NETGREEN
Network for Green Economy Indicators

How to measure the Sustainable Development Goals in Central Europe?

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1 :: Executive summary

The international community is currently celebrating the outcomes of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and simultaneously preparing to pursue the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The new set of goals may be universal, but different countries will have different perceptions, priorities and strategies to attain and implement them by 2030. Consequently, different states will require different sets of indicators to monitor their progress in the next fifteen years.

The SDGs are more elaborate than their predecessors, with 17 goals and 169 targets. This exhaustive set of objectives was designed to build upon the work done in the context of the MDGs while being more tailored to the different realities of different countries and putting greater emphasis on environmental matters. The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) is still in the process of preparing a list of global and national indicators to monitor progress towards the SDGs.It is expected to be signed off at the 47th UNSC annual conference in NY in March 2016. There should be around 100 Global Monitoring indicators, but they cannot be relevant for all countries and all policy problems.

Indicators are useful tools to measure progress towards a policy objective, but they come with inherent challenges. Policy-makers and those who advise them need to select the right indicators from a seemingly infinite list of options, combine them with the right complementary indicators and interpret them correctly. Failing to do so may lead to a distorted picture of reality. There is no “one size fits all” solution to this: each policy context calls for its own set of indicators that reflect its socio-economic context and political priorities.

The Measuring Progress tool was designed to help policy-makers (and those wishing to influence them) construct their set of green economy indicators. The NETGREEN project team has not only built an inventory of green economy indicators, but embedded this information in a unique interactive structure that enables the users to easily identify indicators, combine them and interpret them correctly. The online tool is available on Measuring-Progress.eu

During the remaining project months, the NETGREEN team aims to identify research gaps in the green economy indicator field, in addition to testing the tool with target users. Measuring Progress will grow and evolve based on user feedback and indicator needs, which tend to change rapidly in the policy world.

2 :: Introduction

At last, the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have reached their target date. The initiative has led to impressive results[1] during its fifteen years of implementation, and it is currently being hailed as the most successful anti-poverty movement in history. Meanwhile, the international community is preparing to redirect this impulse towards the next challenge: the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

While all nations are concerned by this new set of targets, it would be a mistake to ignore the enormous differences that still exist between countries. This heterogeneity leads to extremely different perceptions of the goals and of their relative importance within the set. This, in turn, affects which indicators would be most appropriate to measure a country's progress towards the goals. Each country will have to focus on a few indicators for communication purposes. In this policy brief, we argue that the Measuring Progress tool can facilitate the indicator selection process that countries must go through in order to monitor their progress towards the SDGs.

In Section 3, some background information on the SDGs and their indicators is provided. Section 4 follows with a brief discussion on the use of indicators to monitor progress and associated difficulties. Finally, Section 5 will present Measuring-Progress.eu, an interactive online tool aiming to facilitate indicator selection. This section includes a case study walking the user through the tool. The policy brief is based on insights from the NETGREEN research project[2] as well as an expert workshop on the SDGs and indicators.

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[1] Some key results can be viewed here: http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20PR%20Key%20Facts%20Global.pdf

[2] The project is described in subsection 5.1.

3 :: The UN Sustainable Development Goals – an overview

3.1 History, background and objective

As the Millennium Development Goals have reached their 2015 target date, the United Nations initiated a new opportunity to enhance the global solidarity against poverty and partnership for sustainable development. From its Campaign in 2002 to the present stage of acceleration, the MDGs have galvanized international endeavor towards issues ranging from extreme hunger to environmental sustainability. To carry on the momentum generated and speed up the progress towards the goals and the targets, a post-2015 agenda, encapsulated in the UN Sustainable Development Goals, was proposed and offered to the international community as an opportunity to strengthen the global partnership for development.

In addition to inheriting the global partnership established by MDG Goal 8[3], the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are also charged to tackle aspects where the MDGs were shorthanded. While MDGs target the world's poorest and the vulnerable, the SDGs extend the target horizontally and vertically to citizens of developing and developed countries, of today and tomorrow. Compared to the MDGs, the new proposal carries the definition of equity of mankind onto the next level that ensures sustainable development from all social, economic and environmental aspects. SDGs also put forward an agenda more fitted for concrete actions. Despite its unprecedented, spearheading framework, the MDG 8 has weaknesses calling for a new proposal that will fill in the gaps between the Goals and their implementations. With more elaborated measurement strategies and a universally applicable guideline, the SDGs point out a clear path for all Member States for immediate and far-reaching actions.

The MDGs have set out the backdrop for a stage of international commitment to sustainable development. The renewed global partnership guided by the SDGs will continue to nurture positive globalization, integrate the original initiatives and targets, as well as address both the persistent and emerging challenges of the evolving world.

