



21st October 2020 at 15.00 CETtime

FINAL CONFERENCE

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Moving beyond GDP in EU Research & Innovation policy making

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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 770643

PARTNERS



1. Past and current initiatives at EU level towards the “sustainability paradigm”
2. Why should we move beyond GDP now?
3. Some important challenges to bring the beyond GDP indicators into active policy-making in a sensible and manageable way
4. The role of EU R&I policy and the 9th European Research and Innovation Framework programme

1 - Past and current initiatives at EU level towards the “sustainability paradigm”

- Initial “high-level conference “Beyond GDP” in 2007 hosted by the European Commission, European Parliament, Club of Rome, OECD and WWF.
- EU roadmap 2009, COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT “GDP and beyond Measuring progress in a changing world”.
- In 2011, the European Parliament adopted its Resolution on “GDP and beyond: Measuring progress in a changing world”.
- European Commission Staff Working Document in August 2013 on "Progress on 'GDP and beyond' actions".
- The 2016 communication “Next steps for a sustainable European future” endorsed the holistic approach of the UN agenda.

- President Von der Leyen’s Political Guidelines 2020, most notably the ‘European Green Deal’ agenda and the push towards an ‘Economy that works for people’.
- European Commission Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2020 (ASGS) (EC, 2019d, p. 1).



Source: 20.5.2020 COM(2020) 500 final

- **Commission 2020 Strategic Foresight report: towards a more resilient Europe. Resilience as a new compass for EU Policies.**
- **DG Research & Innovation vision: the achievement of Sustainable Development, based on European values and citizen involvement, for greater well-being and happiness in our societies”.**

2 - Why should we move beyond GDP now?

- **Classic limitations of GDP (inequality, environmental sustainability, intangible goods, etc...).**
- **Even if the limitations of GDP have been long known, some of the things it does not measure are becoming increasingly pressing problems, or at least they are perceived that way (European Commission, Special Eurobarometer on fairness, inequality, and social mobility 2018; World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report 2019).**
- **Citizen's perception that the economy is not doing well (Standard Eurobarometer 89, Spring 2018).**
- **GDP seems to not account for some of the crucial elements that make "life worthwhile": correlation between GDP per capita and other variables across time in OECD countries (Source World Bank and OECD calculations).**

3 - Some important challenges to bring the “beyond GDP indicators” into active policy-making in a sensible and manageable way

- **How to ensure an effective link between measurements and policy actions, relating wellbeing and SDGs indicators to the policy cycle?**
- **How to overcome definitely the barriers to the adoption of the beyond GDP indicators (indicators, political, process and structural), embracing a GDP agenda which implies empowering it to act as a compass for decision-makers, rather than simply serve as an ex-post benchmarking tool?**
- **Should the economic and fiscal surveillance framework be adapted and how?**

4 - The role of EU R&I policy

- To help us orienting impactful RESEARCH in coping with the challenges, co-creating a systemic transitions for sustainable growth, acting together with other EU policies and articulating investments, regulations and reforms around a common vision.

- Research already carried out on the “beyond GDP” topic partially covered under similar previous fp7/h2020 projects:
 - e-Frame (European Framework for Measuring Progress) (Istat)
 - EWEBE (Micro and Macro Determinants of Well-Being)
 - BRAINPOoL (BRinging Alternative INDicators into POLicy)
 - SOWELL (Social Preferences, Well-Being and Policy)
 - MAKSWELL (MAKING Sustainable development and WELL-being frameworks work for policy analysis).

...and recently awarded: DINA (Distributional national accounts of income and wealth for all countries). A H2020 ERC (European Research Council) grant with Thomas Piketty as the principal investigator (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/856455grant>).

The next 9th European Research and Innovation Framework programme (2021-2027)

- **Horizon Europe, is one of the key instruments of the Union to steer and accelerate Europe's recovery, preparedness, resilience, inclusive and sustainable growth.**

2 main expected impacts under the socio-economic transformations destination of Horizon Europe Cluster 2 "Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society":

- ✓ **Strengthened social and economic resilience and sustainability through a better understanding of the social, ethical, political and economic impacts of drivers of change (such as technology, globalization, demographics, mobility and migration) and their interplay.**
- ✓ **Inclusive growth is boosted and vulnerabilities are reduced effectively through evidence-based policies for protecting and enhancing employment, education, social fairness and tackling inequalities, including in response to the socio-economic challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Thank you for your attention

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