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“A roadmap for future research needs”

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Summary

Within the activities carried out by the e-Frame - “European Framework for Measuring Progress” - FP7 project, the *Roadmap for future research needs* is a key outcome and one of the policy oriented documents envisaged by the work plan. It is a cross-cutting deliverable that builds on all the activities carried out by e-Frame Consortium: from the stocktaking work to the discussions and results presented in the project Conferences and Workshops as well as in the meetings of the Advisory Board and other International forums participated by e-Frame Consortium.

The *Roadmap* aims at addressing research areas that need further developments and investments in the measurement and use of indicators of well-being, societal progress and sustainability at a European level. The *Roadmap* has been conceived as a dynamic tool that has been periodically updated: all in all three versions have been released during the project lifecycle.

The present document represents the final *Roadmap* which updates the first and second releases building on the overall results achieved by the project, from January 2012 to June 2014. In particular, the first tentative roadmap was based on the e-Frame activities and findings achieved in the first year of the project (January- December 2012), the second tentative roadmap updated the first release with the results achieved by the project from January 2013 to June 2013. In both the preliminary releases, the research needs were identified with a view to the European goals and the aims of Horizon 2020. This final version intends to provide an update of the previous versions, released on the project website www.eframeproject.eu, by including results and suggestions arisen during the last period of the project’s activities. Building on these outcomes, the *Roadmap* updates the research needs already identified, taking advantage of the stocktaking activities and the wide debate gained on these issues by e-Frame project.

More specifically, the research needs have been classified into four main streams: the needs and the research areas for enhancing official statistics on well-being and sustainability; the needs of research for the exploitation of non-official sources; the needs related to improving the communication aspects in order to support understanding and use of available indicators and tools; the research needs for fostering a greater policy use of progress indicators.

The *Roadmap* constitutes an important momentum within the European debate over “GDP and Beyond” pushing to put the research needs into practice. This can be done finding a large consensus on priority setting and scheduling future actions in the light of the objectives of Horizon 2020.

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1. Introduction

A key milestone of e-Frame “European Framework for Measuring Progress” is represented by the *Roadmap for future research needs*. It is a cross-cutting deliverable that benefits from the results of all the activities carried out by the project, particularly from the stocktaking work and from the debate and results presented in the e-Frame Conferences and Workshops.

The roadmap aims at addressing relevant gaps and research needs to be put at the centre of future research agenda at a European level by the European Commission and by the European Statistical Systems in the area of measuring well-being, societal progress and sustainability. It was thought as a dynamic tool to be periodically updated and revised as soon as the project results were available.

The present document constitutes the final version which updates the previous two releases. It is organised as a self-standing document which starts with a summary description of the research activities and the main international developments in the beyond GDP debate, as well as the main purposes of e-Frame project, followed by a more detailed report on selected e-Frame activities and findings which contributed together with all the other activities of e-Frame project to single out the major research needs to be undertaken in near future in the light of the European goals and the aims of Horizon 2020.

Following the structure of the previous two versions, the research needs have been classified in four main areas in order to facilitate the identification of suitable and coordinated actions for dealing with each selected area. It is worth mentioning that besides research in the field of statistical measurement, important issues to be addressed also emerged, ranging from communicating and targeting the importance of beyond GDP indicators to measure well-being and to guide policies for a sustainable development to specific training in this field and to the role of official and non-official statistics.

Finally, it is emphasised the necessity to agree on priorities and to set a timetable for future actions at European level in order to put the well-being measurements into concrete, to support policy makers and to gain a wider and wider audience involving the society at large into the beyond GDP debate.

2. The “beyond GDP” debate: the research so far

In the last decade, the research on measuring well-being and societal progress beyond GDP and on the complex phenomena to it related has grown up, firstly, involving the public and private world of research and, then, becoming a global movement which currently involves countless of local, national and international actors including all stakeholders: civil society organizations, social entrepreneurs, researchers, practitioners, consumers, workers, citizens and society at large.

The discussions on measuring well-being and societal progress are at the forefront of the European and global agenda and the necessity to integrate the macro economic measure of GDP with new indicators is fully recognized also at political level in a worldwide dimension. Moreover, presently the need to go beyond GDP is crucial: a new vision of measuring economic growth is vital in the perspective of the on-going international crisis which highlights the urgency to put ‘Man’ at the centre of the economic evaluations.

Over time, the methodological and conceptual diverse research activities have been pushed by the debate on beyond GDP carried on through several specific initiatives.

The OECD began to work rigorously on this thematic since 2001 and, recognising the necessity for a wide-ranging reflection on the various themes and multiple dimensions of the progress of societies, has organised the World Forums to discuss these issues from a global

perspective (Palermo 2004, Istanbul 2007, Busan 2009 and New Delhi 2012)¹. In 2008, the then French President Sarkozy launched the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress (the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Commission). The Commission stressed the necessity to move the attention from measuring economic production to measuring individual well-being, thereby identifying the limits of GDP as an indicator of economic performance and societal progress².

At a European level in 2009 it was established, by the European Statistical System Committee, the Sponsorship Group on ‘Measuring Progress, Well-being and Sustainable Development’ with the aim of translating the recommendations of the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Commission into concrete actions in charge of the National Statistical Institutes (NSIs), calling on them to push the definition of sound and timely statistics, thus implying a better use of all the available statistics and developing new statistics and concise indicators. In its final report (2011a)³ the Sponsorship Group outlined a strategy to develop statistical information to meet the Stiglitz’s Commission recommendations, pointing out the development of better statistics related to: 1) household perspective and distributional aspects of income, consumption and wealth⁴; 2) multidimensional measures of quality of life⁵; 3) environmental sustainability⁶.

The research and the debate beyond GDP have been greatly enhanced by Internet which contributed enormously to enlarge the community involved in the discussion. Web 2.0, giving the opportunity to share knowledge, information and data, contributes to implement new ways of collecting and producing information involving communities and to collect data from communities (‘Big Data’) driving a reshape of the “definition” of statistics making it possible a bottom-up approach.

One of the recent notable bottom-up approach initiatives is the OECD’s Better Life Index⁷, launched in 2011. The Better Life Index is designed to invite users to visualise and compare some of the key factors – like education, housing, environment – that contribute to well-being in OECD countries. The aim is to allow understanding what drives well-being of people and nations and what needs to be done to achieve greater progress for all. This initiative is once more pushing the research to explore the diverse dimensions of subjective and objective concepts of quality of life.

On the side of the NSIs, called to follow the conclusions of the Sponsorship Group on ‘Measuring Progress, Well-being and Sustainable Development’, bottom-up approach initiatives of stakeholder consultation and dialogue with society at large are currently carried out in Europe and abroad⁸. The Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) has instituted the CNEL⁹-ISTAT

¹ 4th World Forum <http://www.oecd.org/site/worldforumindia/>, previous World Forums <http://www.oecd.org/site/worldforumindia/previousoecdworldforums.htm>

² http://www.stiglitz-sen-fitoussi.fr/documents/rapport_anglais.pdf

³ http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/pgp_ess/0_DOCS/estat/SpG_Final_report_Progress_wellbeing_and_sustainable_deve.pdf

⁴ Four priority areas have been identified in European Statistics, as to be emphasised from the viewpoint of the household perspective and distributional aspects of income, consumption and wealth: (1) Promoting existing national accounts data on household income and consumption; (2) Providing information on the distribution of income, consumption and wealth; (3) Encouraging the compilation of balance sheet accounts for households; (4) Broadening income measurement to non-market domestic activities and leisure time.

⁵ The following priority areas have been identified for future work on multidimensional measures of quality of life: (1) Use EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions as the core instrument; (2) Complement the coverage of the dimensions with additional data sources; (3) Deepen and improve analysis.

⁶ A range of priority actions has been identified on the basis of work already in progress as well as policy needs. The first step in this process has already been set by the adoption of an EU Regulation on European environmental economic accounts with modules on air emissions accounts, economy-wide material flow accounts and environmentally-related taxes by economic activity.

⁷ <http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/>

⁸ In United Kingdom (<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/user-guidance/well-being/index.html>), in Canada (<https://uwaterloo.ca/canadian-index-wellbeing/>) and in Australia (<http://blog.abs.gov.au/Blog/mapblog2010.nsf/>).

