



Measuring wellbeing and changes to wellbeing in
Newcastle
21 May 2013

HOW'S LIFE IN YOUR REGION?

Measuring local and regional well-being
for policymaking

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How's life in your region?

Measuring local and regional well-being for policymaking

Motivations

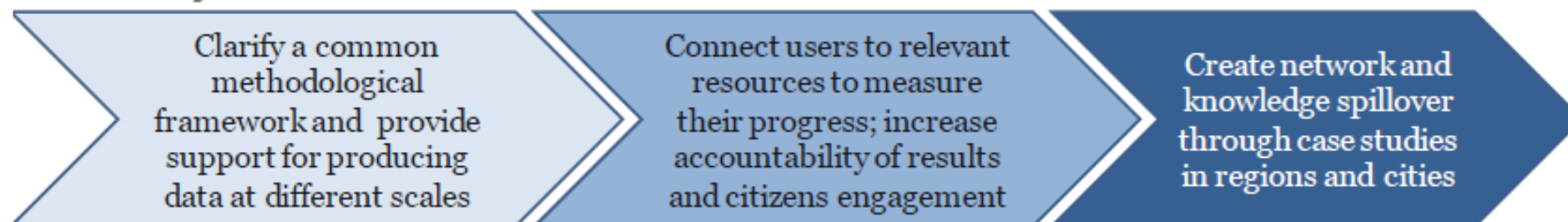
- 1. Improve measures of well-being to support inclusive growth in regions and cities**
Help policy-makers to identify the ultimate target for their policies.
- 2. Better understand how measures of well-being can enhance the implementation of regional policies**
Help policy-makers and citizens to assess the results of policies and monitor progress.



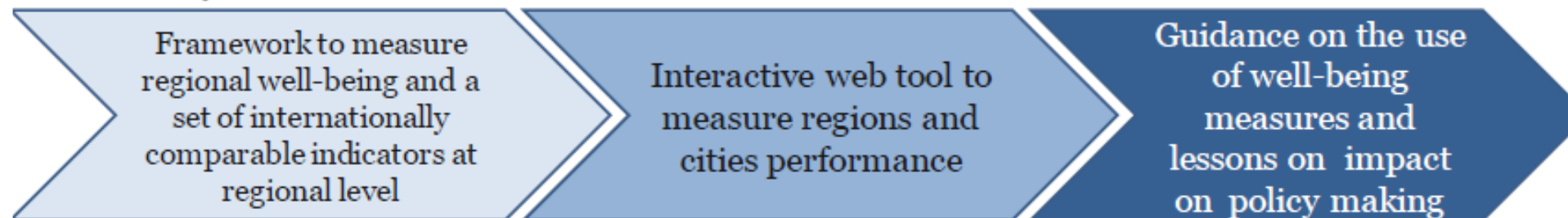
How's life in your region?

Measuring local and regional well-being for policymaking

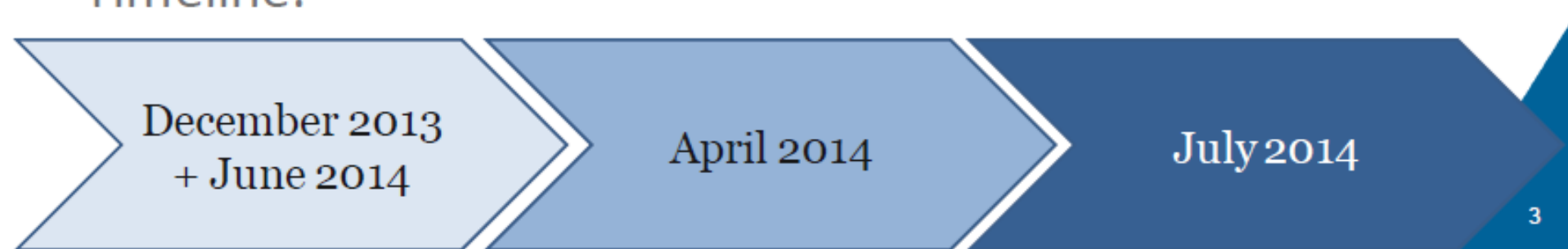
Objectives:



Outputs:



Timeline:





