

NETGREEN

Network for Green Economy Indicators

What information users need to identify the right indicators for their purposes?

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Outlook

Part 1. Structuring the interviews

Part 2. People's expectations and needs regarding the database developed in NETGREEN

Structuring the interviews

The main objectives of the interviews were:

- Gathering information about personal/organizational experience on the use of indicators
- Understanding the expectations that potential users have on the content and user interface of the NETGREEN indicators database
- Validating the database structure we have in mind

Structuring the interviews

The focus for selecting interviewees was on policy makers and those who want to influence them:

- International organizations relevant to the objectives of NETGREEN
- NGOs and other organisations trying to influence policy makers
- National decision/policy makers
- Academic researchers, think tanks and other experts, particularly those that are policy advisors

Part 2. People's expectations and needs regarding the database developed in NETGREEN

- a) Issues relevant to measure
- b) Indicators features
- c) Type of information
- d) Criteria to chose indicators
- e) Search options
- f) Way to see results

A) Issues relevant to measure

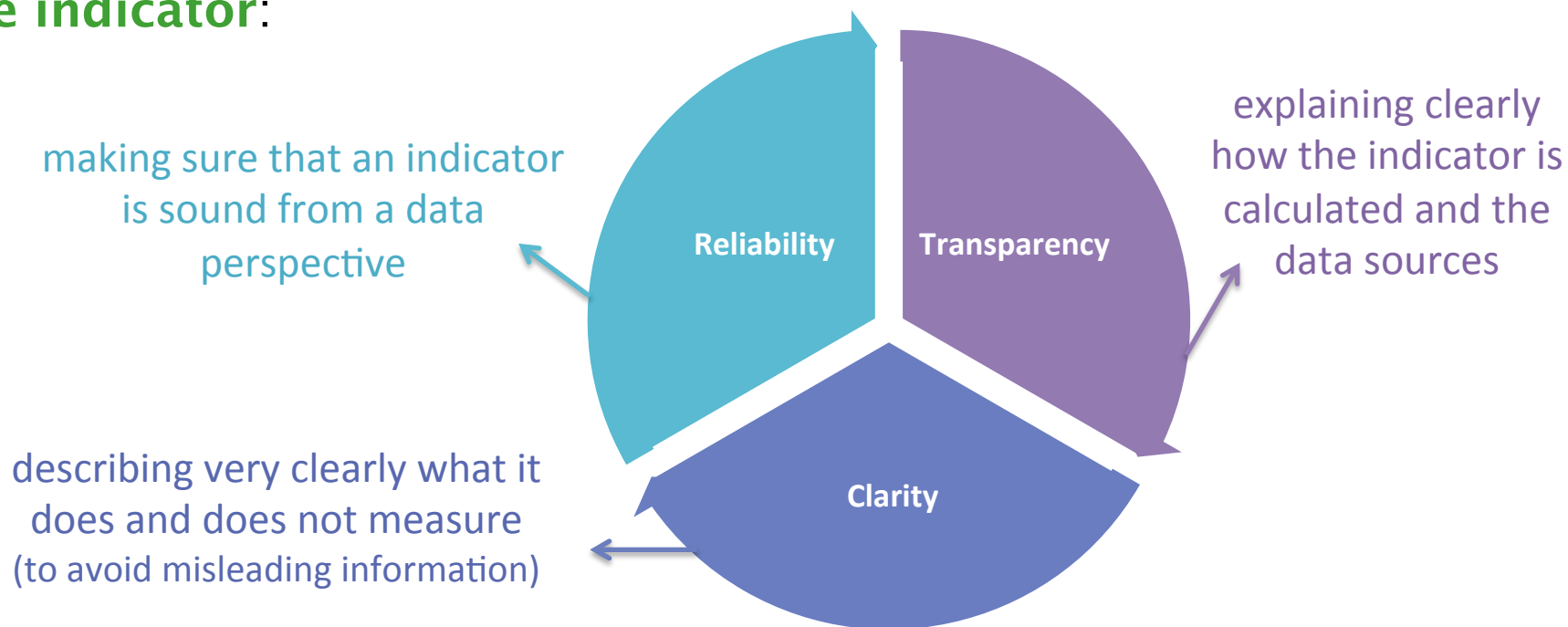
- Indicators that can show the **economic opportunities** for the transition towards the GE
- **Green employment**: the impact of certain environmental policies on employment, in total and broken down by sector and skill type
- Indicators that can show the level of **policy related efforts** or **policy reforms**
- Policies that **distort the markets**: e.g. pervasive incentives on fossil fuels, agriculture, fisheries, forestry

A) Issues relevant to measure

- **Public procurement:** governmental agencies should lead by example, the consumption by the government at all levels should reflect the concerns with the environment
- Measuring **economic resilience and sustainability** is very important, specially considering the present crisis
- Measure the **obstacles in the way of green industries**
- Measure the **capacity of the ecosystem** to supply goods and services, as well as the stocks not just the flows

B) Indicators features

For scientists and statisticians, more focused on the **quality of the indicator**:



For policy and decision-makers, more focused on the **communication and presentation of results**

B) Indicators features

We should have indicators which capture information at a **regional or local level**:

- To show **how** the aspects of a green economy are **distributed**
- Because governance takes place also at the sub-national level, and the **trend is for this to increase** - local governance will become more important in the future

C) Type of information

Source of information
(official or not;
estimates or statistics)

Usefulness of indicator
(decision and policy
focus)

Establish a connection
between the indicators
and goals/targets or
thresholds

The indicator needs to
provide a clear message
on what it measures to
avoid misuse