3.2 Overview of the main goals

Mandated by the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) outcome document, *The future we want (2012),* the SDGs engage the UN and its partners in a continuing round of commitment with the new target year 2030. Poverty

[3] The 8th Goal in the Millennium Development Goals is to develop a global partnership for development. An elaboration on the MDG 8 and the rest of the Goals can be found at http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/global.shtml.

eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of this renewed global partnership. The SDGs will be accompanied by a robust system of implementation, larger mobility in access to material as well as intellectual resources, and targets evaluated with indicators of measurable outcomes.

The SDGs lay out 17 goals with 169 targets built upon the MDGs, aiming at the ultimate aspiration of global sustainable development. The global vision delivered with these goals takes different nation's developmental realities into consideration and provides a universal guideline that is applicable to all nations yet tailored to their specific stage of development. Following the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, the Goals and the Targets assign accountability to all countries and leave no-one out of the international enabling environment that the SDGs endeavor to create. With a more detailed and ambitious context, the SDGs range from poverty eradication to revitalizing the global partnership required for the future vision of development. A full elaboration on the Goals and the Targets can be found on the UN Department of Economic and Social Affair's website for Sustainable Development.[4]

Table 1. Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 1	End poverty in all its forms everywhere
Goal 2	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
Goal 3	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
Goal 4	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
Goal 5	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Goal 6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
Goal 7	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
Goal 8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
Goal 9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
Goal 10	Reduce inequality within and among countries
Goal 11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
Goal 12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

[4] United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform.* https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html. 26/05/2015.

Goal 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*

Goal 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Goal 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Goal 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Goal 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

3.3 The SDG indicators

With the 17 Sustainable Development Goals ahead, the Open Working Group on the SDGs (OWG) and Member States are on a tight agenda to make their first step towards meeting the target. It is clear that from the experience of MDGs, indicators and reliable data collection are important monitoring tools to keep all Member States headed in the right direction. From now through September, while they review the Goals and Targets before the official adoption, Members States will assemble a monitoring mechanism that is going to ensure a global partnership and shared responsibility among all nations throughout the 15 years of SDG implementation.

The integrated indicator framework for the SDGs, despite not yet being in its refined state, has been agreed upon by Member States to lay out a blueprint where different levels of monitoring will complement each other. This framework will be headed by national level indicators, and complemented by indicators on global, regional, and thematic levels.[5] In the most recent indicator report by Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), a set of 100 Global Monitoring Indicators (GMI) are suggested—each Goal is accompanied with 2 to 14 GMIs as well as a separate list of recommended Complementary National Indicators (or National Monitoring Indicators, NGI). The GMIs align with and are categorized by their corresponding SDGs.

These globally harmonized indicators set up the guideline for review at the High Level Political Forum and are generally applicable to every country. While the GMIs are identical for all nations, national monitoring varies depending on each nation's reality. Lists of National Monitoring Indicators are recommended in the last report, and it is then an individual nation's decision to select the indicators most pertinent to its needs. The four levels of monitoring together

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[5,4] SDSN. (2015). Indicators and a Monitering Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals. *Launching a data revolution for the SDGs.*

For a complete description of the four levels of monitoring, please go to http://unsdsn.org/resources/publications/indicators/.

cover all three dimensions of economic development, social inclusion and environmental sustainability as laid out in the SDGs. The GMIs and the suggested NMIs are composed to inspire and provide principles for further brainstorming of implantation measures that caters better to each nation and region's developmental stage.

A list of indicators from Goal 12 of SDGs is provided beneath for reference. A complete list of the 100 GMIs and complementary NGIs can be found in SDSN 2015.[4] Indicators for Goal 12 are selected to be included as samples because they are the most relevant to the demonstration given in Chapter 3 on how to use measuring-progress.eu.

Table 2. Suggested SDG Indicators Arranged by Goals. Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Potential and Indicative Global Indicator	Potential lead agency or agencies	Other goals indicator applies to
Disclosure of Natural Resource Rights Holdings	EITI, UNCTAD, UN Global Compact	15, 16, 17
Global Food Loss Index [or other indicator to be developed to track the share of food lost or wasted in the value chain after harvest]	FAO	2, 11
Consumption of ozone-depleting substances (MDG Indicator)	UNEP Ozone Secretariat	9
Aerosol optical depth (AOD)	UNEP	9, 11, 13
[Share of companies valued at more than [$1 billion] that publish integrated monitoring] – to be developed	Global Compact, WBCSD, GRI, IIRC	8, 17
Complementary National Indicators: 12.1. [Strategic environmental and social impact assessments required] – to be developed 12.2. [Legislative branch oversight role regarding resource-based contracts and licenses]-to be developed 12.3. [Indicator on chemical pollution] – to be developed 12.4. CO2 intensity of the building sector and of new buildings (KgCO2/m2/year) 12.5. [Indicator on policies for sustainable tourism] – to be developed 12.6. [Indicator on sustainable public procurement processes] – to be developed		

With such a large number of indicators, it is challenging to select the right ones. Policy-makers, NGOs, journalists and other stakeholders wishing to use indicators often do not have time to consider and weigh all the options. Nonetheless, neglecting the importance of indicator selection would be a considerable mistake.

