Measuring inclusiveness at the OECD

Early ‘70-end of ‘90
- Lists of social indicators
- Measuring common “social concerns” among OECD countries

2000 onwards
- Society at a Glance
- Biennial dashboard of social indicators (output and outcomes)

2011 onwards
- Better Life Initiative: How’s Life and Better Life Index
- Collection of well-being indicators (outcomes)

2013 onwards
- Inclusive Growth
- Developing a new paradigm to measure and foster prosperity for all
Society at a Glance: Objectives and method

Goals:
1. Addressing the growing demand for quantitative evidence on social well-being and its trends across OECD countries
2. Tackling two questions:
   - What progress have OECD countries achieved in terms of their social development?
   - How effective have been policies in furthering social development?

Method:
Using national / international administrative and survey data
Dashboard (traffic lights)
Society at a Glance: Framework

- **5 domains: (context + 4 broad policy areas)**
  - **General Context** (Demography, Migration, family,..)
  - **Self-sufficiency** (Employment, Pensions, student performance,..)
  - **Equity**
  - **Health** (Life expectancy, Health spending,..)
  - **Social cohesion**
- 5 indicators per domain, 25 indicators in total
Equity and Social cohesion measured in SAG

- **Equity:** ability to access social services and economic opportunities, as well as equity in outcomes. Equity is measured through:
  
  EQ1. Income inequality  
  EQ2. Poverty  
  EQ3. Income difficulties  
  EQ4. Leaving low income from benefits  
  EQ5. Social spending

- **Social cohesion:** No commonly-accepted definition of social cohesion, Society at a Glance 2011 focused on social cohesion as social capital.
  
  CO1. Trust  
  CO2. Confidence in social institutions  
  CO3. Pro- and anti-social behaviour  
  CO4. Voting  
  CO5. Tolerance
Portraying multidimensionality: traffic lights

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Legend:
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Notes:
- Data for certain indicators may vary depending on the source and year.
- Some countries may not have data available for all indicators.
- The data represents the state of the country as of the year indicated.
• *SaG Asia-Pacific* published since 2009 in association with OECD/Korea Centre covers more than 30 Asia-Pacific Non OECD countries.

[www.oecd.org/els/social/indicators/asia](http://www.oecd.org/els/social/indicators/asia)

• New publications of Society at a Glance to be released late 2013

[www.oecd.org/els/social/indicators](http://www.oecd.org/els/social/indicators)
The Better Life Initiative

• Flagship OECD Initiative to celebrate the OECD’s 50th anniversary and its new mission **Better Policies for Better Lives**
• Building on 10 years of OECD work on Going Beyond GDP
• The Initiative includes empirical work (How’s Life?), methodological work (OECD Guidelines on Measuring Subjective Well-Being), initiatives to involve people (Better Life Index, Wikiprogress), etc.
Four key features:

- People, not the economy
- Outcomes: Lives
- Beyond the average: inclusiveness
- Objective & Subjective
How’s Life 2011: main highlights

• Life better on average than 15 years ago

• Inequalities are visible in all well-being dimensions

• No countries are uncontested champions of well-being
Better Life Index: learning from people what matters most to them

How’s life?
Next steps of the Better Life Initiative & related works

1. BLI 2013: this May

2. How’s Life 2013: this Fall

3. How’s Life in your Region (Regional Development Policy Division of the OECD)


4. Moving forward the well-being statistical agenda
How’s life in your region?
Measuring local and regional well-being for policymaking

Objectives:
- Clarify a common methodological framework and provide support for producing data at different scales
- Connect users to relevant resources to measure their progress; Increase accountability of results and citizens engagement.
- Creating network and knowledge spillover through case studies in regions and cities

Outputs:
- Set of internationally comparable well-being indicators at regional level
- Interactive web tool to measure regions and cities performance
- Lessons on the use of well-being measures and impact on policy making

Timeline:
- December 2013
- May 2014
- June 2014
A new OECD horizontal project: Inclusive Growth

Goals:

- New paradigm where growth is seen as a means to an end: Better Lives
- Develop a policy integrated framework for understanding how various policies (economic, social, environmental, etc.) impact on prosperity and its distribution
The OECD vision of IG:

- Three-pronged approach:
  - Multidimensionality: key outcomes that make it for higher people’s participation into the economy and society
  - Distribution: *fair opportunities* to participate into growth, *equitable benefits* from it
  - Policy relevant: the concept of IG should be actionable
The OECD IG framework

- Inclusive Growth
  - What outcomes?
    - Income and wealth
    - Jobs
    - Health
    - Skills and education
    - Social connections, civic engagement and institutions
    - Environmental quality
  - (Average and distribution)
  - For whom?
    - People with different socio-economic background
  - When?
    - Over the life cycle
  - Increased opportunities to participate in the economy and society

Also for developing countries
- Social protection
- Personal security
- Infrastructure and housing
- Food safety
Forthcoming OECD Workshop on IG – 3 of April

• Opens the consultative process on the OECD IG project

• Divided in three sessions:
  – Defining and measuring IG
  – Towards a roadmap for IG policies
  – Implementing change and ensuring buy-in
THANK YOU!

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www.oecd.org/social