1. What do we mean with well-being? (Framework for measurement)

- A. **Multidimensional** (material conditions and quality of life) and **multilevel** (not only individual but also places' characteristics)
- B. Focus on **results** (and outcome indicators) and dynamics (trends and trajectories of indicators).
- C. It should be measured **where it matters**.
- D. It is strongly influenced by **governance**.
- E. Measures chosen according to criteria of **policy relevance**



Inequalities and sustainability over time





A. Multidimensional and multilevel Complementarities among policies

	Efficiency	Equity	Environmental Sustainability
Economic policies	Sustained growth	Economic reforms may increase equity	Green growth may improve sustainability
Social policies	Social policies may increase efficiency (knowledge, trust, security)	Social cohesion	Environmentally sustainable social policies
Environmental policies	Green economy may boost innovation	Social policies can enhance inclusiveness; poor people are the most hurt by environmental degradation	Sustainable environment



B. Why a focus on outcome indicators?

- Ensure policies stay focused on achieving their goals (improve effectiveness)
- Help decision making by measuring results or the progress towards them
- Raise awareness, increase accountability and receive information from citizens on their needs and capacity

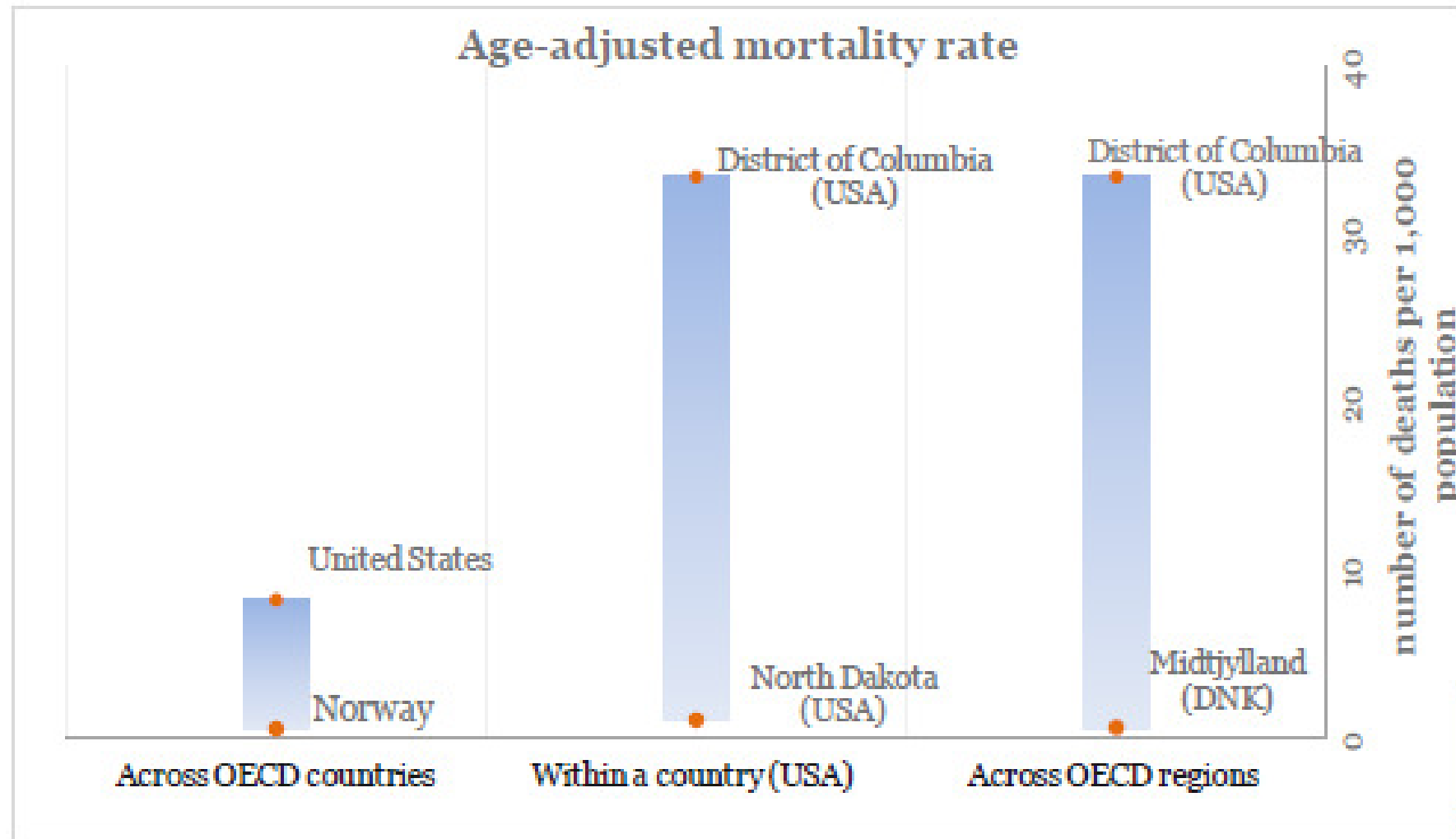
Risks?