4 :: Measuring Sustainable Development with Indicators

4.1 The importance of measurement

2015 marks the transition into a new set of goals, together laying an ambitious and challenging path ahead. In realizing the Sustainable Development Goals, the first step is to know where the world is today, and then where each step we make from this point on is taking us to. This progression cannot be achieved without choosing suitable measuring tools that give direct feedbacks. Therefore, measurement plays a preliminary role in the kickoff stage in the post-MDG agenda, a developmental role throughout the march towards the next target date, and an analytical role at the commencing stage between the current and future policies.[6]

Following the UN Millennium Declaration in 2000, 60 relevant indicators[7] were chosen and applied to track progress of the global commitment to the Declaration. During the 15 years of implementing MDGs, progress was measured and published annually by the Secretary-General to the General-Assembly. Because of the monitoring function measurements served, this process enabled the UN to spot the need of 4 additional targets in 2005 to supplement the Goals.

Measurements have successfully helped put the vision of MDGs into practice, identify areas of weaknesses, and propose a renewed agenda for the post-2015 world. In the next challenge we face, measurements and indicators will continue to facilitate innovations in the SDGs to have their intended impact.

[6] UNEP. (2014). Using Indicators for Green Economy Policymaking. In the guideline provided by the UN in its Green Economy paper, the use of indicators are described in details in all stages of an integrated policymaking process, namely the issue identification and agenda setting, policy formulation and assessment, decision-making, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation stage.

[7] A list of MDG indicators can be found here
http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Host.aspx?Content=Indicators/OfficialList.htm

4.2 The challenges of measurement

Indicators are an essential tool for policy makers to identify and prioritize issues to target initially, and compare and assess policy approaches in later stages. However, they are associated with unavoidable challenges which complicate the task of selecting, combining and interpreting them. This is further exacerbated by the fact that, unfortunately, there is no "one size fits all" solution: each specific policy issue or challenge requires its own set of indicators in order to lead to meaningful conclusion.

4.2.1 Selecting the right indicator

The agony of choice is a common problem in the indicator world; policy makers are faced with a seemingly infinite list of indicators. The NETGREEN project consortium identified over 2000 indicators relevant to the green economy[8]. Even within a specific theme, there are plenty of indicators which present differences in their scopes, purposes, sources, etc. Knowing which ones to use for a particular policy issue is therefore a delicate task.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation Development (OECD) suggested three criteria that make "a good indicator" in its 2011 report on progress monitoring. Policy relevance, analytical soundness, and measurability together describe the basic principles of assessing the quantitative and qualitative indicators. Policy makers can thus validate their choice of indicators that abide by this standard and dismiss those that do not.[9]

Although this is a useful guideline, it should be noted that the performance of an indicator in these three criteria will significantly vary from one country to another. For example, an indicator may be policy relevant in Germany but not in China. Similarly, an indicator might be easily measurable in France but not in Romania due to missing data. It is therefore impossible to identify an indicator that is "universally good".

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[8] More details in section 5.1

[9] Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (OECD). (2011). *Towards Green Growth: Monitoring Progress*. Paris: OECD.

Choosing the right indicators

Anna Karnikova, Head of the Sustainable Development Unit of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic reported on the Czech sustainable development strategy during a workshop organized by NETGREEN on 8 May 2015 in Berlin.

She mentioned that one of the challenges of working with indicators was knowing how to choose the right ones, that are relevant and measurable. In addition, she said it would be useful to know which indicators are best suited for which purpose (policy-making, communicating to the public, etc.)

