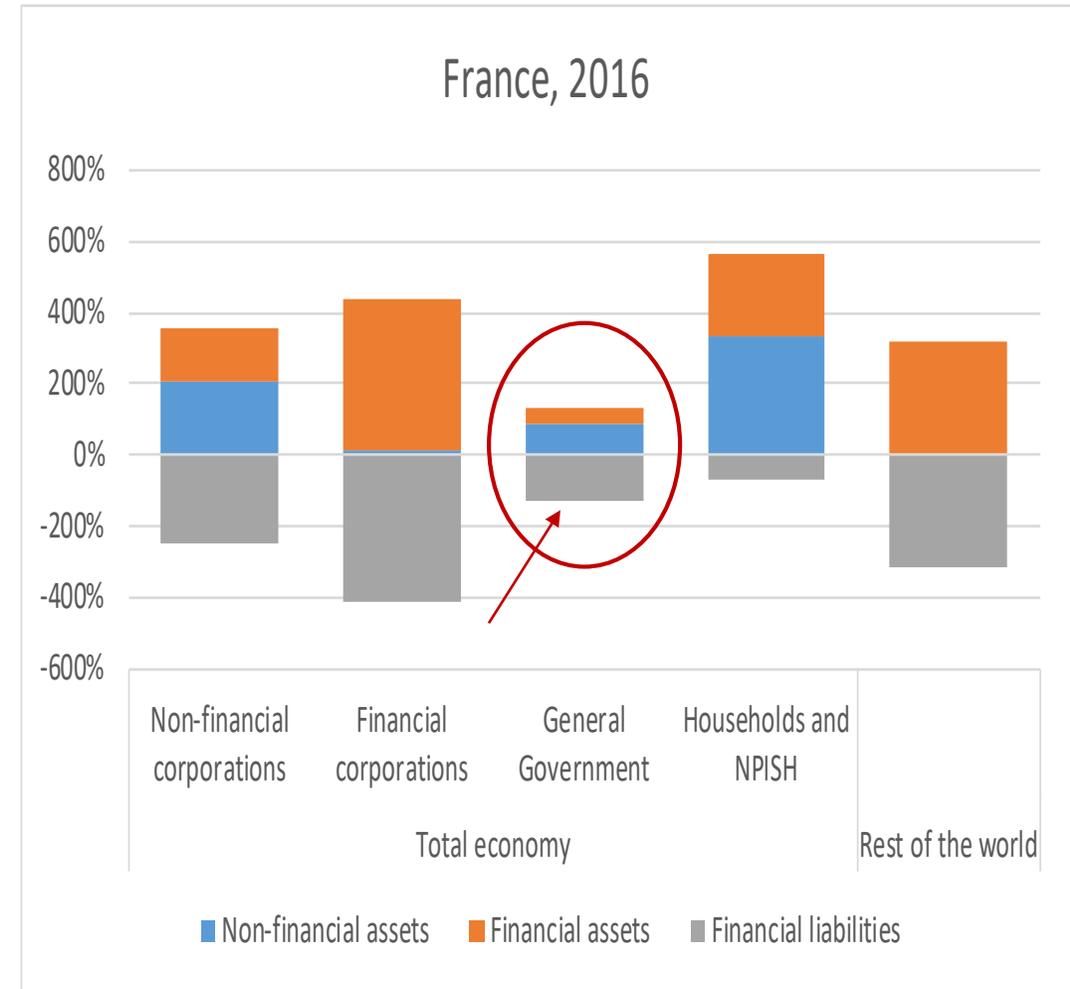
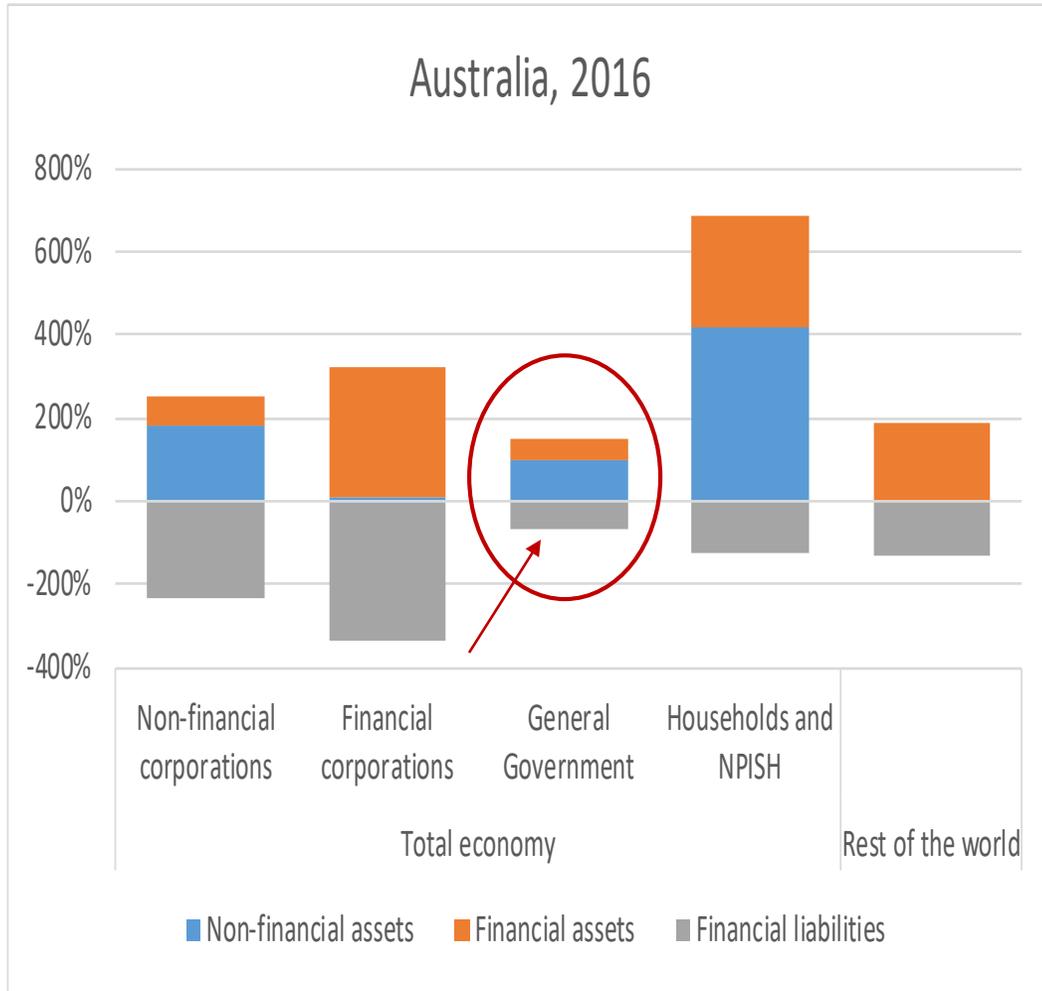
# 1. Permanent effects of the crisis: “Missing wealth”?