- Gatekeeper of quality of process
- Difficult causality of policy actions on results



C. Well-being should be measured where it matters

Disparities within countries are often larger than among them





C. What does “place” mean?

Space (a grid for measurement) vs. **Place** (where society self-organizes; where policies are decided and implemented)

Implications?

1. Identify the relevant “geography”
 - Consider regions beyond admin. boundaries
2. Understand better external conditions to differentiated opportunities
 - Equal access to services in different places (performance of education in rural areas, distribution of ownership of land and capital, security in cities etc.)

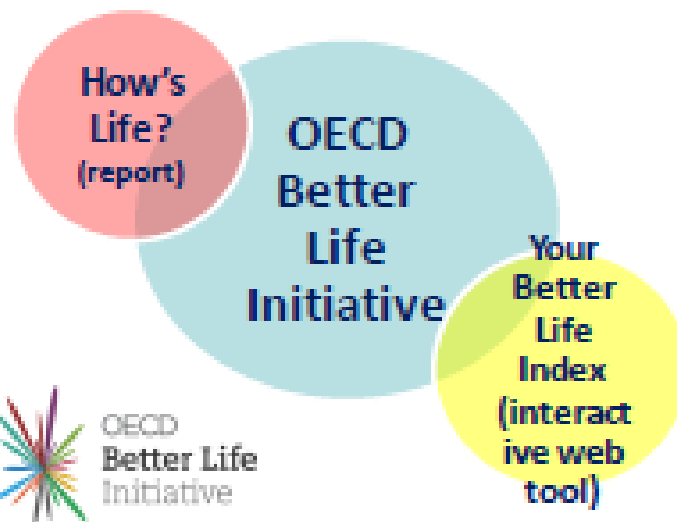


2. Common set of domains and indicators at regional level

It builds on OECD regional and urban statistics and the OECD Better Life Initiative

➤ Series of *OECD Regions at a Glance* from the **Regional database** annual **time series** of around 35 indicators on demographic, economic, social, environmental and innovation themes for 365 large regions and over 1,000 small regions

➤ And economic, (social) and environmental performance of the 268 OECD metropolitan areas



➤ Building on almost 10 years of OECD work under the “Global Project” (awareness/advocacy)

➤ Measure what matters most in people’s life choosing 11 dimensions and methodological work to develop better ones)



Proposed domains and indicators

Income	Jobs	Health	Education and skills	Environment	Security	Accessibility to services	Housing
-Mean and median disposable income -At risk of poverty rates	-Unempl. rate -Women participation rate	Life expectancy	- % of workforce with only basic education - PISA results	- Co2 emissions per capita -Change in land use	-Murders per 10,000 people - Crimes against property	- Access to open space -Broadband connection per 1,000 inhab. -Commuter mode	Number of rooms per person

- Keep the number of indicators “limited”
- Same dimensions, but different choices of indicators in different regions

LIMITATIONS

- No measures of social connections, engagement, trust
- Lack of subjective measures

POSSIBLE SOLUTION

Countries make available geo-location of infrastructures and services
Link survey data on households to geographical information



3. Uses of well-being measures to increase policy's effectiveness

Different actors with different needs:

- Central policy makers need to articulate national policies at a local scale
- Regional/Local policy makers need to decide and implement specific policies for their community and deliver services
- Citizens need the information for evaluation and accountability; and to participate in improving results