⁹ The Italian National Council for Economics and Labour, www.cnel.it

initiative for measuring Equitable and Sustainable Well-being in Italy “BES”¹⁰ within which it has been carried out a deliberative process for the definition of a theoretical framework for the measurement of well-being and the selection of the indicators which are composing it. The result of the consultation has provided a set of indicators, as a decision co-established by Italian society at large, on which the methodological and technical research is going to build up its activities.

3. e-Frame project: its main objectives

The e-Frame Project, funded by the European Commission, DG Research and Innovation, under Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities 2011 Programme, responds to the EC’s call¹¹ “to ensure that European research activities in the field of official statistics and related areas, and, in particular those related to the ‘Beyond GDP’ and related initiatives such as the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi report, take place in a co-ordinated manner.” In particular, “Coordination activities should build on relevant existing research projects and strengthen the European dimension of work in this area in the context of the Europe 2020 strategy, European Research Area (ERA) and the European Statistical System. The activities should establish links and contribute to building or completing research agendas in the field. (...) It is expected that universities and private companies will have access to this data and will participate to the exchange of views and practices for the definition of the future needs of research and for the use of results for policy making. The coordinating action should:

- Collect and assess key output from recent and ongoing Framework Programme projects and other national and international activities in this area (inter alia Valuation of externalities and domestic value added content of trade will be considered);
- Identify and develop indicators characterizing the new statistics (in a broad sense of Social, Environment and Health dimension); aspects like inequalities, social dimension, damage cost, safety and security cost, etc., will be part of this topic;
- Identify research needs and gaps in relevant information and methods and propose research topics to be addressed at the European level.

In this perspective, e-Frame provides its contribution by coordinating activities to foster the debate on the measurement of well-being and the progress of societies among all relevant stakeholders and support National Statistical Institutes’ measurement initiatives in this area. To suit the EU requests, e-Frame is structured into a work plan to rationalise stocktaking activities on the measurement of societal progress and well-being beyond GDP and to organise dissemination events (thematic Workshops and two general Conferences).

Moving from the *stocktaking* on existing indicators and measurements the work plan envisages cross-cutting activities with the aim to provide *guidelines* for the use of the indicators by policy makers and to define a *roadmap* for future research need for the development of the measurement of well-being and societal progress. With the ultimate ambition to state a *European position* on the measurement of well-being and progress beyond GDP able to interact at a global level, e-Frame foresees the establishment of a *European Network on Measuring Progress* (e-FrameNET) with a dedicated section on Wikiprogress platform hosted by OECD.

3.1 The roadmap for future research needs

In line with the call which requires to identify research needs and gaps in relevant information and methods and propose research topics to be addressed at the European level, the

¹⁰ www.misuredelbenessere.it

¹¹ https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/ShowDoc/Extensions+Repository/General+Documentation/All+work+programmes/2011/Cooperation/h-wp-201101_en.pdf, Work Programme 2011 Socio-Economic Sciences and the Humanities, page 39

project was expected to define a roadmap for future research to be addressed mainly in the context of the next Framework Programme- Horizon 2020¹² and future European Statistical System projects (ESSnet)¹³ according to National Statistical Institutes needs and duties.

The roadmap was intended as a dynamic tool that has been periodically reviewed and disseminated, in compliance with a specific request of the EC to provide “early” feedbacks during the life cycle of the project. It moved in parallel with the activities related to the setting up of the guidelines for the use of the indicators by policy making (see the *Map on policy use of progress indicators* www.eframeproject.eu). Building on the project activities, the work has outlined which tools are still needed for an effective measurement of progress and which issues need to be better clarified and investigated. A specific focus has identified priorities for future research needs within official statistics, however, other important dimensions have been identified ranging from communicating and targeting the importance of beyond GDP indicators and guiding policies for a sustainable development till to specific training in this field and to the rising importance of non-official data.

During the life cycle of the project, the dynamic roadmaps have been released on the website of the project as follows:

- first tentative roadmap released after the e-Frame Initial Conference (OECD, June 2012, Paris) and the 4th OECD World Forum (October 2012, New Delhi)
- second tentative roadmap released after the mid-term of the project fixed at the 31st March 2013

This document represents the final roadmap scheduled by the end of the project in order to take full advantages of the findings and developments made in the various fields of the beyond GDP debate by the e-Frame Consortium. A draft version of this document was presented in occasion of the e-Frame Final Conference held on February 2014 in Amsterdam.

Research needs and information gaps should be identified over the wide range of issues related to the beyond GDP debate. To this effect the roadmap has collected:

- feedback from the stocktaking and dissemination activities (workshops and conferences) envisaged by the work plan and others;
- contacts with the other partners for their suggestions and comments;
- suggestions from the Advisory Board;
- contacts with and feedback from similar work underway at national and international level through the e-FrameNET - European Network on Measuring Progress hosted by OECD Wikiprogress platform and other channels;
- comments and suggestions from the EC.

4. The debate within e-Frame project and beyond

4.1 The e-Frame Kick-off Meeting

The kick-off Meeting¹⁴, 26-27 January 2012, represented the first occasion to debate on the topics of the project deepening the aims and the contents of the 12 Work Packages to be developed during the 30 months of the project. The meeting was attended by representatives of all 19 partners,

¹² Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Running from 2014 to 2020, this EU’s new programme for Research and Innovation brings together all existing Union research and innovation funding, including the Framework Programme for Research, the innovation related activities of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).

¹³ <http://www.cros-portal.eu/content/essnet-generalities>

¹⁴

[http://www.eframeproject.eu/index.php?id=96&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=7&cHash=ea37f31701467d2a078f432e55e35899](http://www.eframeproject.eu/index.php?id=96&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=7&cHash=ea37f31701467d2a078f432e55e35899)

the Scientific Officer of the European Commission, Ms Marianne Paasi, and Ms Marleen De Smedt, adviser to the Director General of Eurostat, for a floor of about 40 people.

During the meeting the general aims, contents and expected results of the project were presented. The high expectations already raised in the European Commission by e-Frame were reported by the EC Scientific Officer as the project contributes directly to the economic, social and environmental objectives of Europe 2020 strategy. Moreover, since statistics is a core tool to measure progress and well-being, as witnessed by important initiatives in the European Statistical System (ESS), it was stressed the importance that two National Statistical Institutes (Istat and Statistics Netherlands) lead e-Frame project. From the perspective of DG Research, e-Frame is an important milestone in the SSH programme and its coordination efforts reduce fragmentation in research and measurement. The composition of e-Frame consortium has all the potential to fulfil these expectations.

The meeting raised an impressive debate sharing views, clarifying the content of tasks and highlighting the common features of the diverse activities foreseen in each WP. Comments and suggestions were gathered from the partners and all the participants in order to define a common agenda for project's future work. Among these suggestions, it is worth mentioning the need to put together macro, territorial and micro-level indicators as stressed by Mr Enrico Giovannini, Istat President. During the debate it clearly emerged the role of e-Frame to contribute in supporting the European Commission in drawing shared conclusions and recommendations on measuring well-being in front of the pressure of the political agenda due to the serious financial and economic crisis. e-Frame will contribute to bring the importance and understanding of new measurements beyond GDP into the policy-making process. The main challenge is to make well-being and societal progress an explicit goal for decision-making in all fields providing governments with advices on the well-being effects of policy options.

4.2 The Initial Conference on Measuring Well-Being and Fostering the Progress of Societies

The Initial Conference on Measuring Well-Being and Fostering the Progress of Societies¹⁵, which took place on 26-28 June 2012 in Paris, represented the first milestone reached by the project and it was the first grand floor to discuss on the e-Frame topics. The Conference was hosted by OECD and it was organised by OECD as partner of e-Frame, with the Italian National Institute of Statistics and Statistics Netherlands as coordinators of e-Frame and in collaboration with Eurostat and the European Statistical System (ESS). The Conference focused on recent activities in the field of measuring progress and well-being and aimed to foster the European debate on the wide range of issues related to this agenda. It represented a platform for discussing how best to advance the implementation of the recommendations included in the Final Report of the European Statistical System (ESS) "Sponsorship Group on Measuring Progress, Well-Being and Sustainable Development", adopted by the ESS Committee in November 2011. Moreover, the event stood as the OECD European conference in the preparation of the 4th OECD World Forum, to be held in New Delhi, India on 16-19 October 2012, with the aim to identify concrete deliverables and initiatives in order to contribute with an EU position to the global agenda of measuring well-being and progress. The Conference gathered around 270 policy makers, statisticians, academics, and other stakeholders from the European region specifically interested in the field with the purpose to deepen on-going reflection on how to measure well-being and the progress of societies, enhance the relevance of measures and analysis for addressing key policy issues, and lead to concrete outputs, such as establishing frameworks for future co-operation.