D) Criteria to decide indicator usefulness

1. Issues addressed by the indicator
2. Easiness to measure the conceptual variables of the indicator
3. Availability of disaggregated information
(e.g. energy consumption broken down by fuels and users)
4. Relevance to the policy process
5. Quality and reliability of the indicator

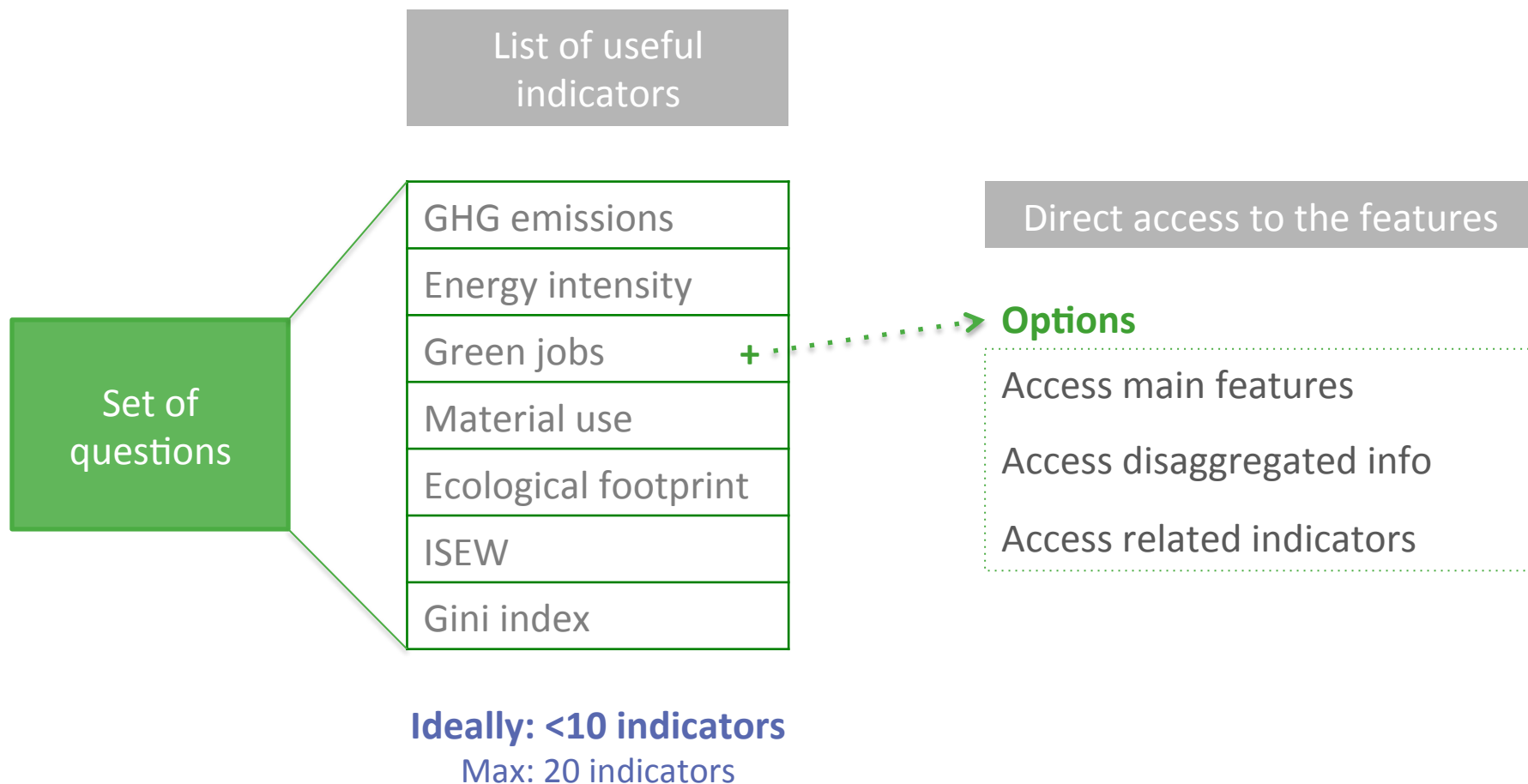
E) Search options - input

- Policy-maker is focused on the problem she/he has to manage, so the input option should be **related to the green economy issues**
- Usefulness is very dependent on the context: a **set of questions** (e.g. 10 - 20) could filter the type of indicators that are useful for the user
- **Different entry points for different users** (e.g. for policy-makers → policy questions; for other users → using a familiar structure, as Eurostat or OECD)


E) Search options - input

- **Indicator qualities:** a filter to chose indicators directly by their features
- **Policy relevance:** a filter to relate a set of indicators with a policy question
- **Specific indicator:** possibility to search by keywords to find specific indicators

F) Way to see results - output



F) Way to see results - output

- Organized by **theme** in a form of **clustering**
- Organized in a **hierarchical** way
- Being able to see **links between indicators** so that it is possible to see **related indicators** 
- Being able to **compare** indicators
different indicators and the same indicator across different scales
- Provide **links to data** about the indicators

Discussion

- What information about the indicators would you consider most useful for users of the database (e.g. indicator features and type of information)?
- What are the criteria you find most relevant to decide whether an indicator is useful?
- Which green economy indicators are usually subject to a wrongful interpretation and consequently lead to biased political decisions?
- The context in which an indicator is relevant is an important criterion to take into account. How would you recommend that we address this in the database?
- Other comments are welcome 😊