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New challenges for official statistics and indicators for policy makers

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New challenges for official statistics

Contextual:

- Other data producers
- Complexity of modern societies and multidimensional phenomena

Data and methodologies:

- New sources, integration methodologies, experimental statistics, quality standards
- Evidence-based policy making calling for relevant data, innovative frameworks of analysis, extended macroeconomic and microeconomic models

Dissemination:

- Training and promotion of a statistical culture
- Statistical services to support citizens and policy makers in data use

Reflection paper "Future research needs in terms of statistical methodologies and new data"

(Coordinator: Tommaso Rondinella – Istat)

https://www.makswell.eu/attached_documents/output_deliverables/deliverable_5.1.pdf



SDGs and Well-being measurements for policy making

2 case studies:

Hungary

- Centralized system
- Great attention to sustainability including socio-economic issues
- No public policy strategy focusing on well-being

Italy

- Decentralized system (policy making at Region and Municipality level)
- Before Agenda 2030, sustainable development mainly considered as an environmental issue
- Well-established interaction between policy making and well-being measures at national level



Hungary – sustainable development

- In 2007 the first strategy on sustainable development is set up as a pragmatic integration tool, which summarized all the social matters and challenges
 - goals and targets are set for the national level
- sustainable development on regional and local strategic planning is missing.
- In 2008 the Hungarian Parliament establishes the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) an independent national institution
- Conceptual shift from a development-centric policy to a sustainability-centric, resource management strategy
- The Fundamental Law of Hungary came into force in 2012
 - It contains clear articulation of 3 main principles:
 1. rights of future generations,
 2. preservation and protection of the material, intellectual, and natural resources
 3. mainstreaming of the concept of sustainability into public policies



Enforcement bodies

The principal body for the protection of the Fundamental Law is the **Constitutional Court**:

- judges the violation of fundamental rights presented by the Ombudsman
- if necessary, can annul laws and decrees that are in contradiction with the principles of sustainable development

NCSD has conciliatory, consultative, and advisory tasks including:

- The speaker of the Parliament, as president
- representatives of political parties, the scientific community, economic interest groups, civil and religious organizations

Every two years, NCSD publishes the Monitoring Report on the implementation of the national strategy based on 16 key indicators and 87 context indicators



National strategy and SDGs

After the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, it was noted a high correlation between the global targets of SDGs and the Hungarian strategy

- Decision not to change the national framework to achieve the UN goals
- In the near future, a merge is possible between HCSO publications, the National Framework Strategy on Sustainable Development and the SDGs.

NCSD started activities aimed at raising awareness and social engagement about the implementation of the international Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)



The role of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office

- CSO participates in the work of the NCSD as a permanent invited guest
- Collects data, elaborate and publishes:
 - 103 indicators (16 key indicators) to draw a full picture for the status of human, social, environmental and economic resources
 - These indicators are included in the progress report prepared by National Council for Sustainable Development on the implementation of the framework strategy
 - The global indicators related to the SDGs



Well-being measurement in Hungary

- In 2013, CSO made an indicator system to measure the well-being of the population
- It includes eight-dimensions, objective and subjective
- Currently publishes data about the subjective well-being and about the different dimensions of the indicator system
- Data are available, also at regional level, but until now no public policy strategy focuses on well-being



2030 Agenda in Italy

- In 2015, the new global vision was applied to the national strategy, previously limited to targets and actions for environment
 - enlarging its scope to include different areas of social and economic development
- Goals and targets are set at the national level
- Sustainable development is going to be introduced in a structural way also in regional strategic planning
- In 2018, the National Commission for Sustainable Development was set up with the task to:
 - Report and monitor progress
 - Define national quantitative targets
 - Develop models to evaluate policy on a sub-set of indicators



The role of the Italian Statistical Office

- Since December 2016, Istat manages and updates the National Statistical Platform on SGDs indicators
- Every year, publishes a Monitoring Report
- Last edition is based on 303 indicators:
 - 96 international, 117 proxy, 90 context indicators
- breakdown available by gender, citizenship, limitations (disability) and territorial level (regions, large cities/urban/rural)



Well-being measurement in Italy

- B** Well-being (Benessere): Considering the different aspects relevant for quality of life
- E** Equitable (Equo): weak subjects/territories should not be left behind
- S** Sustainable (Sostenibile): to look at future generations