The Conference was organised as a two and a half day event following a thick programme carried on by prominent policy makers, statisticians, economists and analysts. The Conference was

¹⁵ <http://www.oecd.org/site/progresseurope/>

structured in three themed sessions-*material conditions, quality of life, sustainability*-each one divided into an initial plenary session followed by parallel workshops on specific issues and a final plenary session where to report the discussion held in the workshops and to highlight the open issues. Furthermore, the Conference envisaged several specific Seminars on topics related to the central theme.

A seminar on “Future work of e-Frame project” took place and it was attended by many people who demonstrated great interest in the activities envisaged by the project. During the seminar the project coordinators, Istat and Statistics Netherlands, gave an overview on the topics treated by the project and the results achieved so far encouraging a debate on the topics of the project. Moreover it was launched the e-Frame European Network on Measuring Progress (e-FrameNET)¹⁶ hosted by the Wikiprogress platform (OECD) illustrating how it constitutes a Web 2.0 tool to enlarge and foster the debate on well-being and societal progress facilitating the involvement of stakeholders and society at large in the e-Frame debate. The initiative was largely appreciated as the Network represents a pillar in the establishment of a European position to foster the debate towards the global frontier of Wikiprogress.org.

At the end of the Conference the round table “Moving forward: Paving the way” saw Ms Martine Durand, OECD Chief Statistician and Director of Statistics, together with Mr Enrico Giovannini, Istat President, Ms Lidia Bratanova, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Mr Eduardo Barredo-Capelot, Director of Social Statistics Eurostat, to trace the conclusions of the three-day debate focusing on the open issues to bring at the OECD 4th World Forum “Measuring Well-Being for Development and Policy Making”, New Delhi, October 2012. The Conference highlighted crucial key messages to take care for the future agenda. The European agenda on well-being and progress is well established at both measurement and policy levels. Many initiatives have been undertaken in various countries, underlying the growing consensus about the importance of well-being - whilst appreciating their complementary natures differences are also important. At European level there is an increasing convergence between well-being and sustainability agendas. Similar frameworks are adopted by OECD, European Commission and e-Frame project. Although the use of GDP has dominated the mitigation of financial and government debt, and the banking crisis, there are clear calls for parallel metrics on well-being now and in the future. Moreover, the success of well-being and progress initiatives at local, national, and regional level depends on both political leadership and public consultation processes, managed from both a bottom up and a top down perspective.

4.3 First meeting of the e-Frame Advisory Board

In conjunction with the Initial Conference the first meeting of the e-Frame Advisory Board took place in Paris on 26 June 2012. The Board, composed of independent outstanding and worldwide known experts¹⁷, represents the high level body in charge of providing advices and guidance for the development of the activities of the project to ensure high quality and excellence to the outputs.

¹⁶ <http://www.oecd.org/site/progresseurope/FAZIO%20Donatella.pps>

¹⁷ The Advisory Board, chaired by Enrico Giovannini, Istat President and by Gosse van der Veen, CBS Director General, is composed by the following members: Sabina Alkire (Oxford University); Bart van Ark (Conference Board Washington/University of Groningen); Anthony Atkinson (Oxford University); Jeroen van den Bergh (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona/ ICREA /VU University Amsterdam); Daniel Daianu (former Romanian Minister of Finance); Hubert Escaith (World Trade Organization); Jean-Paul Fitoussi (OFCE); Jeni Klugman (World Bank); Alan Krueger (Princeton University); Khalid Malik (United Nations Development Programme); Andrea Saltelli (JRC-ISPRA); Joseph Stiglitz (Columbia University)

During the meeting a general overview of the project - illustrating its motivations, objectives and activities - together with presentations of the main achievements reached so far were given by the project leaders¹⁸.

All the members of the AB reacted with great interest in the project and its work plan and an impressive debate on the themes of the project took place. It was remarked by the AB that the complexity of the work plan and the vastness of the themes would require a strong conceptual and organisational effort by the project coordinator and the Consortium. With regard to the contents of the work plan the following elements were highlighted: the necessity to include the private sector (e.g. Gallup, GRI and SCR initiatives) in the debate in order to enlarge the usual audience; the necessity to educate the market to read new measurements of progress and well-being beyond GDP as a chance to catch; the necessity to study indicators of well being at local, national and global level; the necessity to add knowledge in the stocktaking activity of the project not limiting to portraying existing results but capitalizing them and to highlight the overall sense of the huge amount of work going on; the opportunity to feed the debate to find new ideas and opinion without losing the importance of GDP as an economic measure that as to be integrated (e.g. composite indicators, dashboards) and not to be replaced.

As to the recent international activities related to e-Frame, Mr Giovannini continued the meeting stressing the transnational dimension of e-Frame debate asserting that the interaction between the European level and the global context is the approach to follow to go towards the definition of new indicators on measurement of progress and well-being beyond GDP. Indicators should be harmonized at the global level in order to compare the growth among the continents beyond nations. Mr Giovannini went on referring to the final resolution of Rio+20 drawing the attention on the global dimension of the topic and the constraint to define the target of the users of the indicators of well being. Moreover, he pointed out that it was given the mandate to UN Statistical Commission to develop indicators to present to the Assembly by 2015. Specifically it was indicated to improve the human development index by 2013 and at this aim a Statistical Advisory Board was constituted. Additionally Mr Giovannini highlighted the importance of the forthcoming 4th World Forum of New Delhi stressing the commitment to define a new policy framework and the crucial importance of the political approach. He noticed how the growing importance of this approach is well witnessed by the new sentence that appears in the OECD logo "Better policies for better life". At a European level, Mr Giovannini reported about the Conference of European Statisticians which was held in June 2012 which delivered a report on sustainable development. He underscored how the great discussion that took place among the participants in the conference to draft the above report witnesses that it's not fully clear what is the way to follow.

The members of the AB interviewed on the communications given by Mr Giovannini advising that: it is necessary to deepen all the issues related to well-being; e-Frame has to be flexible to follow the changes and the debate within Europe and worldwide; e-Frame has to participate to the main events organised worldwide in order to follow the advances on well-being.

As a further item of the meeting it was presented the e-Frame European Network on Measuring Progress (e-FrameNET) hosted by Wikiprogress platform highlighting it was structured to encourage proactive contributions on the activities of the project to facilitate the dissemination of the results reached by e-Frame and by ongoing (and concluded) relevant projects on the thematic of beyond GDP.

The members of the AB gave their comments on the e-FrameNET stressing the importance to make this tool as broad as possible to foster the debate at European and global. Some main advises were related to the necessity to link the e-FrameNET with the main projects and related initiatives on well-being and to link the network with other networks on the same topics.

¹⁸ Namely: Ms Marina Signore (Istat), e-Frame Project Coordinator; Ms Donatella Fazio (Istat), e-Frame Project Manager, Rutger Hoekstra (CBS), co-chair Consortium Management Board.

4.4 The 4th World Forum on Measuring Well-Being for Development and Policy Making

The e-Frame project participated to the 4th OECD World Forum Measuring Well-Being for Development and Policy Making¹⁹, 16-19 October 2012, New Delhi. Building on the Better Life Initiative, the main objectives of the Forum were to further the discussions on the different aspects that make for a good life today and in the future in different countries of the world, and to promote the development and use of new measures of well-being for effective and accountable policy making. Thus, an important expected outcome of the Forum was to contribute to the post-2015 development agenda.

The Forum agenda was designed to reflect the conclusions of the four regional conferences on Measuring Well-Being and Fostering the Progress of Societies that the OECD had organised in association with the OECD Development Centre, PARIS21 and regional actors²⁰.

The four-day Forum gathered around 800 participants from all over the world, including policy-makers as well as representatives from international organisations, national statistical offices, government agencies, academia and civil society. The programme included a combination of keynote addresses, round tables and themed sessions on material conditions; quality of life; gender, minorities & life course perspectives; and sustainability. Each themed session were organised around parallel sub-themed sessions involving speakers from different backgrounds and perspectives.

