



Governance and Structure of the Global Project on
Measuring the Progress of Societies

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OVERVIEW OF GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

On the 17th July 2008 the OECD Council approved the establishment of the Global Project on *Measuring the Progress of Societies* (GP). The GP is structured as a “network of networks”, i.e. as a co-operation among organisations based in all regions of the world, with different focuses, scopes and mandates. The activities of the GP are carried out by groups of interested organisations which include: international organisations, national public and private organisations, foundations, universities and research centres. These organisations provide financial and in-kind contributions to achieve the GP’s goals.

The GP is **hosted by the OECD** and run in collaboration with other [international and regional partners](#). A representative from each Partner organisation sits on the **Global Project Board**. The Board has two Co-Chairs: the Chief Statistician of the OECD (ex-officio) and another member of the GP Board, elected every two years.

The OECD portion of the GP is overseen by the OECD Council. The Council in turn is advised by the **Co-ordination Group for the Global Project on *Measuring the progress of societies***.

The GP Board and the Co-ordination Group are supported by the **Global Office** based at the OECD.

Other affiliates of the GP include **Associates, Correspondents** and **Sponsors**.

Finally **Regional Groups** are in the process of being created and will eventually include: Latin America, Africa, Arab Region, Asia and Pacific, Eastern European and Central Asian countries, OECD - including EU countries.

The following diagram attempts to represent each piece of the governance structure for the GP:



AFFILIATES OF THE GLOBAL PROJECT

Partners

Partners are major International/supranational Organisations which play a key role in the overall Project, investing substantial resources – financial or in-kind – over several years, assuming responsibility for the management of the GP or for specific tasks. Each Partner nominates a representative to sit on the GP Board (see “Governing Bodies” section for more details).

The co-operation with Partners is laid out in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the OECD. An exchange of letters can replace a MoU for those organisations with which OECD has already signed an umbrella MoU.

Associates

Associates are public and private national and international organisations which are interested in contributing to specific activities of the GP (proposals, peer reviews, advocacy, research, etc.) and implementing the actions envisaged by the [Istanbul declaration](#) and what followed.

The arrangements with Associates are established through an exchange of letters with the OECD, grant agreements, or other means, as may be relevant, carried out in accordance with OECD rules.

Each Associate collaborates, over a time bound period, on specific activities. The GP Board comments on the credibility of the Associate as an organisation, assesses the mutual benefit coming from their status of Associate and comments on the terms of reference of the proposed activity.

Once the GP Board endorses the nomination of an organisation as Associate, the Global Office initiates the process in order to formalise the agreement. The steps are:

- The Global Office writes an initial draft letter with a proposed annex, which describes the content of the envisaged action, to the potential Associate (the correspondence is signed by the Chief Statistician of the OECD as Co-Chair of the Project Board);
- The potential Associate responds with an acknowledgement and comments on the annex;
- The GP Board is consulted for approval through a written procedure process (this process takes place every two weeks or as need be and they are giving a two week delay to respond);
- Once the GP Board accepts, the Global Office writes a second letter to the Associate confirming their official acceptance;

- Associates provide brief progress reports which can be integrated into the more complete report prepared by the Global Office twice a year.

For more information, please see the list of current [Associates](#) and the brochure on [“How to become an Associate”](#).

Regional Working Groups

Regional working groups will hopefully be established for the various regions of the world (i.e. Latin America, Africa, Arab Region, Asia and Pacific, Eastern European and Central Asian countries, OECD – including EU countries). At the moment, the only working group that is established is the OECD one. Regional groups are expected to carry out activities in all the dimensions identified by the GP and each will be run – or co-ordinated – by a regional partner (an international organisation expert in that region). It is up to each regional group to establish its priorities and timetable, taking into account the available resources, existing processes, etc. Of course, to minimise overlaps and avoid waste of resources, these activities will be co-ordinated with those carried out by other regions or by the Global Office.

