



gesis



The Netherlands Institute for Social  
Research

# Social Monitoring and Reporting in Western and Central Europe

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## Western and Central Europe

1. Short overview of social monitoring and reporting in:
  - a. Austria
  - b. Belgium
  - c. Switzerland
  - d. Ireland
  - e. France
  - f. The Netherlands
  - g. Germany
  - h. United Kingdom  
(Luxembourg)
2. What are the similarities and differences
3. Recent Observations
4. Are there any best practices? What can we learn?



# Overview of social monitoring and reporting activities

Country	Name	First edition/launch	Latest edition/end date	Objective	Subjective
Austria	Social Report (engl.)/Sozialbericht/Bericht über die soziale Lage (german)	1967 (engl. 2004)	2010 (2009-2010)	yes	
Austria	Sozialpolitische Indikatoren im internationalen Vergleich	2012	2012	yes	
Belgium	Indicatoren	(?)	2010	yes	
Belgium	Jaarboek Armoede en Sociale Uitsluiting/Poverty and Social Exclusion. Year	1992	2011 (engl. 2003)	yes	yes
Belgium	Rapport - Armoedebaarometer 2012	2010	2012	yes	
France	Portrait Social	1997	2012	yes	
Germany	Prosperity Quintet	2010	2010	yes	(yes)
Germany	Measuring welfare in Germany - A suggestion for a new welfare index	2010	2010	yes	
Germany	Lebenslagen in Deutschland, Armuts- und Reichtumsbericht der Bundesregi	2001	2011	yes	
Germany	Datenreport	1983	2011	yes	yes
Germany	Sozialreport. Daten und Fakten zur sozialen Lage in den neuen Bundeslän	1992	2010	yes	yes
Germany	Social Indicator Monitor - SIMon	2010	2012	yes	yes
Germany	German System of Social Indicators	1993	2012 (Income)	yes	yes
Germany	Informationsdienst Soziale Indikatoren (ISI)	1989	2012	yes	yes
Germany	Berichterstattung zur sozioökonomischen Entwicklung in Deutschland	2005	2012	yes	
Ireland	Measuring Ireland's Progress (Indicator Report)	2003	2010	yes	
Ireland	Well-being Matters : A Social Report for Ireland	2009		yes	yes
Ireland	Monitoring Poverty Trends in Ireland 2004-2007: Key Issues for Children, Peo	2010		yes	
Netherlands	Armoedemonitor (Poverty monitor)	1997	2007	yes	
Netherlands	Armoedebericht	2002	2008	yes	
Netherlands	Social and Cultural Report/Sociaal en Cultureel Rapport	1974	2010	yes	
Netherlands	De sociale staat van de Nederland	2001	2011	yes	yes
Netherlands	Life Situation Index	2001	2009	yes	yes
Netherlands	Personal Well-Being Index for the Netherlands	2005 (?)	2010	(yes)	yes
Switzerland	Sozialbericht	2000		2012 yes	yes
Switzerland	GDP and beyond - Indicators	2012	2012	yes	yes
United Kingdom	Measuring National Well-being programme -publications	2011	2012	yes	yes
United Kingdom	Measuring National Well-being programme -publications	2011	2012	yes	yes
United Kingdom	Report. Monitoring poverty and social exclusion	1999	2011	yes	(yes)
United Kingdom	Developing a Quality of Life Measure – Project	2008			
United Kingdom	Social Trends	1970	2011	yes	yes
United Kingdom	Measuring National Well-being	2011			
United Kingdom	Humankind Index - the new measure of Scotland's prosperity	2007-2008	2009-2010	yes	yes
United Kingdom	Performance at a Glance	2007	2011	yes	
United Kingdom	National Indicators	2007	2011	yes	yes
United Kingdom	United Kingdom Indicators	(?)	2010	yes	(yes)

## Austria

*Social Report*

*Bericht über  
die soziale Lage*

Issued by the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and and Consumer Protection.

Objective indicators about social affairs, social security and social expenditure

Biannual since 1964 (English 2004)

## Belgium

*Indicatoren*

Herman Deleek centrum. Objective indicators about social security, housing, education, health.