4.2.2 Relationships of indicators

Many issues and targets from the SDGs are interconnected. A specific environmental problem, for example, can have an influence on social and economic dimensions in addition to the environmental one. Therefore, it is necessary to examine the causal relationship between problems before implementing policies in order to most efficiently orchestra the entire system rather than filling in one of the holes. Indicators, correspondingly, are also in direct or indirect, positive or negative relationship with one another. By sorting out the causes and impacts and matching them to their indicators, policy makers can achieve a better understanding of what is going on and what kind of interference needs to take place as they identify and prioritize issues. The UNEP guideline on Using Indicators for Green Economy Policymaking provides a step-by-step instruction on mapping the related key indicators in the system of interest.[10]

4.2.3 Risk of misinterpretation

A misinterpreted indicator can be worse than not picking the right indicator. Before drawing conclusions from data, caution should be taken to understand what the numbers are pointing to. An example is given in OECD's 2011 report on Green Growth to distinguish the difference between energy productivity and the efficiency in the use of energy of a country, when using indicators to assess progress towards green growth.[11] In addition, the same report also points out that an indicator does not stand by itself— it is to be read in connection with other indicators and be complemented with additional information. Taken out of context, an indicator is rendered valueless.

[10] This procedure producing CLD, a Causal Loop Diagram, is described in the 2014 publication "Using Indicators for Green Economy Policymaking."

[11] OECD (2011).

An indicator should not be avoided solely because it risks being misinterpreted. In fact; several misinterpretations can be outshined by using a complementary indicator.

Indicators as a weapon

R. Andreas Kraemer, founder and former director of Ecologic Institute, told highlighted that indicators are now often used as weapons during a workshop organized by NETGREEN on 8 May 2015 in Berlin. Indicators are sometimes intentionally misused in order to emphasize a point of view.

4.2.4 The risk of an incomplete set of indicators

While indicators can assist with monitoring policy implementation, the concluding image formed can be distorted with certain overlooked pieces of information. The capability construct connections between causes and results enables the initial decision making process on selecting indicators for measurement. However, within the dense socio-economic network, the stage of development of one branch is interconnected with varies others; an exclusive view with missing pieces yield a misguided conclusion. For example, an increasing annual net earning can be concluded as improved personal economic situation, while the soaring cost of living, once included into the calculation, will demonstrate the opposite. In the context of sustainable development, a comprehensive set of indicators should concern all social, economic and environmental aspects.

Contributors and counter-contributors and their related indicators might be scattered in an unseen pathway anywhere around the policy of measurement interest. Hence, an intuitive search that does not grant considerations to all contributing factors gives rise to misleading data and inappropriate policy analysis. To avoid this series of mistake, policy makers and organizations should be advised with an inclusive list of indicators while measuring the progress of development.

Another challenge: financial resources

Beata Maciejewska, Commissioner of the Mayor of the City of Sł upsk (Poland) for Sustainable Development and Green Modernization of the City, told participants about her experience in a rural municipality during a workshop organized by NETGREEN on 8 May 2015 in Berlin.

Beata Maciejewska underlined financial means as the main barrier preventing some cities from implementing a good green economy strategy. She mentioned that her municipality has considered applying for a Green Capital award as a means of being measured, as candidate city are evaluated on various criteria.

5 :: Measuring-Progress.eu

5.1 The NETGREEN project

As a result of the issues mentioned above and in an effort to pursue the Beyond GDP agenda[12], six institutions from five different EU Member States[13] came together for a European Commission-funded project: NETGREEN, NETwork for GREEN economy indicators. The project began in September 2013 and the final conference will take place in Brussels on September 30th 2015.

The goal of NETGREEN is to accelerate progress towards the green economy by facilitating the informed use of relevant indicators. In the context of the project, the green economy is defined as an economy that operates without infringing environmental limits[14]. Concretely, the project team aims to simplify the correct use and interpretation of green economy indicators for stakeholders from different countries and governance levels. This is done through the development and promotion of an interactive online indicator database.

In order to create this database, the NETGREEN consortium first performed a stocktacking exercise in order to identify the different pathways towards the green economy and to list the most important indicator initiatives. To do so, the NETGREEN team interviewed 55 experts in the field and carefully analyzed 92 green economy papers from reputable sources. Over 2000 green economy indicators were considered for inclusion in the database.

The NETGREEN consortium then proceeded to narrow down the indicator list to a more manageable number of "main indicators". For these indicators, a completed fact sheet was filled out. The NETGREEN fact sheet contains basic information about the indicator (unit, geographical coverage, link tot data, etc.) in addition to more practical information to help policy-makers use the indicators: related indicators, misinterpretation risks, complementary indicators, and so forth.

Finally, the NETGREEN team designed a user-friendly online tool featuring these indicators and connecting them to keywords, green economy topics as well as other indicators. The interactive tool is called **Measuring Progress** and is available online at www.measuring-progress.eu.

