Post 2015 development goals - EU perspective

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Background – two separate …

- 1992 - first Rio conference calls for sustainable development strategies that encompass environmental, social and economic topics
- Indicator sets developed across the world
- 2000 – Millennium Declaration, political agreement on the 8 MDG goals
- 2002 - first set of global goals (8), targets (18), indicators (48) developed with statisticians
- 2015 – deadline to achieve goals

..but overlapping measurement approaches
What will come after 2015?
- Global Sustainable Development Goals

• Combines the breadth of the Rio inspired indicators (economic, social, environmental) with MDG approach to setting goals

• International panel announced by UN Secretary General including:
  • 3 co-chairs (Presidents of Liberia and Indonesia, and Prime Minister of UK)
  • Panellists include Kadir Topbaş (Mayor of Istanbul)
European political process

- Currently developing an EU consensus
- Commission proposals outlined in recent Communication (Feb 2013)
  - A Decent Life for all - COM (2013) 92
  - Key proposals/endorsements
    - Joint approach to MDG & SDG review
    - Integrate the 3 dimensions (economic, social, environmental)
    - Applies to all countries and should have different targets for different contexts
    - Goals should be tailored and operational at national level
    - Goals should be a floor for living standards under which no one should fall
    - Should address (inter alia) justice, equality, equity, human rights, democracy, rule of law, women's empowerment/gender equality, peace & security
Eurostat's activities

- Monitors post 2015 indicator debates among EU politicians
- Ensure that the EU's position is reflected in international statistical discussions
- Share its experience of developing indicator sets – e.g. Europe2020
- Participates in the Inter Agency Expert Group (IAEG)
- Provides statistical capacity building support to third country regions to collect post 2015 data
European experience with indicators

• 2000 – Lisbon Strategy launched with 79 indicators (economic & social)
• 2001 - EU leaders launched the first EU sustainable development strategy (added an environmental dimension to the Lisbon Strategy)
• 2010 - Europe2020 indicators launched
• http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/europe_2020_indicators/headline_indicators
PYRAMID OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Primary information from surveys, registries etc.

Accounting systems

Indicator sets

Composite indicators

Multi-Purpose

Not labelled as "Official Statistics"

Specific Purpose
Eurostat's role in developing new indicators

• Input on data issues – match political preferences to what is measurable
• Ensure statistical realism at key stages of the policy debate during the development phase
• Receive and validate data sets from MS
• Publish up to date EU aggregate figures on our website
• Work with Member State NSIs to continually improve the quality and comparability of the data
• Present and communicate the indicators
Key statistics related lessons learnt (1)

• Close cooperation between policymakers and statisticians is essential
• Quality of the statistics used needs to be as high as possible to ensure the robustness of the indicator (and reduce risk that indicators are undermined as a performance measure)
• Think not only about individual indicators but also of the indicator group as a whole (issues such as coherence, inter-linkages, overlap etc.)
Key statistics related lessons learnt (2)

- Coherence – only achieved if indicators originate from a standardised data compilation/accounting framework (NA), this is however rare case and horizontal effort is needed to ensure coherence.

- Encourage restraint! Use no more indicators than are necessary. [Europe 2020 – 8 indicators for 5 headline targets. EU SDS – more than 100 indicators]

- Timing of our involvement - policy makers may not know the best time to involve us. Don't wait to be asked!
Thank you