Day 1 during the plenary on “Reflections from the 3rd OECD World Forum in Busan and conclusions from the subsequent four OECD regional conferences in Mexico, Japan, Morocco and France”, Mr Giovannini, Istat President, presented the conclusions of the e-Frame Initial Conference (OECD European conference) stressing the debate that took place in Paris and highlighting the open issues to treat during the 4th World Forum. Moreover, during the Seminar on Wikiprogress Networks– Regional Participation to a Global Movement it was presented the e-FrameNET and its progress four months after its first launch in Paris. Besides the above presentations, e-Frame was deeply illustrated in the Exhibition Area on “New technologies for visualising statistics as well as initiatives to measure and foster quality of life”. At the e-Frame booth a presentation of the project was set up focusing on its main objectives, its expected results and the main tools and outputs envisaged by the project’s work plan. Presentations of the Consortium and of the Governance Boards of the project were given as well. The e-Frame stall was visited by diverse people attending the forum. Materials on the pillars of the project were distributed to the visitors together with all the relevant information and indications in order to establish connections with the project activities and to encourage the participation to the e-Frame debate inviting to join the e-FrameNET.

The four-day Forum reached its objectives to foster the dialogue on the topics related to the new measurements on well-being and societal progress beyond GDP and e-Frame project was proactively involved in the debate. The conclusions of the 4th World Forum, by Ms Martin Durand, have pointed out that now it is a strong momentum characterized by a large number of local, national, regional, and international initiatives: in all countries of the world (Australia, Bhutan, China, European Union, France, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Morocco, United Kingdom); at international level (OECD, UNDP, UN Regional Commissions); at regional and local levels; at all levels of society. At this stage of the debate on beyond GDP there is a high convergence in understanding of well-being: a common understanding of the issue; a common language for discussion; a core set of similar well-being domains; national priorities reflected in domains and measures. There are challenges to face in the next future which require more research needs: conceptual and measurement questions in some areas; governance issues; social capital and social

¹⁹ <http://www.oecd.org/site/worldforumindia/>

²⁰ These events, for Latin-America (held in Mexico City), for Asia-Pacific (held in Tokyo), for Africa (held in Rabat) took place in May 2011, December 2011, April 2012 respectively. For Europe the regional conference coincided with e-Frame Initial Conference, Paris, June 2012.

cohesion themes; built environment and mobility topics; measurement issues even where concepts are clearer; relationship between GDP and prices; relationship between sustainability and dynamics (here and now; there and then); social mobility theme; mental health issue; timeliness necessity. Ms Durand went on stressing how an international research agenda on the more future research needs is crucial for moving from measurement to informing decision-making and how it is essential that the future agenda promotes change by creating awareness and knowledge, impacting on behaviours and decision-making process, involving citizens and civil society, encouraging new business models. Ms Durand concluded the Forum underscoring the virtuous cycle that can be generated by: regular stocktaking for a periodic assessment of where we stand and where progress is needed; sharing experiences on “what works”; considering frameworks for managing trade-offs and synergies; introducing well-being measures into cost-benefit analysis and program evaluation.

4.5 The e-Frame Final Conference

The Final Conference of e-Frame was held in Amsterdam on 10-11th February 2014 to assess the progress made in the project, galvanize the GDP and beyond network and to make an inventory of the steps that need to be taken forward. In order to provide a full breath of the on-going debate on measuring society’s progress, some of the speakers were external to the project and there were also speakers from other FP7 projects. The programme of the e-Frame Final Conference included discussions of the most recent developments in the measurement of GDP and beyond: well-being, sustainable development, inequality, globalisation, composite indicators, corporate social responsibility, Post 2015, (web)communication, environmental indicators, measuring at local level, stakeholder participation, social monitoring, social and human capital, education initiatives, intangibles, implications for national accounts, and some others. Many of these topics were discussed at previous e-Frame workshops however the Final Conference gave the opportunity to present in an interrelated and comprehensive framework the main outcomes of the project’s activities.

The Conference was the occasion to present overviews of the state-of the art in various sub-domains of the GDP and beyond area, to stimulate the debate in some crucial topics of this area, to stress the importance of embedding GDP and beyond in society and shifting from measurement to policy use, providing policy makers with new measures and tools.

As the organisers highlighted in the report on the Final Conference²¹, the event provided a lot of interactions on a multitude of topics. The setting up of a system that allowed audience to answer a number of questions prepared by the presenters gave the opportunity to feed the debate and to profile points of strengths and weaknesses of the beyond GDP debate and some important open issues. In particular, it was stated that the use of measures for progress in policy making was seldom or never applied in most countries. The audience thought that a dashboard of five headline indicators should be used rather than a single index or a set of indicators. On this issues the EU-Commissioner for the Environmental and a few of the senior policy makers did also stress the importance of single index in communication policy. It emerged the need for the statistical community to conceptualize the way in which progress is measured rather than simply collect data. It was stressed the importance of company involvement pointing out that companies sometimes were more active in corporate social responsibility than some governments. On this side there’s the need for a closer relationship between the statistical community and companies²².

Moreover, participants agreed on the need for some harmonization of the many initiatives to measure progress. A number of speakers referred to the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) recommendations for Measuring Sustainable Development as an excellent starting point in the

²¹ See deliverable 12.4 on www.eframeproject.eu.

²² For a specific analysis on this subject see deliverable 11.1, section A.

discussion on convergence. On this issue the e-Frame Convergence Report by CBS (deliverable 2.5) provides a stocktaking of presently available progress measures and also defines an agenda for future research.

In addition, it was highlighted the problem of timeliness of data. While economic data is generally published very soon, social and environmental indicators lag far behind. Participants agreed on the need for a suitable solution if GDP and beyond wants to compete with economic reporting.

As stressed during the Conference, a significant goal for GDP and beyond is to have impact on policy making, in this context the work done by the FP7 project BRAINPOoL²³ contributed to describe the most important factors in the acceptance of new measures of progress, the barriers experienced and the way to overcome them. The relevance of progress indicators stands in the way they are chosen, it is important that the selection process is supported by a public consultation or by a deliberative dialogue among relevant experts.

As outlined by some speakers, it should be considered the importance of developing models for assessing social sustainability and institutional sustainability. Moreover, a consistent theme recommended during the Conference is the need for better communication to effectively demonstrate the relevance of the beyond GDP agenda and to translate beyond GDP indicators into compelling messages for a wider audience. Finally, there is a clear need for further work to develop the theoretical foundations for beyond GDP narratives²⁴.

4.6 Second meeting of the e-Frame Advisory Board

The second meeting of the e-Frame Advisory Board took place in Rome on 30 April 2014, in Istat premises. It was chaired by Mr Enrico Giovannini, Professor of Economic Statistics at the Economics and Finance Department of the University of Rome Tor Vergata, former Minister of Labor and Social Policies, Italy, and Mr. Bert Kroese, Statistics Netherlands Deputy Director General. Mr Antonio Golini, Istat President, welcomed the participants and acknowledged the fruitful work done by e-Frame project under the leadership of Istat and Statistics Netherlands.

The meeting was aimed at informing the Advisory Board on the project outcomes, getting their advice for finalising the e-Frame policy oriented documents and discussing how to progress with the European agenda on GDP and beyond.

As inputs for discussion, the project leaders²⁵ gave summary presentations concerning: the key messages from the project Final Conference, an overview of e-Frame outcomes and the three policy documents: i) the *Convergence Report*; ii) the *Map on Policy use of progress indicators*; and iii) the *Roadmap for future research needs* as it was evolving since the beginning of the project.

In the following round table, the members of the AB expressed in turn their views and provided useful inputs and advice. Summarising the key messages emerged from the lively discussion stressing:

- the need to find indicators, as successful as GDP, that can be used to inform and monitor policies;
- the importance of creating working groups at the local level, enhancing the role of territories like cities in promoting the debate on progress indicators and creating as well a competitive network at international level;

²³ <http://www.brainpoolproject.eu/>

²⁴ Whitby, A (WFC) et al., BRAINPOoL Project Final Report: Beyond GDP (2014).

²⁵ Namely: Mr Bert Kroese (CBS), co-chair of the e-Frame Advisory Board, Ms Marina Signore (Istat), e-Frame Project Coordinator; Ms Donatella Fazio (Istat), e-Frame Project Manager, Jan Pieter Smits (CBS), co-chair Leading Committee.