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[12] Read more about the Beyond GDP initiative here: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/beyond_gdp/index_en.html

[13] Ecologic Institute (Germany; lead partner), New Economics Foundation (United Kingdom), Fundacao da Faculdade de Ciencias et Tecnologia da Universidade Nova de Lisboa (Portugal), LEI – Wageningen UR (Netherlands), Centre for European Policy Studies (Belgium), Green Economy Coalition (UK).

[14] Deliverable 2.1

5.2 Status quo and upcoming developments

To date, Measuring Progress contains 260 fully described indicators, as well as 200 additional indicators with essential information. The additional indicators are related to the main ones either as related/similar indicators or as complementary ones that help avoid common misinterpretation mistakes. These indicators are linked to over 900 keywords through a Green Economy topic tree containing 102 topics.

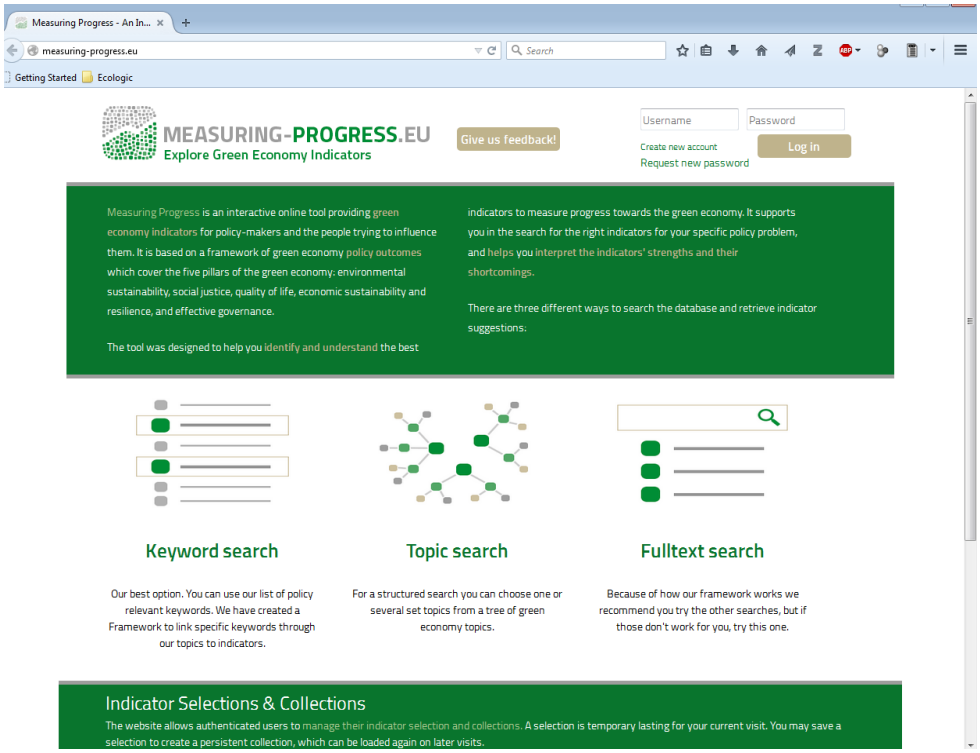
Measuring Progress provides three different search paths to reflect the different backgrounds, experience levels and needs of its users.

- The Keyword Search is quick, user-friendly, and simple. The user enters a term of interest (e.g. "green jobs", "poverty", or "biodiversity") and immediately receive suggestions of related indicators from the database.
- The Topic Search function was designed to help the experienced user find indicators of interest within a specific green economy topic by exploring a structured topic tree. It is also useful for users who do not have a keyword in mind and want to learn more about the topics included in the green economy field.
- If you could not find the keyword you had in mind, or your topic of interest, it is also possible to search with a free text a search. Like any search engine, the website will then look for the term of your choosing in the whole information base on the website.

Measuring Progress is a one-stop shop for green economy indicators. On this website, the user may not only find fact sheets for indicators, but the interlinkages between indicators, green economy topics and keywords are included. In addition, misinterpretation risks were identified for the fully described indicators and for each of these, complementary indicators were recommended. The user may enter the website with a policy issue and leave it with a customized indicator selection that will allow him to measure this issue in a logically sound way that fits the political and social context of his work.

In the final months of the project, the NETGREEN team organized thematic workshops to promote dialogue between green economy stakeholders and started conducting a gap analysis to identify topic areas lacking indicators. In addition, a user group is currently testing the research database in order to identify features with a potential for improvement.

