

DATA and INFORMATION

**NEEDED vs. NICE TO
HAVE**

WHAT EXISTS

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

BASIC COMPARABLE MINIMUM

- 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