The “permanent” output-effects of the crisis exceed 1 year of GDP





# 1. Gross public debt vs. net wealth of all institutional sectors





## 2. Deepen research and statistical efforts

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### A. Improving existing measures

- Vertical inequalities in economic resources
- Horizontal inequalities in quality of life
- Subjective well-being
- Sustainability

### B. Developing metrics in new fields

- Economic insecurity
- Inequality of opportunity
- Trust



## 2A. Improving existing measures: vertical inequalities in economic resources (1)

- **What are they? Inequalities in earnings, income, consumption, wealth**
  - Within countries and at the world level
- **Why are they important?**
  - Increases in GDP pc do not reflect what is being experienced by most citizen, especially when inequality is rising (as in recent years), leading to mistrust in data and governments
  - To know “who benefits from GDP growth?”, measures of economic inequalities need to be integrated in macro-economic statistics
- **Where do we stand?**
  - Statistical standards exist for income inequalities but not for consumption and wealth; issues of timeliness, under-coverage, under-reporting at both ends of distribution
  - Much bigger issues of data quality in non-OECD countries.



## 2A. Improving existing measures: vertical inequalities in economic resources (2)

- **What should be done?**
  - Defining a more comprehensive income concept (incl. benefits in kind, consumption taxes, capital gains), with metrics produced as “experimental statistics”
  - Systematically assessing scope for underreporting and non-coverage of the rich, allowing NSOs to use (anonymised) tax records for linking to survey records
  - Using all data sources on wealth inequality (e.g. surveys, censuses, lists of large wealth-holders, administrative data on people’s estate at death and on annual wealth taxes)
  - Addressing inconsistencies in international datasets used for research
- **General philosophy**
  - Different sources have different types of errors: by crossing different sources we can get a better understanding of reality



## 2A. Improving existing measures: horizontal inequalities (1)

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- **What they are?**

- Inequalities in well-being outcomes (e.g. health, skills, political voice) between people sharing some common characteristics (e.g. age, education, place of living, country of birth)

- **Why do they matter?**

- They shape people's identity, affect people's well-being, are a source of discrimination, political grievances & mass mobilisation

- **Where do we stand?**

- Few comparative measures of the relevant outcomes
- Differences in range of characteristics considered in national and international studies for different outcomes

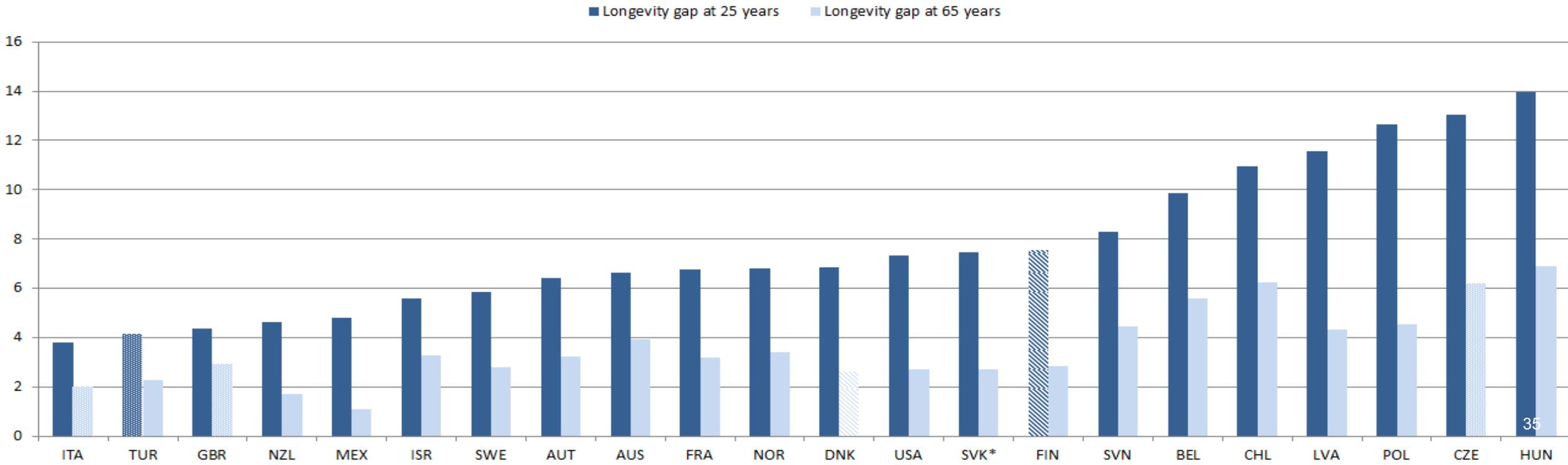


## 2A. Improving existing measures: horizontal inequalities (2)

### • What do we know based on existing evidence?

– Horizontal inequalities can be large

#### Life expectancy at age 25 and 65 by education (lower secondary vs. tertiary education)





## 2A. Improving existing measures horizontal inequalities (3)

- **What should be done?**

- Define common set of group categories (e.g. disability, gender, ethnicity, place of living) implemented throughout the statistical system, and assess broad range of inequalities (e.g. health, education, political voice) beyond economic ones
- Move beyond assumption of full sharing of economic resources within households and develop measures of intra-household inequality by including specific survey questions or greater collection of data for all household members
- In particular, develop measures of the “gender wealth gap” by including questions on ownership of key asset categories and marital regimes (and what these imply)



## 2A. Improving existing measures: subjective well-being (1)

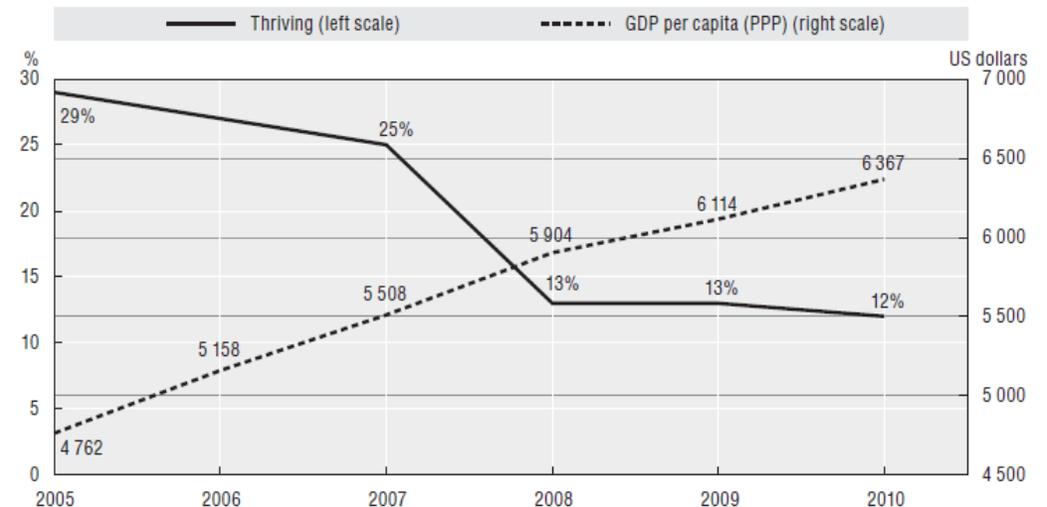
- **What it is?**

– Not a single construct but 3 different concepts: *evaluative measure* (life satisfaction), *experiential well-being* (feelings, states and emotions at a given moment), *eudemonia* (meaning & purpose, flourishing & thriving)