> "Measuring Progress can help cities capitalize on work that has been done and help them get to their objectives quickly."
>
> --Jan Bakkes, PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency



5.3 Case Study: Measuring Progress towards the SDGs

The following case study illustrates how Measuring Progress can be a useful tool to help countries measure their progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

A German consultant wants to assess her country's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals for a short presentation abroad. Due to the broad scope of the SDGs, she decides to focus on *Goal 12: Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns*. She consults the UN's list of suggested SDG indicators[15]. She notices that for target 12.6 ("encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle"), the two suggested indicators are in development. She wonders whether any indicators already in existence could help her evaluate Germany's performance in this field.

The consultant enters www.measuring-progress.eu in her internet browser and lands on the Measuring Progress homepage.

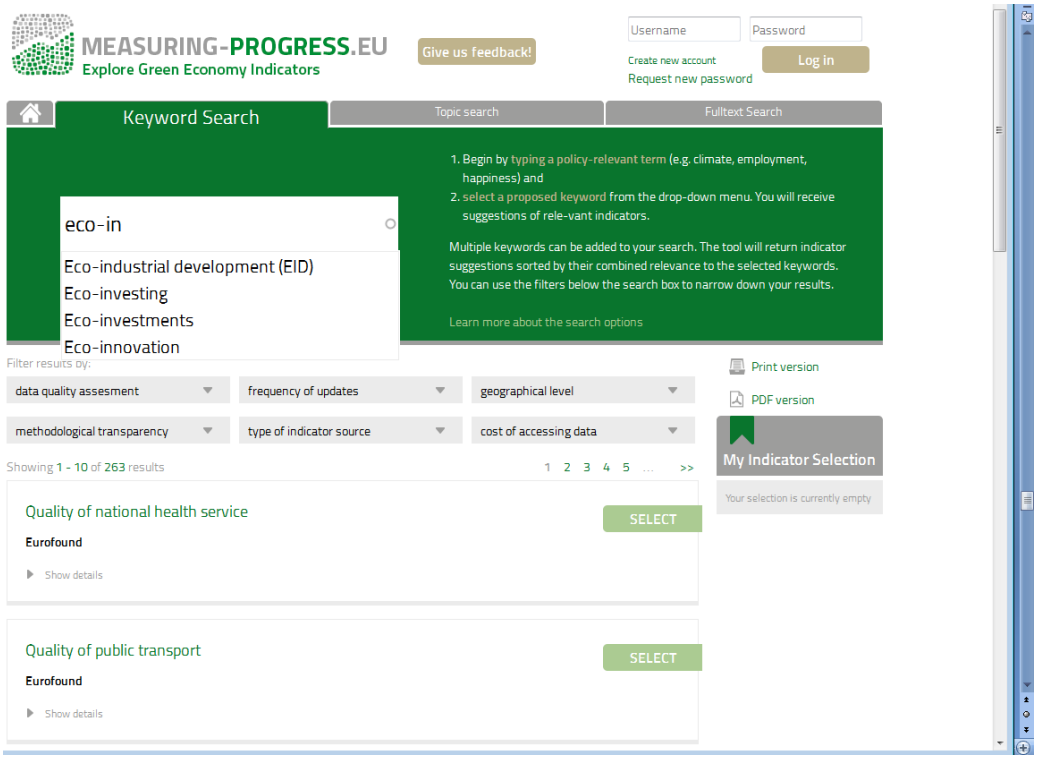
Measuring Progress homepage

[15] http://unsdsn.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/FINAL-SDSN-Indicator-Report-Table-2.pdf

The consultant sees that there are three search options: Keyword Search, Topic Search and Fulltext Search. After reading the short descriptions for each option, she decides to go for the keyword search as she has a specific keyword in mind ("eco-industry"). She clicks on keyword search and is redirected to a search engine. She starts typing "eco-indus" in the search bar and spots "eco-industrial development" among the auto-complete suggestions. She clicks on that keyword as it seems most relevant to the implication of SDG target 12.6.

The website generates a list of suggested indicators. For each indicator, she sees a box containing the name and the source as well as a "**Show details**" link. When she clicks on "**Show details**", the box slightly expands, showing additional information such as the definition of the indicator, a direct link to data, a link to related indicators, a link to possible interpretation pitfalls and a bar chart showing how many green economy topics the indicator covers.