12 Domains and 130 indicators



Monitoring evolution



Supporting policy makers



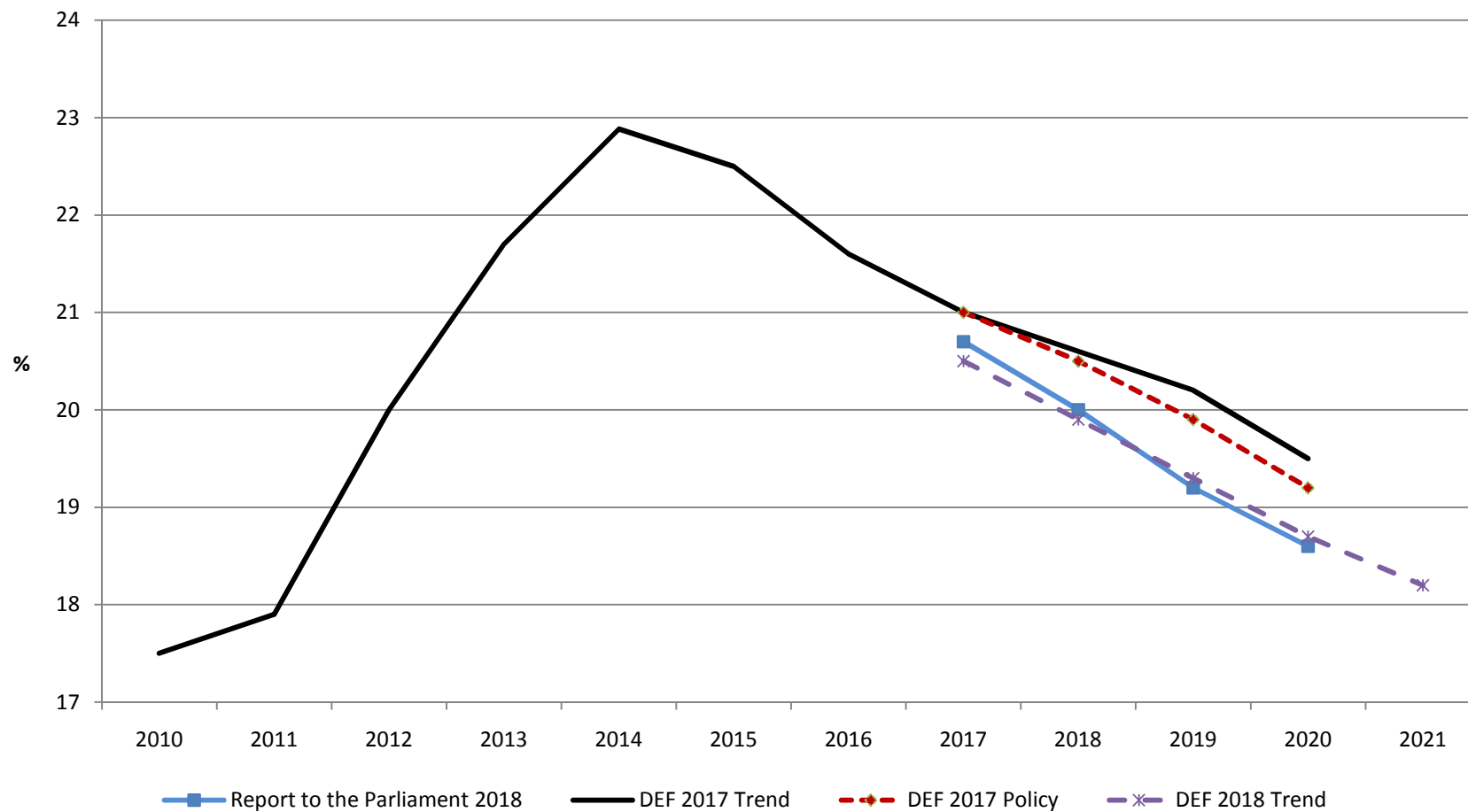
Well-being indicators and policy making

The new law on the Italian budget law (8/2016) establishes that national public policies are regularly monitored and evaluated also

- through their effects on well-being indicators
- comparing trend and policy forecasts