- **Why does it matter?**

Subjective well-being measures convey information that is not provided by more objective data (although the reverse is also true)

Figure 1.2. Trends in subjective well-being and GDP in Egypt: 2005-10  
Recent trends in percentage “thriving” and GDP per capita (PPP)



Source: Gallop World Poll



## 2. Improving existing measures: subjective well-being (2)

- **Where do we stand?**
  - Significant uptake by OECD NSOs, following 2013 release of *OECD Guidelines on Measuring SWB*
- **What do we know based on existing evidence?**
  - **New knowledge** on both **substantive issues** (e.g. relation between SWB and income/GDP, age-patterns, correlates & determinants) and **methodological ones** (memory & recall biases, information on how people behave based on how they value trade-offs between competing goals)
- **What should be done?**
  - Continue regular data collection based on standardised questions
  - Collect quality-data on joint distribution of SWB and other variables (income)
  - Look beyond life satisfaction (e.g. to experiential well-being) and examine their relationship
  - Resolve methodological issues (systemic inter-personal  $\neq$  in response styles)
  - Develop models of how  $\neq$  SWB measures help predict (and are affected by) other variables
  - Add SWB questions in randomised experiments of programs (*US Moving to Opportunity*)



## 2A. Improving existing measures: sustainability (1)

- **What it is?**

- Ensuring that individual and societal well-being can last over time

- **What does it require?**

- Preserving resources needed by future generations and assessing relationship and risk-factors as part of broader “systems” (looking beyond separate measures of stocks/flows of ≠ types of capital)

- **Where do we stand?**

- **Economic capital:** increased NSOs investment in developing balance sheets for all sectors, with broader range of assets & liabilities, cross-border & cross-sectoral links, currency & maturity mismatches
- **Natural capital:** *SEEA Central Framework* as statistical standard (2014), with ≠ across countries in priorities for implementation (assets account for land & sub-soil assets in many non-EU OECD countries, flow-accounts in EU). *SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounts* (2014)
- **Human capital:** progress in measuring educational attainment and (some) cognitive skills (OECD PISA/PIAAC), monetised HC satellite accounts (limited to formal education) in some countries
- **System accounts:** experimental, specific applications (e.g. different drivers affecting water quality/quantity)



## 2A. Improving existing measures: sustainability (2)

### • What do we know based on existing evidence?

- Improved understanding of relation between environmental assets and well-being outcomes, quantification of “**tipping points**” for many critical resources, assessment of how far we stand from them

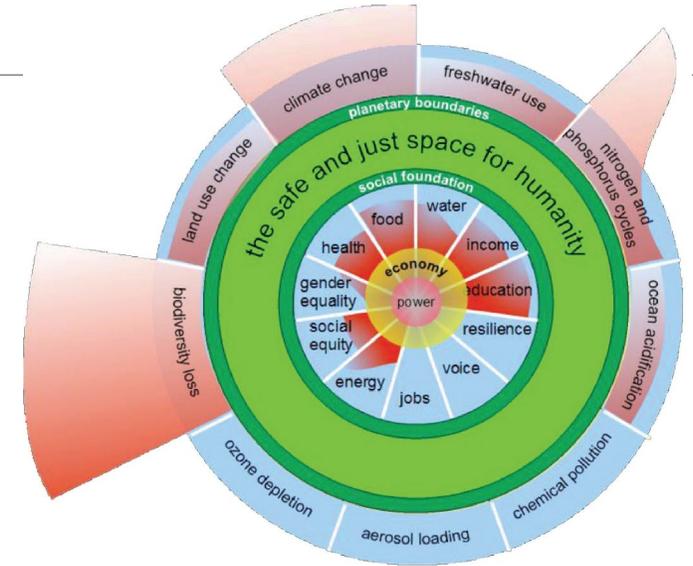
### • What should be done?

#### – **Capital approach**

- **Economic capital**: full & timely balance sheets for all institutional sectors; assets & liabilities; distinguish between changes in values & volumes, assets that add to production & those that don't (land); reconsider distinctions between C & I)
- **Natural capital**: fully implement SEEA; improve their timeliness (nowcasting) and communication (e.g. on “carbon space” left before reaching tipping point); improve measures of land & ecosystems; recognise non-linearities (e.g. climate) and limits of market prices
- **Human capital**: improve individual-level measures of (cognitive & non-cognitive) skills; develop HC satellite accounts (covering education & training); cost-based approach for monetisation, further research on income-based valuation

#### – **System approach**

- Need for standardised vocabulary
- Dialogue & horizontal co-operation across disciplines on how to conceptualise & measure “system resilience”
- Create an International Task Force to improve measurement of systems resilience, links & interactions, dynamic properties





## 2B. Developing metrics in new fields : Economic insecurity (1)

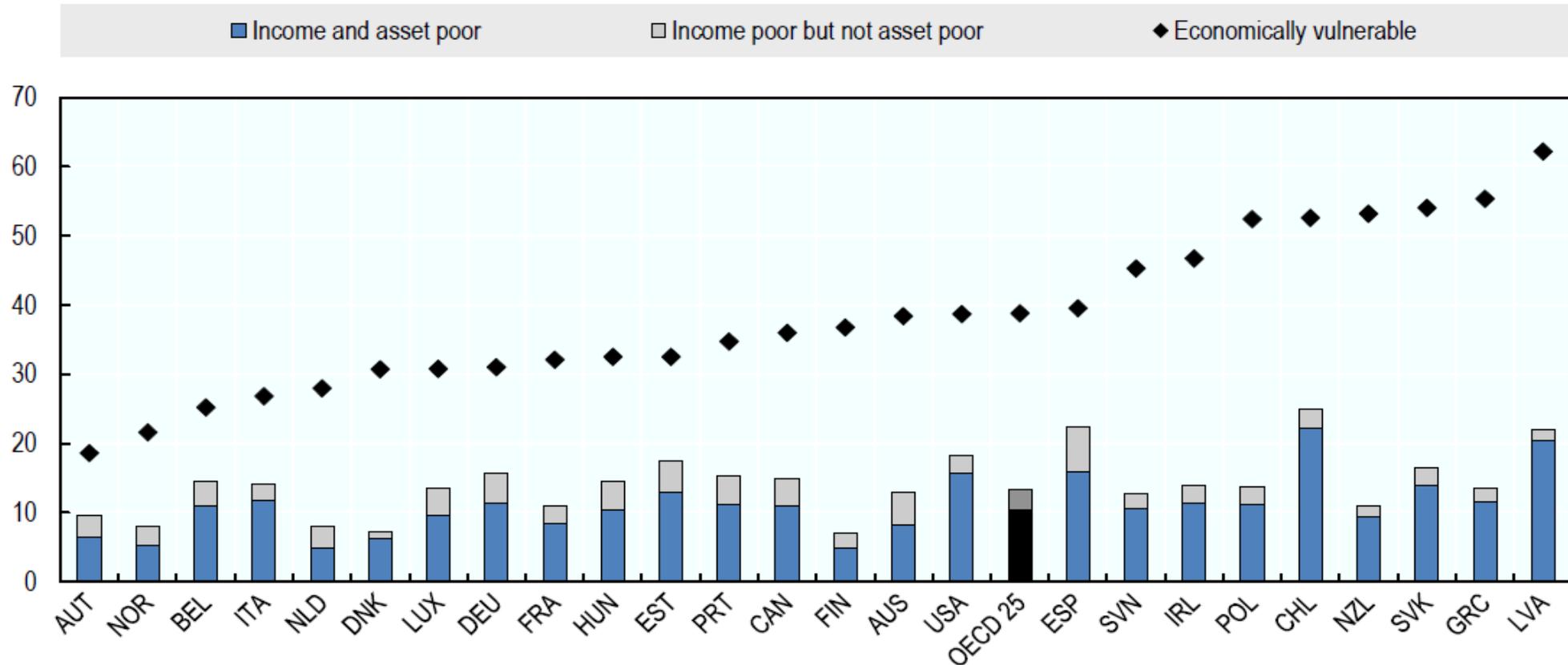
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- **What it is?**
  - “*Vulnerability to economic losses*” (with “economic” used as descriptor of the consequences, e.g. income losses, than cause (e.g. sickness, unemployment))
- **Why it matters?**
  - Many reforms have shifted risks from firms/governments towards households
- **Where do we stand in terms of measures?**
  - No measure (either objective or subjective) widely used and accepted
  - Some measures exist that are consistent with available theory and evidence, could be easily produced with existing data, and should be used in policy



