

Indicators complementary to GDP

Presentation of the project

Objective of the project

The Walloon Institute for Evaluation, Prospective and Statistics (IWEPS) is engaged, alongside the Walloon government, in the research and development of indicators complementary to GDP.

The objectives in the framework of this mission are part of a heuristic approach that aims to build a conceptual, methodological, and statistical framework **to develop a system of indicators that are appropriate to assess economic performance and societal progress in Wallonia**, in line with the recommendations of the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Report and other work developed around the world on the subject.

On the conceptual level, the process is based on a framework of sustainable development understood in terms of its different pillars - economic, social, environmental - and interfaces - equitable, viable and liveable – and further adding the dimension of governance, with the ultimate goal of improving well-being for all.

On the methodological level, the objective is to build on the work of proven experiences at different territorial levels, broken down according to the terms of their diverse and varied construction, and according to the objectives and practices defined by their designers and / or developers.

On the statistical level, the project aims to question the data sources that are available and accessible at the regional and sub regional levels - or even local - and to revisit the methods and tools for data collection, processing and analysis. As such, it presents an opportunity to develop a better strategy for collecting data.

Process of the project

The first step of the project was aimed to draw up an open and multidisciplinary **state of the art** approach from fifty-one experiences from around the world, while making sure to extend the focus to include different types of indicators, on one side synthetic or composite indicators, on the other side, those that are integrated in the dashboards of indicators. Harmonized descriptions of these indicators were the subject of two publications, one on [synthetic indicators \(Working Paper No. 4, 2011\)](#) and the other dedicated to the [dashboards of indicators \(Working Paper No. 7, 2012\)](#).

The second step was aimed to analyze these experiences from two angles: firstly, the way the indicators highlight the pillars and interfaces of sustainable development, and secondly, the strengths and weaknesses of these indicators, including the possibility of a regional and temporal comparison of the indicators, their applicability in the Walloon context or their relationship with public policy. This analytical framework was applied to each of the 51 experiments.

Having learned from this analysis, the third step was devoted to **IWEPS' proposals** to develop an integrated system of eight regional synthetic indicators, three indicators for the three classic pillars of sustainable development (economic, social, environmental), three for the interfaces (equitable, viable, liveable), one indicator for governance and one indicator for well-being. These analyses and proposals were submitted to the Walloon government in October 2012 and published in the [Working Paper No. 10, January 2013](#).

In November 2012, the Walloon government decided to calculate five key indicators and IWEPS was tasked to calculate them:

- 1) Social Situation Index (ISS), that is based on two indicators: an indicator for the state of the society and an indicator for social inequality and disequilibrium;
- 2) Well-being Index;
- 3) Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity;
- 4) Environmental Situation Index (ISE), that is based on two indicators: an indicator for the state of the components of the environment and an indicator for the impact of these components on human health
- 5) Indicator for Economic Capital

Organization of the Project

The project resulted in the creation of an internal interdisciplinary working group of eight researchers.

The project seeks to ensure consistency with the initiatives developed at international, national and regional levels on the subject, in the wake of the recommendations of the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Commission on the measurement of sustainable development on the one hand, and the work of the Council of Europe on well-being and societal progress on the other.

The project is referenced [on the OECD website Wikiprogress](#), an international platform for sharing information that assesses social, environmental and economic progress.

Project coordinators

[Reginster Isabelle](#)

[Ruyters Christine](#)

Collaborators

[Bornand Thierry](#)

[Caruso Frédéric](#)

[Charlier Julien](#)

[Juprelle Julien](#)

[Louis Virginie](#)

[Reginster Isabelle](#)

[Ruyters Christine](#)

External collaborators

Michel Laffut

Contact:

info@iweps.be

Links to documentation

[WP 10 \(2013\) : Un système intégré de huit indicateurs synthétiques complémentaires au PIB – Propositions de l'IWEPS](#)

[WP 7 \(2012\) : Développement d'indicateurs complémentaires au PIB - Partie 2 : Revue harmonisée de tableaux de bord et batteries d'indicateurs](#)

[WP 4 \(2011\) : Développement d'indicateurs complémentaires au PIB - Partie 1 : Revue harmonisée d'indicateurs](#)