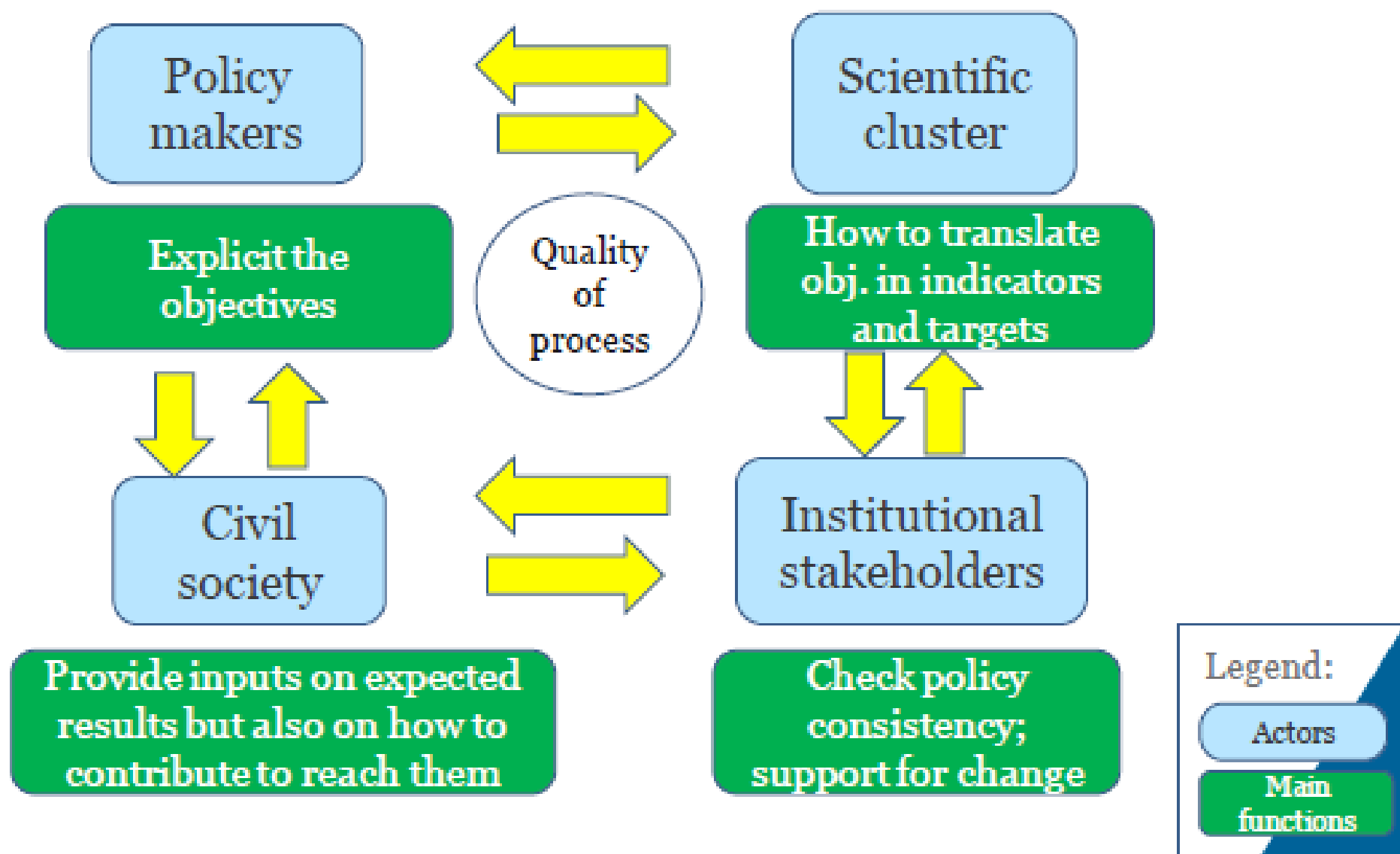
Alignment of objectives

Co-ordination among stakeholders

Allocation of responsibility and capacity of different stakeholders



Measuring well-being: map of actors



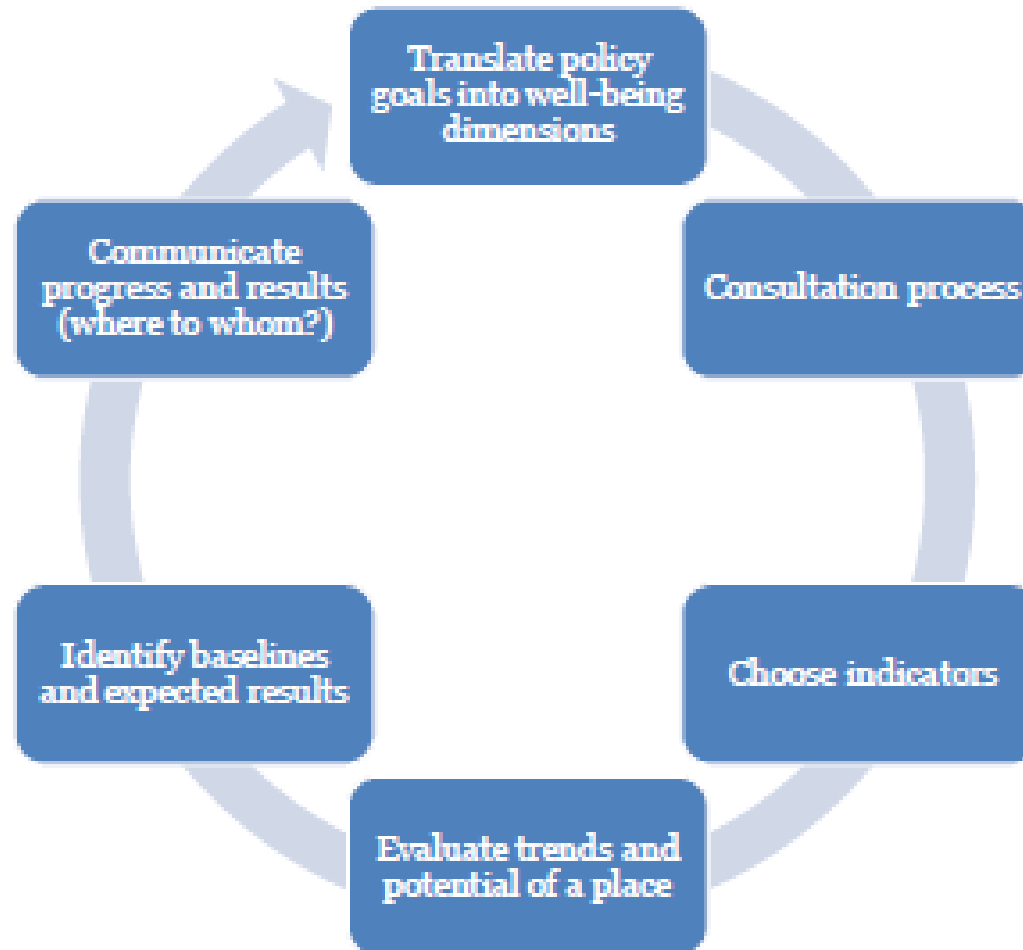


Spill over of the process involving many stakeholders

- Statistical agenda and feasibility of local area estimates
- Better understanding of policy complementarities
- Use evidence on key decision making: culture of evaluation (also ex-ante)
- Involve stakeholders to support reforms also by disseminating evidence
- Extensive consultation of stakeholders (also via social media)
- Participation, increase trust