## 2B. Developing metrics in new fields : Economic insecurity (3)

Share of population income-poor and economically vulnerable (not income-poor but with liquid assets insufficient to cover 3 months of poverty level consumption)





## 2B. Developing metrics in new fields : Economic insecurity (4)

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- **What should be done?**

- Encouraging multi-disciplinary research on concepts (salient risks, available buffers) and measures (identify causality and confounders)
- Improving the evidence base (comparable panel data, linking panel and administrative data on benefit use, incorporate small set of ‘security monitors’ in opinion surveys, assess relation between objective and subjective measures)
- Identifying small number of core metrics (e.g. income risks, available buffers, perceived insecurity, “named risks”, e.g. unemployment, disability), not aggregated into a single index



## 2B. Developing metrics in new fields : Inequality of opportunity (1)

- **What is it?**
  - Circumstances involuntarily inherited or faced by people (i.e. ex ante inequality) that are shaping achievements later in life
- **Why it matters?**
  - They are one of the key drivers of outcome inequality
  - They are typically associated with discrimination and with factors standing in the way of full use of talents, hence also implying lower economic efficiency
- **Why it is difficult?**
  - Many “circumstances” cannot be observed
  - Other factors beyond “efforts” (e.g. preferences, luck) shape the relation between unequal circumstances and outcomes
  - We observe some opportunities (e.g. gender) but not others (parental upbringing), we don’t observe “efforts”
  - The best we can do is observing mobility matrices (inequality of opportunities differs across different cells, i.e. starting positions matter)



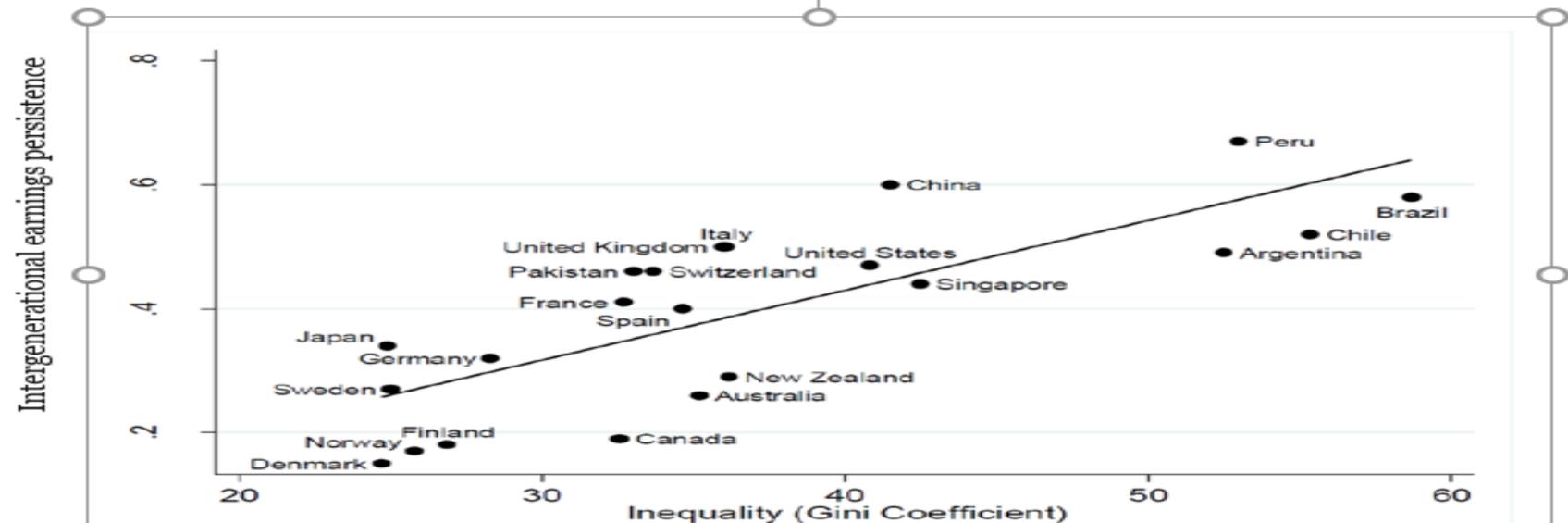
## 2B. Developing metrics in new fields

### Inequality of opportunity (2)

- **Where do we stand?**

- A range of partial measures limited to selected outcomes (e.g. earnings) & circumstances (e.g. parental background), typically available for a single point in time
- Average correlations (as in figure below) don't adequately describe income dynamics
- Existing measure still belong to research rather than statistical practice

#### Intergenerational earnings mobility



Source: HELG 2019 (from M. Corak)



## 2. Developing metrics in new fields

### Inequality of opportunity (3)

- **What should be done?**

- **Data requirements ...**

- Long-term panels allowing to observe circumstances in childhood & adolescence
- Linkage of administrative data (e.g. parents & children), as in Nordic countries
- Recall questions on past family circumstances in cross-sectional surveys, with information available at regular intervals based on the same format (analysis for  $\neq$  birth cohorts)
- Standard questions on bequests in wealth surveys
- PISA-type instruments to measure cognitive & non-cognitive skills for pre-school children

- **... with priority on following statistics**

- Inequality in PISA test scores and share of the variance explained by family background
- Inequality of economic outcomes (e.g. income) due to parental background, share in total inequality
- Gender inequality in earnings, adjusted and unadjusted for differences in background characteristics (education, age, occupation, job experience..)