Regional Groups should try to engage, as appropriate, with a wide range of stakeholders: statistical offices, governments, parliaments, NGOs, academic and research circles, associations of businesses and trade unions, media experts. Particularly important is the relationship between the Regional Groups and those institutions (regional development banks, foundations, businesses, etc.) which can fund work. Regional Groups are expected to carry out activities such as:

- Identify good practices on the measurement of societal progress in NSOs, academic circles, NGOs, etc. of the region and report back to the rest of the world via the Global Office;
- Identify themes that are relevant for the region and that require the development of better statistical models and methodologies, share these needs with the other participants in the Global Project through the various communication tools;
- Contribute, through research, to the recommendations on how to measure specific aspects of societal progress;
- Contribute to the development of an international survey on the extent to which citizens and experts are able to evaluate the progress of their country.

Tasks will be undertaken by teams (co-ordinated by the Global Office or by Regional Groups) to address specific issues and/or run research projects that develop best practice in the construction or use of progress indicators. Resources and organisation of task teams will be decided case by case and with the advice of the GP Board. Their terms of reference have to be approved by the GP Board.

Correspondents will eventually fall under the responsibility of Regional working groups once they have been established. In the meantime they are managed by the Global Office.

Correspondents

Correspondents are organisations that are aware of, and wish to support, work in their country/region on measuring the progress of a society. Correspondents are a formal part of the GP's network. They receive visibility on the GP website and are expected to promote the GP in their region. More than one Correspondent can be appointed from any one county. The GP Board is asked to comment on the credibility of the Correspondent as a project/or organisation. The steps to becoming a Correspondent are:

- The Global Office sends a questionnaire to potential or interest organisations;
- Once the questionnaire is completed, the Global Office consults the GP Board, providing them with their recommendation on the suitability of each application through a written procedure process (this process takes place every two weeks or as need be and they are giving a two week delay to respond);
- Once the GP Board approves their recommendation, the Global Office advises the successful Correspondent by email of their official acceptance;
- The Global Office contacts Correspondents twice a year so that they may provide information on their current work.

For more information, please see the list of current [Correspondents](#) and the brochure on "[How to become a Correspondent](#)".

Sponsors

Sponsors are organisations which provide financial or in-kind resources for the overall GP or specific tasks/events. The arrangements with Sponsors are established through an exchange of letters with the OECD, grant agreements, or other means, as may be relevant in accordance with OECD rules.

World Forum Sponsors

World Forum Sponsors are organisations which provide financial or in-kind resources specifically for the World Forum which takes place every 2-3 years. The arrangements with Sponsors are established through an exchange of letters with the OECD, grant agreements, or other means, as may be relevant in accordance with OECD rules.

World Forum Affiliates

There are three levels of affiliation with the World Forum Events.

Co-organisation: events have been co-organised by the OECD and another organisation or organisations.

In Co-operation With: At the second tier, events are organised in co-operation with other major international agencies (e.g. World Bank, EU, UNDP, OIC, etc.). These organisations usually play some role in supporting the Forum, such as funding travel for participants.

In Association With: The third level is for smaller organisations who would like to support in some way the Forum, perhaps by funding travel, perhaps by promoting it. Paris21 and ISI are two organisations that have had this status.

The World Forum Events also have a main sponsor and other sponsors. The main sponsor usually hosts a VIP dinner.

GOVERNING BODIES AND THE GLOBAL OFFICE

Global Project Board

The GP Board oversees the Global Project on *Measuring the Progress of Societies*.

Membership

The Board is composed of:

- Partners of the Global Project; and
- Technical advisors, including the three ex-officio members nominated by the OECD Committee on Statistics.
 - Technical Advisors are drawn to represent certain professional communities or sectors. The Board is responsible for nominating technical advisors and there is no limit to their number. However, it has been agreed that the number of technical advisors should be relatively small (maximum 5). Technical advisors are expected to contribute to the development of the GP with ideas and suggestions, bringing views of constituencies not directly represented by GP's Partners.

Modus operandi

The GP Board is co-chaired by the Chief Statistician of the OECD and another international partner who is elected by the GP Board for a two year term which is not renewable. The current co-chairs are Pedro Conceicao (UNDP) and Enrico Giovannini (OECD).