- the importance of enlarging the debate on progress indicators and their use within the society, to be viewed as an asset, given the crises and also in order to increase visibility to the work taken up;
 - the necessity to reconcile various models, when speaking about sustainability, in order to protect social cohesion;
 - the need to address environmental degradation, as there is more and more evidence about it and from the academia a disparaging debate emerges, casting doubt whether mankind is capable to take some action on the question.
 - the need to expand business social responsibility, including not only the concept of finance at large and involving also the business represented by companies, which in this sense are considered the “driver of change” for the good or the bad;
 - the need to consider the technological impact on the society and the optimism it has brought on one side, but such revolution based on technology cannot solve all the problems, on the other hand;
 - the need to embed the fundamental topic of the increased flow of information moving swiftly thanks to the new IT-tools into the GDP and beyond debate;
 - the importance of taking into account the relationships between different well-being dimensions when addressing policy models or policy use of progress indicators;
 - speaking about big data or crowdsourcing data, it was underlined that the real problem is how to merge the different data-sets, thus bringing together sustainability and wellbeing. When the environmental indicators impact people’s wellbeing in the same time and geographical location, it will be quite useful to look at them;
 - the European efforts towards a greater degree of data harmonization were stressed and how Europe2020 goes properly in that direction;
 - suggestions on the project communication methods to spread the results, preparing short pieces of paper to reach a popular audience, in addition to the deliverables foreseen;
 - it was underlined that issues such as environment, technology and inequality are quoted almost on a daily basis in the context of policy needs, so the important task assumed is to face or anticipate some of them and begin to use these measures in the policy environment;
 - areas for future work were also highlighted:
 - Statistics area: the debate is still centred on the number of indicators (5 or more) to use into a comprehensive measure and, actually, before making a decision on it, there is the need of more indicators. To this regard the intangible strategy is defined very practical, as it has been adopted more and more in the national accounting framework.
 - Research community: its role is more and more relevant as it can begin to address key issues such as poverty or inequality, where more research is needed.
 - Education: analyzing the implications of some of those issues should be always taken into account and encouraged in research projects.
 - Increasing awareness: policymakers have to react on the base of what citizens and society at large want.

At the conclusion of the round table, Mr Enrico Giovannini took the floor drawing some conclusions.

- The need to invest on models was defined of primary importance. A positive reaction is coming from several countries in testing with the new data but a negative aspect is that time series are very short. In this respect different types of modeling and microdata are considered of great importance. It is desirable that statistical offices became the places where the merging of databases could be done and that there should be given the possibility to rely on microdata or analytical tools that talk about behaviours, not only on aggregate figures. In this sense the issue of non-linearity was suggested to be assumed as a norm and

the subjective behaviour's indicators reinforced. In this field the concept of intangibles could provide help.

- The Brundtland Commission "sustainable development" concept was mentioned which involved not only economic, social and environmental levels but also the "institutional" one which has been overlooked but, as Mr Giovannini emphasised, the crisis is putting at risk the institutional sustainability also at the European level.
- A huge problem of timeliness still continues. One of the research fields suggested to foster relates to the way to obtain early estimates of progress indicators and a message launched to reach the Commission for future research is a major investment on early estimates of social and environmental data.
- Finally, in order to engage more the policymakers another language should be used, connected with the big conceptual debate taking or to take place because of the current and future crises.

4.7 The experience of the e-Frame European Network on Measuring Progress

After its launch at June 2012 the e-Frame European Network on Measuring Progress (e-FrameNET) has given its contribution to the beyond GDP debate standing as one of the important European digital initiatives, sponsored by the European Commission, carried out for sharing information and data.

As pointed out in the second paragraph, the Web 2.0 technologies have strongly contributed to empower the interaction between the various actors of the debate beyond GDP involving, increasingly, people belonging to all societal contexts - consumers, workers, communities, citizens at large – representing the multiplicity of stakeholders- policy makers, civil society organizations, entrepreneurs, researchers, producers of data (NSIs) and international organizations. The Net permits people to meet without boundaries giving the opportunity to join greater diversity in contributions experimenting new forms of collaboration and connectivity that can facilitate problem-solving. The process leads to allow the interactivity between producers and consumers of information implementing the opportunities for producing 'new information' in a global perspective. It has contributed to create a global movement willing to voice its opinions.

European and global digital initiatives, such as the e-FrameNET, have been set up to enlarge the discussion and to better interact with the communities recognizing the role they can have to move the relationship between policy makers and citizens towards a bottom-up approach. Web 2.0 tools can strongly contribute to bridge the gap between research and policy makers, between policy makers and citizens and between research and citizens. The involvement of the communities reduces the risk it poses if populations lose faith in governments' ability to address "what matters" in their lives. At all levels the dialogue via Web 2.0 to share information and data for the evaluation and the measurement of subjective and objective well-being is growing up. The e-participation and the consultations on line are felt as crucial to give to all the local stakeholders the opportunity to contribute to the definition of specific actions and to contribute to take decisions co-established by policy makers and by citizens for a sustainable societal progress.

4.7.1 The eFrameNET tool

The e-FrameNET was set up by Istat as an offshoot of the e-Frame Project. The e-FrameNET, launched at the OECD European Conference on Measuring Well-Being and Fostering the Progress of Societies, 26-28 June 2012- Paris (OECD 2012) was built up with the objective to contribute to the establishment of a European position on the issues related to methodological and theoretical aspects of new indicators for the measurement of societal progress and well-being. The

e-FrameNET has a dedicated space on the Wikiprogress platform (www.wikiprogress.org) hosted by OECD with the aim to drive the European debate towards a highly global level.

The Network's structure allows members to communicate through the e-Frame website and the Wikiprogress platform in order to connect stakeholders, researchers, organisations, citizens and policymakers in the on-going debate on what constitutes the most "accurate" measurement of well-being and societal progress. Members of the Network are organised in a database, centrally managed by ISTAT to respect the privacy rules, which allows for the creation of mailing lists and for disseminating details about relevant activities. The position of e-FrameNET on the Wikiprogress platform represents its key strength driving the European local, national and international debate towards a highly global perspective. It constitutes the European Network, which functions alongside the Regional Networks of Africa and Latin America. It contributes to discussion at a regional and subject-specific level.

The Network is offering interactivity through online discussions, blogs, eBrief and monthly news alerts, aiming to elevate the visibility of the findings of pertinent projects on progressing beyond GDP and impacting over the global debate. The e-FrameNET members receive monthly NewsAlerts on e-Frame project news and events as well as results of other projects, European and extra European initiatives on the topics of the measurement of well-being, progress of society and sustainable growth. e-Frame as "Wikiprogress Europe" participates in many of the online discussions periodically launched by Wikiprogress on various themes linked to progress and wellbeing.

Actually, the Network constitutes a consolidated community of academics, analysts, opinion leaders, citizens and society at large geographically spread all over Europe and abroad counting twenty-four countries. Key members include National Statistical Institutes, civil society organisations, academia and research centres.

The Network will continue its activity, in charge of Istat, after the end of the e-Frame project with the aim to contribute to create an increasing critical mass over the GDP and beyond debate.

4.7.2 Keep on moving. The new FP7 Web-COSI project

During the life cycle of the project, the e-FrameNET tool has contributed sharing mainly textual information about research initiatives supporting the complex debate beyond GDP for the construction of "better statistics".

The advantageous natural evolution of these Web 2.0 tools and platforms should be to give the opportunity to communities to contribute also to the data collection empowering the usage of crowd sourced data. To respond to the increasing users' needs for better statistics beyond GDP these platforms could represent wiki tools able to integrate and complement official statistics with non-official statistics, reshaping the ways in which statistical data can be defined and disseminated.

The new Web 2.0 sources of data (grass root locally generated data as well as Big Data) arise many questions on the side of the producers of official statistics (Giovannini 2010). How to face the trade-off between having more and real-time data and the quality of the information produced? The matter is to integrate different information and disseminate data and metadata, granting a standard of quality for non-official data. A key element for the integrated usage of official and non-official statistics is to clearly distinguish the latter (label) to take into consideration their representativeness.

As the power of online communities grows ever stronger the data producers, together with institutions of diverse type and scope, cannot ignore their centrality towards the definition of better statistics for "better policies for better lives". It is crucial to face the urgent challenge of making a good use of the new sources of data. The NSIs won't lose the official statistics trademark if they get fully on board in the Web 2.0 era for better statistics.