*Jaarboek armoede*

Centre on Inequality, Poverty, Social Exclusion and the City. Also about education and health. Yearly since 1992

*VRIND*

Regional - Flemish only. Broad report about the life situation. Both objective and subjective. Yearly since 1992.



## Switzerland

### *Swiss Social Report*

- Swiss foundation for research in social sciences (FORS).
- Based on systematically prepared data and indicators. Informs about the current status and development trends in the Swiss society.
- Since 2000, every 4 years.
- Broad scope. Both objective and subjective indicators.
- Each year a specific theme. This issue focuses on intergenerational relationships.

## Ireland

### *Measuring Ireland's Progress*

- Central Statistics Office. Yearly, since 2003.
- Broad scope. Only objective indicators.
- The progress indicators used in this report provide a synoptic analysis of the economic, social and environment situation in Ireland.



Measuring  
Ireland's  
Progress

2010

Published by the Stationery Office, Dublin, Ireland.

To be purchased from the:

Central Statistics Office, Information Section, Skeelard Road, Cork,  
Government Publications Sales Office, Sun Alliance House,  
Molesworth Street, Dublin 2,

or through any bookseller.

Pm A11/1564

Price €5.00

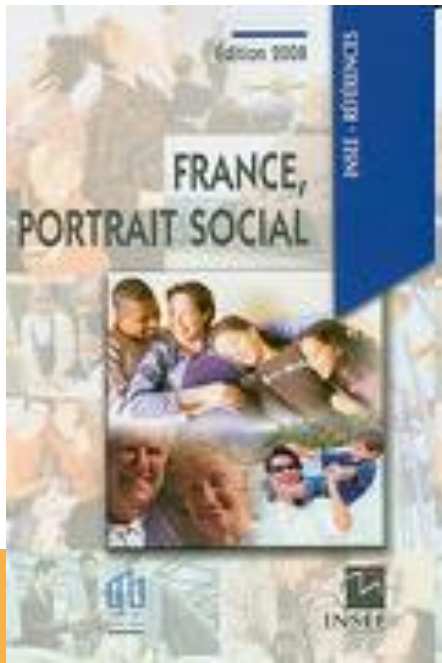
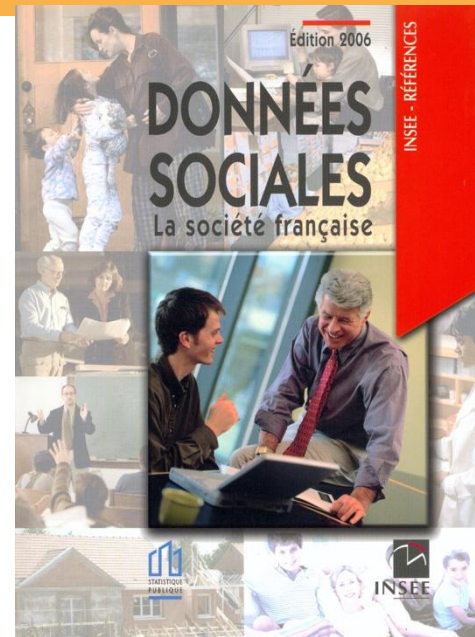
September 2011

## France – National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE)

- **Données Sociales**

Since 1973 every 3 years (discontinued;  
last edition 2006)

Offers a thorough and eagerly awaited overview of  
French society and its trends. Broad perspective.



- **France Portrait Social**

Since 1997/98 every 1-2 years

Broad perspective with focus on socio-  
economic indicators.  
Collection of articles.

## Netherlands – The Netherlands Institute for Social Research | SCP

### ➤ Sociaal en Cultureel Rapport

since 1974, biannual

- more recently focus on specific theme
- stronger policy orientation
- broad scope. Both objective and subjective indicators.



### ➤ The Social State of the Netherlands

since 2001, biannual

- comprehensive report on life situation of the population in the Netherlands.
- broad scope. Both objective and subjective indicators.



## Germany

### Datenreport

- Published since 1983. Biannual report.
- Broad scope.
- Both objective and subjective indicators.

