

Putting Well-being Metrics into Policy Action

International Workshop

3-4 October 2019

OECD Conference Centre, Paris



Programme

Updated 3 July 2020

The goal of this workshop is to assist national governments in developing innovative approaches to putting people’s well-being at the centre of public policy. Calls to go “beyond GDP” in measuring societies’ progress are as old as the measurement of GDP itself. Over the past twenty years, governments have stepped up their efforts to develop multidimensional dashboards of well-being, inclusiveness and sustainability indicators. These dashboards provide a richer picture of how life is going for people, highlighting well-being inequalities, and helping policy makers to take stock of the resources that help to sustain well-being over time. But what difference is this making, in terms of how policy decisions are made?

This workshop will explore the policy uptake of well-being, inclusiveness and sustainability indicators. It will focus on the types of evidence and analysis that policy makers need, and how practical policy mechanisms could be adapted to apply this evidence on a more systematic basis. Participants from countries already beginning to experiment with well-being approaches will be asked to share their experiences and lessons learned so far. Barriers to using well-being evidence, and how the field needs to evolve to reach a more mature state, will also be discussed. Speakers and participants will be drawn from diverse policy settings, providing both the leadership view from ministers and parliamentarians, and the practical view from civil servants and statisticians. Academics, think tanks, civil society and media representatives will also be invited to share their reactions and proposals with policy makers.

Thursday 3 October

9.30 - 09.50	Welcome and opening address	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angel Gurría, OECD Secretary-General, Opening address
09.50 – 11.30	What policy problems does well-being help to solve? The ministerial perspective	<i>Introduced and moderated by</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gabriela Ramos, OECD Chief of Staff and Sherpa to the G20
	New Zealand’s Wellbeing Budget and next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant Robertson, Minister of Finance, New Zealand (via video)

	<p>A Whole-of-Government Approach to Wellbeing: The UAE Experience</p> <p>Finland’s EU Presidency: An Economy of Wellbeing</p> <p>Well-being and tourism in Costa Rica – putting the Social Progress Index into practice</p> <p>The Scottish National Performance Framework</p> <p>Ministerial Q&A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ohood Al Roumi, Minister of State for Happiness and Wellbeing, Director General of the Prime Minister’s Office, United Arab Emirates • Saila Ruuth, State Secretary, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland • Maria Amalia Revelo Raventos, Minister for Tourism, Costa Rica • Derek Mackay, Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work, Scotland
11.30 - 11.45	Coffee	
11.45 - 13.15	<p>Roundtable - Moving from measurement to policy action: What would it take?</p> <p><i>What are the barriers to well-being becoming a tool that all governments would want to use? What interests need to be aligned, and how? What is the relationship between well-being and public value? Why and how did GDP growth become such an important benchmark for governments - and what can be learned from its success in influencing policy making?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network and the Center for Sustainable Development, Colombia University • Gus O’Donnell, former United Kingdom Cabinet Secretary, and Chair of Frontier Economics • Martine Durand, OECD Chief Statistician and Director of the Statistics and Data Directorate • Konrad Pesendorfer, Director General, Statistik Austria, and Chair of the OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy <p><i>Moderated by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Álvaro Pereira, Director, OECD Economics Directorate Country Studies Branch
13.15 - 14.30	Lunch	
14.30 - 16.00	<p>Panel 1 - Making legislation make a difference</p> <p><i>How can legislation be used to put well-being on a long-term footing? What practical steps are necessary to ensure that legislation results in real, durable change in policy practice? How can legislation be made flexible enough to endure over time, but solid enough to have teeth? What does it mean for how well-being is measured, and for which target populations?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sophie Howe, Future Generations Commissioner – ensuring public bodies meet their duties under the Well-being for Future Generations Act (Wales), Presentation • Maree Brown, Director of the Child Wellbeing Unit, New Zealand Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet – legislating for well-being in New Zealand: the Child Poverty Reduction Act and amendments to the Children’s Act, Presentation • Cédric Audenis, Deputy Chief Executive, France Stratégie – the French experience with New Wealth Indicators, Presentation • Jennifer Wallace, Joint Interim CEO and Head of Policy, Carnegie Trust – assessing the different approaches to well-being legislation in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, Presentation <p><i>Moderated by:</i></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marco Mira d’Ercole, Head of the Household Statistics and Progress Measurement Division, OECD Statistics and Data Directorate
16.00 - 16.30	Coffee	
16.30 - 18.00	<p>Panel 2 – Putting well-being metrics into practice: some examples</p> <p><i>What challenges do policy makers face, in terms of both generating and using well-being evidence? How can well-being evidence support decision-making, and what difference does it make? How can equality perspectives be better integrated in policy analysis and budgeting? Does the current well-being evidence base respond to policy needs – and if not, what is missing?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Dolan, Professor of Behavioural Science at the London School of Economics – from health to happiness • Alonzo Plough, Chief Science Officer and Vice President for Research - Evaluation - Learning, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation – research funding and well-being in a United States policy context, Presentation • Joseph Lowe, Editor Green Book, Head of Economics Branch, Public Spending Group, HM Treasury, United Kingdom – the appraisal of social value and its role in decision making, Presentation • Noel Howard, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Ireland – Ireland’s approach to equality budgeting, Presentation • Maaïke Stoel, Policy Advisor, Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy – the Dutch Monitor of Well-being and its integration in the policy cycle, Presentation <p><i>Moderated by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joaquim Oliveira Martins, Deputy Director, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities
18.00 - 19.30	<p>Drinks and appetisers, Salle Roger Ockrent, the OECD Chateau</p>	<p><i>The Chateau is adjacent to the main OECD Conference Centre venue. Staff will be on hand to direct you.</i></p>