# 12 recommendations

## Grouped under broader headings:

- **Improving measures of all types of inequalities** (economic, health, skills, opportunity, spatial, gender, within-families, world inequalities) and integrate them within macro-economic statistics (to answer question “who benefits from GDP growth?”)
- **Assess sustainability through full set of balance sheets** (for all sectors of the economy, for all types of assets, including natural and human capital)
- **Develop new measures of people’s economic insecurity** (both objective and subjective) and assess all policies for their effects on this insecurity
- **Develop measures of people’s own evaluations and feelings** (subjective well-being, trust in public institutions and in others) combining surveys and experimental tools
- **Use administrative and big data for statistical purposes**, e.g. to have more timely and granular information
- **Use new well-being metrics to inform all stages of public policies** (when allocating budgetary resources, assessing ex ante various proposals, monitor implementation and effect, auditing programmes ex post)

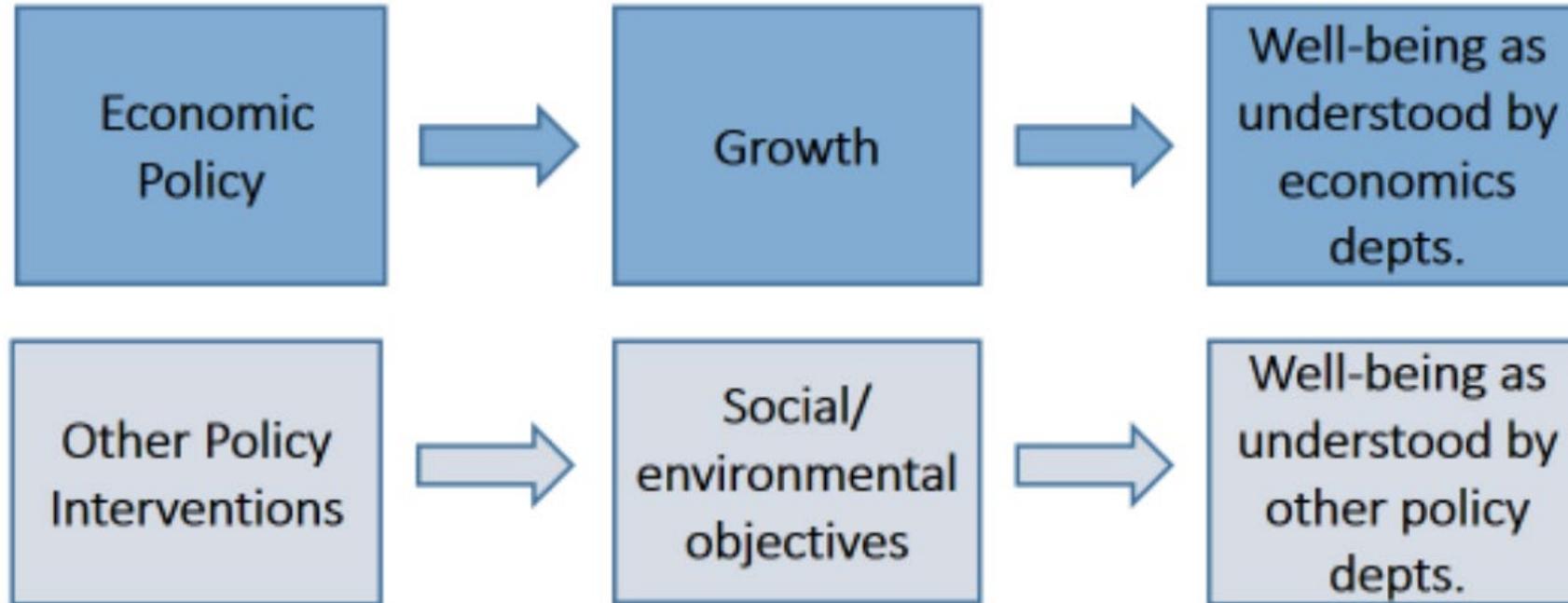


# **Part C.**

# **From measuring to policy use**



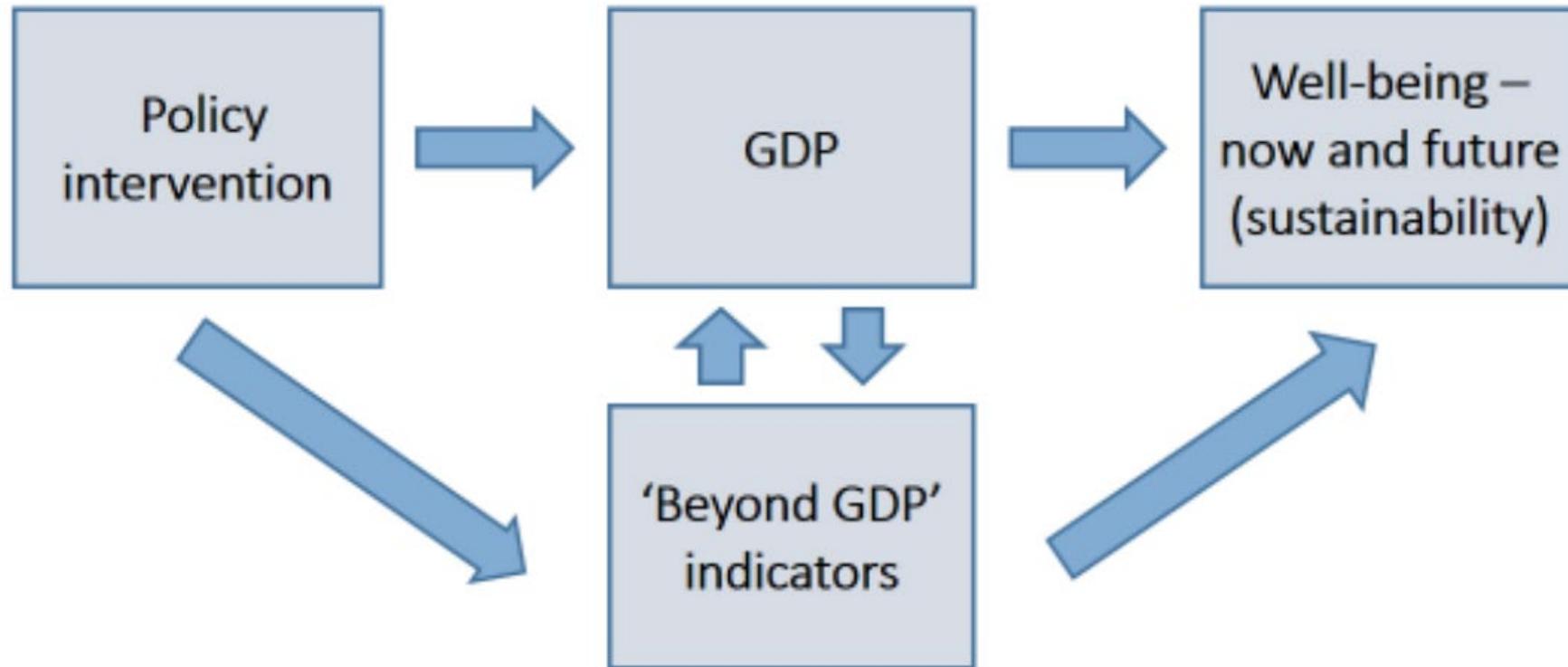
## Challenge: moving from parallel assessments



**Source:** Whitby, A., Seaford, C. and C. Berry (2014), *The BRAINPOoL Project Final Report: Beyond GDP - From Measurement to Politics and Policy*, BRAINPOoL deliverable 5.2, A collaborative programme funded by the European Union's Seventh Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement No. 283024, WFC (World Future Council), 31 March 2014.