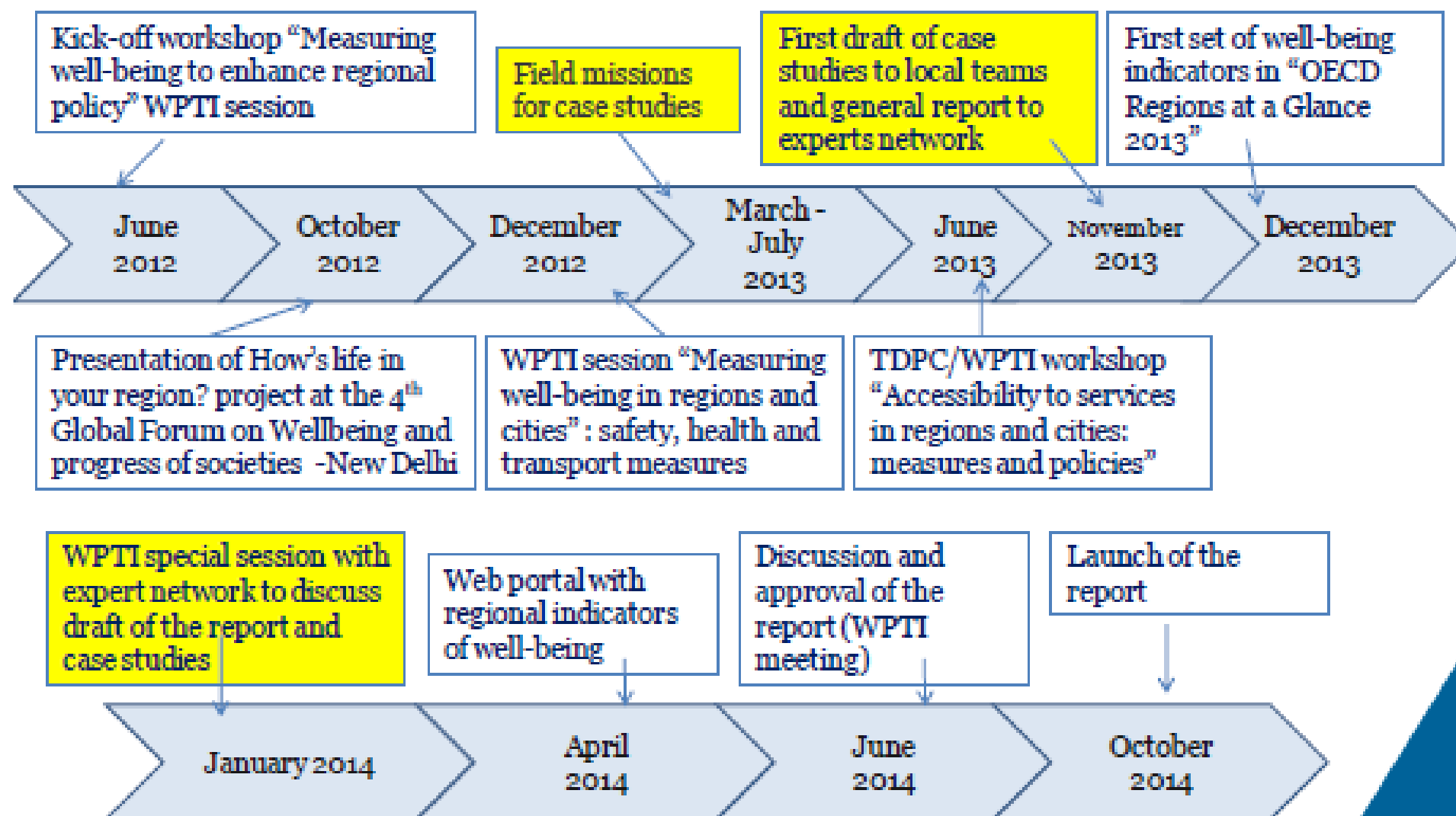


Measuring and using wellbeing: steps






Calendar of the project “How’s life in your region?”





Wrap-up

- Measure “different” places
 - Complementarities (and trade-offs) among policies and externalities between places
 - Yes to a common set of indicators, but only as common reference – each place chooses its own set
 - Peer learning from countries experiences – policy evaluation
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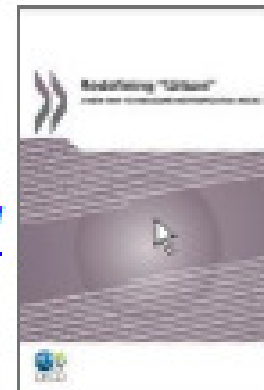


Thanks!



Series “OECD Regions at a Glance”(2009, 2011, next 2013)

www.oecd.org/gov/regional/regionsatglance



“Redefining urban: a new way to measure metropolitan areas”, OECD Publishing, 2012,



Online regional and urban data portal:
interactive maps, histograms and trends
<http://rag.oecd.org>

OECD Better life initiative <http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/>

OECD How's life in your region? www.oecd.org/gov/regional/statisticsindicators

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