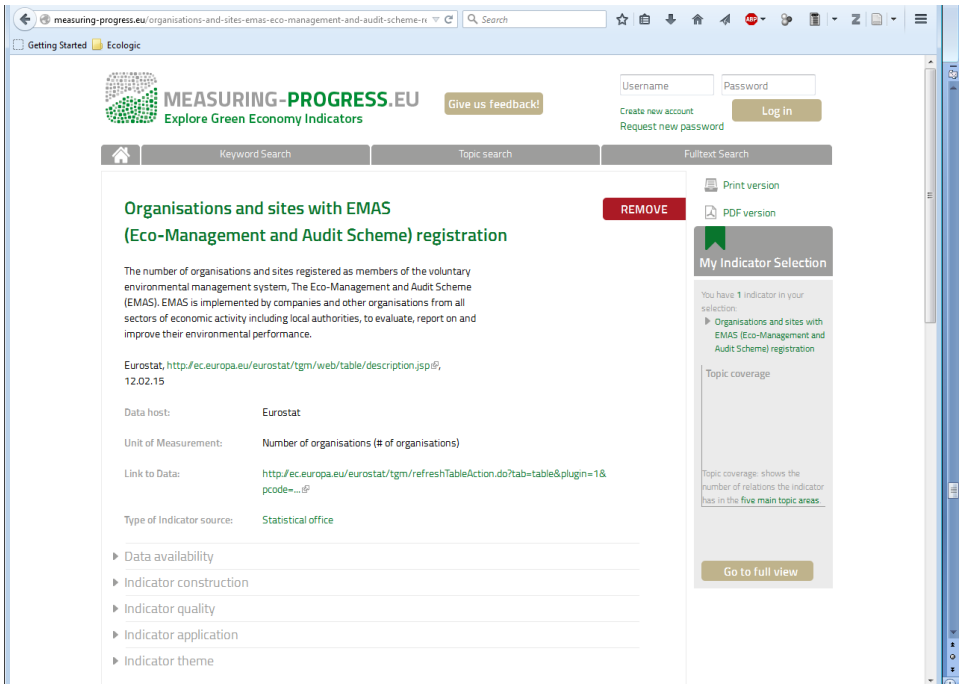
Keyword search results with one expanded indicator



She looks through the suggested results, expanding some of them to see more basic information on the indicator. She finds the indicator *Organisations and sites with EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) registration* interesting and clicks on "**Go to full view**", which leads her to the full fact sheet of that indicator.

She reads the detailed information about the indicator and decides it could be useful to measure Germany's progress towards target 12.6, indicator 76 [Share

of companies valued at more than [$1 billion] that publish integrated monitoring], which is marked as "to be developed" by SDSN. The indicator looks promising so she adds it to her indicator selection by clicking on "**Select**".



It is the end of the working day so she saves her indicator selection under the name "Target 12.6".

On the next morning, she logs into her Measuring Progress account and finds her indicator under "**My collections**". She wants help determining whether that indicator is appropriate for target 12.a so she prints out the fact sheet to discuss it her co-workers over lunch.

The consultant goes back to the UN's list of suggested indicators for the SDGs and looks at target 12.4 on the management of chemicals and wastes. The indicator *Consumption of ozone-depleting substances* is recommended. As she found the indicator fact sheets very useful on Measuring Progress, she wonders if the website could help her properly use this indicator.

She returns on www.measuring-progress.eu and chooses the **Fulltext Search** option, as she knows exactly what she is looking for. She types in "ozone depleting" and hits the Search button. Sure enough, *Consumption of ozone-depleting substances* appears as the very first result. She clicks on the indicator name and lands on the fact sheet of that indicator.

She spends the next few minutes reading about the indicator. She finds a direct link to data, reads about the methodology of the indicator and takes notes of misinterpretation pitfalls that she had not considered. She adds the indicator to her new collection, which she saves under the name "Target 12.4".

With her co-worker, she will make a final indicator selection for her presentation and retrieve the data through the direct links to data that are provided on the website. She recommends the website to her co-workers who are preparing presentations on the other SDGs.

6 :: Conclusion

The international community has received a detailed strategy to work towards a healthier and fairer planet: the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Naturally, these ambitious targets come with a set of challenges, particularly in regard to monitoring. Different countries have profoundly different realities which will affect their approach towards the SDGs and consequently their indicator needs. Measuring-Progress.eu, an interactive online tool, aims to solve this problem by allowing users to build their own indicator selections that will fit their unique policy issues.

Measuring-Progress.eu was designed with a time-proof, flexible structure. Users are free to suggest indicators, keywords and topics that they think would complement the database. These will be integrated and connected to the existing web of connections. Therefore, Measuring-Progress.eu will remain relevant as the environmental policy landscape evolves with time.

7 :: References

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8 :: Annex B: NETGREEN Thematic Policy Workshop Agenda

Thematic Policy Workshops (TPW) are organized to ensure the work carried out within NETGREEN is practical and of relevance for targeted stakeholders. These workshops will allow for discussion of NETGREEN's findings and the usability of the indicator database and website to advance four potential policy fields. The workshops are addressed at 20-30 invited experts from policy making, research and civil society active in the respective policy field. International experts are invited as appropriate to share best practices. The consultative nature of the workshops will be underscored by facilitating cross-cutting discussions with actors from several very distinct areas of work. Workshop inputs will be used to refine the outputs of NETGREEN. At the same time, the workshops will serve to present NETGREEN's methodologies, progress and results to key stakeholders, thus adding to the dissemination activities of the project.