## .. to an integrated assessments of policies



**Source:** Whitby, A., Seaford, C. and C. Berry (2014), *The BRAINPOoL Project Final Report: Beyond GDP - From Measurement to Politics and Policy*, BRAINPOoL deliverable 5.2, A collaborative programme funded by the European Union's Seventh Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement No. 283024, WFC (World Future Council), 31 March 2014.



## .. an to a different mode of service delivery (to some extent is already happening)

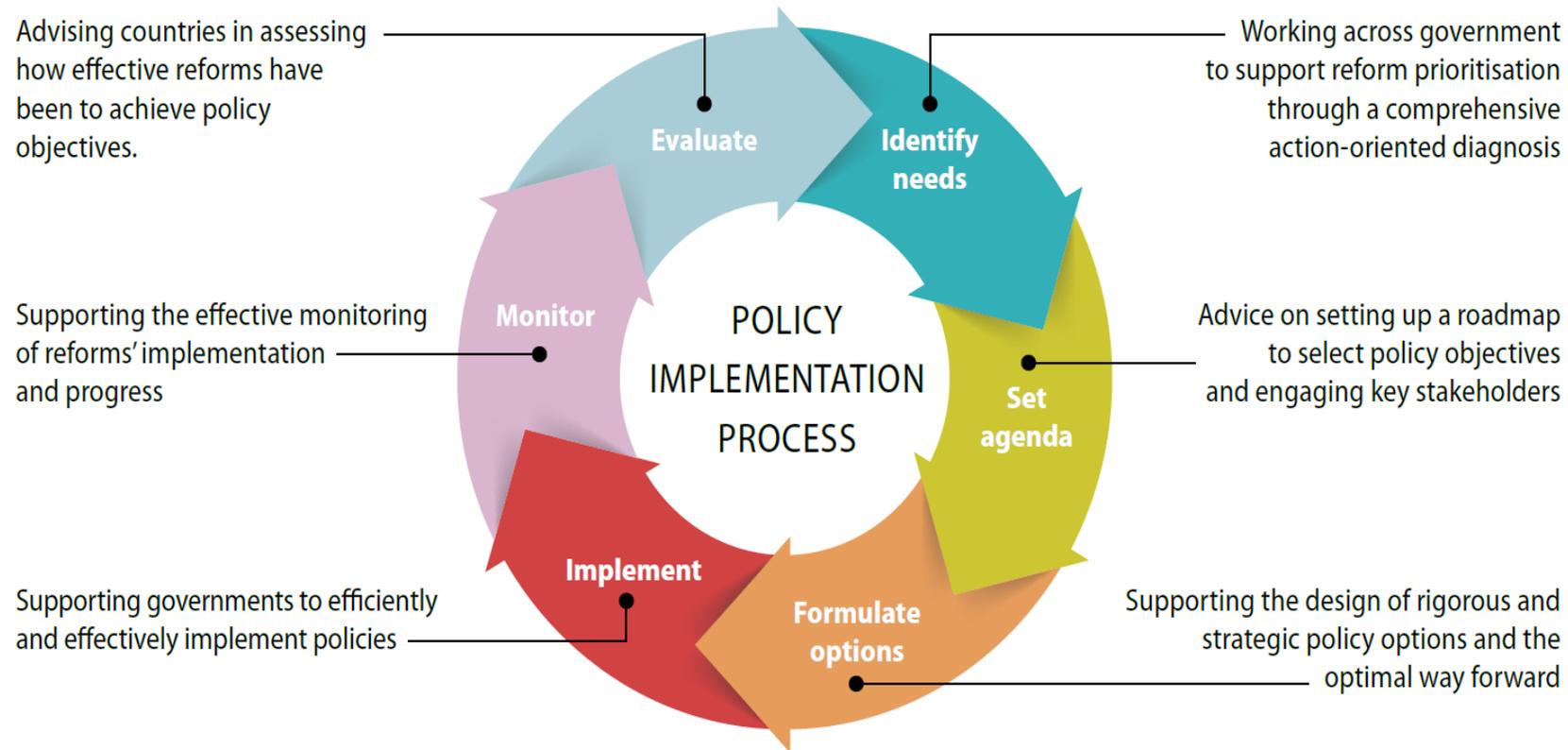
### Shift in metrics and in modes of public delivery

	Welfare State	New Public Management	Emerging well-being approach
<b>Aim</b>	Material conditions	Material conditions	Multi-dimensional well-being
<b>Measure</b>	Inputs	Outputs	High-level outcomes
<b>Structure</b>	Silo based	Silo based	Whole-of-government
<b>Management</b>	Command & control	Managerial	Vertical integration
<b>Service approach</b>	Administrative	Managerial	Participative
<b>Interventions</b>	Universal/ Targeted	Targeted	Universal/Targeted & focus on Prevention