Against this awareness a new FP7 project Web Communities for Statistics for Social Innovation kick offed in January 2014. Web-COSI (www.webcosi.eu) is funded by the EC-DG CONNECT within the FP7 ICT Work Programme 2013 (EC 2013), responding to the call ICT10 launched by Collective Awareness Platforms for Sustainability and Social Innovation²⁶.

The project is coordinated by Istat with the partnership of OECD (the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) and two young civil society Organisations (Lunaria – the Italian Association for Social Promotion and i-genius - the Social Entrepreneur Business and Enterprise Community) representing society at large. The two-year Web-COSI work plan foresees a number of activities with the general objective to foster the engagement of citizens and society at large in the area of statistics beyond GDP and the specific objective is to implement tools for collecting, producing and visualizing locally generated information and data empowering the usage of crowd sourced data. The final aim is to contribute for a better integration and complementarity of official and non-official statistics (Fazio 2014).

Starting from the set-up of an interactive crowd-sourced map to plot and distil best practices of existing digital initiatives for communities' involvement, the work plan will carry on specific initiatives to create a critical mass on the usage of crowd sourced data. Blogs, on line discussions, webinars, newsletters, target citizens campaigns, data visualisation competitions, 'youth initiatives' and a European Wikiprogress University Programme will contribute to empower the engagement of communities. Open face to face International events will be organised: 5 workshops, 4 focus groups and a final conference. With the specific aim to call the communities to access statistics, the development of a Wiki of progress statistics, at the mid-term point of the project, will constitute the main goal. A Web 2.0 tool to manage the collection of civil society grass root locally-generated data which can be integrated with official statistical data.

Archiving its results Web-COSI will pave the way for future research needs identifying the open issues for the exploitation of crowd sourced data. In Web 2.0 era as the power of online communities grows ever stronger institutions of diverse type and scope cannot ignore their centrality for the "definition" of better statistics for better policies for a better quality of life.

²⁶ <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/collectiveawareness>

5. The Roadmap for future research needs

5.1 *The diverse dimensions of the future research needs*

Against the beyond GDP debate and the research results achieved so far by the diverse European and global initiatives and against the main findings from the discussions within e-Frame project reported above, this section will deliver the final *Roadmap for future research needs*. It is an important output of the e-Frame work plan and represents the final step of a process of updating and dissemination that followed the previous releases of the dynamic roadmap.

The roadmap proposed is the final effort to categorize the topics that require being further developed and investigated in the future research activity to respond to the EC's call to "*identify research needs and gaps in relevant information and methods and propose research topics to be addressed at the European level*".

The roadmap is intended as a dynamic tool which aims at identifying a scale of priority of research needs and information gaps which should follow step by step the activities of e-Frame project. The implementation of the project has brought to revise/add/change some of the elements of the previous versions of the roadmap with the aim to enrich it following the on-going debate.

This roadmap, as well as the previous ones, presents the research needs grouped into four main streams: the needs which mainly should be developed in the perspective of the measurements related to the official statistics; the needs for the exploitation of non-official sources; the needs belonging to the communication side; the needs for a policy use of progress indicators.

Finally, it is worth underscoring that the choice of grouping the research needs, as illustrated above, permits an easier reading of the roadmap even if it is necessary to consider the limit of cataloguing the issues related to the research needs that are noticeably and easily cross cutting among the four groups.

5.1.1 Measurement issues in official statistics

The European Statistical System, comprising Eurostat and the EU National Statistical Institutes, has adopted the recommendations of the Sponsorship Group on 'Measuring Progress, Well-being and Sustainable Development' (ESS, 2001a) in order to develop new official statistics and concise indicators beyond GDP. This will be achieved by widening and strengthening the official statistical production and by targeting at a better harmonisation and standardisation of concepts and indicators.

Fostering the bottom-up approach initiatives of stakeholder's consultations and the dialogue with the society at large supported by the Web 2.0 tools would also contribute to put the program into concrete.

Despite the great amount of work already undertaken, there exist information needs that are not fully met by official statistics yet (e.g. information lacking at all, or for given target groups of interest, or at the desired geographical detail, or that arrives too late).

The *Roadmap for future research needs* identifies specific needs and research areas to be developed in order to support the updating process of the European Statistical System. European statistics are called to respond to the evolving information needs for up-to-date information that meets the societal and political demands for measuring progress, well-being and sustainable development in a more comprehensive way while ensuring at the same time high quality standards (ESS, 2011b).

An indicative list of the research needs for the above dimension is the following:

Need to continue implementing subjective indicators
Need to report indicators at different levels: local, national, global
Need to disaggregate at the right dimension (e.g. target groups)
Need to harmonize concepts, standards and definitions and provide metadata
Need to improve the timeliness of data
Need to further develop indicators of sustainability
Need to increase microdata availability
Need to analyse quality implications for well-being measurement
Need to train at University level on Official Statistics and on measuring progress (European Master in Official Statistics)

As reported in the above list, one of the main indications from the activities and discussion made during the project life has been the need to further implement subjective indicators. Indicators of subjective well-being have the potential of bringing critical information on people's life, shedding light on the relationship between objective circumstances in which people live and their own evaluation and contentment with them. Most of the existing subjective well being measures have been developed outside the boundaries of official statistics. However, a number of important initiatives in this field have been taken by National Statistical Institutes and International Organisations; a review of these initiatives is reported in "Stocktaking report on subjective wellbeing" (nef) of e-Frame project (deliverable 2.1). In the context of these initiatives, OECD has released its measurement Guidelines²⁷ for the collection and use of subjective well-being measures which include recommendations for a set of ten measures of positive and negative emotions, including three 'core' items (on feeling happy, worried and depressed). The aim of these guidelines is to provide guidance to National Statistical Institutes and other producers and users of survey-based data on subjective well-being.

Moreover, attention has been focused on the need to develop new measures and methodologies to gauge well-being at the local, national and global level. Within this framework the "Report on conceptual framework to measure social progress at the local level and case studies" by The Young Foundation (deliverable 9.1), has set up definitions on local progress and guiding principles to develop a conceptual framework capable to provide a common and unifying understanding of social progress at a local level. The report also highlights how the limitations in data availability, comparability and accessibility are increasing insofar as the geographical level is restricting to local areas.

In particular, concerning the national level we can refer to the BES²⁸ initiative which is being carried out by the Italian National Institute of Statistics (Istat) and CNEL²⁹ in order to

²⁷ OECD, Guidelines on measuring subjective well-being. Paris: OECD Publishing, 2013

²⁸ www.misuredelbenessere.it

²⁹ CNEL, Consiglio Nazionale Economia e Lavoro (National Council for Economics and Labour)

implement a stakeholder consultation for measuring Equitable and Sustainable Well-being in Italy. In the Italian experience it appears important to develop indicators that can be disaggregated to a local level able to represent territorial differences; to this effect BES will launch a project in collaboration with 12 Italian cities in order to build a roadmap for the measurement of all BES indicators also for major metropolitan areas.

On the other side, there is the need to bring the focus of measurement efforts to the global level. As raised from the discussion during the Advisory Board meeting the interaction between the European level and the global context is the approach to follow to go towards the definition of new indicators on the measurement of progress and well-being beyond GDP. On this side e-Frame has focused on the process of globalisation from different perspectives. The “Report on New Measures of International Trade” (deliverable 6.1) and the “Report on Environmental Footprints-a methodological and empirical overview from the perspective of official statistics” (deliverable 6.2) deal with the interdependency between countries and regions which points out particular challenges to the measurements of well-being indicators.

Attention should be paid also to the need to “disaggregate data by specific and vulnerable population groups allowing for greater insight into the dynamics and factors that cause the individual’s well-being to be threatened”³⁰. On this side, within e-Frame project a “Stocktaking Report on Social Monitoring and Reporting in Europe” has been released (deliverable 5.2). Moreover, a Web-Platform for Social Monitoring and Reporting in Europe has been developed by e-Frame³¹ (deliverable 5.3).

On the timeliness front, National Statistical Institutes and Eurostat have to find a way of harmonising EU statistics and appreciably speeding up data availability. Timeliness has improved through a number of actions, including: greater coordination in the delivery of data by Member States; the modernisation of statistical production processes and the use of IT based data collection tools; the development and implementation of estimation methods for late data; shortening of the deadlines for the provision of data and the development of flash (early) estimates.

