

Social Monitoring and Reporting

The Role of Academic Research and Think Tanks

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Overview on existing activities

- large number of actors / activities (up to 40)
- broad country coverage: 17 countries
(Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, UK, USA)
- high diversity of actors / activities
 - comprehensive indicator systems
 - single domain – indicator systems
 - composite indices
 - single reports
 - continuous reporting, domain specific
 - comprehensive, continuous reporting

High diversity



- type of actors involved (producers, target audience)
- continuity, timeframe, timeliness, degree of institutionalization
- spatial coverage (international/European, regional levels)
- coverage of life domains: comprehensive vs single domain
- policy orientation, policy relevance
- general aim: monitoring of goal attainment, reflexivity/interpretation, enlightening, provision of data
- conceptually: indicator system, continuous/single reports
- type of indicators: objective/subjective; input/output; stock/flow; policy measures etc.
- methodologically: compos. index, indicator system etc.
- dissemination strategy/accessibility/visualization (printed books, website-based etc; national languages vs English)
- transparency (methodology, financing, institut. background)



Comprehensive indicator systems

- SIMon (GESIS, Germany):
 - German System of Social Indicators: 400 indicators since 1950
 - European System of Social Indicators (EU-27): 650 indicators since 1980
 - Strengths: conceptual approach, accessibility, life domain coverage, indicators, spatial coverage/disaggregation, time frame
 - Weaknesses: reflexivity, timeliness
- Indicator system of the Herman Deleeck Centre for Social Policy, University of Antwerpen



Single domain indicator systems

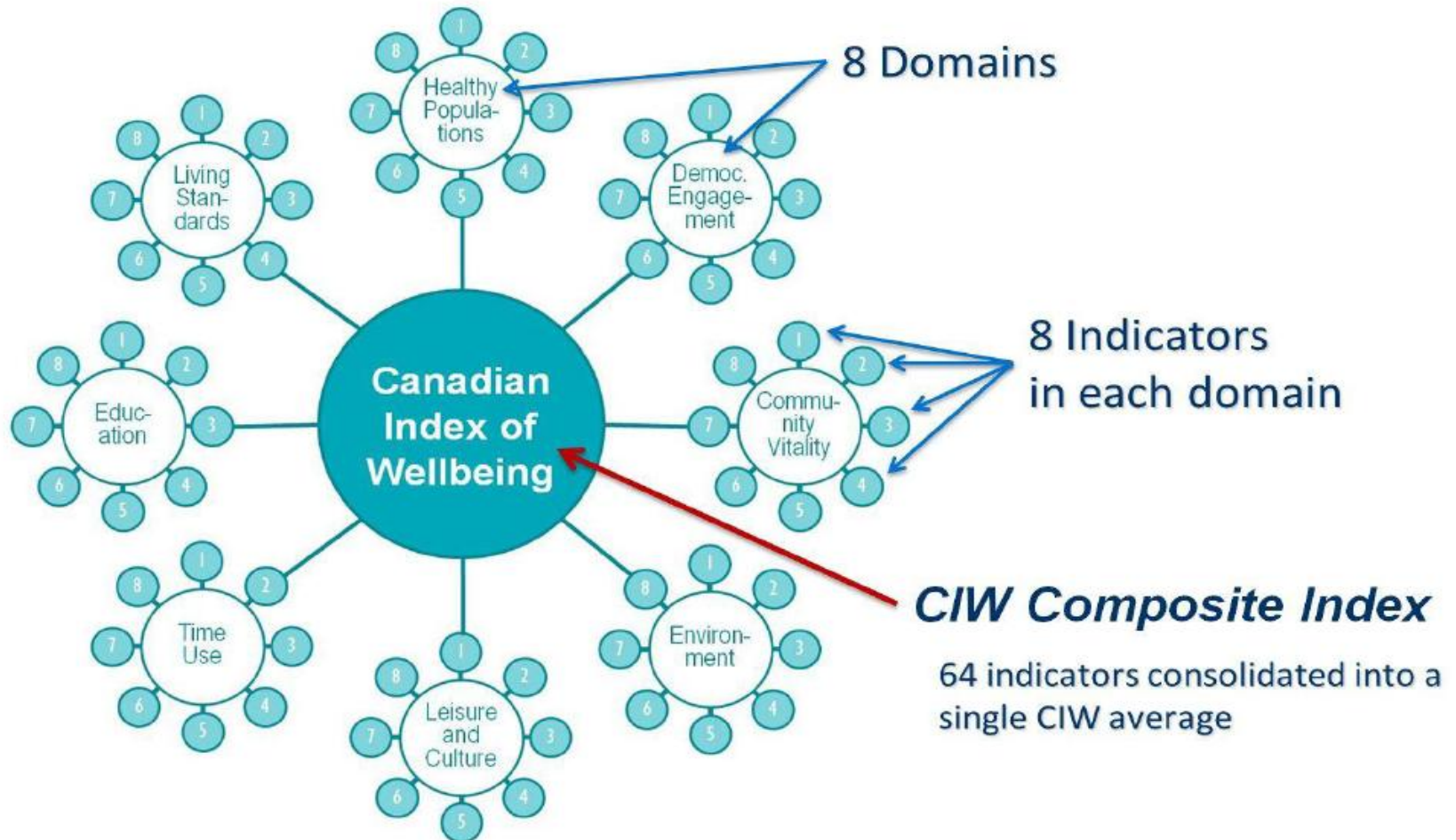
- Indicators for monitoring development goals, Slovenia (IMAD-Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development)
 - Strengths: accessibility, link between indicators and Development Report
- WellBeBe – indicators of wellbeing in Belgium (Institut pour un Développement Durable - IDD, 2008)
 - Strength: methodology: combination of qualitative-quantitative approach



