IN-STREAM WP 2
Qualitative evaluation of indicators

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WP 2 – Main research objectives

- Methodological and institutional issues of selected indicators
- Suitability of indicators to implementation in the EU policy context
- Modifications to and uses for indicators that will improve their usefulness

Indicator selection

Filters

- Relevance to EU policy
- Bridging of SD/economic divide
- Feasibility of analysis
- Progress beyond the state-of-the-art
- Little overlap with other efforts

Criteria

- Quantifiable vs. non-quantifiable
- Stock vs. flow
- Social vs. environmental
- Mix of indicator types

Indicators analysed under WP 2

- Gross domestic product (GDP)
- Adjusted Net Savings (ANS)
- The System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA-2003)

- Basket of resource indicators (EF, EMC, HANPP, LEP)
- Common bird index
- Favourable Conservation Status (FCS)
- Marine Trophic Index (MTI)
- Red List index
- Potentially Disappeared Fraction (PDF)

→ *Evaluations in D2.1 and D2.2 (forthcoming)*

- GDP GHG intensity
- GDP Energy intensity
- Per capita waste generation and energy from waste

- Human Development Index
- Happy Planet Index
- National Accounts of Well-being

Evaluation method applied: RACER Analysis

- **R**elevant – i.e. closely linked to the objectives to be reached
- **A**ccepted – e.g. by staff and stakeholders
- **C**redible – for non experts, unambiguous and easy to interpret
- **E**asy to monitor – e.g. data collection should be possible at low cost
- **R**obust – e.g. against manipulation

Example: Potentially Disappeared Fraction (PDF)

- Meaures biodiversity loss in terms of number of species (vascular plants) missing due to land use change
- Unit of measurement: ratio – relative difference between # species in reference condition (S ref) and after land use conversion (S use)

$$PDF = \frac{1 - S\ use}{S\ ref}$$

- Data: CORINE land use maps & data on vascular plant itineraries + database on restoration costs. Recalculated for each project that uses it

The EU‘s post-2010 biodiversity strategy

- Objectives:
  - Halting the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020;
  - Restoring them in so far as feasible;
  - Stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss.
- Evaluation of policy options
- Impact assessment

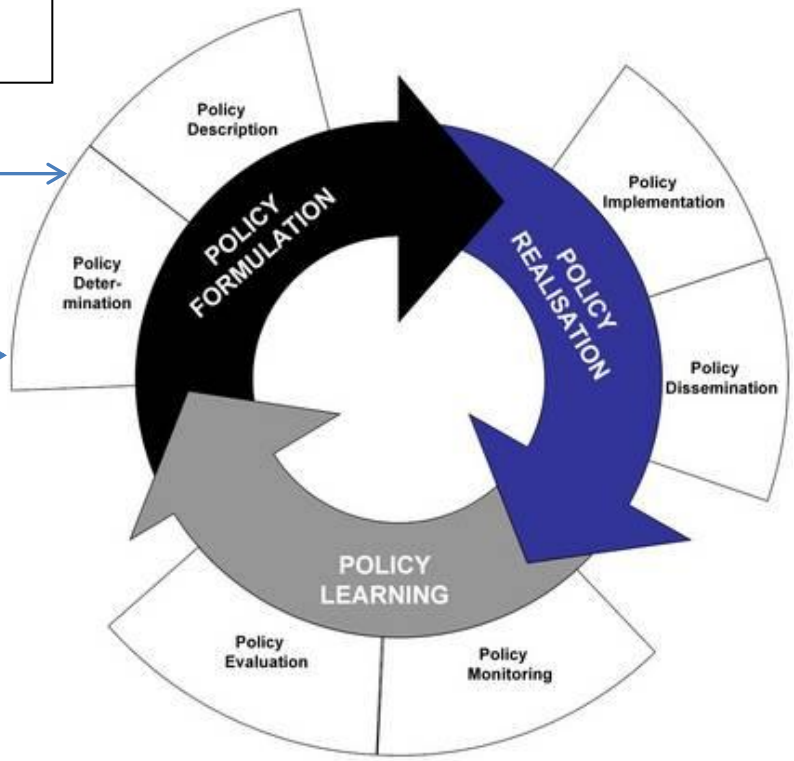
PDF – Racer Analysis (carried out by IEEP)

Relevant	+ incorporates indirect measures of pollution (acidification, eutrophication), can track changes through time, ready for implementation in EU - Comparison with baseline rather than target, no forecast
Accepted	+ Used by UNEP - Not used in EU
Credible	+ theory unambiguous, transparent methodology - S ref data collection involves subjectivity
Easy	+ species richness techniques are well understood, data available for major EU biomes
Robust	- Simplistic assumptions, spatio-temporal generalisation, does not recognise nonlinearity of ES, potentially unreliable data for S res, focus on vascular plants only

RACER in the policy process

Problem definition

Target definition



Thank you!

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