# This requires understanding the nature of the policy process

## Well-being metrics can inform all stages of the policy cycle...



...four key mechanisms being used by countries

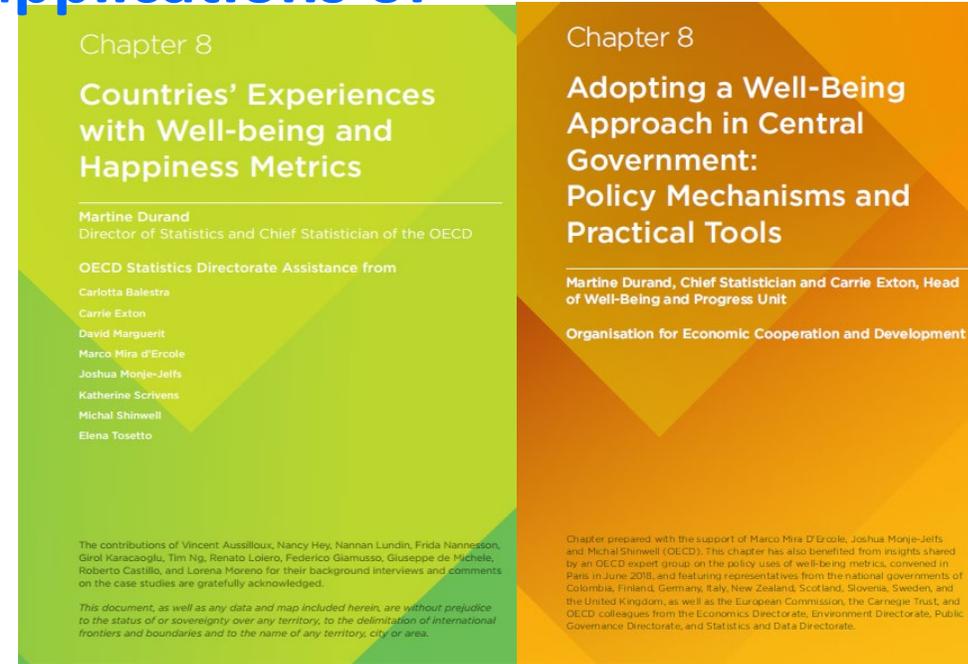


# How can 'Beyond GDP' measures inform policies?

## Recent OECD work on policy applications of well-being metrics

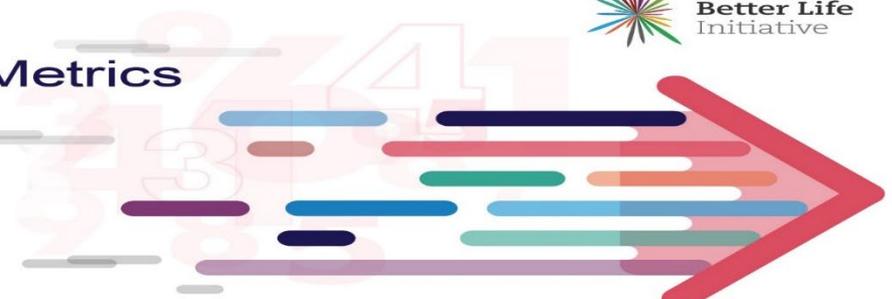
Selected examples from:

- **15 countries** with extensive well-being measurement frameworks
- **10 countries** with specific mechanisms for embedding well-being metrics in **central government** policy
- **7 detailed case studies**



### Putting Well-being Metrics into Policy Action

International Workshop  
3-4 October 2019  
OECD Conference Centre, Paris





# Convincing: why should governments care about people's well-being?

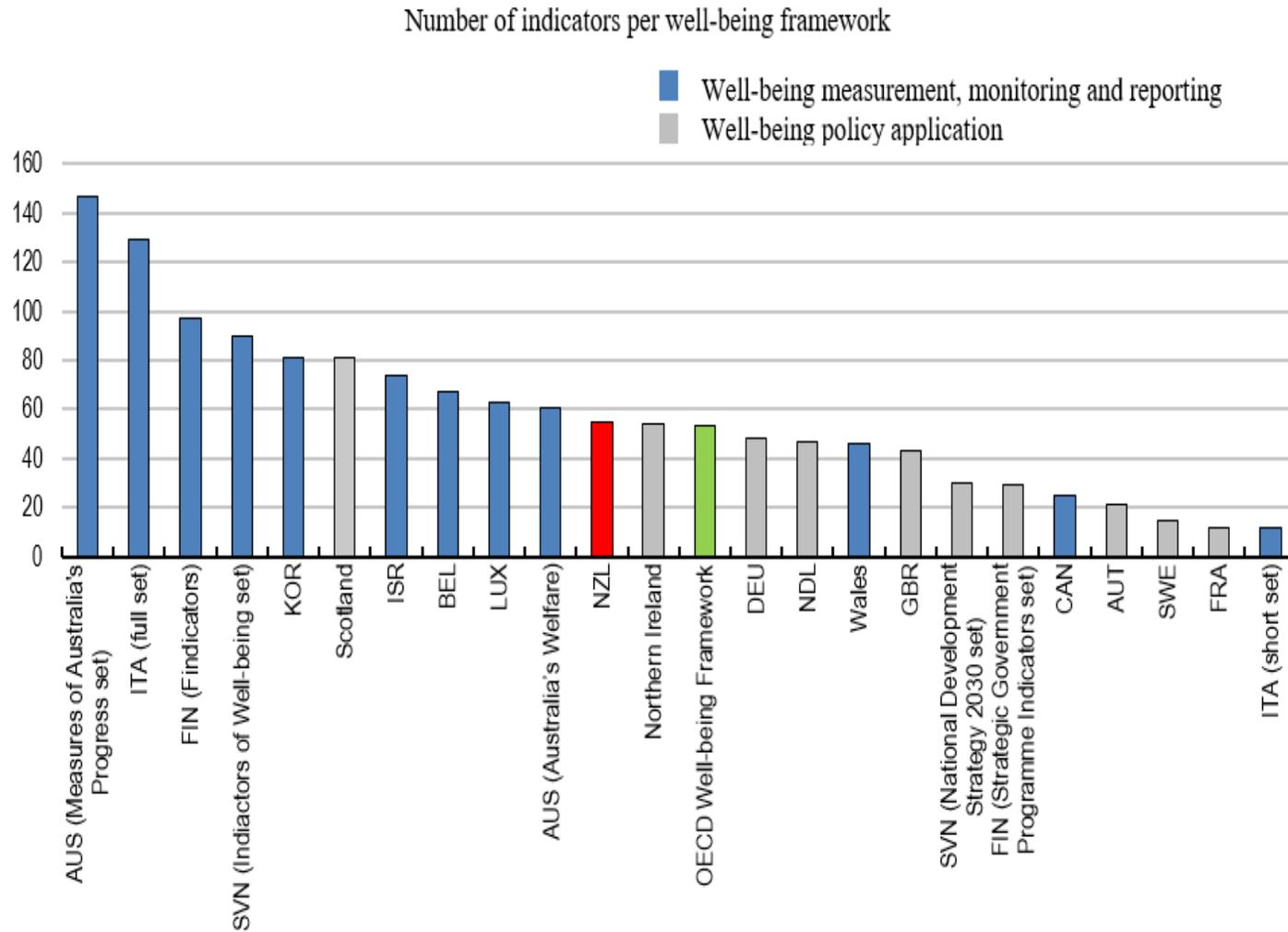
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- ✓ Providing a more **complete picture** of progress
- ✓ Fostering **public debate** and engagement
- ✓ Supporting the **strategic alignment** of outcomes across government, **priority-setting and accountability**
- ✓ Promoting **appraisal & evaluation** of impact of policy on people's lives
- ✓ Offering a **new lens** for thinking and understanding issues



# Many countries have engaged in developing dashboards of well-being indicators

.. Similar in structure but with other differences



- A limited number of **headline indicators** provide high-level view for priorities

- Larger **diagnostic dashboards** allow a more detailed picture



# Large scale public consultations have been a feature of many national approaches



**Australia:** Measures of Australia's Progress



**Italy:** Indicators of Equitable and Sustainable Well-being



**United Kingdom:** Measuring National Well-Being



**Israel:** indicators to monitor Well-being, Sustainability and Resilience



**France:** New Wealth Indicators



**Germany:** National dialogue Well-being in Germany  
– What Matters to Us



# Range of (recent) experiences, based on four key mechanisms (1)

## ➤ 1. Budgeting



France: **New budget law** (2015) requires government to report on *New Wealth Indicators* and assess main reforms - 10 indicators selected; reports published 2015, 2016 and 2018



Italy: **Budget reform law** (2016) - 12 indicators selected for progress reporting and forecasting budget impacts