Composite indices

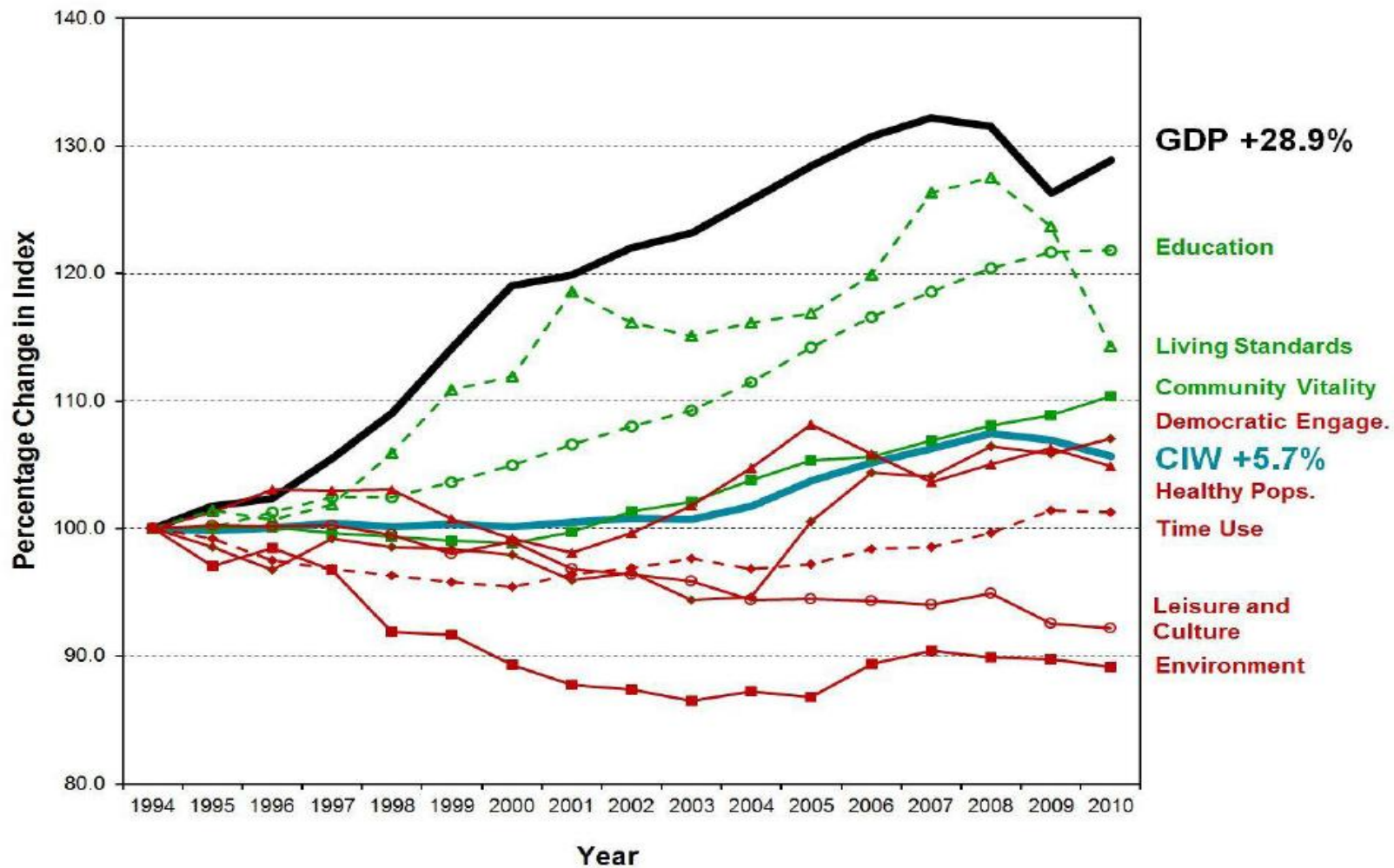
- Canadian Index of Wellbeing – CIW (Canadian Index of Wellbeing Group, University of Waterloo)
 - Strengths: accessibility, indicators, life domain coverage, simplicity, disaggregation, visibility, activating potential
- Index of social health, US (Institute for Innovation in Social Policy)
- Sustainability index (REEM - Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, 2009, 2011)
- La calidad social en Andalucía, España y Europa (University of Seville, Bericat/Camarero, 2011)