The well-being and progress agenda calls for new and improved statistics, aimed at complementing standard economic statistics and developing indicators that have a more direct bearing on people’s life. Concerning the producers of data, the production process should be adapted to collect data on phenomena that cover multiple dimensions. As stressed during the Initial Conference and by the Advisory Board a multi-dimensional approach to well-being allowing for analysing the relationships among the different dimensions can make the difference. For instance, “in the society individuals with poor health present also poor working conditions and poor subjective wellbeing. If the priority is to look across into these relationships, this will certainly have implications in measurement techniques and the indicators to be provided”³².

A continuous work is required to NSIs in setting standards, providing guidelines and identifying good practices to produce more comparable data. Increasing metadata dissemination is also requested in order to enable a wide range of users to properly analyse and compare available data. The harmonisation process concerns several dimensions. First of all, there is a lack of harmonisation concerning well-being frameworks and measures collected and used at the local level given that the lack of a common framework is highly depending on the local area of reference. Secondly, there might be a lack of harmonisation concerning local frameworks and the national one. Finally, there might also be a lack of harmonisation in the national reference systems with respect to the European framework.

To this effect the work carried out in e-Frame project has helped to identify and report on good practices on progress measurement among NSIs and to propose a consistent system of measurement. A “Report on Typology of statistical systems for the measurement of progress, well-

³⁰ From Canadian Index of Wellbeing Online Discussion at

http://www.wikiprogress.org/images/Summary_Report_of_CIW_Online_Discussion.pdf

³¹ <http://www.gesis.org/en/social-indicators/products-of-the-zsi/european-social-monitoring-and-reporting/>

³² e-Frame Advisory Board second meeting

being and sustainability” (deliverable 10.2) and a “Report on Specific NSIs’ challenges faced when measuring well-being” (deliverable 10.3) are important outputs of the project.

As pointed out during the many International forums participated by e-Frame, there is a convergence between well-being agenda and sustainability agenda even if, as remarked during the 4th OECD World Forum, it is necessary to improve the indicators of sustainability. In this context it is important to mention the framework put forward in the e-Frame “Convergence Report” (deliverable 2.5) that links the three conceptual dimensions of sustainable development and proposes an indicator set without claiming to provide a one-size-fits-all solution.

Elementary data (microdata) allow analysts and researchers for more in-depth analyses, for a better understanding of well-being drivers and the relationships among the different dimensions of well-being. Thus, as the Advisory Board suggested, National Statistical Institutes could play an important role in allowing microdata’s exploitation for research purposes and moreover, integrated microdata databases that would allow for analysis of individual behaviours, patterns and relationships among different phenomena.

Keeping on this dimension of measurements issues in official statistics, further insights and contributions to the definition of this document on future research needs have been provided also by the “Report on Alternatives to GDP and to Macro Indicators” (deliverable 3.1).

The multidimensional nature of well-being poses new challenges also for what concerns the quality framework. As the previous discussion has shown, well-being is measured by several dimensions and these dimensions are intertwined. Moreover, there is a large debate in the scientific community concerning the opportunity as well as the limitations related to using aggregate measures of well-being (i.e. composite indicators). These elements pose new challenges to official statistics with regard to quality aspects to be dealt with within the European quality framework represented by the Code of Practice (ESS, 2011b). For instance, research activity is needed in order to define and assess the accuracy of composite indicators. Furthermore, the quality dimensions might need to be expanded if well-being indicators are to be jointly analysed or integrated databases are to be used.

Given the challenges ahead of National Statistical Institutes in meeting all the expectations that measuring progress requires, it becomes vital to train young generations in Official Statistics with a view on an advanced training on measuring well-being beyond GDP. In this respect the experience of the e-Frame “Summer School” (deliverable 12.3) in cooperation with Eurostat within the EMOS (European Master in Official Statistics) framework was a very valuable input.

5.1.2 Exploiting non official sources

The demand for measuring progress, well-being and sustainable development in a multi-dimensional way needs “more” information and data. It brings to the necessity to exploit the integration and complementarity of official data with non-official data. Non-official sources can cover product areas and sectors excluded from official sources, filling important data gaps.

An indicative list of the research needs for the above dimension is the following:

Need to bridge top-down and bottom-up approaches for the construction of statistics beyond GDP
Need to foster the usage of non-official data for the construction progress statistics
Need to exploit crowd sourced locally generated data
Need to evaluate how to integrate/complement official data with non-official data
Need to develop technologies for the use of big data and open data in official statistical production
Need to evaluate the role for non-official data in a cost-benefit perspective
Need to validate the usage of non-official data in a “new” quality framework
Need to label the non-official data to be clearly distinguished from the official ones

Within this dimension, it is worth mentioning the numerous experiences of civil society involvement in the production of statistics which can integrate those employed in the GDP measurement and that appears as relevant starting points for developments in EU policy processes that could contribute to enlarge the debate on EU standards for the definition of well-being and social progress. As emerged from the e-Frame debate, the construction and development phases of beyond GDP indicators should be reached through a democratic legitimacy process and public participation. On this side, the “Report on the analysis of major practices of citizen consultation” (deliverable 7.1) and the “Guidelines of action for Stakeholders Inclusion and Activation of Deliberative Process” (deliverable 7.3) have provided constructive analysis about the importance of legitimacy for the definition of a set of societal progress indicators to be used and applied in decision-making processes.

Moreover, recognising the importance of the involvement of society at large for the reshape of statistics beyond GDP, it should be mentioned the new EU FP7 project Web Communities for Statistics for Social Innovation - Web-COSI, already illustrated in paragraph 4.7.2 (www.webcosi.eu) presented at the e-Frame Final Conference. The project, using Web 2.0 technologies, aims to exploiting crowd sourced of data for the definition of “better statistics” beyond GDP.

About the integration of official statistics with new data, during the e-Frame debate, it was highlighted the central issue, debated at the 2012 United Nations Conference for Sustainable Development – Rio+20, on the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)³³. This network, based on non-profit organization, promotes economic, environmental and social sustainability. The GRI’s Sustainability Reporting Framework enables all companies and organizations to measure and report their sustainability performance and to contribute to a Green Economy. Data are provided on the

³³ <https://www.globalreporting.org/Pages/default.aspx>

sustainability performance of companies – including carbon emissions, water use and human rights infringement. Most of the world’s biggest companies report their sustainability performance. GRI produces a comprehensive sustainability reporting framework that is widely used around the world³⁴. During the e-Frame Final Conference it was outlined the need for a closer relationship between the statistical community and companies to keep on moving on this side.

Web 2.0 technologies give great opportunities for the use of Big Data and Open Data for statistical production. The debate on these new sources of unofficial data is largely growing within the European Statistical System to evaluate the potentiality of these new data for progress statistics. Big Data Conference, organised by Eurostat in Rome on 31 March-1 April 2014³⁵, was the occasion to discuss on opportunities and methodological challenges for official statistics. According to the Scheveningen Memorandum³⁶ official statistics should incorporate as much as possible all potential data sources, including Big Data, into their conceptual design. Within this context, harnessing “big data” to produce timely beyond GDP statistics appears as an important challenging topic. This was one of the message pointed out during the e-Frame Final Conference.

e-Frame participated in the 2014 European Conference on Quality in Official Statistics (Q2014)³⁷, presenting its results in a forward perspective focusing on the need for using new sources of data, including crowd sourced data and discussing quality challenges for both official and non-official data. Citizen-generated data is a very new field for Statistical Offices, but one with a large potential to collect information that is directly relevant to people’s well-being. Crowd sourced data can give information at real time. Crowd sourced data cannot respond to the “classical” statistical quality framework. They should however be used clearly labelled to be distinguished from the official data.

5.1.3 Communication issues

Well-being measures can make a real difference to people’s lives if they are explicitly brought into the policy-making process. It is strongly recognized that good dissemination and communication are crucial to inform the diverse stakeholders (civil society organizations, social entrepreneurs, researchers, practitioners, consumers, workers, citizens and society at large), to convince political actors about the relevance of the work on well-being and societal progress and to demonstrate how much has already been achieved in this field.

Communication and dissemination strategies are crucial to enforce the awareness of the importance of “better statistics” on well-being and societal progress for all the stakeholders and in particular an effort has to be driven towards the business world not used yet to read figures different from GDP. Communication and dissemination strategies can enable and encourage public debate and provide decision makers with a wealth of information to develop more informed policies.

To this effects data visualisation, including new social media platforms combined with traditional media, need to be enhanced and brought up-to-date.