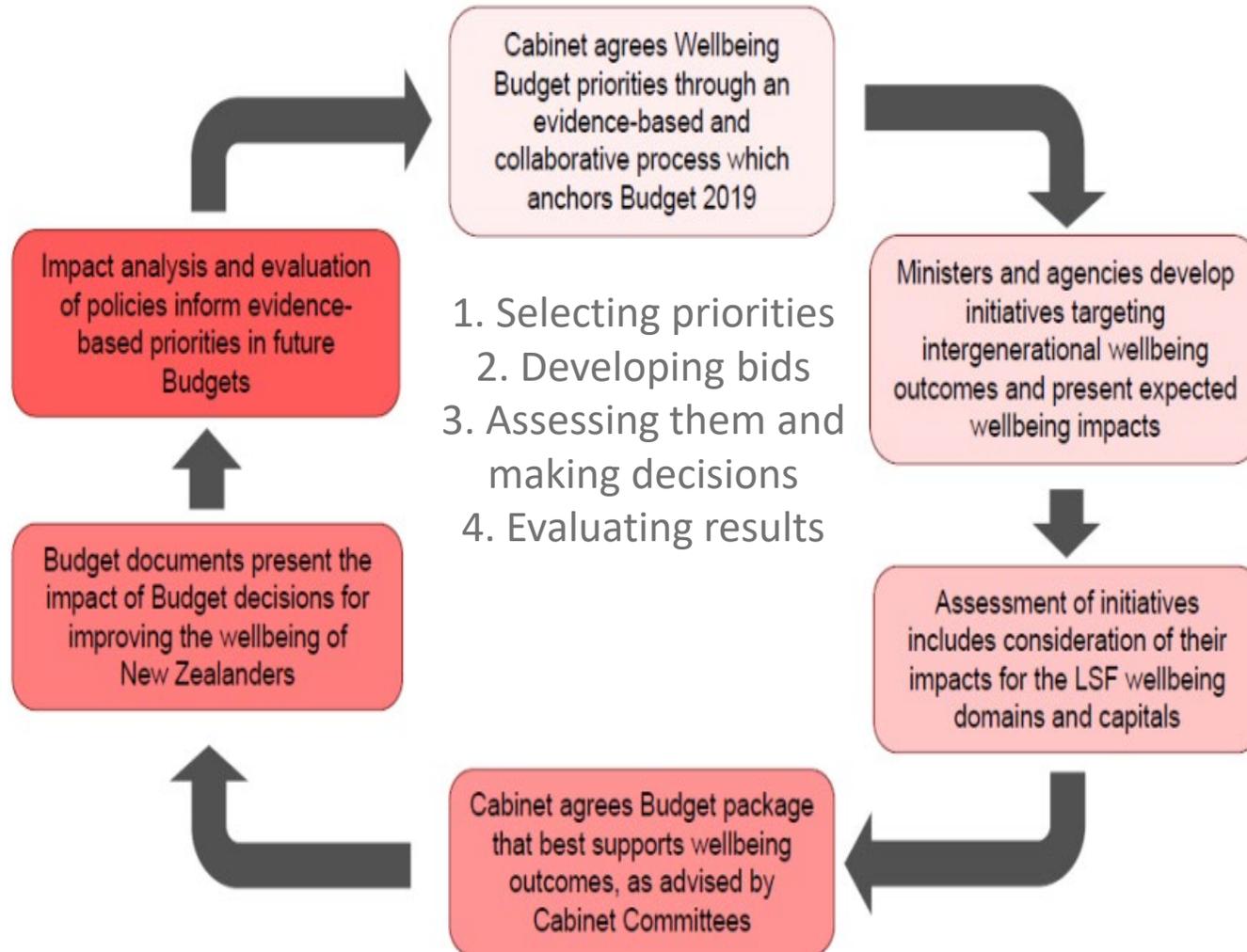
Sweden: **New Measures for Well-Being** presented annually alongside the Spring Budget Bill (2017) – 15 indicators selected for monitoring and to support assessment of govt reforms



New Zealand: **Well-Being Budget** (2019).



# Well-being Budgets – the case of New Zealand



OECD analysis of NZ approach in 2019 OECD Economic Survey (Ch1: *Well-being performance, measurement and policy innovations*)





# New Zealand Wellbeing Budget 2019: Guidance to Agencies

## 3.1 Wellbeing domains – People’s experience of wellbeing over time

**Identify and quantify how the initiative impacts on wellbeing domains**

Please fill in Table 3.1 below. Impacts need to be grouped under the relevant domains, as provided in the key below. Use the relevant domains, ordering them from top to bottom according to which domain your initiative achieves the greatest impact in. This analysis must also capture any negative impacts.

The wellbeing domains are outlined here for you to use in your table:

Civic engagement and governance 	Jobs and earnings 
Cultural identity 	Knowledge and skills 
Environment 	Safety 
Health 	Social connections 
Housing 	Subjective wellbeing 
Income and consumption 	Time-use 
	Other



# Range of (recent) experiences, based on four key mechanisms (2)

## ➤ 2. Performance frameworks



- Scotland: **National Performance Framework (2018)**



- Slovenia: **The Slovenian Development Strategy 2030**



- Ecuador: **National Plan for Buen Vivir 2017-2021**



- Finland: **Strategic Government Programme Indicators**



- United Nations: **Sustainable Development Goals**



### Common goals

- Identifying outcomes, objectives, targets, indicators
- Joining up across government to deliver shared aims
- A management tool and feedback mechanism



# Scotland's National Performance Framework (2018 edition)

Purpose  
Values  
Strategic goal  
(11)





## Range of (recent) experiences, based on four key mechanisms (3)

### ➤ 3. New institutional structures



- United Kingdom: **What Works Centre for Well-Being**; drawing together the evidence base for government, businesses and communities on what works to raise well-being.



- Wales: **Future Generations Commissioner** – independent, to ensure govt meets its duties under *Future Generations Act 2015*



- Ecuador: **State Secretariat for Good Living** (now disbanded)



- United Arab Emirates: **Minister for Happiness and Well-being** (PM's Office & Ministry of Cabinet Affairs and the Future)



## Range of (recent) experiences, based on four key mechanisms (4)

### ➤ 4. Civil service capacity building



- United Kingdom: **What Works Centre for Well-Being**;
- **Treasury's Green Book**: Appraisal and evaluation in central government; well-being Cost Benefit Analysis



- UAE: **Happiness Policy Manual**: a step-by-step guide, includes approaches based on both multi-criteria analysis and CBA



- New Zealand: Treasury's **Living Standards Framework** (practical tool for analysts, promoting a broader assessment of policy options); **Budget guidance** to all departments on implementing 2019 Wellbeing Budget



## General features of these policy initiatives

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- Most initiatives are new – difficult to assess their **outcomes** at the moment (can mostly only assess the **process**)
- Dashboards of indicators are **easily ignored** (even short ones)
- **Timing** matters (aligning the presentation of evidence with the critical decision windows)
- **Politics** matter (as do champions) >> legislation often features
- **Relation of current well-being outcomes and resources/risks for future** well-being not well articulated (many blend the two)



## What's next?

- **In individual countries**
  - **Evaluate existing practice** (often still very new)
  - **Adapt existing tools**
    - Regulatory impact assessment
    - Cost-benefit analysis
    - Multi criteria analysis
  - **Apply to some concrete policy problems** in which a holistic well-being approach can have greatest payoffs (e.g. the future of work, climate change, globalisation)
- **Internationally**
  - **Mutual learning, best practice**

➤ ***New OECD WISE Centre, Sept. 2020***



*Thank you*  
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