DATA and INFORMATION

NEEDED vs. NICE TO HAVE

WHAT EXISTS

- Enormous amount of information
- …. <u>But</u>
  - low comparability
  - difficult to use for policy purposes
  - not very precise in terms of specific, concrete problems that countries face

BASIC COMPARABLE MIN1MUM

- IMF Article 4 key tables
- Good: comparable to a large extent
- Limited:
  - not now available for all countries
  - very terse for problem identification

DILEMMAS

- General database VS. focused policy work
- Constraints: comparability, time required of senior people
- Momentum and interest

OPTIONS

1. Full comparative data base (full improved questionnaire)

2. Art. 4 key tables + on-going interests and projects (section a) of questionnaire)

3. Work Program focused: quick effort to support specific policy discussions
   + immediately available info and data