The discussion of the workshop on 8 May was based on UN SDG. The objective of this workshop was to showcase www.measuring-progress.eu as a repository of green economy and sustainable development indicators, as well as to seek perspectives from experts specialized in different European countries' policies that would help expand the website's impact. UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 11, 12 and 15, are employed to demonstrate NETGREEN's relevance in the context of EU countries' progress toward green and sustainable economy.

Agenda - 8 May 2015 – 9 am -14 pm Location: Ecologic Institute , Pfalzburger Straße 43/44, 10717 Berlin, Germany	
NETGREEN, short for ''Network for Green Economy Indicators'', is an EU-funded project designed to facilitate the adoption of policies that will advance progress towards a green economy. The key output of the project is an open access, interactive website called www.measuring-progress.eu, which provides information on indicators that can be used to measure progress towards a green economy. The UN sustainable development goals (currently in discussion) are an important cross point for the future of sustainable development and the workshop will focus on how these goals can be measured in practice and what implications these goals could have in different countries of central Europe.	
09.00– 09.30	**Welcome Coffee and Reception**
09.30-09.45	Introduction Introduction to the objectives of the workshop by Lucas Porsch, NETGREEN project leader.
09.45-10.15	**Introduction to Measuring-Progress.eu** Lucas Porsch, the project leader of NETGREEN, will provide a short introduction to the website for green economy indicators (www.measuring-progress.eu) and will demonstrate how it can be used to identify and interpret the right indicators. He will use the UN sustainable developments goals as a practical example.
10.15-10.45	**The UN sustainable development goals and the Czech sustainable development strategy** Anna Kárníková (Head of Sustainable Development Unit - Office of the Government of the Czech Republic)
10.45-11.15	**Progress towards green economy from the perspective of local authorities of the city of Slupsk** Beata Maciejewska (Commissioner of the Mayor of the City of Słupsk (Poland) for Sustainable Development and Green Modernization of the City), followed by a plenary discussion.
11.15- 11.45	**How to measure the success of the German energy transition (Energiewende)** R. Andreas Kraemer (Ecologic Institute), followed by a plenary discussion.
11.45-12.45	**Panel discussion – What are the key measurements for meaningful UN sustainable development goals in Central Europe?** R. Andreas Kraemer (Ecologic Institute) - chair Klaus Jacob (FFU Berlin) Dorothee Braun (German Council of Sustainable Development) Jan Bakkes (PBL Netherlands environmental Assessment Agency)
12.45-13.00	**Final conclusions of the chair and plenary discussion**
13.00– 14.00	**Networking lunch**

9 :: Annex A: NETGREEN Thematic Policy Workshop Participant List

	Name	Surname	Organisation
1	Bakkes	Jan	Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL)
2	Behrens	Arno	Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)
3	Bourgin	Cécile	Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
4	Braun	Dorothee	German Council for Sustainable Development
5	Brouwer	Floor	LEI Wageningen UR
6	Ferreira Mattos	Thaís Vanessa	University for Sustainable Development Eberswalde
7	Fischer	Marlene	
8	Gay	Agustina	University of Potsdam
9	Jacob	Klaus	Freie Universität Berlin
10	Kafyeke	Terri	Ecologic Institute
11	Kárníková	Anna	Office of the Government of the Czech Republic
12	Koch	Charlotte	4 Green Architecture Ltd.
13	Koch	Juergen	4 Green Architecture Ltd.
14	Kraemer	R. Andreas	Ecologic Institute
15	Landgraf	Richard	Umweltbundesamt (UBA)
16	Maciejewska	Beata	City of Sł upsk, Poland

17	Marten	Franziska	Germanwatch
18	Paulot	Sylvia	Ecologic Institute
19	Porsch	Lucas	Ecologic Insititute
20	Ramasamy	Ashvin	Ecologic Insititute
21	Rizos	Vasileios	Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)
22	Schmidt	Stefanie	Ecologic Institute
23	Schwegmann	Claudia	Open Knowledge Foundation
24	Sparks	Wilhelmina Jewell	On The Green Carpet (OTGC)
25	Šteg	Jiř í	Initiative for Equality
26	Tomei	Veronica	European Economic and Social Committee
27	Vedder	Alois	WWF Germany
28	Wilenkin	Stacey	NRG4SD
29	Woltjer	Geert	LEI Wageningen UR