Friday 4 October

9.00 - 10.30	<p>Panel 3 - Using well-being in strategic objective-setting and government programmes</p> <p><i>How should priorities for action be selected, and who should make those decisions? Are international well-being frameworks helpful? Do enough people agree on what well-being is – and do policy makers need more or less guidance on this? (if so, from whom?) What demands do strategic objective-setting initiatives make on how (and how often) well-being is measured and reported?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • José Molinas Vega, Chief Economist and Academic Director of the Development Institute and former Minister-Secretary of Planning for Economic and Social Development, Paraguay – Paraguay’s National Development Plan and the role of the Social Progress Index • Gary Gillespie, Chief Economist, Scottish Government – Inclusive growth and its application to Scotland’s National Performance Framework, Presentation • Ulla Rosenstrom, Chief Senior Specialist, Prime Minister’s Office, Finland – reflections on Finland’s Government Programme Indicators, Presentation • Anuschka Muller, Director of Corporate Planning and Performance, Government of Jersey - embedding well-being and sustainability into Jersey’s Public Finance Law, Government Plan, and the wider Jersey Performance Framework, Presentation • Federico Bonaglia, Deputy Director, OECD Development Centre - using multi-dimensional well-being indicators to align national development strategies and international cooperation, Presentation <p><i>Moderated by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monica Brezzi, Head of the Governance Indicators and Performance Evaluation Division, OECD Public Governance Directorate
10.30 - 11.00	Coffee	
11.00 - 12.30	<p>Panel 4 - Embedding well-being in the policy analysis toolkit</p> <p><i>What does a well-being approach mean for the standard suite of policy analysis tools used in government? How would you design, appraise, implement and evaluate policy differently if well-being was the objective? How can trade-offs, synergies, and the distribution of outcomes and opportunities be better understood? What evidence base is needed to make any of this a reality?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard Layard, Programme Co-Director - Wellbeing, Centre for Economic Performance, London School of Economics – well-being cost-effectiveness analysis, Presentation • Tim Ng, Chief Economist, New Zealand Treasury – supporting the 2019 Well-being Budget, the Living Standards Framework, and next steps for the Treasury, Presentation • Romina Boarini, Coordinator of the Inclusive Growth Initiative and Senior advisor to the Secretary General (OECD) - the OECD Inclusive Growth Initiative: identifying the policy levers that raise well-being for all, Presentation • Dominic Richardson, Chief, Social Policy and Economic Analysis, UNICEF Office of Research-Innocenti – education policy through a well-being lens, Presentation

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simon Buckle, Head of the Climate, Biodiversity and Water Division, OECD Environment Directorate – climate mitigation policy through a well-being lens, Presentation <p><i>Moderated by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Pearson, Deputy Director, OECD Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs
12.30 - 14.00	Lunch	
14.00 - 15.30	<p>Panel 5 - Building the evidence base and civil service capacity</p> <p><i>What evidence and analysis is needed to link policy levers to well-being outcomes? How can well-being inequalities be better integrated in analysis? How can think tanks, researchers and statisticians support policy makers in adopting a well-being lens throughout their own work? How can civil service capacity be strengthened for working with well-being evidence?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nancy Hey, Director of the United Kingdom What Works Centre for Wellbeing – getting the right evidence to the right government officials at the right time, Presentation • Leslie Evans, Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government – building civil service capacity for implementing a well-being approach, Presentation • Susan Battles, Head of Office, Directorate for Economic and Financial Analysis, Treasury Department, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Italy – the analysis behind the Italian Budget Law experience, Presentation • Pétur Berg Matthíasson, Senior Policy Advisor, Prime Minister’s Office, Iceland – Iceland’s Indicators for Measuring Well-being, Presentation • John Helliwell, Professor Emeritus, Vancouver School of Economics, University of British Columbia – the Global Happiness Council and World Happiness Report, Presentation <p><i>Moderated by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephane Jacobzone, Deputy Head of Division, Reform of the Public Sector, OECD Public Governance Directorate
15.30 - 16.00	Coffee	
16.00 - 17.30	<p>Closing roundtable - Engaging parliamentarians, the public, and the media</p> <p><i>How should parliamentarians be introduced to well-being evidence, and how can cross-party interest be best fostered? What would it take to put well-being evidence in the media spotlight, alongside key economic indicators? And how can civil society and the public be engaged in well-being policy, the debate about what it means to live well, and the role government plays in this?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Ruane, Member of Parliament (United Kingdom) and Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Wellbeing Economics • Katherine Trebeck, Research Director, Wellbeing Economy Alliance • Gina Schöler, “Ministry of Happiness and Well-being” interactive art and engagement project • Danny Graham, Chief Engagement Officer, Engage Nova Scotia • Mike Ackermans, Editor in Chief and Director of Communication and News, Netherlands Central Bureau of Statistics? Presentation <p><i>Moderated by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liz Zeidler, Chief Executive, Happy City

17.30 - 17.45	Closing remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Martine Durand, OECD Chief Statistician and Director of the Statistics and Data Directorate