Non participation in the labour market (rates) – Italy 2010-2021

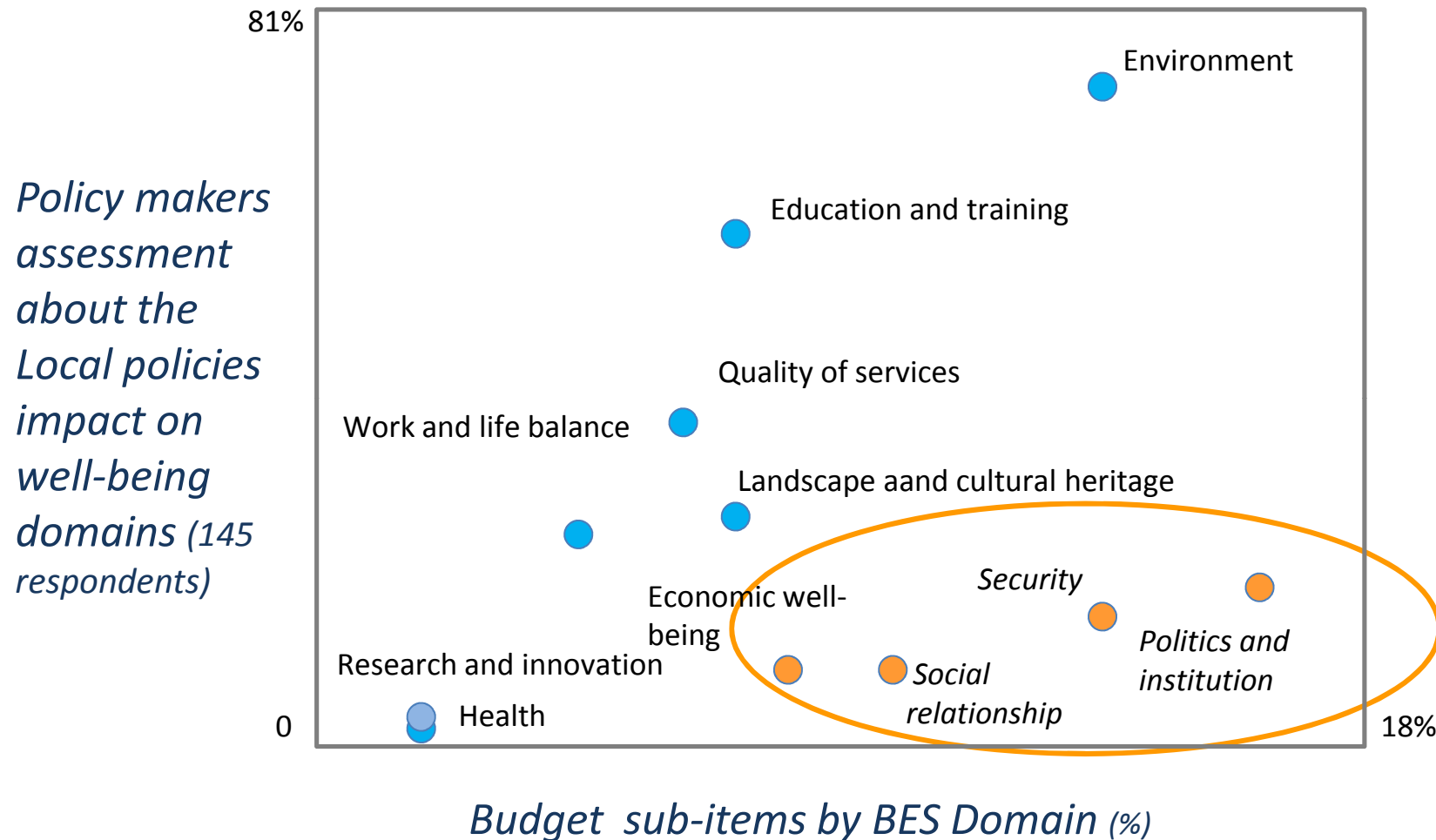


Regional governments

- The majority of Regions refer to Bes indicators in their Document for economic planning (DEFR)
- Open issues:
 - lack of homogeneity in the documents → lack of comparability
 - Difficulties in linking Missions/Objectives to Bes domains/ Indicators
 - Data gap
 - Ex-post policy evaluation



Difficulties in linking Policy to Well-being



Bes indicators and local policies



Fiorillo, F., et al., Misure di benessere dei territori e programmazione strategica: il livello comunale, Economia Pubblica, 1/2017

Data gaps

- Most but not all Bes indicators are available at regional level
- Some relevant data gaps are found in the Environment domain (e.g. CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions) and in the Economic well-being domain (Per capita net wealth, People living in financially vulnerable households, People living in absolute poverty)
- Comparing policy areas of local governments and Bes indicators, the weakest ones are Economic development and Competitiveness; Public order and security; Health care

Possible Solutions:

- using non-traditional data sources, also to define new indicators (see d.2.1 mobile phone data to measure poverty or satellite data to monitor land use, ratio of urbanization)
- Big data (see d.2.2 regional price estimates)
- model-based estimation methods (see d.3.1 Small area estimation for economic well-being indicators)



Summing up

- First results from the pilot study reveal that the 2 countries are focusing on different aspects, but they share high attention to the topic of sustainability and well-being
- Improvements are needed from the technical point of view to reinforce models, data availability and data quality. The issue is even more relevant for regional and sub-regional indicators.
- The biggest challenge is to ensure an effective link between measurements and policy actions, including ex-post evaluation.
- More time and efforts are needed to fully integrate this new topic in the political agenda and to reach out to the public opinion.



Thank you for your attention

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