³⁴ On these issues the European Commission has defined Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as “a concept whereby companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operations and in their interaction with their stakeholders on a voluntary basis. Corporate social responsibility concerns actions by companies over and above their legal obligations towards society and the environment. In October 2011 the European Commission published a new policy on corporate social responsibility: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sustainable-business/corporate-social-responsibility/index_en.htm

³⁵ <http://www.cros-portal.eu/content/ess-big-data-event-31-march-1-april-2014-rome>

³⁶ <http://www.cros-portal.eu/news/scheveningen-memorandum-big-data-and-official-statistics-adopted-essc>

³⁷ http://www.q2014.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Q2014_Paper_Fazio-Signore_Session_38.pdf

An indicative list of the research needs for the above dimension is the following:

Need to facilitate the communication to policy makers
Need to find a wording for policy makers
Need to develop Web2.0 tools to improve the understanding of progress statistics
Need to exploit the digital initiatives carried out by communities for statistics beyond GDP
Need to foster the culture on the measurement of well-being
Need to educate the opinion leaders and journalists on statistics beyond GDP
Need to inform and train the business world and educate the market to read new measurements of progress and well-being beyond GDP as a chance to catch for their business
Need to complement statistics with story telling

Within this dimension we can mention the contribute from the e-Frame project releasing an ICT Catalogue (deliverable 8.1) that identifies and recommends best practices to National Statistics Institutes (NSIs) in the presentation and visualisation of official statistical information on Internet.

Even though it still represents a challenge for many NSIs, it is widely recognised that a better understanding and appropriate use of statistics, and particularly of progress indicators, requires developing and implementing best practices in data presentation, as well as investment in good quality data visualisation tools.

Actually, users are increasingly expecting web content to be visual, engaging and personal. Thus not only the data graphical presentation has to improve but also the ability to narrate a story from the data (*story telling*), to allow users for easily reuse or further analyse them (e.g. availability of software or other analyses tools).

5.1.4 For a policy use of progress indicators

There are inter linkages between the various progress indicators. The different domains of well-being “are like spider webs and this fact is widely ignored”³⁸ and often researchers and policy makers work in a specific domain ignoring the critical role of other sectors in progress. Work should be done to look forward to a wide integrated vision identifying the main drivers of well-being and to assess the overall impact of alternative policy options on people’s life.

Models should be developed to evaluate the various benefits and costs of policies enacted simultaneously or of a single policy affecting many dimensions at the same time (econometric models of simulation) as well as the long term effects of policies in order to take into account the sustainability of the actions undertaken. At the same time, the construction of risk indicators is necessary to study the social effect of not doing.

As it was highlighted during the final conference of BRAINPOoL project³⁹, (Paris, 24 March 2014) Institutions such as Eurostat, the OECD, the World Bank, NSIs and others are responding to the need for defining a more complex set of economic policy objectives, while non-

³⁸ From Canadian Index of Wellbeing Online Discussion at http://www.wikiprogress.org/images/Summary_Report_of_CIW_Online_Discussion.pdf

³⁹ <http://www.brainpoolproject.eu/>

governmental actors push for using beyond GDP indicators as a tool to promote important societal change, such as greater equality, longer levels of well-being and a vision of progress that is consistent with environmental sustainability. Within this context the BRAINPOoL project's activities have contributed to describe the most important factors in the acceptance of new measures of progress, focusing on exploring the barriers to the use of beyond GDP indicators in policy making and the way to overcome them.

Most of these issues were discussed also at the e-Frame Final Conference (Amsterdam, 10-11 February 2014) where it was stressed that a significant goal for GDP and beyond agenda is to have impact on policy-making so that government become more geared towards policies that enhance well-being and sustainable development rather than economic growth. Keynote speeches by Janez Potocnik (European Commissioner for Environment, European Commission) and Enrico Giovannini (Minister for Labour and Social Policies, Italy) stressed the importance of a policy use of well-being and sustainable development indicators highlighting as well the actual limitations that prevent from a wider use. Mr Giovannini identified in data timeliness one of the major obstacles for an actual policy use. He also pointed out that besides the three levels of "sustainable development" that is the economic, the social and the environmental, there is an "institutional" level that has been often ignored and that the crisis is putting in the limelight. Namely, the crisis is putting at risk the institutional sustainability also at the European level.

A big challenge is to define the role of well-being indicators in policy-making. As stressed at the 4th OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy, held in New Delhi in October 2013, it becomes clear "the importance of shifting from measurement to policy use" and the importance of providing policy makers with ideas and tools on how best to use new measures in their policies" (Giovannini, 4th World Forum 2012).

Building on these considerations and on the debate arisen from the e-Frame project's activities, a short list of the main research needs can be sketched.

An indicative list of the research needs for the above dimension is the following:

- Need to develop models capable to describe the trade-off between different dimensions and simulate the various effects
- Need to develop an integrated framework for a policy use of progress indicators
- Need to evaluate the "Institutional" Sustainability for a well-being oriented policy
- Need to develop risk indicators to measure the social effect of not doing
- Need to construct econometric models of simulation to measure the effect of the policies on well being
- Need to study how the use of well-being indicators positively influences the (good) policies
- Need to develop a beyond GDP narrative

Beside this effort to categorise in a broad sense the main research needs, e-Frame project contributes also with the *Map on policy use of progress indicators* (deliverable 11.1) to the purpose to provide policy makers with ideas and tools that can guide and support their policies. The *Map* provides a selection of the results emerged in the literature useful to see how progress indicators can be used in policy making and whether they have been actually used; it has the ambition to contribute to the current debate and to further promote policy use of progress indicators. It discusses existing gaps, proposes improvements and suggests recommendations for use.

As it is highlighted in the last section of the *Map*⁴⁰, well-being indicators differ from traditional socio-economic indicators by including areas that were absent from standard measures used by policy makers and because they encompass one multidimensional concept (“well-being”) into a single consistent measurement framework. Thus, they can inform policy on a coherent set of targets and instruments needed to achieve these targets.

6. Final remarks

As resulted from the previous section, there are several important gaps that need to be filled in as well as actions that are started but need to be further developed or implemented.

In many areas, National Statistical Institutes can play a leading role by calculating well-being, societal progress and sustainability indicators that respond to the users’ needs and satisfy quality requirements such as timeliness, geographical disaggregation and representativeness, comparability over time and accuracy.

They could also adequately support the process of integration of official and non-official statistics given the know-how and the expertise gained in setting quality requirements and in developing statistical models for integrating and jointly analysing data from different sources. Whilst it is no more possible to ignore non official data sources, quality will become more and more a crucial aspect for sorting out data (and data producers) that can be trustfully used in guiding evidence-based policies: data quality will set out the boundaries of public interest and serviceable data separating them from all the others.

In this respect, researchers and analysts in different field (e.g. economic, social and environment) can find an important reference, for their work in developing indicators or using (official and non-official data sources) for their analyses, in the European quality framework and in the methodological expertise gained by NSIs

In reality as available resources are limited, it is vital to join efforts and to coordinate research activities at a European level. The recommendations of the Sponsorship Group (ESS, 2011a) are a notable example of enhancing progress statistics. Partnerships between NSIs, the academia and other relevant actors in the well-being debate could contribute to a large extent to reach faster and sounder results in the above mentioned areas.

Particularly challenging needs described in “Measurement issues in official statistics” and in “For a policy use of progress indicators” paragraphs could be better tackled in partnership, even where some demands explicitly call for a NSIs’ proactive role.

With regard to the area of “Communication issues”, the existing dissemination channels (both official and non-official) can be exploited and complemented by new ones in order to put the progress indicators at the front of the public debate and promote their use by policy makers. In order to increase the use and relevance of beyond GDP indicators, it is extremely important to establish a dialogue with the society at large. This can be achieved, among others, by exploiting the potentialities of the web 2.0 and by activating bottom up deliberative processes, as already mentioned in the document.

The *Roadmap* identifies a number of “needs” to be addressed in future research agendas at a European level in order consolidate the availability and the use of indicators on well-being, societal progress and sustainable development. Nevertheless, it would be recommended, as an initial step, to find a large consensus on setting priorities with regard to the above mentioned needs and to schedule the future actions in the light of the objectives of Horizon 2020.

⁴⁰ Section C, “Whispering well-being in the ears of the prince: towards an integrated policy framework for better lives”, by Romina Boarini and Conal Smith (OECD).

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