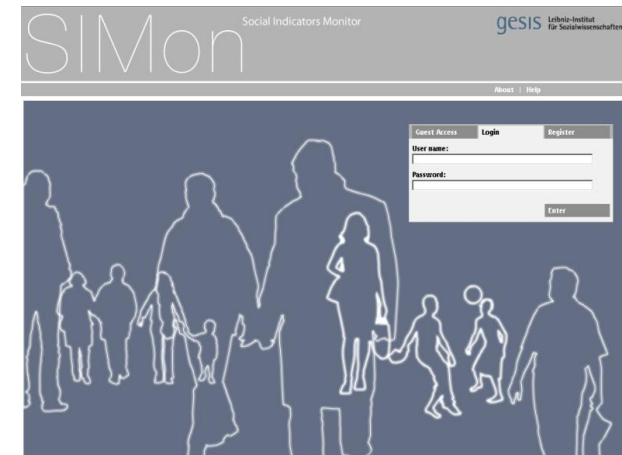
Statistisches Bundesamt, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB); (GESIS-ZSi until 2008)



### German System of Social Indicators GESIS – Social Indicators Research Centre (ZSi)

- First published 1976. Indicator system.
- Broad scope (13 life domains).
- Both objective and subjective indicators.

Now available via SiMon: **S**ocial **I**ndicators **M**onitor





# United Kingdom

## Social Trends (2010 last print edition)

- Published yearly since 1970 by Office for National Statistics (ONS).
- Broad scope.
- Both objective and subjective indicators.

Provides an overview of the state of the nation.

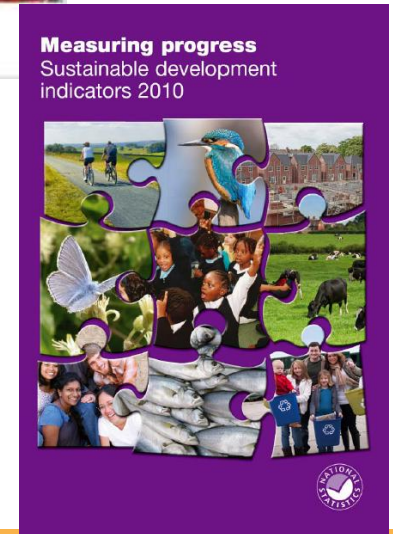
An up to date and comprehensive description of society, drawing on statistics from a wide range of government departments and other organisations to show how society is changing, as well as some of the factors which may be driving these trends.



# 'New' development: sustainability reports



- Austria
- Belgium
- France
- Germany
- Ireland
- The Netherlands
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom





## What do (most of) the social reports have in common?

- Focus on well-being and societal development in a broad sense – going beyond GDP and economic monitoring and reporting
- Regularly published
- Not only figures, also analysis and interpretation
- Result of a longterm movement (the youngest series started in 2003, the oldest in the early 1970s)
- However: Plurality of producers / publishing institutions - NSIs, organizations linked to government, research centres



## What are the differences?

- Reporting on both objective and subjective indicators
- The broadness of views
- The included domains
- Structure and conceptual approaches
- Frequency of reporting
- Comparison with other (European) countries
- Inclusion of indices
- Sustainability as part of the reporting / monitoring



## Recent Observations

- Discontinuation of few reports (at least print edition)
- New wave of monitoring activities as result of Stiglitz et al 2009 report
- Growing need for country comparisons
- Webbased services (replacing printed publications?)



## How to proceed - Are there best practices? I

Maybe not one single report or monitor –  
each has its own stronger and weaker points.

Important features appear to be:

- Broad scope
- Both objective and subjective indicators
- More than just tables and figures
  - > analysis & interpretation too
- Longer period of time (medium term description)



## How to proceed - Are there best practices? II

### Important too:

- Possibility to break down results for various groups in society (sex, age, income, education)
  - > use of survey data
- Attract attention from:
  - Policymakers to have policy relevance
  - Media to inform the wider audience
- Relate to policy objectives
- Compare with other countries ?

### What to do with sustainability?