The GP Board meets twice a year in person. Virtual discussions also take place from time to time via a dedicated SharePoint site. Observers may be invited to the GP Board meetings with prior notice made available to GP Board members.

The Board's work is supported by the Global Office.

The Global Office reports to the Board twice a year on a formal basis (at each of the biannual Board meetings). It also reports, as and when needed, electronically.

Decisions are taken by consensus of GP Board members.

Mandate

The GP Board's role is to govern, rather than manage, the GP's work programme, output and network. It steers the overall shape and direction of the GP by commenting on and approving the Programme of Work. It also comments on and eventually endorses specific outputs and it endorses those organisations that are officially recognised as linked with the GP. More specifically, the GP Board is responsible for:

- planning, implementing and monitoring activities undertaken by the GP, including fundraising;
- discussing and approving the biennial programme of work and making recommendations on the distribution of work among the participating organisations, providing recommendations and guidelines for the development and improvement of the Global Project on *Measuring the Progress of Societies*;
- facilitating the development of activities included in the work programme;
- exchanging information about the activities undertaken and planned by each organisation in the areas related to the GP;
- approving the GP Outputs;
- reviewing actions taken and evaluating their effectiveness and efficiency;
- agreeing on the participation of new Partners;
- appointing Technical advisors to the GP Board;
- advising on which organisations and individuals the GP should collaborate with;
- encouraging the implementation of international guidelines and recommendations by member countries;
- establishing Regional Working Groups and Task Teams to carry out the activities included in the work programme;
- advising the Global Office with regards to resources and organisation of task teams;
- promoting the GP within their network;
- advising on agendas for GP events.

OECD Council

The OECD Council is composed of all member countries and is the body from which all acts of the Organisation derive. OECD's involvement in the GP is therefore overseen by the OECD Council. In consequence, the Council decided to establish the "Co-ordination Group on Measuring the Progress of Societies", in order to provide advice and guidance to the Council on OECD's engagement in the GP. This Group brings together experts from statistical offices, governments and other sectors of society and prepares an annual report to the Council about the GP's activities and achievements for their consideration. For more information on the Co-ordination Group, please see following section.

OECD Co-ordination Group

As mentioned above, the Co-ordination Group on *Measuring the Progress of Societies* was created by the OECD Council to provide advice and guidance to them on the OECD engagement in the GP.

Membership

The Group brings together experts from statistical offices, governments and other sectors of society from all OECD member countries. Countries or economies who have the status of observers to the Committee on Statistics can be observers to the Co-ordination Group and can be represented by experts from statistical offices, governments and other sectors of society.

Modus operandi

The Group has a Chair and two Vice-Chairs which form the Bureau of the Group. The Bureau is elected by the Group by consensus for the biennium with an exception for 2009 where the Bureau will be elected for one year only. The Group works mainly electronically via a dedicated external SharePoint site. An annual face-to-face meeting can also be organised, eventually in conjunction with other meetings that may involve the Group's members. The Group's work is supported by the Global Office.

The Co-ordination Group presents an annual report to the OECD Council about the Global Project's activities and achievements.



Mandate

The Group is mandated to:

- provide recommendations and guidelines to the GP Board for the development and improvement of the GP;
- participate actively via its networks in the development of activities included in the work programme;
- act as a forum in which OECD member countries shall be able to exchange information and experience on best practices and initiatives to measure the progress of societies;
- identify ways to increase the relevance of the GP for OECD member countries.

This mandate entered into force on 1 January 2009 and will expire on 31 December 2012, unless the OECD Council decides otherwise.

Global Office

A Secretariat (called the Global Office) is established to carry out and co-ordinate the activities of the GP, including supporting the GP Board and the OECD Co-ordination Group. The Global Office is hosted by the OECD within the Statistics Directorate.

As mentioned earlier, the Global Office reports to the GP Board twice a year on a formal basis (at each of the biannual Board meetings). It also reports, as and when needed, electronically.

The Global Office also issues an information note in April and in October, based on the progress report sent to the Board, which is shared with all affiliates of the GP.