

3 day Workshop

Statistics, Knowledge and Policy

Bridging the gap between users and producers of statistics

Durban, South Africa : August 13 – 15 2009

Is life getting better? Are our societies making progress? How many of us have the evidence to answer these questions? The world is changing and there is a global need to better understand social change - especially in the current crisis.

Over the past 10 years or so there has been an explosion of interest in producing measures of societal progress. Measures that go beyond GDP to represent a broader view of the ways in which societies are progressing and regressing. Measures which are based on the values of a society, not those of a single political party or an elite few. Such sets of progress measures can help governments focus more holistically on what really matters: they can foster a more informed debate on where a society is, where it wants to go and - most importantly - the choices it must make in order to get there.



Bryde's Whale, South Africa
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A joint course from the **Global Project** and **InWEnt**

[InWEnt](#) and the OECD hosted [Global Project on Measuring the Progress of Societies](#) have together developed a 3-day workshop on “Statistics, Knowledge and Policy: Bridging the gap between users and producers of statistics” to run before the [57th Session of the International Statistical Institute](#) in Durban, South Africa.

Through a series of joint and parallel sessions, the course will focus on: how we can bridge the gap between those who use, and those who produce statistics; the importance of statistics for democracy and democratic decision-making; measures of progress that go beyond GDP; tools to transform statistics into knowledge; evidence, civic engagement and policy-making; the role of National Statistical Offices in the 21st Century and their boundaries.

The emphasis will be on interactive learning, through peer learning, as well as more formal instruction. The course will be a place to exchange ideas and best practices, and to improve collective understanding of global and local progress.



In particular, we will cover:

- **How** to measure progress;
- **What** to measure: the specific dimensions of progress;
- **Effective communication** of measures to a broad public.

Workshop

Statistics, Knowledge and Policy

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

If you would like to attend this training course then email Barbara Iasiello (progress@oecd.org) with a copy of your CV, or ring her on +33 1 45 24 94 36 – we're happy to answer any questions you might have.

WHO CAN ATTEND?

There are 25 places left for this 60 person workshop. We welcome applications from all sectors of society. The workshop is aimed at all those who have an interest in increasing the use of evidence in public debate and policy making, either in the developed or developing world, but especially:

- **Researchers** (economists and statisticians) who want to learn advanced scientific methods to deal with measurement and statistical issues;
- **Practitioners** (from national and local governments, NGOs, etc.) who want to know how to implement progress initiatives;
- **Policy makers** with an interest in developing, or using, sets of progress measures to improve decision making;
- **Media and others** who want to communicate information to citizens.

LOGISTICS

The workshop will be held at premises provided by the ISI in Durban. The course will be in English and will begin on Thursday, August 13, 2009 and finish on Saturday, August 15.

Registration: If you would like to attend the course please email Barbara Iasiello - progress@oecd.org - attaching a CV. Participants will be selected according to their role and experience in order to achieve a good balance for peer-to-peer learning. Registration costs between \$240-300US, to be paid to the ISI (more information is available at <http://www.statssa.gov.za/isi2009/ShortCourses.aspx>). We will let you know as quickly as possible whether your application has been accepted. The deadline for registration is **June 30 2009**.



South African Fur Seal, South Africa
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