Canadian index of wellbeing framework





Canadian index of wellbeing 1994-2010





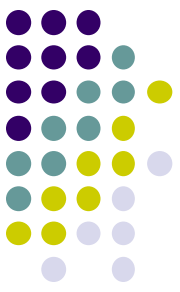
Single reports, specific periods and topics

- Recent social trends in Bulgaria 1960-1995 (Genov/Krasteva, 2001)
- Czech society in the 2000s (Inst. of Sociology, Acad. of science, 2009)
- Poverty in Estonia (Fafo, 2005)
- Poverty in Latvia (Fafo, 2005)
- Monitoring poverty trends in Ireland 2004-2007 (Econom. and Social Research Institute, Dublin, 2010)
- European inequalities (TARKI, 2009)
- Strengths: interpretation, analytical level



Domain specific, continuous reporting

- Poverty barometer, Belgium, yearly since 2009 (Centre on Inequality, Poverty, Social Exclusion, Univ. of Antwerpen)



Comprehensive, continuous reporting

- Soeb - socioeconomic reporting in Germany (SOFI, Univ. Göttingen; irregular publication: 2005, 2012)
- Social Overview Slovenia (IMAD-Institute of Macroeconom. Analysis and Development; irregularly, 2006, 2010)
- Barometro Social de Espana (IOE, since 2007).
- Social Portrait of Greece (National Centre for Social Research/Institute of Social Policy; since 2001, bi-triannually)
- Report on the social situation in Italy (CENSIS, since 1967, annual) – strengths: continuity, timeliness, reflexivity, media
- Rapporto Italiana (EURISPES; since 1989, annually)
- Social Report – Hungary (TARKI; since 1990, biannually)
- Swiss Social Report (FORS/Unil/UniNe, since 2000, quadrennial) – strengths: changing thematic focus, reflexivity, visualization, international comparison



Conclusion

- Importance of the specific contexts, (national) experiences, institutional settings and configurations for explaining the diversity of activities
- Strengths:
 - diversity of approaches
 - innovative potential
 - level of analytical analysis
 - reflexivity, interpretation
- Weaknesses:
 - timeliness
 - often (but not always) weak institutionalization
 - accessibility, visibility
 - presentation, visualization